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Front Cover

2025 Oregon Senior Chess Champion Carl Haessler
holds the annual award trophy.
Photo Credit: Wilson Gibbins.

Back Cover

Detective Cookie Chess Club student Sophia Michael
conducts her kingside attack in fine style at the
Detective Cookie Chess Classic!
Photo Credit: Meiling Cheng.

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**A SPECIAL
48-PAGE ISSUE!**

2025 Seattle City Championship

John Selsky



In January 11-12, 2025, the Seattle Chess Club hosted the 2025 Seattle City Championship. Fifty players competed in a lovely playing hall on the campus of Seattle University in the city's First Hill neighborhood. This was the largest event hosted by SCC since before the pandemic and it was smooth sailing under the direction of Chief TD Nicholas Liotta and tournament organizer John Selsky, President of SCC.

The tournament was a one-section, five-round Swiss over two days with a time control of Game 75 minutes with a 30 second increment. A number of winners of SCC tournaments in 2024 competed in the Championship, but defending 2024 champion Leonid Gavrysh was unable to participate.

College student Aziz Degenbaev, who won several SCC tournaments in 2024, was the clear favorite to win the tournament. With a US Chess rating of 2377, he was 300 points above his closest competitor (Ben Haun, 2061). Aziz did not disappoint, winning all five of his games and taking home a nice cash prize as 2025 Seattle City Champion! Below, Aziz annotates game four against budding TD Emerson Wong-Godfrey.

Here is the full list of prize winners:

- **First place:** Aziz Degenbaev (5.0/5)
- **Second place:** Dhwanit Gupta (4.5/5)
- **U1800:** Aarav Bharathy, Ujwal Garine, Pavan Nagaraja, and Rhadean Rubaiyat (3.0/5)
- **U1600:** Andy Chen, Aiyl Dulurkha, Veronique Joseph, and Devansh Sharma (3.0/5)
- **U1400:** Vidur Ganesan and Jeb Stroud (3.0/5)

- **U1200/unr:** Addison Dahlke and Jae Lee (2.0/5)

- **Biggest upsets** in rounds 1-3: Ziqian Gao (536 points), Addison Dahlke (367 points), and Abhiram Nerella (374 points).

Congratulations to all winners! Thanks to Seattle University for friendly and efficient arrangements; to the Washington Chess Federation for lending equipment; and to those who helped with setup and breakdown.

The Seattle Chess Club plans to host three more “large” tournaments in 2025—*Emerald City Open* tentatively on June 21-22, *Seafair Open* in mid-late July and *Fall Open* in September.

Emerson Wong-Godfrey (1919) – Aziz Degenbaev (2377) [C01]
Seattle City Championship 2025
(R4), January 12, 2025
[Aziz Degenbaev]

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 exd5 4.Bd3 Nc6

5.Ne2

An interesting way for White to prevent some of Black's ideas when knight is on f3. Now White has an option of f3.

5...Bg4 6.0-0?!

Not a very good move order. 6.f3 Bh5 7.0-0 transposes to the game. Or another plan (7.h4! A good idea to start with an aggressive play, then do long castle 7...Qd7 8.g4 Bg6 9.h5 Bxd3 10.Qxd3 0-0-0 11.Nbc3±)

6...Qd7

6...Nxd4 Computer suggests taking a pawn, but in my vision it was a bit risky and I wanted to keep position more simple. After 7.Re1 Nxe2+ 8.Bxe2 Be6 9.Bg4 Qd7 10.Bxe6 fxe6 11.Qg4 Nf6 12.Rxe6+ Be7 13.Qh3 Rd8. It's not so easy to find all these moves, but my engine gives a small edge for Black.

7.f3 Bh5 8.c3 Bg6!?

Want to mention this move, I kept my king in center to see which side game will go on. Also, offering a trade for White's useful bishop.

9.Be3



The Rolfe Room, Seattle University.
Photo credit Ani Barua.

In my opinion, 9.Nf4 should have played, to place knight to a strong position on d3 9...Bxd3 10.Nxd3 Bd6 11.a4 gaining space 11...Nge7 12.Na3 a6= Just a playable position for both sides.

9...Bd6



Position after 9...Bd6

10.Na3?

Just a bad move, now Black can double White's pawns. White should play 10.Re1 Nge7 11.Nf4=

10...Bxa3 11.bxa3 Bxd3 12.Qxd3 Nge7 13.c4?!

It was unnecessary to create an IQP. 13.Qb5 b6 14.Nf4 Na5 15.Qxd7+ Kxd7 16.Rae1 was better, but Black still has an edge.

13...dxc4 14.Qxc4 0-0 15.Nc3 Nf5

Now White's weak pawn just falling.

16.Bf2 Ncx4 17.Rfd1 Rad8



Position after 17...Rad8

18.Rxd4?

Now Black is just winning. White should have played a quiet move. Of course not 18.g4?? Nxf3+ 19.Kg2 N5d4+; 18.Kh1 threatening g4 18...Qe6 19.Qa4 Nc6 20.Re1 Qc8 21.Bxa7 Nxa7 22.Qxa7 Nd4 At least White still can play, but Black is still better, thanks to White's double pawns.

18...Nxd4 19.Rd1 Nxf3+ 20.gxf3 Qf5

Placing my queen on most active position.

21.Rxd8 Rxd8

Here two pieces are not enough for this position.

22.Qg4 Qe5 23.Ne4 h6 24.Kg2 f5 25.Qh5 b6

Preparing to push my pawn on c7. There is no need to rush.

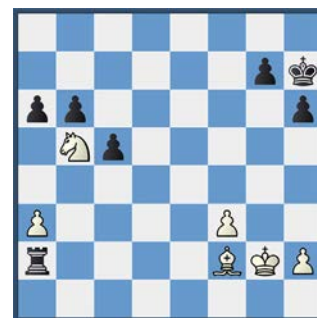
26.Ng3 Kh7! 27.Qf7 Rd2 28.Qxf5+

28.Nxf5 Qb2-+

28...Qxf5 29.Nxf5

A winning endgame for Black.

29...Rxa2 30.Nd4 c5 31.Nb5 a6



Position after 31.a6

0-1



Tournament winner Aziz Degenbaev contemplates his move in round four.
Photo credit Ani Barua.



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Steven Deeth	2023 - Wilson Gibbins
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2025 Oregon Senior Open

By Wilson Gibbins



Carl Haessler won the 2018 Senior Open and the right to represent Oregon in the first tournament of Senior State Champions in Middleton Wisconsin. The 2025 tournament, now known as The Irwin, returns to Middleton Wisconsin this year and so does Carl after finishing first in a field of 28 players in this year's Oregon Senior Open.

Carl entered the last round trailing your author by a half point and needing to win with Black, a reversal of our roles in 2024. I relied on luck last year as you can see from the [July 2024 issue of Northwest Chess](#), but Carl took a more strategic approach to come away with the full point and the tournament win. For more details on how he did it, see the games section below.

Mike Morris and I tied for second with four points, but Mike took home two additional prizes—top under 2000, and top over 70 for the second year in a row. Carl added to his winnings by claiming the over 60 prize. James Nelson won the Under 1800 prize and 90 rating points by going undefeated with three draws against higher-rated players, a half point bye, and a clutch last-round win which you can view for yourself in the games section.

Kenneth Hines won the Under 1600 prize. Allan Leland and Benji Johnson tied for the U1400 prize. Hao Zou won the moral victory of being the only player to hold Carl to a draw.

Thanks to Dave Murray for organizing and directing this tournament. Thanks to Mike Morris for managing the tournament finances. And thanks to the Portland Chess Club for allowing us to use their location for this annual event.

Games

**Wilson Gibbins (2200) –
Carl Haessler (2200) [A10]
Oregon Senior Open
(R5), May 4, 2025
[Wilson Gibbins/Carl Haessler]**

Annotations marked “CH” were contributed by Carl Haessler, providing additional strategic and psychological insight into the game.

1.c4 b6 2.Nc3 Bb7 3.e4 e6 4.Nf3 g6

Heading for the Hippopotamus Defense. If it was good enough for Spassky in the

1966 World Championship, it should be good enough for the Oregon Senior Open. Seriously, this is a good approach in a must-win last round game when fate gives you the black pieces. Sure, Black is worse, but there are no forcing lines and lots of slow maneuvering, so both sides will be making a lot of positional decisions in unclear situations.

5.d4 Bg7 6.Be2 Ne7 7.0-0

The engine recommends committal moves like 7.d5; and 7.h4. These are not the kind of moves one makes when one only needs a draw.

7...0-0 8.Re1 d6 9.Be3 h6

CH—This and ...Kh7 is meant to keep Black's dark-squared bishop from being traded off with a future Bh6 by White.

10.Qd2 Kh7 11.Rad1 Nd7 12.Qc2

I am trying to discourage ...f7–f5.

12...Qc8

CH—Getting my queen off of the d-file and also beginning to prepare ...c5 to gain some space. It is interesting that my engine (Stockfish) keeps bouncing back and forth between b4 and h4 as moves for White. This indicates that a clear middle game plan is not obvious. Mission accomplished.

13.Bc1

Getting the bishop out of the range of Black's knight on e7 after 13...f7–f5 14.exf5. More slow maneuvering.

13...a6 14.a3 c5 15.d5 e5

CH—With the center closed, Black's pieces are better-placed for play on either flank. White's space advantage is somewhat illusory as there are no clear targets.

16.g4

The engine approves, battling for space on the kingside and the light squares, (incorrectly) assuming that Black will inevitably play ...f7–f5. But this isn't a practical decision, given where White's king is located. 16.g3 with the idea of playing 17.Nh4 is a safer way to battle for the light squares. This was the approach Petrosian took against Spassky in game 12 of their 1966 World Championship match.

16...Rh8 17.Nd2?!

One of my sub-optimal positional decisions, hoping to get the knight to g3 via f1, but much too slow.

Better ideas include the risky-looking 17.h4, consistently playing for space on the kingside.; And if you know what is coming, you might be inclined to play 17.b4 to open lines on the queenside to distract Black from his kingside attacking ambitions.

17...Nf6 18.f3 Kg8 19.Nf1 h5 20.g5 Nh7 21.Bd3

Clearing the second rank so White can shift pieces to the kingside defense. 21.Kh1; 21.Na4!? distracts Black's queen from kingside attacking ideas by attacking the sensitive b6-square.

21...f6 22.gxf6?

White is opening lines toward his own king.

22.h4; 22.Na4

22...Bxf6

White is still better, but the position is not headed towards White's desired draw.

23.Qg2 Qd7 24.Ng3



Position after 24.Ng3

Another sub-optimal positional choice. 24.Ne3; 24.b4; 24.Kh1

24...Kf7!

CH—The beginnings of a “Seirawan King.” Yasser was famous in his career for taking a king-walk before starting the final attack.

25.f4 Rag8 26.Rf1 Ke8 27.Rde1?

I was hoping for some sort of magical breakthrough in the center, but Black is too solid and well placed for this to occur. Carl suggested 27.Bc2 in the post-mortem, as I should be looking for some sort of play on the queenside, so he has to at least worry a little about his king safety. 27...Kd8 28.Ba4

27...Bc8 28.Kh1 Kd8 29.Nge2

29.b4

29...g5



Position after 29...g5

White's positional choices have been less than ideal, Black has come up with good plans, but until now, Black's superior play has only offset his inferior opening.

30.fxg5??

Positional suicide. I thought 30.f5!= gave Black a free hand to build up his kingside attack, but maybe White can get something rolling with b2-b4 to distract him.

30...Bxg5+-

It is over. Carl's attacking technique brings the game to a rapid conclusion.

31.Bxg5 Nxg5 32.Ng3 Qh3 33.Qd2?

33.Qxh3 Bxh3 34.Rf2 Ng6 is also a winning position for Black.

33...Bg4

Gets the job done. 33...h4 is even more brutal, if that is possible.

34.Re3

34.Be2 h4 35.Bxg4 Qxg4 36.Qe2 hxg3 37.Qxg4 Rxh2+ 38.Kg1 Nh3+ 39.Qxh3 Rxh3

34...h4 35.Qf2 Bf3+ 36.Rxf3 Nxf3 37.Qxf3 Rxg3

0-1

**Mike Morris (1928) –
Marc Braverman (1943) [B19]**
Oregon Senior Open
(R5), May 4, 2025
[Wilson Gibbins/Mike Morris]

Marc's last tournament was the 2018 Oregon Senior Open—the tournament Carl Haessler won to represent Oregon at the first tournament of Senior State Champions in Middleton Wisconsin. Welcome back to chess, Marc. Marc had a good tournament at this point with two wins, a draw and a bye, but Mike ends the warm-welcome back to chess in this final-round battle for second place.

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Bf5 5.Ng3 Bg6 6.h4 h6 7.h5 Bh7 8.Nf3 Nd7 9.Bd3 Bxd3 10.Qxd3 e6 11.Bd2 Ngf6 12.0-0-0 Qc7 13.Kb1 0-0-0 14.c4 Bd6



Position after 14...Bd6

Mainline theory up until now.

15.Ne2

15.Ne4 has been played a lot more frequently, but Stockfish says Mike's choice is another reasonable try for a slight edge.

15...c5 16.Nc3

16.Qc2 gets White's queen out of the line of fire.

16...a6 17.Rh4?!

Defends the pawn on d4 and prevents Black's knight from arriving on g4, but although it sounds solid, this move allows the position to spiral out of control.

17...cxd4! 18.Nxd4 Ne5! 19.Qc2 Qxc4 20.Be3

20.Nf5! is a fun try, but after 20...Qd3 21.Bxh6!? Qxc2+ 22.Kxc2 Rxh6 23.Nxd6+ Kc7 Black has an edge.

20...Nd5

20...Neg4! blocks the lateral attack on Black's queen from White's rook on h4.

21.Nf5?



Position after 21.Nf5

This move isn't as strong as it was the move before. 21.Nxd5 Qxc2+ 22.Nxc2

exd5 23.Rxd5=

21...Nxc3+ 22.bxc3 Qb5+ 23.Ka1 exf5

Black is up a piece and is objectively winning, but Mike manages to stir up sufficient trouble to keep the game alive.

24.Rb1 Qc6 25.Rb6 Qc7 26.Qb3 Rd7 27.Ra4 Nc6 28.Rc4 Kd8?



Position after 28...Kd8

Trying to run his king out of trouble just like Carl did, but it puts Black's king on the same diagonal as Black's queen.

29.Rbxc6!

And just like that, the game is back to equal.

29...Qxc6

29...bxc6 30.Bb6

30.Rxc6 bxc6 31.Qb6+

31.Kb2 gets White's king off the a1-square where it may be vulnerable to a linear mate from the two rooks.

31...Ke7 32.Qxc6

White grabs a loose pawn and creates a passed c-pawn. Stockfish is not impressed and prefers 32.Bc5= trading Black's bishop, gives Black's king fewer defenders, and results in more checking opportunities for White's queen.

32...Rb8 33.Bc5

Not as strong as it was the move before, as Black's rook has found a good file.

33...Rb5! 34.Bxd6+ Rxd6 35.Qf3

Preventing 35...Rd1+

35...Ke6

35...Rdb6! 36.a4 Rb1+ 37.Ka2 R6b2+ 38.Ka3 Rb8 39.Ka2 Kf8 40.Qxf5 R1b2+ 41.Ka1 Kg8 Black's king is safe, White's king is in danger, but it isn't immediately obvious to me how Black makes progress.

It is obvious to the patient, blunder-free Stockfish—take what the defense gives you. Maybe you can find a safe

opportunity to transform your doubled rooks on the b-file to doubled rooks on the second rank. Or maybe you can take some kingside pawns if White quits defending them in an attempt to get a perpetual check.

