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Ads and submissions must be received by the fifth of the
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Front Cover

Odbayar Yondon (L), Zane Wirkkala, and other contestants
dutifully engage with the challenging set of puzzles at the
Washington Open Robson Puzzle Solving competition.
Photo Credit: Meiling Cheng.

Back Cover

(L-R) WCF Junior Ambassador Selina Cheng, President
Josh Sinanan, and Co-Vice President Duane Polich during
the WCF Annual Meeting at the Washington Open.
Photo Credit: Meiling Cheng.

Submissions

Submissions of games (PGN format is preferable for
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CO-HOSTED BY COVINGTON LIBRARY & WASHINGTON CHESS FEDERATION



Covington Library Chess Tournament



SATURDAY, AUGUST 23, 2025

COVINGTON LIBRARY

27100 164TH AVE SE, COVINGTON, WA 98042

Info/Entries: Josh Sinanan, WCF President,
206-769-3757, WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com

Registration: Online at: nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration.
Online registration **deadline Fri. Aug. 22** @ 5pm or
register at-site.

Eligibility: Open to all students in grades K-8 as of the
2025-26 school year. All ratings and experience levels
welcome!

Schedule: At-site registration: Sat. 11:05-11:20am.
Rounds: 11:30am, 12:30, 1:30, 2:30. Awards ~ 3:30pm.

Format: A four-round, G/25; +5 Swiss chess
tournament in two sections:

Open & Casual U600

Entry Fee: Free! Max of 30 total players; please
register early.

Prizes: Chess medals awarded to the top-
finishing players in each section.

Rating: NWSRS rated; no memberships required.

Equipment: All chess equipment (boards, sets,
clocks, pencils, notation sheets, etc.) is provided.



WASHINGTON STATE ELEMENTARY CHESS CHAMPIONSHIPS

By
WSECC Organizers

The 2025 Washington State Elementary Chess Championships (WSECC) were held at the Greater Tacoma Convention Center in Tacoma, Washington on Saturday, April 26. This year's event set a record for the largest chess tournament ever held in Washington State, with a whopping 1,497 players taking part! The event kicked off on Saturday morning at 9:00 AM, with most games taking place on the fifth floor of the Tacoma Convention Center, except for the Kindergarten section on the fourth floor and the Open sections of the Washington State Middle and High School Rapid Chess Championships, which took place in the Marriott Tacoma Downtown hotel next door. Between all of the parents, family members, coaches, friends, convention center staff, and players, the enormous facility, located in the heart of downtown Tacoma, was pushed to its limits and nearly at capacity with nearly 5,000 people on the premises!

A few key changes were introduced to this year's WSECC since the last time the event was hosted in Tacoma in 2023. The Middle School Championship section, which in years past had been run as a two-day event on Saturday and

Sunday, was condensed into one day with four rounds of G/55; d5 and rebranded as the Washington State Middle School Rapid Chess Championship. The new format of the first-sixth grade sections, with each grade being divided into a dual NWSRS + US Chess rated Championship section and a NWSRS-only rated Premier section, was a welcome change for many, since it made more competitive games against players closer to one's level.

As the tournament continues to grow and expand, the split into smaller sections is designed to ensure competitive balance and create more opportunities for players of all levels to play in a high-quality tournament. The introduction of dual rating the Championship sections in NWSRS and US Chess was designed to help more experienced players establish a US Chess rating in preparation for regional and national events.

Thanks to a healthy number of early entries and a late surge of several hundred entrants over the last two weeks, this year's fantastic attendance of nearly 1,500 players has set a WSECC record that is truly a testament to the vibrant scholastic chess community that exists in the Pacific Northwest! In total, there

were 18 distinct sections offered this year to accommodate players of as many ages and experience levels as possible: Kindergarten, First Grade Championship, First Grade Premier, Second Grade Championship, Second Grade Premier, Third Grade Championship, Third Grade Premier, Fourth Grade Championship, Fourth Grade Premier, Fifth Grade Championship, Fifth Grade Premier, Sixth Grade Championship, Sixth Grade Premier, Middle School Rapid Chess Championship Open, Middle School U1100, High School Rapid Chess Championship Open, High School U1100, and Adult U1500.

A group of experienced chess organizers from throughout Washington State came together and collaborated to manage the logistics of hosting a tournament of such epic proportions. The gargantuan event ran incredibly smoothly in large part due to the efforts of the WSECC Organizing Committee, tournament directors and judges, the Tacoma Convention Center Staff, and numerous supporters and volunteers!

We would especially like to thank chief organizer Jacob Mayer, chief TD Glenn Panner, MC Dr. Loren Schmidt, the

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dynamic pairings team of Ben Radin, Todd May, and Norm May, chief of staff James Stripes, MS + HS Open Championship TDs Mani Atikankhotchasee and Ani Barua, Kindergarten section Chief Lane Van Weerdhuizen, Kindergarten assistant TD and CEA Treasurer Gelareh Golanbar, lead runner Heather May, help desk supervisor Donna May, hand pairings team of Brad Stensland and Tim Campbell. Chess Enrichment Association (CEA) board members President Josh Sinanan and Edith Lau provided additional support along with a plethora parent volunteers, scorekeepers, and floor judges including Minda Chen, Shuyi Han, Craig Moore, Advait Vijayakumar, Ron Young, Fred Li, Sridhar Seshadri, Mythri Achar, Jinah Kim, Julia Stark, Sunil Dixit, Bert Rutgers, Vijay Sankaran, Zalak Ghetia, Marilyn Wilke, Captain Peter Zou, IM Anthony He, Selina Cheng, WFM Chouchan Airapetian, Angela Agaian, Kevin Hirschowitz, Garima Chandra, Edward Cheng, Siddharth Agrawal, Dora Mishan, Divya Paramesvaraiyer, Sreraman Narasimhan, Detective Cookie, Nirnay Bansal, Soumya Panda, Durga Devaraj, Max Schmidt-Warnecke, Walter Guity, Kai Pisan, Daniel Wilke, Lorenzo Patton, Jeffrey Yan, Ethan Neff, David Hirschowitz, ICA President Adam Porth, Allen Messenger, Derek Zhang, Nicholas Liotta, Daniel Shubin, Lennart Bjorksten, Maxxin Tan, William Dann, and Rekha Sagar.

Special VIP guests included