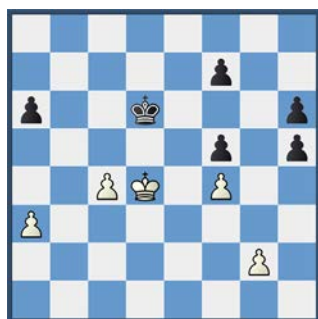
36.a3 Rdb6= 37.Qe3+ Kd6 38.Qd4+ Ke6 39.Qe3+ Kd6 40.Qd4+ Ke7 41.c4 Rb1+ 42.Ka2

This position is balanced. White has enough checks so that Black can't mount an offensive, and Black has sufficient defensive resources to prevent White's c-pawn from causing much mischief.

42...R1b2+?

Hoping to win with an outside kingside passed-pawn, but Black's doubled f-pawns mean that he can't create a passed pawn without White's help. Mike demonstrates a lack of hospitality by not providing that help.

43.Qxb2 Rxb2+ 44.Kxb2 g6 45.Kc3 Kd6 46.Kd4 gxh5 47.f4!



Position after 47.f4

47...f6 48.c5+ Kc6 49.a4 h4 50.Kc4 a5 51.Kd4 Kc7 52.Kd5 Kd7 53.c6+ Kc7 54.Kc5 Kc8 55.Kb6

1-0

**Samuel Echaure (1927) –
James Nelson (1601) [C01]**
Oregon Senior Open
(R5), May 4, 2025
[Wilson Gibbins]

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Nf6 3.c4 e6!?

The ever-dangerous Icelandic Gambit. The most popular move line is 3...c6 4.d4 (4.dxc6?! is risky 4...Nxc6 5.Nc3 e5 and Black has more than enough for the pawn with good development, good squares for his pieces while White has a weak square on d4 and a backward d-pawn.; 4.d4) and 4...cxd5 reaches the Panov-Botvinnik variation to the Caro-Kann (!)

4.Nc3

4.dxe6!? is playable, but you better know some theory if you want to play it successfully. 4...Bxe6 5.d4 Bb4+ 6.Bd2 Qe7 7.Bxb4 (7.Be2!) 7...Qxb4+ 8.Qd2 Nc6 9.Nc3 0-0-0 10.d5 Bg4 11.f3 Rhe8+ 12.Be2 Bf5 13.0-0-0 Na5 14.g4 Bg6 15.Nh3 Nd7 16.Nb1 Qb3! 17.Bd3 Qxa2 18.Qb4 Re2 19.Bxe2 Nb3+ 20.Qxb3 Qxb3 21.Rd2 Qe3 0-1 Kuijf,M (2485)-Hodgson,J (2545) Hoogovens-B Wijk aan Zee 1989 (R5)

4...exd5 5.d4

We now have a position that is classified as the Exchange Variation of the French Defense (C01)—1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 exd5 4.c4 Nf6 5.Nc3.

But can also arise from the Albin Counter-Gambit (1.d4 d5 2.c4 e5!? 3.e3 exd4 4.exd4 Nf6 5.Nc3), the English (1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 e6 3.e4 d5 4.exd5 exd5 5.d4 or 1.c4 e6 2.e4 d5 3.exd5 exd5 4.d4 Nf6 5.Nc3 or even 1.c4 e5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.e3 d5 4.d4 exd4 5.exd4)

5...Bb4 6.Nf3 0-0 7.Be2 Ne4 8.Bd2 Nxd2 9.Qxd2 dxc4 10.0-0 Bxc3 11.bxc3 Bg4 12.h3 Bh5 13.g4!? Bg6 14.Bxc4 Nc6 15.Rfd1

15.Rfe1±

15...Qf6= 16.Nh2 Rad8 17.f4?!

Gains space, threatens to trap the bishop on g6, but White isn't well placed for a kingside attack.

17...Be4



Position after 17...Be4

This move would not be possible if White had moved his rook to e1 on move 15.

18.Qf2 Ne7 19.Re1!

White doesn't allow pride to prevent himself from making the best move by placing the rook on the correct square, admitting the loss of time on move 15.

19...Bc6 20.g5! Qd6 21.Rac1

21.Ng4!∞ If Black tries the game continuation 21...Nd5 then 22.Bxd5 Bxd5 and the position is roughly even.

Note that White is contesting the open e-file. In the game continuation, Black gets control of this file. (22...Qxd5 23.Kh2 looks scary, but White is defending the checkmates on h1 and g2.)

21...Nd5 22.Rf1

22.Bxd5? Qxd5 Black's ever-present threat of checkmate on h1 or g2 and the possible pawn-break ...f7-f6 means that Black is much better.

White can't play 23.Kh2 to defend the h1-square mentioned in the last note, as his knight occupies that square. That was one of the benefits of playing 21.Ng4.

22...Rde8 23.Ng4

Right idea, too late. Black's control of the e-file means that he has too many threats.

23...Re4!



Position after 23...Re4

24.f5

24.Bxd5 is best, but after 24...Qxd5 Black has a dangerous-looking queen + bishop battery on the long diagonal, control of the e-file, and threats like 25...Rxf4.

24...Nf4! 25.Qh2 b5!+-

Black wins a piece, but it depends on accuracy on move 28.

26.Ne5

26.Bb3 Re2

26...bxc4 27.Rxf4 Rxf4 28.Qxf4 f6! 29.gxf6 gxf6 30.Kh2 fxe5 31.dxe5 Qd3 32.Rg1+ Kf7 33.h4 Qe2+ 34.Kh3 Qf3+

I'd be tempted to play on, hoping the connected passed pawns on e5 and f5 would provide some cheapo potential, but Stockfish says Black is easily winning.

0-1

Seattle Seafair Open



July 12-13, 2025
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625 116th Ave NE, Bellevue, WA 98004



Co-hosted by Seattle Chess Club and Washington Chess Federation

Format: A 5-round, dual US Chess + FIDE Rated Swiss in two sections: **Open and Premier U1600.**

Entry fee: \$100 by 7/5, \$120 after. \$30 discount for SCC members. \$50 play-up fee if rated 1400-1599 USCF and playing in Open section. Free entry for all Seafairers rated 2200+ USCF. Open to all junior + adult players. Maximum of 190 players, please register early!

Schedule: Arrival: 9-9:45am. Rounds: Saturday: 10am, 2pm, 6pm. Sunday: 10am, 2pm.
Closing Ceremony + Seafair Blitz: ~ 6pm or asap.

Time Control: G/75; +30. Late default: 30 minutes.

Rating: Dual-Rated in US Chess and FIDE. July 2025 US Chess rating will be used to determine section, pairings, and prizes. Accelerated pairings may be used to reduce the number of potential perfect scores.

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

Prize Fund: \$4,500 based on 100 paid entries.

Open: 1st– 4th: \$600-500-400-300, 1st U2100/U1900/U1700: \$160.

Premier U1600: 1st– 4th: \$400-300-230-180, 1st U1500/U1300/U1100: \$160. 1st Unrated: \$100.

Special Prizes (per section):

Biggest Upset Win: \$20/rd. **Best Female Player** (by TPR): \$25. **Best Senior Player** (50+, by TPR): \$25. **Best Dressed:** \$20/day. **Best Annotated game:** 1st \$50, 2nd \$25. Minimum of 3 qualifying players required per section in contention for each best female/senior prize to be awarded.

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

Registration: Online at nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration. Pay by Credit/Debit, PayPal/Zelle (ID: washingtonchessfederation@gmail.com), Venmo (@WACHess), SettleKing (Washington Chess Federation), or write a check to Washington Chess Federation. **Payment due upon registration; players listed as unpaid for more than 3 days after registering will be withdrawn from the tournament. Registration + payment deadline: Fri, July 11 @ 5pm.** Unpaid players will be removed from the roster after the deadline.

Seafair Blitz: Sunday 6-9pm (after rd. 5 of main tournament). **Entry Fee:** \$25. **Format:** A 9-Round Single Swiss in one section, 2 half-point byes available. Dual US Chess Blitz + FIDE Blitz rated. **TC:** G/5; +3. **On-site registration:** 5:00-5:45pm. Rds. Sun @ 6pm, 6:20, 6:40, 7, 7:20, 7:40, 8, 8:20, 8:40pm. Closing Ceremony ~ 9pm or asap. Current US Chess membership required. Higher of July 2025 US Chess Blitz or Regular rating used to determine pairings and prizes. **Prize Fund: \$800** (based on 60 paid entries)

1st – 3rd: \$200-130-100, 1st U2000/U1800/U1600/U1400/U1200/U1000/Unrated: \$40. Biggest upset win: \$10/rd.

Questions – Josh Sinanan, WCF President, 206-769-3757, washingtonchessfederation@gmail.com
John Selsky, SCC President, contact@seattlechess.club

2025 Washington State Barber + Rockefeller Open Tournament

Josh Sinanan

The 2025 Washington Barber + Rockefeller Open chess tournament was held on Sunday, March 23, at Chinook Middle School in Bellevue. A strong turnout of 152 scholastic chess players in grades K-11 took part from throughout the Pacific Northwest, including the cities of Redmond, Monroe, Sammamish, Bothell, Gig Harbor, Kirkland, Bellevue, Yelm, Richland, Mill Creek, Everett, Belfair, Seattle, Duvall, Shoreline, Mercer Island, Clyde Hill, Woodinville, Snoqualmie, Kenmore, Snohomish, University Place, Lake Forest Park, Olympia, Bellingham, and Issaquah!

The event was hosted by the Washington Chess Federation (WCF) and directed by Chief TD and WCF Member-at-Large Ani Barua with assistance from Mani Atikankhotchasee, Lincoln High School chess player Gavin Shi, and WCF President Josh Sinanan. WCF Women and Girls Chess Director Chouchan

Airapetian and her daughter Angela Agaian were both on-site coordinating the concessions table and offering insightful game review and analysis.

The Swiss tournament was parsed into seven sections parsed by grade level

and rating to provide quality competition for players of all ages and levels: K-3 U800, 4-9 U900, K-3 Open, 4-6 Open, 7-12 Open, K-5 Rockefeller Open, and 6-8 Barber Open. The top six finishing WA State residents in the K-5 Rockefeller Open and 6-8 Barber Open section (by MSCO tiebreaks) qualified for the Rockefeller and Barber Closed Events on March 30 in Seattle.

The other six spots in each closed event were determined by rating. The winners of the closed (4-Round Swiss) events earned a \$750 travel stipend (donated by the WCF) and will be the Washington State representatives at the National Rockefeller (K-5) and Barber (6-8) Tournament of Champions, respectively, which will be held concurrently with the US Open in late July.

Congratulations to the winners, and thanks to all who contributed to this amazing event!



Qualifiers for Barber & Rockefeller Closed Event

K-5 Rockefeller Open	6-8 Barber Open
Dann Merriman	Vidip Kona
Rafael Palathingal	Keshav Beegala
Shanna Wu	Odbayar Yondon
Ziqian Gao	Yash Syal
Aahan Sriram	Deeksha Shankaranand
Lewis Ma	Alan Cheng

Washington State Barber & Rockefeller Open - Prizes

Individual Prizes - Amazon Gift cards awarded in each section.

1st \$90, 2nd \$80, 3rd \$70, 4th \$60, 5th \$50.

Section	1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place	4th Place	5th Place
K-3 U800	Peng-Chi Pan	Louis Liu, Satvik Verma, Nolan Yin, and Maxwell Hu			
4-8 U900	Evan Lin	Sharan Tatimatla	Muchen Zhou & Maya Burmistrov		Shrihan Bayya, Vasishta N. Komara, and Tapasya Nandeesh
K-3 Open	Peng-Yu Pan	Maxwell Xiong & Vihaan Ramana		Anne Nishino	Callie Jiang & Suryen C. Vinu
4-6 Open	Alex Ye	Ethan Lin	Max Y. Chen, Felix Y. Chen, Stas Black, and Harry Li		
7-12 Open	Ihsan M. N. Thahir	Owen Scollon	Andrew Inforzato & Declan Kuo		Tristan Kuo & Srihari Raghavendra
K-5 Rockefeller Open	Dann Merriman, Rafael Palathingal, Shanna Wu, Ziqian Gao, and Aahan Sriram				
6-8 Barber Open	Vidip Kona	Keshav Beegala, Odbayar Yondon, Yash Syal, Deeksha Shankaranand, Alan Cheng, and Arnav Gadde			

Team Prizes - Amazon gift cards awarded to the top 4 players from the top 5 finishing teams (top 4 scores from same school comprise team score) across all sections.

1st – 5th: \$30-25-20-15-10.

Team Place	Team Name (School)	Team Score (pts)
1st	Samantha Smith Elementary	16.75
2nd	Somerset Elementary	13.875
3rd	Chestnut Hill Academy	12.875
4th	Bellevue Children's Academy	12.5
5th	Clara Barton Elementary	11.125

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

Section	Best Female Player(by TPR)	Biggest Upset Win
K-3 U800	Ananya S. Devavarapu (554)	Sarvesh Gangineni (345 pts.)
4-8 U900	Tejal Guruswamy (431)	Bhargav Karanth (544 pts.)
K-3 Open	Anne Nishino (836)	Callie Jiang (116 pts.)
4-6 Open	Tavishna Nandeesh (1124)	Max Y Chen (273 pts.)
7-12 Open	N/A	Declan Kuo (209 pts.)
K-5 Rockefeller Open	Miranda Meng (1610)	Vincent Gu (332 pts.)
6-8 Barber Open	Emily Huang (1535)	Ritwik Menon (330 pts.)

A Game From The Franklin Charles International

Alex Machin

Cody Gorman (1959) – Alex Machin (1800) [E61]
Franklin Charles International
Boise, Idaho (R4), June 9, 2025
[Alex Machin]



Alex Machin. Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Bg5 Bg7 4.Nf3

I know ...Ne4 and ...c5 beg to be played, but I wanted to see what setup White adopts before showing my cards and playing for either ...e5 or ...c5.

4...0-0 5.e3 d6 6.Nc3 c6 7.Be2 a6

Clearly my intention is to expand with ...b5 and gain some space while making the knight on c3 a little uncomfortable. I was planning on meeting a4 with ...a5/...Na6 to take control of the b4 square.

8.Qc2

8.a4 for example... 8...a5

8...b5 9.Nd2

I was really torn at this point and couldn't decide between ...b4, ...bxc4 or just keeping the tension. I also noticed the bishop on g5 was vulnerable to Qa5+, so I kept that in mind for a rainy day.

9...b4

A hard move to make since it was based solely on attacking a knight with tempo and gaining some more space.

10.Na4

I wasn't sure about this move as the only strength lays within ...c5 and ...Nb6 ideas. That said, if White can organize Bf3 in combination this could create some nice pressure on my queenside. 10.Nce4 Bf5 looked very comfortable since ...d5 is a threat as well as exchanging on e4 and eventually playing ...f5 with tempo.

10...Bf5 11.e4 Nxe4



Position after 11...Nxe4

He had his chance to play e4 way earlier. This may not be the best continuation, but it sure is fun! It always feels good to initiate play when the opponent hasn't castled yet.

12.Nxe4

I really wanted ...b3 and ...Qa5+ to work, but he always has Bd2 worse case.

12...Qa5

Temporarily down a piece, but the overloaded queen and loose minor pieces make it easy to restore material. I wasn't sure if he could get away with Bxe7 but it definitely feels wrong to be so greedy.

13.Bd3 Bxe4 14.Bxe4 Qxg5



Position after 14...Qxg5

I was very excited to end up with a monster bishop and vulnerable d4-pawn to target.

15.Rd1 Ra7

It's hard to develop the knight without hanging the c6-pawn so a quick rove looked logical.

16. Rc7 17.Qb3

...a5 looks logical, but I figured he would play f4 to get some counter play so let's avoid it with tempo.

17...Qa5 18.f4

I was contemplating both ...f5 and ...e6. My issue with ...f5 is that it creates a slight weakness where I have opened up a backward pawn on e7.

It may not be that big of a deal, but I wanted to limit his counterplay as much as possible.

What I missed was that ...Bf6 defends the pawn easily, and life is good. Moving on, ...e6 only seems to invite d5 when again the position seems to be opening up a little

more than I'd like. Lastly, with the pawn committed to e6 I always have to watch out for potential f5–f6 ideas by him.

18...Nd7

I finally opted to keep the pawn on e7 to keep a lock on f6 so that f5–f6 is never an issue. 18...f5 19.Bf3; 18...e6 19.d5

19.f5 Nb6

After expecting Nxb6 Qxb6 and some defensive move guarding d4 I was very optimistic!

20.Nxb6 Qxb6 21.c5

After a close inspection my heart sank. I slowly realized what I had just allowed and how quickly the tables had turned. I initially thought I was immediately losing from calculating some forcing variations.

21...dxc5 22.fxg6 hxg6

22...Kh8 23.gxf7 cxd4 24.Qh3 h6 25.Qf5

23.Bxg6 e6

The only move I saw to resist the attack and gain back some time.

24.Bc2 cxd4 25.Qd3 f5

Not pretty but with some extra pawns I

kept hope.

26.Bb3

I saw a potential trap...

26...c5



Position after 26...c5

27.Rxf5

He falls into it! At this point I'm down to minutes on the clock to his 45 minutes.

27...Rxf5 28.Qxf5 c4 29.Qg6 cxb3 30.Qe8+

With no time I'm scrambling to compose myself. I hope I don't allow some perpetual check scenario.

30...Kh7 31.Qh5+ Kg8 32.Qe8+ Bf8

33.axb3 Re7 34.Qg6+ Rg7 35.Qe4 Qd6 36.Rd3

36.Qxd4 Qxd4+ 37.Rxd4 Bc5; 36.Rxd4 Qc5

36...e5 37.Rh3 Be7 38.Qa8+ Bd8

At this point I'm down to a little over a minute. Just making moves to not lose on time.

39.Qf3 d3

Obviously a queen exchange would be lovely for me.

40.Qh5 Qg6 41.Qh8+ Kf7 42.Rf3+ Bf6 43.Rf2 e4

43...Qxg2+ A beautiful way to end the game 44.Rxg2 Rxg2+ 45.Kxg2 Bxh8

44.Qh3 Qg4

By this point the store was closing and the TD insisted we would have to resume next week if we couldn't finish it up.

Cody graciously resigned out of respect. What a fun game and a pleasure since Cody and I haven't played in years it seems.

0–1



Vancouver Open

July 19 - 20, 2025

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

Mail To: Washington Chess Federation, c/o Orlov Chess Academy-

4174 148th Ave. NE
Building I, Ste. M
Redmond, WA 98052

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

Registration: Online at
nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration.

Site: Hampton Inn & Suites, 315 SE Olympia Drive, Vancouver, WA 98684. (360) 891-3000.

HR: \$185 Standard King/Double Queen Room. Cut-off date June 26, 2025. Book online [here](#).

Format: A 5-round, US Chess Rated Swiss in two sections: Lewis Open and Clark U1700. Maximum of 70 players, please register early.

Time Control: Rd. 1: G/60; +10,
Rds. 2-5: 40/120, SD/30; +10.

Prize Fund: \$2,500 (based on 60 paid entries).

Lewis Open: 1st – 3rd: \$400, 300, 200.
1st U2000/U1800: \$120

Clark U1700: 1st – 3rd: \$300, 200, 150.
1st U1600/U1400/U1200: \$120, 1st Unrated: \$90.

Special Prizes (per section): Biggest Upset win: \$25, Best Female Player (by TPR): \$25, Best Dressed: \$15/day (may not win repeatedly).

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

Entry Fee: \$75 if postmarked or online by 7/12, \$90 by 7/18, \$100 at site. \$45 play-up fee if rated U1700 USCF and playing in Lewis Open. Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs, WIMs.

At-site registration: Saturday 9 - 9:30 AM.

Rounds: Saturday 10 AM, 12:30 PM, 6 PM
Sunday 10 AM, 3:30 PM.

Rating: US Chess Rated. US Chess July 2025 rating supplement will be used to determine pairings and prizes. Foreign ratings used for players with no US Chess rating. Higher of US Chess or foreign ratings used at TD discretion.

Memberships: US Chess and WCF/OCF/ICA membership required, other states accepted.



St. Anne Celtic Challenge

Spring 2025

Josh Sinanan

The Spring 2025 edition of the St. Anne Celtic Challenge took place on Sunday, March 16, at St. Anne School in the swanky Queen Anne suburb of Seattle. A healthy showing of 129 scholastic chess players in grades K-10 participated in the event, with a large percentage turning out from nearby Seattle neighborhoods.

The field was split across five sections parsed by grade and rating: K-1 U700, 2-3 U700, K-3 Open, 4-8 U900, and 4-12 Open. The biannual St. Anne Celtic Challenge chess tournament remains a popular event for many on the local chess “circuit” due to its later start time, efficient schedule, and excellent organization on behalf of the parent volunteers.

Instead of beginning early in the morning, the Celtic Challenge begins on Sunday afternoon, which makes it much more palatable for out-of-region players who value their beauty sleep!

Despite an over-saturation of scholastic chess tournament scheduled in March, the event still did well attendance-wise and drew from a large swath of towns including Bothell, Shoreline, Redmond, Seattle, Bellevue, Everett, Sammamish, Issaquah, Lake Forest Park, Renton, Kirkland, Snoqualmie, Maple Valley, Fircrest, Clyde Hill, University Place, Gig Harbor, Belfair, Mercer Island, Olympia, Milton, Medina, and Kenmore. Several teams turned out in masse to vie for one of the five coveted



(L) Aditi Abhishek and Joey Santiago carefully check the squares around the black king, in view of the impending promotion of White’s a-pawn. Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.

team trophies, with Clara Barton, St. Anne, Somerset, Thurgood Marshall, Medina, and Heatherwood Middle bringing sizable posses!

The St. Anne organizers strive to create a relaxed tournament atmosphere and foster good sportsmanship on the part of the players, which is regularly emphasized and encouraged throughout the event! As for the games themselves, there is never any shortage of excitement due to the diversity of levels and playing styles on the part of the youngsters taking part in the proceedings. In the 4-12 Open section, at least one game routinely went the distance each round, often finishing just minutes before the start of the next round.

The St. Anne Celtic Challenge was hosted by St. Anne School, organized by St. Anne Chess Club Coordinators Carlee Thorrington & Arlene Kelly, paired by WCF Member-at-Large Ani Barua, and directed by WCF President and St. Anne Chess Coach Josh Sinanan.

St. Anne Celtic Challenge Prizes

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

Trophies awarded to the top 5 finishing teams.

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

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

Individual Trophies

Place	K-1 U700	2-3 U700	K-3 Open	4-8 U900	4-12 Open
1st	Max Wang	Lucas Shing	Skyler Qin	Mithran Anbuselvam	Karsh Havaladar
2nd	Ryder Li	Nolan Yin	Eason Chen	Mihir Mallapragada	Ian Gagnier
3rd	Oishani Ghosh	Marco Cauch-Miller	Anay Dharamshi	David Hoffman	Gavin Shi
4th	Ian Dwyer	Gordon Dai	Samik Kulkarni	Jacob Rish-Brown	Ziliang Ma
5th	Pavel Sterba	Pavithran M. Sundaram	Jonathan Wu	Alexander Pressley	Vishnu Mohan
6th	Smith Thorrington	Edda Wang	Patrick Zhang	Vitaly Astafiev	Aiden Zhu
7th		Vivienne Luo	Ryan Zhang	Muchen Zhou	Guru H.R. Avula
8th		Kristina Velichko	Leonard Bach Hoang	An Le	Snehil Ghosh
9th		Erik Kotsinyan	Varun Bolisetty	Tejal Guruswamy	Varshith Reddy Avula
10th		Joseph Santiago	Alice Li	Shaurya Dattani	Dmitriy Bondar



*Snehil Ghosh (L) vs Rishuraj Kumar and other top boards of the 4-12 Open section during round one.
Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.*

Assistant judges Selina Cheng and Angela Agaian were instrumental in ensuring that the tournament ran smoothly. Meiling Cheng took amazing photographs throughout the day and Chouchan Airapetian was also present to offer her advice and words of encouragement.

The tournament was held once again in honor of Coach Chris Hurley (1965-2020), who founded the St. Anne Chess Club and built up the St. Anne and Seattle Prep chess programs from scratch. Many thanks to the amazing chess families and volunteers who contributed to this fantastic event!

Congratulations to the winners.

Team Trophies			
Place	School	Players	Score
1st	Clara Barton ES	Mihir Mallapragada (725) 4.0, Snehil Ghosh (1432) 3.5, Anay Dharamshi (1270) 3.5, Varun Bolisetty (1159) 3.0	14
2nd	Somerset ES	Aiden Zhu (1363) 4.0, Eason Chen (1013) 4.0, Peter Luo (1176) 3.0, Zhining Zhang (127) 2.5	13.5
3rd	Open Window	Skyler Qin (1117) 4.5, Alice Li (846) 3.0, Vincent Gu (1092) 2.5, Luna Lin (1042) 1.5	11.5
4th	Heatherwood MS	Mithran Anbuselvam (897) 5.0, Rishuraj Kumar (987) 3.0, Ishayu Sinha (969) 1.5, Adheesh M. Sundaram (959) 1.5	11
5th	Kokanee ES	Vishnu Mohan (1632) 4.0, Samik Kulkarni (854) 3.5, Ishana Datta (762) 2.0, Ridhima Suram (518) 1.0	10.5

2025 Washington State Barber + Rockefeller Closed Tournament

(Wangs Work Wonders)

Josh Sinanan

The 2025 Washington Barber and Rockefeller Closed Chess Championships took place on Sunday March 30 at the Orlov Chess Academy in Greenlake. The fields of each section were determined by the top six qualified players from the Washington State Barber and Rockefeller Open events, which took place a week earlier on March 23 at Chinook Middle School in Bellevue, in addition to the top six rated Washington Players in grades K-5 (for the Rockefeller) and 6-8 (for the Barber).

The winners of the closed events, conducted as invitation-only four-round Swisses, each earned a \$750 travel stipend donated by the Washington

Chess Federation (WCF) and will be the Washington State representatives at the National Rockefeller (K-5) and Barber (6-8) Tournaments of Champions, respectively, held concurrently with the US Open in Madison, Wisconsin in late July.

Both sections were dual NWSRS and US Chess rated and played at a time control of G/70 with a 10-second increment. The talented youngsters taking part craved the strong competition and longer time control as they prepared for state and national events. The tournament was organized by the WCF and directed by WCF Member-at-Large Ani Baru with assistance from Chess Dad Siva Sankrithi.

In the 12-player K-5 Rockefeller

section, top seed and newly minted FIDE Master Ted Wang, a fifth grader from St. Thomas School in Medina, emerged victorious with a perfect four points from four games. This is Ted's second consecutive Rockefeller Closed victory, as he seeks to defend his National K-5 Rockefeller Championship title later this summer.

For his victory, Ted repeats as the official Washington State representative at the 2025 Rockefeller Tournament of National K-5 Champions, taking place July 28-31 in Wisconsin. Congratulations Ted! Four chess warriors shared second/third place honors a point and a half back with 2.5 points apiece: Neevan R. Saddi of Issaquah, Akim Pikh of Redmond, Rafael Palathingal of Bothell, and Imai Maharaja of Redmond.

In the 6-8 Barber section, it was another Wang, Leonardo Wang (no relation to Ted) from Fall City, who topped the field with an impressive 3.5 points from four games. Leonardo's big win came in the second round against the section's lone National Master, Vidip Kona, after which a solid draw against Yondon and a clutch fourth round win against dark horse Deepak S.K. Rao sealed the tournament victory and clinched the seed into the Barber Tournament of National Middle School State Champions.

NM Vidip Kona of Duvall and Odbayar Yondon of Sammamish tied for second/third place a full point back with 2.5 points apiece. Congratulations to the winners, and best of luck to Ted and Leo at the National Invitationals this summer!

2025 WA Barber + Rockefeller Closed: K-5 Rockefeller								
#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Total
1	1	FM Ted Wang	2263	W8	W11	W2	W7	4
2	2-5	Neevan Reddy Saddi	1953	W5	W7	L1	D4	2.5
3		Akim Pikh	1953	L11	D4	W10	W8	2.5
4		Rafael Palathingal	1937	H---	D3	W6	D2	2.5
5		Imai Maharaja	1562	L2	W9	D8	W11	2.5
6	6-7	Michael Lin	1927	W12	W10	L4	U---	2
7		Ziqian Gao	1641	W9	L2	W11	L1	2
8	8-10	Shanna Wu	1637	L1	W12	D5	L3	1.5
9		Jimmy Yang	1504	L7	L5	W12	D10	1.5
10		Riaan Babbar	1387	B---	L6	L3	D9	1.5
11	11-12	Aahan Sriram	1528	W3	L1	L7	L5	1
12		Lewis Ma	1518	L6	L8	L9	B---	1



The playing room at the Greenlake branch of the Orlov Chess Academy during the second round of the Washington State Barber + Rockefeller Closed. Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.



(L-R) Josh Sinanan, Ani Barua, and Siva Sankrithi (seated) share a light-hearted moment in the skittles room. Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.

2025 WA Barber + Rockefeller Closed: 6-8 Barber

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Total
1	1	Leonardo Wang	1863	W5	W2	D3	W6	3.5
2	2-3	NM Vidip Kona	2223	W4	L1	W8	D3	2.5
3		Odbayar Yondon	1849	D8	W6	D1	D2	2.5
4	4-6	Yash Syal	1630	L2	W5	D7	D8	2
5		Harry Wu	1559	L1	L4	W9	W7	2
6		Deepak Sri Kartikeya Rao	1531	W7	L3	W10	L1	2
7	7-9	Selina Cheng	1743	L6	W9	D4	L5	1.5
8		Sarang Sankrithi	1545	D3	D10	L2	D4	1.5
9		Alan Cheng	1543	D10	L7	L5	B---	1.5
10	10	Deeksha Shankaranand	1679	D9	D8	L6	U---	1

A Conversation with Mani, FIDE Arbiter

Ken Lee

Manunthon (or Mani to her friends) Atikankhotchasee (MAH-noon-ton AH-tee-kahn-KHOT-cha-see) is one of the newer faces to the Pacific Northwest chess community.

The translation of her name gives us just a hint of what makes this young woman so remarkable.

In Thai, her name means “A person who finds deep joy in their homeland and carries a strength greater than that of the mighty elephant and lion.”

It’s hard to believe that someone who started learning chess at the age of 21 went onto to compete on the international chess stage with such success.

Meet Mani, a hyper-accelerated hero from Thailand whose journey is anything but ordinary.

Despite discovering chess relatively late, Mani earned many prestigious titles including WFM (Woman FIDE Master), FA (FIDE Arbiter), and FI (FIDE Instructor), and proudly represented Thailand in four Olympiads.

She went on to found her own chess school, where she taught over 200 students, including children with ADHD and autism, inspiring them through joyful and resilient learning.

For more than eight years, chess was her full-time profession until the pandemic led her into law, where she briefly worked as a lawyer. Now based in Seattle as a student, Mani continues to blend strategy, heart, and purpose into everything she does.

At the 2025 Washington Open, I had the opportunity to chat with Mani about fear, what makes a good Arbiter, and the value of solving puzzles throughout your life.

Ken: Mani, I understand that you started playing chess a bit later in life.

Mani: Yes, unlike many of the kids today who started when they were quite young, I started playing chess when I was 21 years old.

Ken: What motivated you to start playing chess?

Mani: Free food!

Ken: Interesting! What do you mean by that?

Mani: I was already part of the Championship Air Pistol team at Thammasat University in Bangkok, Thailand.

We were a very strong team. But I heard that there was an opportunity to play on the chess team and that they provided free food to competitors.

Ken: The free food was enough to keep you motivated?

Mani: Actually, I found out also that there were potential scholarships involved with chess, so I jumped at the chance to get involved. Law school is very expensive and so I had to find alternative ways to pay my tuition.

Ken: So how did you learn to play so quickly?

Mani: A friend taught me just seven days before the Olympiad chess tournament in Istanbul. I practiced and

joined the Thai National Team.

Ken: Wow, you made the National Team after only one week of study?

Mani: Well yes and no. I took sixth place, and they only took the top five members to the Olympiad.

The following year, I went on to the University Games and I became champion my first year.

Ken: Why do you think you progressed so quickly in chess?

Mani: Ever since I was young, I was highly driven and competitive. I think I took to chess so quickly because I was clever and I had a mix of fear and no fear.

Ken: What do you mean by that?

Mani: When I was eight years old, I met a fortune teller with my brother. The fortune teller shocked our family when he told my brother that he was going to die in a train accident at the age of 15. He also told me that I would die in a car accident at the age of 25.

Unfortunately, the prediction about my brother was accurate. My brother did indeed perish in a train accident.

Ken: I’m so sorry. That is quite shocking. How did you react?

Mani: I was very upset about the loss of my brother. It also made me very aware of my own morality because I had to live my life for the next 17 years with this dark prophecy hanging over my head.

Ken: Clearly the thought of mortality shaped and informed your personality.

Mani: Yes. I was convinced that I was going to die at a very young age. So, I adopted a kind of a “no fear” mentality about everything. I would try and do crazy things because I figured that life was so short. I was determined to try everything.

When I was younger, I got into a lot of trouble.

“I think chess players develop a great ability to solve problems and puzzles. I want to encourage them to use that same capacity to work through and solve difficult problems, in their own life.”



Photo courtesy of Manunthon Atikankhotchasee.

But as I got older, I kept using that motivation to fuel my desire to be the best.

Ultimately, that's what propelled me to compete on the national Air Pistol team and eventually the national chess team of Thailand.

Ken: What happened after your 25th birthday when you realized that the fortune teller was wrong?

Mani: Well, one of the first things I did was I learned to drive a car! I figured since the prediction was wrong, I could start living a new kind of life.

Ken: Was it liberating for you?

Mani: Yes and no. After I passed 25 and I became a top chess player in

Thailand, I became a little bored. I felt, for a while, that I was getting lazy.

Ken: Is that how you changed your direction to become a FIDE Arbiter?

Mani: Not exactly. I became a FIDE Arbiter because of a unique opportunity that was presented to me.

A sponsor told me that I could participate in more tournaments if I learned to become an Arbiter. If I was an Arbiter, the tournament fees would be waived.

Ken: So, again money was a motivating factor?

Mani: Yes, but also my boyfriend at the time was an Arbiter and he seemed to enjoy that role a great deal.

Ken: How did you become a FIDE Arbiter so quickly?

Mani: I was a lucky to meet and work with FIDE Master and International Arbiter Peter Long from Malaysia. He was teaching a seminar in Thailand about how to become a FIDE Arbiter, and the organization needed a translator who understood chess.

Ken: So, you stepped forward with your "no fear" attitude?

Mani: Yes. When I think about it, that's one of the qualities that I think makes a great Arbiter.

You have to be fearless.

Ken: What do you specifically mean by that?

Mani: A great tournament is run with excellent time management. A well thought out and accurate start and end time makes a big difference in the quality of a tournament.

What I mean about being fearless is that you have to approach a tournament, big or small, with the attitude that you are going to get it done and that you are going to solve any problem that comes your way.

Ken: What other qualities do you think one needs to become a good Arbiter?

Mani: I think having a quick and agile mind is helpful. I also think that having a facility for numbers and logic are required.

Even though some people might think coming up with pairings is just mechanical, it also involves split second judgement as well. In our community, people understand the subtle nature of pairings and think of it as mix of science and art.

Ken: How did you connect with the Washington Chess Federation?

Mani: About two years ago, I began my studies in Global Business at the University of Washington.

That's when I entered my first tournament in Seattle. At the time, my English skills were rather limited, but I did make some connections early on.

Ken: When did the WCF realize who you were and your formidable credentials?

Mani: At my second tournament, I met Ani Barua. He found out that I was a WFM and that I worked as a FIDE Arbiter. I told him about the FIDE tournaments I worked at throughout Asia and Europe.

Ken: He must have felt like he struck gold.

Mani: Well the feeling was mutual.

Ani introduced me to National Master Josh Sinanan, President of the WCF and things progressed rather quickly.

Ken: You've worked at hundreds of tournaments and seen thousands of chess competitors. In your opinion, what makes the Pacific Northwest a unique community?

Mani: I lived in Norway for a time and the climate in the Pacific Northwest reminds me of Norway.

What I think makes the Pacific Northwest unique is how so many cultures from South Asia, Asia, Europe, Russia, and throughout the USA blend so effortlessly. It's a unique environment and I think the Pacific Northwest can take enormous pride in what they have accomplished.

It makes me smile when I see kids from different cultures playing, discussing chess, and getting along in such a cheerful manner.

Ken: Do you have some advice for chess players in general?

Mani: At one point, I've had as many as 200 chess students in Thailand. I've also seen thousands of competitors throughout the years.

My main advice is this.

Just get a little bit better every day to enjoy a career in chess.

If you are winning too much you are going to get bored. If you are losing too much, you are going to get frustrated. So just concentrate on the idea of small incremental growth every day.

Ken: I've noted that you worked with many students who have ADHD or who are on the Autism spectrum.

Can you tell me what specific benefits you have witnessed that chess provides to the neurodiverse community?

Mani: In Thailand, I've had the privilege of working with many neurodivergent children, some with very significant challenges, and seen them rise to become national players and even represent Thailand at the Chess Olympiad.

What I truly love is utilizing chess as a means to help neurodivergent children develop better social skills. The benefits have been so tangible that some parents have come to me in tears to thank me for my work.

Ken: What specific benefits did you note?

Mani: *Increased focus and a calm state of mind.* Every child sat still, quietly focusing through all seven rounds of a full-day chess tournament. For children with ADHD or autism, this is a remarkable sign and a promising first step in safe and structured social participation.

Increased friendships from every game interaction.

Parents often tell me that their child finds it easier to make friends at chess tournaments compared to the classroom. They build friendships with kids by comforting each other after a loss. They also cheer each other's wins and have even asked me to assist their opponents.

These small acts of kindness become profound steps in the cognitive and emotional development for neurodivergent children.

Ken: That's amazing. Any final thoughts to our chess community?

Mani: I think chess players develop a great ability to solve problems and puzzles. I want to encourage them to use that same skill to work through and solve difficult problems in their own life.

Ken: Can you expand on that idea?

Mani: If you think of life as a series of puzzles to be solved rather than a series of obstacles to overcome, I think it changes your mindset.

I think solving problems and puzzles becomes a joyful activity and can create real positivity and growth in human beings. And it's also good to remember the motto, "No Fear!"



Don't miss out on the opportunity to make your next move in the game of real estate. Your kingdom awaits!

Contact Lin S. Shih
(206) 954-0963
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SIZZLING SUMMER RAPID

CHESS TOURNAMENT

SATURDAY, AUGUST 16, 2025

HOTEL 116 BELLEVUE

625 116TH AVE NE, BELLEVUE, WA 98004



FORMAT

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

K-3 U700

4-12 U900

K-3 Open

4-12 Open

SCHEDULE

Rd 1 – 9:00am

Rd 2 - 10:30am

Rd 3 - 11:45am

Lunch

Rd 4 - 1:30pm

Rd 5 - 2:45pm

Rd 6 - 4:00pm

Rd 7 – 5:15pm

Awards ~ 6:30pm

ELIGIBILITY

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

ENTRY FEE

\$45 before 8/7, \$55 after.
Maximum of 80 players.
Please register early to
guarantee your spot.

AWARDS

Amazon Gift Card Prizes
awarded in each section:
1st – 5th: \$65, \$60, \$55, \$50,
\$45. Medals for first-
timers, biggest upset win,
and best female player.

RATING

Dual NWSRS and US
Chess rated, with US
Chess membership
required in all sections.
Higher of current NWSRS
and US Chess Regular
August 2025 rating will be
used to determine section
and pairings.

REGISTRATION

Register online at
NWChess.com/OnlineRegistration/

Pay by Credit/Debit/PayPal/SettleKing.

**100% preregistered, no on-site entries or
payments. Entry + payment deadline Fri.
August 15th @ 5pm.** No registrations
accepted or refunds offered after the
deadline.

CLOCKS + NOTATION

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

QUESTIONS?

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

SEATTLE CHESS CLASSIC



SAT-SUN, AUGUST 16-17, 2025

HOTEL 116 BELLEVUE

625 116TH AVE NE, BELLEVUE, WA 98004

Format: A 6-round Swiss in two sections:

Tiglon Open & Seirawan U1600.

Maximum of 110 players, please register early to guarantee your spot.

Schedule: Rounds (6): Sat/Sun @ 9am, 1:30pm, 6pm. Players whose games run long may request a late start for the next round.

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

Late default: 30 minutes.

Prize Fund: \$6,500 (based on 100 paid entries)

Tiglon Open:

1st – 3rd: \$730 - 640 – 550.

1st U2100/U1900/U1700: \$400.

Seirawan U1600:

1st – 3rd: \$500 - 425 – 375.

1st U1500/U1300/U1100: \$300.

1st Unrated: \$200.

Special Prizes (per section):

Biggest Upset Win: \$40 per round

Best Female Player (by TPR): \$100.

Best Senior Player (by TPR): \$100.

Best Dressed: \$25/day.

Entry Fee: \$125 by Aug 9, \$150 after. \$50 play-up fee if rated 1500-1599 USCF and playing in Tiglon Open. Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs, WIMs, or US Chess 2300+. 50% discount for Seniors (50+).

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

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

Rating: Triple Rated NWSRS, US Chess, and FIDE. Highest of August 2025 US Chess Regular or current NWSRS rating will be used to determine section, pairings, and prizes. Foreign ratings used for players with no US Chess rating. Higher of US Chess or foreign ratings used at TD discretion.

Registration: Online at nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration. Payment also available via SettleKing, Zelle (ID: WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com) or Venmo (ID: @WACchess). **Payment due upon registration; players listed as unpaid for more than 3 days after registering will be withdrawn from the tournament. Registration + payment deadline: Fri, Aug 15 @ 5pm.** No registrations accepted or refunds offered after the deadline. Unpaid players will be removed from the roster after the deadline.

Info: Josh Sinanan, WCF President, 206.769.3757, washingtonchessfederation@gmail.com

SEATTLE CLASSIC SCHOLASTIC CHESS TOURNAMENT

Sunday, August 17, 2025

Hotel 116 Bellevue

625 116th Ave NE, Bellevue, WA 98004



FORMAT

A 4-round G/45; +5 Swiss in four sections:

K-3 U800

K-3 Open

4-12 U1000

4-12 Open

SCHEDULE

Rd 1 - 9am

Rd 2 - 11am

Lunch

Rd 3 - 2pm

Rd 4 - 4pm

Awards ceremony ~ 6pm.

RATING

Dual US & NWSRS Rated.
US Chess membership and clocks required in all sections. Notation required in all sections except for K-3 U800. All equipment is provided courtesy of WCF.

ENTRY FEE

\$45 by August 10, \$55 after. Room for 80 players; please register early to reserve your spot.

AWARDS

Amazon Gift Cards awarded in each section:

1st \$75

2nd \$65

3rd \$55

4th \$45

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

RATING

Highest of US Chess Regular August 2025 supplement, or current NWSRS rating used to determine section and pairings.

ELIGIBILITY

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

THE DETAILS

Online Registration:

NWchess.com/OnlineRegistration/

Pay by

Credit/Debit/PayPal/SettleKing.

100% pre-registered, no on-site entries or payments.
Entry + payment deadline Sat. Aug 16 @ 5pm.

No registrations accepted or refunds offered after the deadline. Unpaid players will be removed from the roster and waitlisted players will be offered a spot.

Highest finishing player in the K-3 Open and 4-12 Open sections will earn free entry into the 2025 Susan Polgar Foundation National Open for Girls and Boys, set to take place November 22-23 in Bellevue.

Questions?

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

McMinnville Chess Tournament At Evergreen Museum

Christefano Reyes

At the Evergreen Museum in McMinnville, Oregon on May 10, 2025, our [rated and unrated tournament](#) attracted 23 participants and 45 total attendees (including family, parents, and spouses). It was a remarkable event made better by everyone's presence and participation, and the excitement and intensity of an organized tournament was palpable.

After the tournament, many participants and their families from the area enjoyed the various attractions that McMinnville has to offer, and many later

visited the businesses who sponsored our event and contributed to the tournament's prizes.

The tournament featured four sections: Adult Rated, Adult Unrated, Youth Rated, and Youth Unrated. By far, our most popular section was Youth Unrated, and we had youth participants from McMinnville and surrounding cities, including Amity, Eugene, Hillsboro, Salem, and Tigard. This was a good sign that McMinnville Chess Club is fulfilling our mission of supporting and promoting youth chess!

Of note, however, was that our Youth Rated section was our smallest section, which is a good indication of where to focus our ongoing efforts. The future of chess is in our young players, and we hope our Youth Unrated players continue on to become rated players.

To that end, our tournament directors, Mike Terrill and Christefano Reyes, respectively organize the Duniway Middle School and newly restarted McMinnville High School chess clubs. We also published an article last year on [How to get a free US Chess membership](#) to help get more players into rated tournaments.

In the Adult Rated section, we were pleased to host rated players ranging from the 1500s to the 2000s, including a National Master, Faris Gabbara, who traveled from out of state (Michigan), and an Oregon Open Champion and Candidate Master, Preston Polasek, all who in the best way modeled proper etiquette and chess professionalism to our younger and less experienced players.

Regardless of everyone's rating, tournaments like this one uniquely provided all our participants with fun and exciting opportunities to make new friends, challenge old rivals, and play others with different backgrounds, ages, chess skill, and tournament experience levels.

The Results

First Place in Adult Rated went to McMinnville Chess Club's club champion, Santiago Tenesaca, who defended his title from our last tournament held in 2024.



McMinnville Chess Club members, John Burroughs (L) and Ben Crane, played in the Adult Unrated section. Photo credit: Christefano Reyes.

Ben Crane, another McMinnville Chess Club member, played strongly and won First Place in the Adult Unrated section.

Tyson Woodward, a very promising youth player from Amity, Oregon, enjoyed First Place in the Youth Unrated section.

Adult Rated: Santiago Tenesaca (McMinnville, Oregon)

Adult Unrated: Ben Crane (McMinnville, Oregon)

Youth Unrated: Tyson Woodward (Amity, Oregon)

This wasn't the first tournament we've held, but it was our first rated tournament with US Chess. We enlisted help from Dave Murray, fellow tournament director and the president of the [Portland Chess Club](#), and he was as gracious as he was helpful. In less than an hour, our tournament results were processed successfully and players began receiving emails that their recent tournament performances had been rated.

Thanks To Evergreen Museum

We've found an ideal venue and partnership with Evergreen Museum, and we're grateful for the excellent facilities and much appreciated on-site support on the day of our event. We especially want to thank Evergreen's Stephanie Upmeyer and Lee Ngo for their help making our event a resounding success. We're already planning our next tournament at Evergreen Museum, where we'll be building on the success of this May, 2025 tournament.

Our tournament was larger than expected, and we used the 301 + 302 classrooms used by the Museum's STEAM program and expanded into an additional "Skittles Room" in room 300 for players to decompress during rounds, study their games, and have the space to talk and play away from the tournament area.

Of course, we also brought the [McMinnville Chess Library](#), a curated collection of books, chess sets, and other equipment, and accepted several new donations of books and chess sets from a few of our club members. Items in this chess library are available to members to check out, and we bring this mobile library to all of our official events for both



"This is the way." Mandalorians greeted tournament contestants outside of the Evergreen Air and Space Museum. Photo credit: Christefano Reyes.

members and guests alike to browse and enjoy.

We had water, coffee, and tea from [Flag & Wire](#) at the event and a sponsored lunch at [Stickmen Brewing Company](#) after the tournament, but we didn't offer snacks or food (next time!). Evergreen Museum came to the rescue once again with their full-service [Aviator Cafe](#), which opened later in the morning and provided hungry players with wraps, salads, cookies, and other treats.

Our attendees were also delighted to find that May 10th was the Star Wars Day celebration at Evergreen Museum, and they enjoyed opportunities to meet, hang out with, and take photos with fans and characters from the Star Wars universe.

It was a visually stunning and interactive cultural phenomenon to be surrounded by Jedis, Jawas, Rebel Alliance Pilots, Mandalorians, and even Darth Vader himself—and it was understandably a challenge getting some

of our youth players back into the tournament on time for each round!



Thanks To Our Sponsors

We are immensely grateful to our sponsors who contributed to our prize pool and for making this tournament a lot more fun.

Our marquee sponsor, [EMPWR Nutrition](#), signed up as our first sponsor and helped us rent space at the Museum. [Oregon Stationers](#), a local printing shop in McMinnville, provided high quality prints and posters to help us promote the event around town.

Jason from [Noble Knights Chocolate Company](#) arrived at the tournament with dozens of milk chocolate and dark chocolate chess pieces for our winners and youth players. Brehan from [Crawford Wellness](#) provided valuable volunteer support, and Jocela provided yoga class passes as prizes.

[Flag & Wire](#) was our generous coffee and tea sponsor, and a group of us met at the coffee shop in the early morning to fuel up and get ready for the day, and then Joseph from [Knight Shuttle](#) picked us up in their luxury van (emblazoned with

a Knight on the side!) to take us to the Museum.

After the tournament, Knight Shuttle picked us up and took us to [Stickmen Brewing Company](#) for a sponsored lunch, and after Sandy took great care of us with amazing salads, drinks, and wood-fired pizzas, several of us stayed and played blitz chess for a few more hours, which finally gave our weary but happy tournament directors a chance to play.

- [EMPWR Nutrition](#) – Venue Sponsor
- [Stickmen Brewing Company](#) – After Party Sponsor
- [Flag & Wire](#) – Coffee & Tea Sponsor
- [Knight Shuttle](#) – Transportation Sponsor



The room was electric as NM Faris Gabbara (L) and Santiago Tenesaca squared off in the final Adult Rated round as players from around the area observed. In the background, Mike Terril, tournament co-director, observed and officiated. Photo credit: Christefano Reyes.

- [Noble Knights Chocolate Company](#) – Chocolate Sponsor
- [Crawford Wellness](#) – Wellness Sponsor
- [Oregon Stationers](#) – Print Sponsor
- [J&W CARSTAR](#) – Prize Sponsor
- [Hopscotch Toys](#) – Prize Sponsor
- [good food mac](#) – Prize Sponsor
- [Vortex Records](#) – Prize Sponsor
- [The Velvet Monkey Tea Shop](#) – Prize Sponsor
- [Troon Vineyard](#) – Prize Sponsor
- [Chess Zendo](#) – Prize Sponsor

It's impossible to express how much our sponsors showed their support and enthusiasm. While it's certainly possible to put on a fun, successful event without many (if any) sponsors, our attendees could feel the momentous support and positive encouragement from our local business community.

With their help, McMinnville has quickly become a center of chess activity, rated play, and scholastic chess in the Willamette Valley.

To The Future

With this tournament just behind us, we've made new friends, learned valuable lessons, and already plan two more tournaments at Evergreen Museum in 2025 alone. Our next tournament at Evergreen Museum is August 9.

Of course, we also have numerous monthly club meetings (every Monday afternoon at [Harvest Fresh](#), every Wednesday night at [Mac Market](#), and first and third Saturdays at [The Velvet Monkey Tea Shop](#)), occasional chess popups around town (including recent popups at [Troon Vineyard](#) and [Mac Plaza](#)), and World Chess Day together with McMinnville Parks & Rec on Sunday, July 20.

Thanks to our extraordinary organizing team, we're able to put on an unprecedented ten events a month, further cementing McMinnville as the go-to place for chess players and the chess-curious throughout the Willamette Valley.



*Tournament co-director, Christefano Reyes (L), and Leo Schuh, both of McMinnville, Oregon, enjoyed an unofficial game in between rounds.
Photo credit: David Petre.*

Detective Cookie Chess Classic

Josh Sinanan

The third annual Detective Cookie Chess Classic took place on Sunday, April 6, 2025, at the Rainier Beach Community Center in Seattle. A record turnout of 180 players came out for the event, which spanned grades K-11 and featured five sections separated by grade level and rating: K-1 U700, 2-3 U800, K-3 Open, 4-8 U900, and 4-12 Open.

The Rainier Beach Community Center, located in the heart of South Seattle, once again served as an excellent venue and was easily accessible for players from the south end. Detective Denise “Cookie” Bouldin, founder of the Detective Cookie Chess Club, was onsite throughout the day and enlisted the help of her fellow police officers to provide a free hot-dog lunch for all attendees.

The festivities began with opening remarks from Detective Cookie, Washington Chess Federation (WCF) President Josh Sinanan, and Chief Tournament Director Mani Atikankhotchasee, who offered words of encouragement to the room full of budding chess players taking part in the proceedings. Though primary featuring a high concentration of South Seattle based folk, players hailing from numerous cities throughout the Pacific Northwest were also in attendance, including Seattle, Sammamish, Bothell, Redmond, Bellevue, Tacoma, Richland, Tukwila, Belfair, Mercer Island, Fircrest, Covington, Maple Valley, Des Moines, Kirkland, Issaquah, Bellingham, and Kent.

Adding to the excitement and celebratory atmosphere was the fact that April 6 was WCF President Josh Sinanan’s 40th birthday. Despite his best attempts to keep the news on the down low, it was inevitably made public knowledge with a special birthday announcement, a colloquial rendition of the “Happy Birthday” song, and chocolate cake with

candles shortly before the start of the final round. Many thanks to those who wished me a happy birthday and special thanks to the Samantha Smith players for their generous gifts and Captain Peter Zou for the wonderful post-tournament birthday dinner and celebration! Making it ‘over the hill’ at a chess tournament wasn’t so bad after all!

The event was hosted as a collaborative effort between the Detective Cookie Chess Club, the Seattle Police Department, and WCF. Detective Denise “Cookie” Bouldin and WCF President Josh Sinanan served as co-organizers, with WCF FIDE Liaison Mani Atikankhotchasee managing the

pairings. Chess Mom and photographer extraordinaire Meiling Cheng took hundreds of wonderful photos and video footage throughout the day!

Volunteer judges circulating throughout the playing room included WCF Member-at-Large Ani Barua, WCF Junior Ambassador Selina Cheng, and WCF Co-Vice President Duane Polich. The Seattle Police Department ran and sponsored the concessions, which were conveniently located adjacent to the parent waiting area in the multi-purpose room. Many thanks to the team of amazing volunteers and community center staff that made this fantastic event possible.



(L-R) Chouchan Airapetian, Josh Sinanan, and Detective Cookie celebrate Josh’s 40th birthday at the 2025 Detective Cookie Chess Classic.
Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.

Detective Cookie Chess Classic Prizes

Trophies awarded to the top scoring players in each section.

Trophies awarded to the top 5 finishing teams.

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

Medals for first-time tournament players and players scoring 3 points or more who do not earn a trophy.

Individual Winners

Place	K-1 U700	2-3 U800	K-3 Open	4-8 U900	4-12 Open
1st	Liam Zeng	William Wright	Ryan Lai	Atlas Bigelow	Owen Scollon
2nd	Aslan Karaca	Liam Zhen	Peng-Yu Pan	David Novruzov	Brook Ayalew
3rd	Kheiron Chin	Erik Kotsinyan	Anay Dharamshi	Noah Riggio	Stanley Deng
4th	Adrian Pressley	Emily Zhang	Yuwen Qu	Shravan Gokul	Ziliang Ma
5th	Archith Jayakrishnan	Adrith Mohan	Patrick Zhang	Nolan Yin	Andrew Inforzato
6th	Camilo Gomez	Farrukh Ibragimov		Proud Tulsukchuantanat	
7th	Kevin Dai	Stavya Sharma		Eric Wong	
8th	Jasmine Karaca	James Pool		Bryant Shi	
9th	Oishani Ghosh	Will Allan		Charan Prasanna	
10th	Oren Watson	Eric Zhao		Mihir Mallapragada	

Special Prize Winners

	K-1 U700	2-3 U800	K-3 Open	4-8 U900	4-12 Open
Best Female Player	Jasmine Karaca	Emily Zhang	Yuwen Qu	Proud Tulsukchuantanat	Aarya Patel
Best Dressed	Liam Zeng	William Wright, Christian M. Gonzalez Lagos	Peng-Yu Pan	Harvey Ericson, Sophia Michael, Khai Tang	Hannah Thomas
Biggest Upset Win	Jordan Crystal	James Pool	Jiyong Ruan	Gwen Spitzenberger	Angel Caro

Top-Finishing Teams

Place	School	Team Players	Team Score
1st	Detective Cookie Chess Club	DCC (1465.8)	16.5
		Brook Ayalew (1817) 4.5	
		Ziliang Ma (1423) 4.0	
		Oliver Tam (1281) 4.0	
		Bryant Shi (695) 4.0	
2nd	Samantha Smith ES	SSM (1307.5)	15
		Adrith Mohan (558) 4.0	
		Emily Zhang (396) 4.0	
		Peng-Yu Pan (1134) 3.5	
		Clara Dragusanu (890) 3.5	
3rd	Clara Barton ES	CBR (1155.8)	14
		Anay Dharamshi (1283) 3.5	
		Mihir Mallapragada (801) 3.5	
		Shrihan Bayya (657) 3.5	
		Samarth Sarangi (636) 3.5	
4th	Thurgood Marshall ES	THU (788.5)	13.5
		William Wright (769) 5.0	
		Khai Tang (472) 3.0	
		Tandy Huang (100) 3.0	
		Gabriel Pleasants (1149) 2.5	
5th	Aki Kurose MS	AKK (518.0)	12
		Lachlan Cumutt (611) 3.0	
		Finnian Bisset (558) 3.0	
		Benjamin Wu (422) 3.0	
		Jared Mansfield (289) 3.0	



Detective Denise "Cookie" Bouldin revels in the joy of her largest ever Detective Cookie chess tournament.
Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.



*Kira Lei (L) vs Christian Martin Gonzalez Lagos test out the hippopotamus opening in their third-round game.
Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.*



*Ken Pham (L) vs Robert Kotsinyan during their first-round game.
Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.*



*Jayden Wu (L) and Joyce Gui, whose promotion queen seems to be defying gravity, blaze through their game in the K-3 Open.
Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.*

75th Oregon Open Chess Tournament

August 30-September 1, 2025, Labor Day Weekend

Sponsored by the Oregon Chess Federation (OCF) and Portland Chess Club (PCC)

FORMAT: The tournament is a 6-round Swiss paired event with two rounds per day and is open to everyone, regardless of residency or age. Up to two half point byes are available if requested before round one.

SECTIONS: There are five sections: 2000+, U2000, U1700, U1400, and U1100. **Players may play up one section for a \$25 play-up fee (can't play up more than one section).** The official August US Chess over-the-board regular ratings are generally used for section eligibility, pairings, and prize eligibility. Unofficial US Chess over-the-board regular ratings, US Chess online regular ratings, or converted foreign ratings are generally used for players with no official US Chess over-the-board regular rating.

TIME CONTROL: G/100;inc30 (one-hour forty minutes per player with thirty seconds added for each move).

SUPPLIES: PLAYERS MUST SUPPLY THEIR OWN BOARD, SET, AND INCREMENT CAPABLE DIGITAL CLOCK FOR TOURNAMENT PLAY. A limited number of sets and boards will be available to purchase at the tournament for \$20 each. Players are responsible for knowing how to set their clock. Notation sheets and pencils provided.

SCHEDULE: A players meeting is at 9:45am on Saturday. There is no need for registered players to "check-in" prior to round 1. The rounds start at 10am and 3:30pm each day.

RATED: All the sections are US Chess regular rated. The 2000+ and U2000 sections are also FIDE standard rated.

ENTRY FEE: \$130 if registered by Friday, August 8; \$140 from August 9 until Friday, August 29 at noon. Free entry for GM's and IM's with up to \$130 deducted from any prize won. US Chess membership is required for all players. Oregon Chess Federation membership is required for Oregon residents.

PRIZES: \$13,000 total prize fund based on 150 players. The prize fund is adjusted proportionally if there are a different number of players, but \$6500 is guaranteed.

2000+ Section: 1st-\$1550, 2nd-\$1250, 3rd-\$900
U2150: 1st-\$400, 2nd-\$300, 3rd-\$200

U2000 Section: 1st-\$500, 2nd-\$400, 3rd-\$300
U1850: 1st-\$400, 2nd-\$300, 3rd-\$200

U1700 Section: 1st-\$500, 2nd-\$400, 3rd-\$300
U1550: 1st-\$400, 2nd-\$300, 3rd-\$200

U1400 Section: 1st-\$500, 2nd-\$400, 3rd-\$300
U1250: 1st-\$400, 2nd-\$300, 3rd-\$200

U1100 Section: 1st-\$500, 2nd-\$400, 3rd-\$300
U950: 1st-\$400, 2nd-\$300, 3rd-\$200

Unrated players are eligible for all prizes in their section except the U950 prizes in the U1100 section. Prizes are combined and/or split if there is a tie. Players winning \$600

or more must complete an IRS form with their Social Security number before receiving their prize. Foreign players may be subject to withholding taxes. Prizes are paid via check or PayPal.

QUALIFIERS: The 2000+ section is a qualifier for both the Championship and Challengers sections of the Oregon Closed. All the sections are qualifiers for the Oregon Scholastic Chess Federation (OSCF) State Championship.

(NEW!) LOCATION: Holiday Inn Portland Airport, 8439 Columbia Blvd, Portland, OR 97220. There is free parking in the hotel parking area. Hotel rooms for any of the nights of August 29- September 2 are available at a special chess rate of \$79 plus tax per night for single or double rooms. **The hotel chess rate is not guaranteed to be available after July 30, or even earlier if the room block is sold out.** Use [this link](#) or call 1-888-465-4329 to reserve a room. If reserving by phone, use the following group SRP code: CHS.

REGISTRATION: Register online at onlineregistration.cc (no mailed or on-site registrations are allowed). **The deadline to register is Friday, August 29 at noon.** Email support@oregonchessfed.org if you encounter any issues while trying to register online, need to withdraw after having already registered, or are unable to pay the entry fee online via credit card, debit card, or PayPal.

TOURNAMENT RULES: The FIDE rules are used in the 2000+ and U2000 sections while the US Chess rules are used in the U1700, U1400, and U1100 sections. The following applies to all sections: **1) Players are not allowed to have a phone or other electronic device capable of chess analysis or communication on their person during their games.** Any such device a player has with them must be turned off and stored in the player's bag (backpack, chess bag, etc.). The penalty for possessing such a device is at the discretion of the chief tournament director. **2) You must let the tournament staff know at least thirty minutes prior to the start time of the next round if you decide to withdraw from the tournament or skip that round.** If you decide to withdraw or skip a round and are not on-site, send us an email to support@oregonchessfed.org letting us know. Any player who forfeits a game without a valid reason in the judgement of the chief tournament director will not be allowed to play in the Oregon Open next year.

SIDE EVENT: Blitz - starts at 8:30pm on Saturday, August 30. See detailed information at oregonchessfed.org or pdxchess.org.

QUESTIONS: Send an email to support@oregonchessfed.org if you have any questions.

2025 Western States Regional Championship For Women And Girls (Record Participation)

Chouchanik Airapetian

Thanks to the support of a \$2,000 grant from US Chess, sponsorship from the Washington Chess Federation (WCF), and a \$500 grant from My Chess World, the 2025 Western States Regional Chess Championship for Women and Girls was a huge success! Held April 12–13, this event reached record attendance with 46 female participants including many strong prospects.

The tournament welcomed experienced players including Megan Lee, a US Open Women's Champion and overall Washington State Champion, as well as FIDE Arbiter Manunthor Atikankhotchasee who mentored players throughout the event. Alongside these incredible players, I was honored to organize and sponsor this celebration of females in chess.

The tournament was organized into three sections, each named after inspiring female chess champions: Megan Lee, Diya Deshmukh, and Carissa Yip. At Supernationals, Yip took time out of the blitz event to share her excitement about being featured: "I am grateful for this opportunity to promote female chess players in your community in Washington State. When I saw the flyer, I had a smile on my face. I appreciate your work!"

The goal was to make this a triple rated event (Northwest, US Chess, and FIDE) to engage experienced, developing, and unrated young female participants. Side activities included:

- A chess simul with Megan Lee
- A strategy workshop with me, Chouchanik Airapetian
- A puzzle-solving competition with Josh Sinanan

All three events achieved maximum capacity for participation.

Special thanks to Jennifer Shahade for donating her book *Play Like a Champion* as a puzzle prize, and Susan Polgar for offering her own books as additional awards!

But awards weren't limited to rating points. We celebrated with prizes for:

- Best Dressed
- Kindness & Spreading Joy
- Biggest Upset
- Best Mother-Daughter Duo
- Best Etiquette

Next year, we are planning to introduce Team awards in 2026!

This year's event was hosted across two venues to incorporate all the activities: Day One at Orlov Academy in Greenlake, and Day Two at Chinook Middle School. Shoutout to Sahara Pizza on Mercer Island for keeping our players fueled!

Huge appreciation to the WCF team,

especially President Josh Sinanan, Ani Barua, and High School Ambassador Chloe Miller for supporting outreach through organizing and social media.

Our efforts were also amplified by the *From Pawns to Queens Gala* on March 21, 2025, at the Hilton Bellevue. It was a spectacular evening that supported our prize fund and scholarship opportunities across sections.

Lastly, a heartfelt thank you to all our amazing donors and supporters! From local businesses to artists to chess champions, this event was made possible by the generosity of so many:

- Local artists: Arka Jewelry, Arshalys Isagulyan, Galina Ponomarenko, Anahit Hayrapetyan, Susan K Reyes
- Sahara Pizza, Hayk Caffee, Hilton Bellevue, Sugar Mountain
- Metropolitan Market, Seattle Symphony, Seattle Towncar Reliable Services
- Seattle and Utah Chess Clubs, Coach Brad (chess camp), Cheesecake Factory
- Josh Sinanan and Chouchanik Airapetian (private lessons), Angela Agaian, Matthew Feng (peer lessons)

- Alexander Byelashov (business consulting), Katherina Rohonyan (special guest and donor)
- Krishna (tech support), Jesse Gibbs (beautiful gala flyer design)
- Great Wolf Lodge, Woodland Park Zoo, Balloon Ride Co., and many more!

Keep a lookout for upcoming events and galas with dates to be shared soon! Stay tuned at www.mychessworld.com for updates, tournament results, and more inspiring stories. Let's continue building a brighter, more inclusive future for women and girls in chess!



*Chouchan Airapetian (L) vs Deeksha Shankaranand and other top boards of the Megan Lee Championship during the first round of the WSRCC for Girls and Women.
Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.*



*Krystal Wang (L) vs Laya Sankar alongside Deethya Sankar (L) and Veera Sreekanth during the first round of the Carissa Yip U700 section.
Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.*

2025 Washington Spring Mini-Teams Championship

Josh Sinanan



On Sunday April 13, Washington Chess Federation hosted the Washington Spring Min-Teams Championship at Chinook Middle School in Bellevue, which took place in the auxiliary gym alongside the Western States Regional Chess Championship for Girls and Women, which was happening next door in the main gym.

We had a splendid turnout of 66 chess players and 22 teams competing across three sections: K-3, 4-6, 7-12 + Friends. The centrally located Chinook Middle School, which sits atop Clyde Hill in Bellevue, made the tournament readily accessible to players from throughout the great Pacific Northwest, including the cities of Bothell, Monroe, Redmond, Gig Harbor, Bellevue, Mill Creek, Shoreline, Everett, Seattle, Duvall, Lake Forest Park, Mercer Island, Kirkland, and

Sammamish.

The team format fostered a friendly and fun playing atmosphere with many entertaining games! The rapid time control of G/25; +5 set the stage for many wild time scrambles and created potential for several surprising upsets. All games were dual NWSRS and US Chess rated. Chief TD Jacob Mayer ran and paired the event with assistance from WCF Ironman Ani Barua, who seems to be at every tournament these days! Chess Dad Siva Sankrithi took the lead on compiling and organizing all the teams, even managing to play in the event himself on the “Coach Dads” team!

Amazon Gift cards prizes were awarded to players from the top finishing teams in each section. Due to small turnouts in the 7-12 and Parents & Friends sections, those sections were merged

to form a single 7-12 + Friends section. In the K-3 section, two teams emerged victorious and shared first/second place honors with 4.5 match points from five games: The Blitz and Rapid Experts team consisting of Ryan Lai, Easton Ren, and Bihe Liu and the GM Bro team featuring Skyler Qin, Patrick Zhang, and Eason Chen!

A pair of teams shared third place two full match points back with 2.5 points apiece: the WaSaBy team of Hengsheen Wang, Vivaan Sankrithi, and Sofia Byelashova, and the Shadow Lucario team of Vincent Gu, Eric Yu, and Jonathan Wu.

In the 4-6 section, the G6 team comprised of Odbayar Yondon, Arnav Gadde, and Sarang Sankrithi captured first place honors with an undefeated 4.5 match points and 12.5 games points,



*The Blitz and Rapid Experts Team:
(L-R) Easton Ren, Ryan Lai,
Bihe Liu.
Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.*



*The GM Bro Team:
(L-R) Patrick Zhang, Eason Chen,
Skyler Qin.
Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.*



*The G6 Team:
(L-R) Sarang Sankrithi, Odbayar Yondon.
(Not pictured: Arnav Gadde).
Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.*

dropping only a single game along the way!

The Somerset team of Andy Chen, Shawn Li, and Lewis Ma finished in second place with four match points. The One2Three team of Dann Merriman, Chen Yuan, and Aiden Zhu won the third place prize a half match point back. The Lakeridge team of Myron Lam, Elon Tsay, and Rishab Wishwas earned the Best School Team prize with a solid two points.

In the 7-12 + Friends section, the Coach Dads team consisting of Tim Moroney, Walter Guity, and Siva Sankrithi reigned supreme with a perfect five match points and near-perfect 14.5/5 game points from five rounds. As famous arbiter Chris Bird once remarked, the coach needs to play too on occasion! The Last-Minute team composed of Skandha Raj, Emil Khudiyev, and Girisudha Sundararajan, which really was formed at the very last minute, shared second/third place honors along with the Redmond Team of Sidhanth Chakravarthy, Atharv Ramola, and Leonard Berg, each with 3.5 match points from five games.

The Cleveland High School Team consisting of Johnny Tan, Lewis Porad-Brand, and Andrew Nguyen was crowned the Best School Team for their efforts.

Congratulations to the winners, and thanks to all who contributed to this fun event!



The “Coach Dads” Team:
(L-R) Walter Guity, Siva Sankrithi,
Tim Moroney.
Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.

Team Roster and Standings. WA Spring Mini-Teams Chess Championship: K-3										
	Place	Code	Name	Score	T-Mod.	Med	T-Solk	T-SB	T-Cumul.	
1	1-2	BRE	Blitz and Rapid Experts (1272.0) W4 D2 W3 W5 W6 Ryan Lai (1352) 4.0 Easton Ren (1324) 4.0 Bihe Liu (1140) 4.5	4.5		10.5	10.5	8.25	13	=1st/2nd: \$65 per player
2		GMB	GM Bro (1185.7) W6 D1 W5 W4 W3 Skyler Qin (1272) 5.0 Patrick Zhang (1178) 1.0 Eason Chen (1107) 4.5	4.5		10.5	10.5	8.25	13	=1st/2nd: \$65 per player
3	3-4	WSB	WaSaBy (1138.7) W5 D4 L1 W6 L2 Hengsheen Wang (1202) 2.5 Vivaan Sankrithi (1165) 4.0 Sofia Byelashova (1049) 2.0	2.5		8	12.5	2.25	9	=3rd: \$25 per player
4		SL	Shadow Lucario (1066.0) L1 D3 W6 L2 W5 Vincent Gu (1092) 0.5 Eric Yu (1087) 3.0 Jonathan Wu (1019) 3.0	2.5		8	12.5	2.25	6	=3rd: \$25 per player
5	5	LLR	Little Rookers (704.3) L3 W6 L2 L1 L4 Vivienne Luo (721) 2.0	1		9.5	14	0	4	
			Liam Zeng (722) 2.0 Satvik Verma (670) 1.0							
6	6	CT1	CT1 (894.3) L2 L5 L4 L3 L1 Samarth Swain (1146) 1.0 Bryan Li (842) 1.0 Joshua He (695) 0.0	0		10.5	15	0	0	

WA Spring Mini-Teams Chess Championship: 4-6										
	Place	Code	Name	Score	T-Mod.	Med	T-Solk	T-SB	T-Cumul.	
1	1	G6	G6 (1709.0) W7 W2 D3 W5 W6 Odbayar Yondon (1858) 4.5 Arnay Gadde (1701) 4.5 Sarang Sankrithi (1568) 3.5	4.5		11	12	10.25	13.5	1st: \$70 per player
2	2	SOM	Somerset (1556.0) W5 L1 W6 W3 W7 Andy Chen (1626) 3.5 Shawn Li (1563) 4.0 Lewis Ma (1479) 4.5	4		11.5	12.5	8	11	2nd: \$60 per player
3	3	O2T	One2Three (1524.7) W8 W4 D1 L2 W5 Dann Merriman (1718) 4.0 Chen Yuan (1517) 3.5 Aiden Zhu (1339) 4.0	3.5		13.5	14	7.75	11.5	3rd: \$50 per player
4	4	DTK	DTK (1284.3) W6 L3 L5 W7 W8 Daniel D Yun (1444) 2.5 Terrick Evin (1416) 4.0 Kana Kayali (993) 3.0	3		8	8.5	3	8	
5	5	LKD	Lakeridge (927.7) L2 W8 W4 L1 L3 Myron Lam (1125) 2.0 Elon Tsay (1011) 1.0 Rishab Wishwas (647) 2.0	2		11	15.5	3.5	7	Best School Team: \$30 per player
6	6	CT5	CT5 (833.7) L4 W7 L2 D8 L1 Eric Tsen (1005) 0.0 Aarav Bhandari (996) 1.5 Rohit Kallaraikal Robin (500) 2.0	1.5		8.5	13	1.25	5	
7	7	CT2	CT2 (1261.0) L1 L6 W8 L4 L2 Imai Maharaja (1562) 2.0 Imai Maharaj (960) 1.0 Arnay Appineni (960) 1.0	1		9	13.5	0.5	3	
8	8	CT3	CT3 (866.5) L3 L5 L7 D6 L4 Peter Luo (1233) 1.5 Avyukt Kasala (500) 0.5	0.5		7.5	11	0.75	1	

WA Spring Mini-Teams Chess Championship: 7-12 + Friends										
	Place	Code	Name	Score	T-Mod.	Med	T-Solk	T-SB	T-Cumul.	
1	1	TWS	Coach Dads (1697.7) W5 W2 W3 W4 W6 Timothy Moroney (2066) 5.0 Walter Guity (1627) 5.0 Siva Sankrithi (1400) 4.5	5		11	12.5	12.5	15	1st: \$70 per player
2	2-3	LMN	Last Minute (1298.0) W4 L1 W7 W5 D3 Skandha Raj (1398) 2.0 Emil Khudiyev (1300) 4.0 Girisudha Sundararajan (1196) 1.5	3.5		12.5	14	7.25	10.5	=2nd/3rd: \$55 per player
3		RT1	Redmond Team 1 (1021.7) W7 W6 L1 W8 D2 Sidhanth Chakravarthy (1184) 1.5 Atharv Ramola (931) 3.0 Leonard Berg (950) 4.5	3.5		11.5	12.5	5.75	11.5	=2nd/3rd: \$55 per player
4	4-5	TWF	The Wild Fish (1098.7) L2 W5 W6 L1 L8 Vyom Joshi (1332) 2.5 Ruhaan Sidhu (1191) 2.0 Shaurya Sahdev (773) 1.5	2		8	13	3.5	7	
5		BBR	Blunder Bros (1221.0) L1 L4 W8 L2 W7 Alex Byelashov (1139) 0.0 Justin Lee (1224) 2.0 Jordan Woltjer (1300) 4.0	2		8	13	2.5	4	
6	6-7	CT6	CT6 (1252.0) W8 L3 L4 D7 L1 Ziliang Ma (1423) 2.0 Mithran Anbuselvam (1081) 2.5	1.5		8	13	1.75	6	
7		PLS	PLS (1293.3) L3 W8 L2 D6 L5 Peter June (1906) 4.0 Lenin Ravindranath Sivalingam (1300) 1.5 Shanmukha Sadhu (674) 1.0	1.5		8	11.5	1.75	5	
8	1-8	CLE	Cleveland (1177.7) L6 L7 L5 L3 W4 Johnny Tan (1562) 4.0 Lewis Porad-Brand (1021) 0.0 Andrew Nguyen (950) 2.0	1		7	10.5	2	1	Best School Team: \$30 per player

Third Annual Bellingham Open

Josh Sinanan

Western Washington University (WWU) and the Washington Chess Federation (WCF) partnered to co-host the Third Annual Bellingham Open on Easter Sunday, April 20, 2025. The venue was once again the spacious multi-purpose room of the Viking Union Building of the WWU campus, which offers a beautiful view of Bellingham Bay and an abundance of natural light.

The tournament was originally scheduled for Saturday, April 19 but had to be shifted to Easter Sunday due to a conflict with a teachers' conference, which likely affected attendance. It also conflicted with the popular Grand Pacific Open in Victoria, BC, which historically takes place during Easter weekend. The organizers will seek to host the tournament on a different weekend in future years!

Chess players from throughout the Pacific Northwest were represented in the two-section, five-round Swiss from cities including Lake Stevens, Bothell, Duvall, Bellingham, Woodinville, Seattle, Camano Island, Renton, Richland, Lacey, Snohomish, Redmond, Dupont, Kirkland, Eagle River (AK), Stanwood, Everett, Mercer Island, Clinton, Kingston, University Place, Blaine, Ferndale,

Edgewood, and Federal Way. The tournament was co-organized by Western Washington University Chess Club President Arlo Breslauer and Washington Chess Federation President Josh Sinanan, who also served as the tournament director.

The field was split evenly between two sections, with 29 players in the Whatcom Open and 31 in the Fairhaven U1700. The fast-paced schedule of five G/30; +10 games in one day, each spaced about an hour and half apart, appealed to players ranging from unrated to Master, including National Masters Bill McGeary and Vedic Panda as well as FIDE Master Peter Yu. It was an especially noteworthy event for NM Bill McGeary, who came out of retirement and played his first tournament in 19 years! An awards ceremony immediately following the last round concluded the day's festivities.

Andrew Fletcher, a senior at Seattle University originally from Bellevue majoring in business administration, topped the Whatcom Open with a perfect five points from five games. Fletcher has recently been improving his game by training with several titled players but hasn't had the chance to play many tournaments due to his demanding school

schedule. Along the way, Fletcher won against the man, the myth, the legend NM Viktors Pupols as well as 2025 Washington Invitational Champion Pratik Thorwe in the final round, thanks mostly to his excellent opening preparation. For his victory, Fletcher is seeded into the 2026 Washington State Championship—Challengers section.

FM Peter Yu of Bothell captured second place with 4.5 points, allowing only a single draw against Thorwe in the penultimate round. NM Vedic Panda of Seattle earned the third place prize a half-point back with four points, recovering well after a third-round loss against Yu and winning his last two games against dark horses Garine and Deng.

Tesla Stem High School junior Ujwal Garine of Redmond captured the first U1900 prize with 3.5 points. Four rising chess stars shared first U1800/U1700 honors with three points apiece: Owen Scollon of Bellingham, Stanely Deng of Richland, Arlo Breslauer of Seattle, and David Smygov of Everett.

The usual "special" prizes were also up for grabs, for such noteworthy achievements such as biggest upset win, best female player, and best dressed in each section. The lucky winners included

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Bellingham Open: Whatcom Open

#	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total
1	Andrew Fletcher	1933	W11	W14	W18	W17	W5	5
2	FM Peter Yu	2100	W22	W10	W3	D5	W7	4.5
3	NM Vedic Panda	2250	W27	W8	L2	W6	W9	4
4	NM Bill McGeary	2210	W13	W20	L5	D10	W17	3.5
5	Pratik Thorwe	2033	W28	W23	W4	D2	L1	3.5
6	Ujwal Garine	1811	W15	D17	W26	L3	W14	3.5
7	Carson Roesch	1904	L14	W28	W23	W24	L2	3
8	Owen Scollon	1776	W25	L3	L10	W23	W22	3
9	Stanley Deng	1666	L17	W11	W29	W18*	L3	3
10	Arlo Breslauer	1562	W26	L2	W8	D4	H---	3
11	David Smygov	1558	L1	L9	W21	W26	W20	3
12	Jeremy Roesch	1723	W16	L18	D14	D20	D15	2.5
13	Jeb Stroud	1594	L4	L25	D28	W27	W24	2.5
14	Christopher Gilbert	1521	W7	L1	D12	W16	L6	2.5
15	Drake Wilson	1494	L6	L27	B---	W19	D12	2.5
16	Skandha Raj	1398	L12	W21	D20	L14	W25	2.5
17	Russell Bare	unr.	W9	D6	W19	L1	L4	2.5
18	NM Viktors Pupols	2200	W21	W12	L1	L9	U---	2
19	Fred Litt	1929	L23	W22	L17	L15	W29	2
20	Gavin Shi	1702	W29	L4	D16	D12	L11	2
21	Karsh Havaladar	1582	L18	L16	L11	B---	W26	2
22	Warren Chase	1571	L2	L19	W25	W29	L8	2
23	Blane Hildenbrand	1543	W19	L5	L7	L8	B---	2
24	Jacob Herr	1307	B---	L26	W27	L7	L13	2
25	Brian Gradin	1479	L8	W13	L22	D28	L16	1.5
26	Samuel Echaure	2013	L10	W24	L6	L11	L21	1
27	Nelsen Griffith	1626	L3	W15	L24	L13	U---	1
28	Bhavik Bharath	1563	L5	L7	D13	D25	U---	1
29	Adam Hard	1370	L20	B---	L9	L22	L19	1

* Biggest Upset Win (534 points)

Stanley Deng of Richland for the biggest upset win (534 points) and the classy Carson Roesch of Blaine for his stylish attire.

In the Fairhaven U1700 section, Evan Takayoshi of Edgewood emerged victorious with an undefeated 4.5 points from five games. After a first-round draw with upstart Patrick Zhang, Takayoshi

woke up and rattled off four consecutive victories against Wayne Berry, Anyi Li, Garcia Berry, and Alexander Alvarado to edge out his nearest rivals. Three chess musketeers shared the combined second/third/U1500 prize a half-point back: Owen Zhang of Bellingham, Benjamin Jarrell of Everett, and Alexander Alvarado of Lake Stevens.

Bellingham Open: Fairhaven U1700

#	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total
1	Evan Takayoshi	1551	D17	W25	W6	W9	W4	4.5
2	Owen Zhang	1448	W20	W10	L9	W17	W8	4
3	Benjamin Jarrell	1386	W13	L19	W21	W22	W10	4
4	Alexander Alvarado	1350	W14	W12	W19	W8	L1	4
5	Yoav Litvin	unr.	W11	W18	L8	W19	W9	4
6	Anyi Li	1274	W21	D16	L1	W18	W12	3.5
7	Jacob Rosenblum	1202	W24	L9	H---	W16	W17	3.5
8	Jeffrey M Burgert	1338	W27	W22	W5	L4	L2	3
9	Garcia Berry	1304	W31	W7	W2	L1	L5	3
10	Evan Palmer	1284	W28	L2	W25	W20	L3	3
11	Alisa Rachiba	1218	L5	W31	L15	W27	W24	3
12	Liam Britt	1213	W29	L4	W24	W15	L6	3
13	Chad Foster	958	L3	L15	W29	W30	W19	3
14	Yousef Tirhi	826	L4	L24	W28	W21	W22	3
15	Calvin Little	unr.	L19	W13	W11	L12	W20	3
16	Daniel Van Wyk	1427	W23	D6	L17	L7	W25	2.5
17	Patrick Zhang	1196	D1	W27	W16	L2	L7	2.5
18	Megan Holmes	1294	W30	L5	L22	L6	W27	2
19	Max Luna	1246	W15	W3	L4	L5	L13	2
20	Mithran Anbuselvam	1157	L2	W28	W30	L10	L15	2
21	Georgiy Lapin	1139	L6	W23	L3	L14	W29	2
22	Emery Wilcox	1121	W26*	L8	W18	L3	L14	2
23	Thomas Cadwallader	1050	L16	L21	W31	L24	W30	2
24	Mark Ni	unr.	L7	W14	L12	W23	L11	2
25	Wayne Berry	254	B---	L1	L10	D31	L16	1.5
26	James Stroud	1443	L22	B---	U---	U---	U---	1
27	Ashton Simon	408	L8	L17	B---	L11	L18	1
28	Mackenzie Hiron	unr.	L10	L20	L14	L29	W31	1
29	Arjun Mitta	unr.	L12	L30	L13	W28	L21	1
30	Aaron Robinson	unr.	L18	W29	L20	L13	L23	1
31	Matthew Beavers	unr.	L9	L11	L23	D25	L28	0.5

* Biggest Upset Win (322 points)

Local chess wiseman Yoav Litvin of Bellingham reminded everyone that unrated players are not to be trifled with and took home the first Unrated prize with four points from five games, losing only a single game to Renton chess renaissance man Jeffrey Burgert in the third round. Two chess warriors, Anyi Li of Mercer Island and Jacob Rosenblum of Ferndale,

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Josh Sinanan
President

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*Nelsen Griffith (L) vs Vedic Panda from round one on the DGT Board.
Photo credit: Josh Sinanan.*

shared the first U1300 prize with an impressive “plus two” score.

A pair of chess kings split the first U1100/U900 prize with three points apiece: Chad Foster of Snohomish and Yousef Tirhi of Bellingham. The skillful special prize winners in the Fairhaven U1700 section included Emery Wilcox’s biggest upset win (322 points), Anyi Li of Mercer Island as the best female player (TPR: 1484), and the classy, best dressed gentleman Calvin Little of Mercer Island, who came dressed to impress!

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

Cadwallader from the Lake Stevens Chess Club, who graciously loaned his DGT board for board one at this tournament and provided us with the high-level games taking place on the top board!

**Nelsen Griffith (1626) –
Vedic Panda (2250) [E73]**
3rd Bellingham Open
(R1), April 20, 2025

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6
5.Be2 Nbd7 6.Bg5 h6 7.Be3 e5 8.d5 h5
9.f3 Bh6 10.Bxh6 Rxh6 11.Qd2 Rh8
12.f4 Qe7 13.Nf3 exf4 14.Qxf4 Ng4
15.0-0 Nge5 16.Nb5 Nxf3+ 17.Rxf3 Ne5
18.Rf2 a6 19.Nc3 Bg4



Position after 19...Bg4

20.Bxg4? hxc4 21.b3 0-0-0 22.Ra1 Rh5
23.Qf6 Qxf6 24.Rxf6 Rdh8
0-1

**Vedic Panda (2250) –
Owen Scollon (1776) [B01]**
3rd Bellingham Open
(R2), April 20, 2025

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Nf6 3.d4 Bg4 4.f3 Bf5 5.
Bb5+ c6 6.dxc6 Nxc6 7.Nc3 e6 8.Nge2
Bd6 9.0-0 h5 10.Re1



Position after 10.Re1

10...Bxh2+?? 11.Kxh2 Ng4+ 12.fxg4
Qh4+ 13.Kg1 hxc4 14.Bf4 Qh1+ 15.Kf2
Qh4+ 16.Ng3 Qf6 17.Be5 Qg5 18.Qc1
Qg6 19.d5 f6 20.dxc6 fxe5 21.cxb7+
Ke7 22.bxa8Q Rxa8 23.Qe3
1-0



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**Peter Yu (2100) –
Vedic Panda (2250) [A24]**
3rd Bellingham Open
(R3), April 20, 2025
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 g6 3.g3 Bg7 4.Bg2 0-0
5.e3 e5 6.Nge2 d6 7.0-0 a5 8.a3 Nc6
9.Rb1 Bf5 10.e4 Be6 11.Nd5

White is rushing a bit. 11.d3, complete development, expand on the queenside with b2–b4.

11...Nd7 12.f4?!

Black's g7–bishop gains activity after an exchange of pawns on f4, and the white king becomes a bit more exposed. Better 12.b4

12...Bg4 13.Bf3 Bxf3 14.Rxf3 exf4

14...Nd4 is an alternative. After 15.Nxd4 exd4 the d5–knight is in peril. 16.f5 c6 17.Nf4 Ne5 is very comfortable for Black.

15.gxf4 Nd4 16.Rg3

16.Nxd4 Bxd4+ 17.Kh1 favors Black, but simplifying may be White's best chance.

16...c6 17.Ne3 Qh4



Position after 17...Qh4

18.Ng2?

18.Kh1 Nxe2 19.Qxe2 Qxf4 20.d3 Qf6 21.Bd2 is a gambit of sorts. White probably doesn't find quite enough for

the pawn.

18...Qh5

Pin.

19.Kf2 Nxe2 20.Qxe2 Bd4+ 21.Ke1 Qxh2 22.Rf3 Nc5

22...Rfe8 23.Ne3 (23.d3 f5-+) 23...Qxe2+ 24.Kxe2 Rxe4 25.d3 Re7-+ and Black is two pawns up with initiative.

23.d3 f5 24.Be3 Bxe3 25.Rxe3 Ne6

White is barely hanging on. 25...fxe4 26.d4 (26.dxe4 Rxf4 27.Nxf4 Qg1+ 28.Kd2 Qxb1) 26...Ne6 27.Rd1 Nxf4 28.Nxf4 Qxf4 29.Rxe4 (29.Kd2 d5) 29...Qg3+ 30.Kd2 Rf2

26.exf5 Nd4

26...Nxf4 works here as well. 27.Nxf4 Qg1+ 28.Kd2 Qxb1

27.Qf2 Qh1+ 28.Qf1 Nc2+ 29.Kd2 Qxf1 30.Rxf1 Nxe3 31.Nxe3 gxf5 32.Rg1+ Kh8 33.Rg5 Rf6 34.Nxf5 Rxf8 35.Ne3 Rxf4 36.Rxa5 Rf2+ 37.Kc3 R8f3 38.Ng4 Rg2 39.Nh6 c5??

No doubt under time pressure, Black misses the threat. 39...Rgg3-+ White hung on and now grabs the opportunity.

40.Ra8+ Kg7 41.Rg8+ Kxh6 42.Rxg2 Kh5?

The plan of inching up the board



Josh Sinanan (L) and Bellingham Open Champion Andrew Fletcher.
Photo credit: Chenyang Li.



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caterpillaring with the king and h-pawn is just too slow. To even maintain equal chances here, the g-file trap must be released. 42...Rf7 43.b4 Rg7 and the struggle continues.

43.b4

43.Rg7 h6 44.Rxb7 is also good.

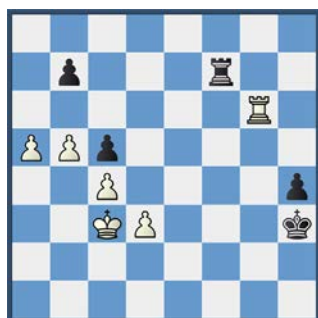
43...h6

Doomed. But it's too late to return to the other plan: 43...Kh6 44.b5 Rf7 45.a4± and the queenside play has gotten a big headstart.

44.b5 Kh4 45.Rg6

45.Rg7 b6 46.Rb7+–

45...h5 46.Rxd6 Rf7 47.Rg6! Kh3 48.a4 h4 49.a5



Position after 49.a5

49...Rf1

49...Kh2 50.b6 h3 51.Rg5 Kh1 52.Rxc5 h2 53.Rh5 Kg2 54.c5 h1Q 55.Rxh1 Kxh1 56.c6 bxc6 57.a6+– is the consistent application of the caterpillar.

50.Kc2 Ra1 51.a6 bxa6 52.Rxa6 Rg1 53.b6 Rg8 54.d4 cxd4 55.c5 Rc8 56.Ra5 Rb8 57.Ra7 Kg2 58.b7 h3 59.c6 h2 60.Ra1 Rf8 61.c7 Rf1 62.Rxf1 Kxf1 63.c8Q h1Q 64.Qf5+ Ke1 65.Qe5+ Kf1 66.Qf4+ Ke1 67.Qc1+ Ke2 68.Qxh1 d3+ 69.Kc3 d2 70.Qh2+ Kf1 71.Qxd2 Kg1 72.Kd3 Kf1 73.Ke3 Kg1 74.Kf3

Chess games are decided by mistakes. White survived long enough to take advantage of an opportunity, then showed no mercy.

1–0

**Pratik Thorwe (2033) –
Peter Yu (2100) [C01]**
3rd Bellingham Open
(R4), April 20, 2025

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 exd5 4.Bd3 Bd6 5.Nf3 Ne7 6.c3 c6 7.0-0 Bg4 8.h3 Bh5 9.Be3 Nd7 10.Nbd2 Qc7 11.Qc2 Bg6 12.Rfe1 0-0 13.Nh4 Rae8 14.Ndf3 Bxd3 15.Qxd3 Bf4 16.Nf5 Ng6 17.g3 Bxe3 18.Rxe3 Nf6 19.Rae1 Re4 20.N5h4 Rfe8 21.Nxg6 hxg6 22.Ng5 Rxe3 23.Rxe3 Qd7 24.Kg2



Position after 24.Kg2

24...Ne4! 25.Nxe4 dxe4 26.Rxe4 Qd5 27.f3 Rxe4 28.fxe4 Qxa2 29.Qe2

½–½

**Andrew Fletcher (1933) –
Pratik Thorwe (2033) [C01]**
3rd Bellingham Open
(R5), April 20, 2025
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 exd5 4.Bd3 Bd6 5.Nf3 Nf6 6.0-0 0-0 7.Bg5 h6 8.Bh4 Be6

9.Nbd2 Nbd7 10.Re1 c6 11.Ne5 Qc7?! 11...Qb6 12.Bg3 Bxe5 13.dxe5 Bg4 12.Ndf3?! 12.f4 12...Rae8 13.c3 Ng4 14.Bg3 c5 15.Rc1 c4 16.Bb1 f5?! 16...Nxg6 17.h3 b5 18.Nd2 a5 19.f4± 17.Qc2 17.Nxg4 fxg4 18.Nh4± offers White good kingside light-square control. 17...Nxg5 18.Nxe5 Nxe5 19.Bxe5 Bd7 20.f4 Re7 21.Re3 Qb6 22.Qf2 Re6 23.Rg3 Bxe5 24.fxe5 Rg6 24...f4!? 25.Rf3 g5∞ 25.Rf3 Qe6 26.Rf1 Rg5 27.h4 27...Rh5?? The rook is trapped. Black has some chances to survive in the rook ending after 27...Rg4 28.Rxf5 Rxf5 29.Bxf5 Qxf5 30.Qxf5 Bxf5 31.Rxf5 Rxh4 32.Kf2± 28.g4 Qg6 29.Qg3 Qb6 30.gxh5 Qxb2 31.Bxf5 Bxf5 32.Rxf5 Rxf5 33.Rxf5 Qxa2 34.Qf3 Qb1+ 35.Kh2 Qc2+ 36.Qf2 Qe4 37.Rf8+ Kh7 38.Qf5+ Qxf5 39.Rxf5 b5 40.e6 b4 41.e7 b3 42.e8Q 1–0

27...Rh5??

The rook is trapped. Black has some chances to survive in the rook ending after 27...Rg4 28.Rxf5 Rxf5 29.Bxf5 Qxf5 30.Qxf5 Bxf5 31.Rxf5 Rxh4 32.Kf2±

28.g4 Qg6 29.Qg3 Qb6 30.gxh5 Qxb2 31.Bxf5 Bxf5 32.Rxf5 Rxf5 33.Rxf5 Qxa2 34.Qf3 Qb1+ 35.Kh2 Qc2+ 36.Qf2 Qe4 37.Rf8+ Kh7 38.Qf5+ Qxf5 39.Rxf5 b5 40.e6 b4 41.e7 b3 42.e8Q

1–0



Position after 27.h4

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King County Open



September 27-28, 2025

Hotel 116 Bellevue

625 116th Ave NE, Bellevue, WA 98004



Format: A 5-round Swiss in two sections: **Kenmore Open** and **Kent U1500**.

Entry fee: \$100 by 9/20, \$120 after. \$50 play-up fee if rated 1400-1499 in both NWSRS and USCF and playing in Kenmore Open. 50% discount for Seniors (50+) and free entry for players rated 2200+ USCF. Open to all junior + adult players. Maximum of 110 players, please register early to reserve your spot!

Schedule: Arrival: 8-8:45am. Rounds: Saturday: 9am, 1:30pm, 6pm. Sunday: 10am, 3pm.
Closing Ceremony + Blitz Tournament: ~ 7pm or asap.

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

Rating: Triple-Rated in NWSRS, US Chess, and FIDE. Higher of current NWSRS or September 2025 US Chess rating will be used to determine section, pairings, and prizes.

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

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

Kenmore Open: 1st-5th: \$550-450-400-350-300. 1st U2200/U2000/U1800/U1600: \$200.

Kent U1500: 1st-4th: \$350-300-250-175. 1st U1400/U1200/U1000: \$150. 1st Unrated: \$120.

Special Prizes (per section):

Biggest Upset Win: \$15/rd., Best Female Player (by TPR): \$50, Best Senior Player (50+, by TPR): \$50.
Best Dressed: \$20/day, Best Attack: \$25 – please submit nominations.

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

Registration: Online at nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration. Pay by SettleKing (Washington Chess Federation), Zelle (ID: WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com), cash, or write a check to Washington Chess Federation. **Payment due upon registration; players listed as unpaid for more than 7 days after registering will be withdrawn from the tournament. Registration + payment deadline: Fri, September 26 @ 5pm.** Unpaid players will be removed from the roster after the deadline.

King County Blitz: Sunday 7-9:30pm (after rd. 5 of main tournament). **Entry Fee:** \$25. **Format:** A 7-Round Single Swiss in one section, 2 half-point byes available. Dual US Chess Blitz + FIDE Blitz rated. **TC:** G/5; +3. **On-site registration:** 6:00-6:45pm. Rds. Sun @ 7pm, 7:20, 7:40, 8, 8:20, 8:40, 9pm. Closing Ceremony ~ 9:30pm or asap. Current US Chess membership required. Higher of current NWSRS, September 2025 US Chess Blitz, or September 2025 US Chess Regular rating used to determine pairings and prizes. **Prize Fund:** **\$400** (based on 30 paid entries)

1st – 3rd: \$100-65-50, 1st U2000/U1800/U1600/U1400/U1200/U1000/Unrated: \$20.

Biggest upset win: \$5/rd.

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

Washington Women's Championship



SAT-SUN, OCTOBER 11-12, 2025

HOTEL 116 BELLEVUE

625 116TH AVE NE, BELLEVUE, WA 98004

Highest Finishing WA Resident in the Polgar section becomes WA State Women's Champion and is seeded into 2026 WA State Championship, Invitational section. If there's a tie for 1st place, G/90 playoff games will be played later in the year.

Format: A Swiss-style tournament in four sections. Sections with <6 players may be merged.

Polgar Championship: A 5-Round, G/90; +30 Swiss over two days (Sat-Sun). Tri-rated in NWSRS, US Chess, and FIDE. Rounds: Sat. @ 9am, 1:30pm, 6pm. Sun. @ 10am, 3pm. Awards ~ 7:30pm.

Wenjun U1300: A 6-Round G/75; +10 Swiss over two days (Sat-Sun). NWSRS & US Chess dual rated. Rounds: Sat. @ 9am, 12:30pm, 4pm. Sun. @ 10am, 1:30pm, 5pm. Awards ~ 8pm.

Koneru U700: A 1-day, 5-Round G/25; +5 Swiss. NWSRS & US Chess dual rated. Rounds: Sun. @ 10am, 11am, 12:30pm, 1:30pm, 2:30pm. Awards ~ 3:45pm.

Botez Casual/Unrated: A 1-day, 4-Round G/30; +10 Swiss. Open to players unrated – 999. Unrated; no memberships required. Rounds: Sat. @ 11:30am, 1:30pm, 3pm, 4:30pm. Awards ~ 6pm.

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

Entry Fee: \$50 by 10/4, \$60 after. Less \$20 for Koneru U700 & Botez Unrated sections. Free entry for WGMs, WIMs, WFM, or US Chess Queens rated 2000+ USCF. Players rated 1200+ and 600+ in both USCF and NWSRS may play up 1 section into the Polgar and Wenjun sections, respectively. Maximum of 80 players total and 30 players per section, please register early.

Registration: Online at nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration. **Registration and payment deadline Fri. 10/10 @ 5pm.**

Eligibility: Open to all female chess players. Out-of-state players welcome!

Memberships: Current US Chess and WCF membership required for Polgar, Wenjun, and Koneru sections; other states accepted. Membership must be paid at time of registration. No memberships required for Botez section.

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

WA State Elementary Qualifier!

Prize Fund: \$1,200 (based on 40 paid entries)

Polgar Championship: 1st-2nd: \$150-100. 1st U1800/U1600/U1400: \$75.

Wenjun U1300: 1st-2nd: \$80-60. 1st U1200/U1000/U800: \$50.

Koneru U700: 1st-2nd: \$50-35. 1st U600/U400/U200/Unrated: \$30.

Botez Casual/Unrated: 1st-3rd: \$50-40-30.

Special Prizes (per section): Biggest Upset Win: \$5/round, Best Dressed: \$5/day, Best Etiquette: \$5, Fair Play/Kindness/Spreading Joy: \$5/day, Best Mother/Daughter Team (by avg TPR, across sections): \$15.

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

GM Kayden Troff Clock Simul

(Seattle, Washington April 29, 2025)

Josh Sinanan

Final Score:

GM Kayden Troff 14
Simul Players 0

While he was visiting Seattle from late April to early May, Grandmaster Kayden Troff was a busy man. In the span of a week and a half, he was the guest of honor at two major chess tournaments – the WSECC in Tacoma and the Seattle University Chess Club Chess Classic in Seattle – and conducted three simultaneous exhibitions during the week in between. His first simul engagement brought him to the Greenlake neighborhood of Seattle, where he conducted a clock simul at Seattle Chess Club on Tuesday, April 29.

The Seattle Chess Club (SCC) and the Washington Chess Federation (WCF) collaborated to co-host the 14-board clock simul, in which GM Troff played white on all boards and began the game with 120 minutes (two hours) on each board, while the simul players received 60 minutes each, with a ten-second increment added after each move.

The evening opened with opening remarks by SCC President John Selsky, a brief introduction by WCF President Josh Sinanan, and a 30-minute lesson present by GM Troff using Lichess projected for the 20 participants give or take in attendance. At the courtesy of the organizers, complimentary Pagliacci pizza and soft drinks were provided for the participants and their guests over the course of the evening. The 14-board clock simul kicked off around 6:45pm with players ranging from unrated to Class A level.

In clock simul, each board starts with a clock and the simul participants can move whenever they want, without needing to wait for the Grandmaster to return to their board. Shortly after the opening phase of most games, the players sank deep into thought to consider their middlegame plans, which led to GM Troff gaining a significant time advantage on most boards. The time lead combined with a 700+ rating point advantage (GM

Troff is rated 2571 USCF) over his opponents led to several quick victories for the Grandmaster, with a few games wrapping up in just over an hour!

After just two hours of play, all games had finished in favor of GM Troff. To celebrate the victory, the organizers and GM Troff headed over to the nearby Atlantic Crossing pub for some drinks and late-night nourishment.

Here are the courageous souls who tested their mettle against GM Troff:

- **Erkan Chabuk** (1811, Silverdale)
- **Henry Yan** (1749, Bellevue)
- **Ishan Joshi** (1683, Seattle)
- **Pavan Nagaraja** (1612, Redmond)
- **Connor Hamby** (1536, Covington)
- **Nicholas Liotta** (1442, Seattle)
- **William Sweeney** (1210, Renton)
- **Benjamin Keeper** (1134, Renton)
- **Eva Aksutina** (1110, Seattle)
- **Owen Leneway** (907, Seattle)
- **Jackson Rish-Brown** (832, Gig Harbor)
- **Jacob Rish-Brown** (636, Gig Harbor)
- **Bryce Maibaum** (624, Seattle)
- **John Still** (unrated, Gig Harbor)

Congratulations to the above players challenged themselves against their illustrious opponent. No doubt many of them will return stronger the next time they face a grandmaster!



Grandmaster Kayden Troff ponders his next move against John Still during his clock simul at Seattle Chess Club. Photo Credit: Josh Sinanan.

TOURNAMENTS



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7212 Woodlawn Avenue NE, Seattle 98115

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contact@seattlechess.club

– or –

SCC Tournament Director, address as above

July 5

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.

July Quads

July 12-13

Our premier tournament of the year! See below.

Seattle Seafair Open

July 26-27

Larger venue, bigger prize fund! See below.

Big Summer Adult Swiss

July 4, 11, 18, 25 [7/4 cancelled]

One US Chess-rated round per Friday night, normally 4 rounds per month, at 7:30pm (arrive by 7:15). **Time control:** 40 moves in 90 minutes + 10 sec. increment, followed by sudden death 60 minutes + 10 sec. increment. Free for SCC members, \$5/night others. Drop in for any round!

Hot as Hades

Coming up in August & September:

- **August Tornado** – Sunday August 3, tentative to be confirmed.
- **August Quads** – Saturday August 16, tentative to be confirmed.
- **Seattle Fall Open** – Sept. 20-21, tentative to be confirmed.

Seattle Seafair Open

July 12-13, 2025

Hotel 116 Bellevue

Co-hosted with WA Chess Federation

Prize fund: \$4,500 based on 150 paid entries

Format: 5-round, dual US Chess & FIDE Rated Swiss in 2 sections: **Open & Premier U1600**

Entry fee: \$100 by 7/5, \$120 after. \$30 discount for SCC members. See website below for special rates

Rounds: Sat.: 10am, 2 & 6pm. Sun.: 10am & 2pm

Time control: Game/75 + 30. Late default: 30 mins.

Open prizes: 1st-4th: \$600-500-400-300. 1st U2100/U1900/ U1700: \$160.

Premier U1600 prizes: 1st-4th: \$400-300-230-180. 1st U1500/ U1300/U1100: \$160. 1st UNR: \$100

Special prizes: see website (below)

Byes: 2 half-point byes available. Request before end of round 2.

Capacity: Max 190 players, please register early!

Memberships: US Chess & WCF/OCF/ICA req'd.

Complete details and registration: Go to <https://nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration/>

BIG SUMMER ADULT SWISS

July 26-27, 2025

Prize fund: \$750 based on 40 entries

□ □ □ □ □

❖ **A 4-round Swiss in 2 sections: Open & U1600**

❖ **Eligibility:** Players born before August 1, 2007

❖ **Rounds:** 11am & 4:30pm both days

❖ **Time control:** Game/120 + 30 sec. increment

❖ **Prizes:**

Open: 1st – \$230; 2nd – \$140; U1750 – \$80

U1600: 1st – \$150; 2nd – \$ 75; U1400 – \$50;

U1200 – \$25

❖ **Entry fee:** \$25 SCC members; \$40 non-SCC. Add \$10 after 7/21

❖ **Location:** Seattle University, Oberto Commons Room, Sinegal Building – 12th Ave. & E. Marion St., Seattle 98122 (SE corner)

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

❖ **48 seats max. Sign up at** <https://nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration/>.

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Downtown Reno, formerly Sands Regency Casino Hotel

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

Open Section, F.I.D.E. Rated (2200 & above) EF: \$194, (2000-2199) \$250, (1999/below) \$300; GMs and IMs free but must enter by 9/5 or pay late fee at door. Guaranteed Prizes; (1-7 in Open Section plus 1/2 of all other prizes).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Wed. 10/1: 7:00 pm - GM Sergey Kudrin Clock Simul w/ complete analysis of YOUR Game (Only \$30!-bring clock)

Thursday 10/2: 6 - 7:15 pm - Lecture by IM John Donaldson (FREE)

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

Saturday 10/4: 3 - 4:30 pm - Game/Position Analysis - IM John Donaldson (FREE)

 **Main Tournament** 

Registration: Thursday (10/2) 5 - 8 pm. - Friday (10/3) 9 - 10 am. - Saturday (10/4) 9 - 10 am.

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

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

Room Reservation: Call J Resort Reno, 1-866-386-7829, Group Reservation Code: CHESS102025

Hotel Rates: Sunday-Thursday \$92.66, Friday-Saturday \$138.06, all taxes and fees included. Reserve by 10/1

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

ENTRY FORM - 42nd Annual Western States Open - Reno, Nevada - Oct 3-5 OR Oct 4-5, 2025

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

PRINT Name _____ Phone# _____ USCF Rating _____

Street Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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

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

1	2	3	4	5	6
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----- OPEN SECTION -----

EXPERT "A" "B" "C" "D/Under" UNRATED

GM/IM • Masters • 2000-2199 • 1999-Below

2000-2199 1800-1999 1600-1799 1400-1599 1399-Below Free With

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

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

POSTMARK BY September 5, 2025. Add \$11 after 9/5. Add \$22 on site.

Do not mail after 9/26 or email after 9/30. Make check / m.o. payable to WEIKEL CHESS LLC or provide credit card info and signature. \$7 service charge on credit card entries. ☐ Visa ☐ Master Card ☐ Am.Ex
Name on Credit Card _____
Expiration Date _____ ZIP Code _____
Credit Card# _____ CVV Code _____
Signature _____

- ☐ Check Enclosed
- ☐ Charge My Card

TOTAL FEES: \$ _____

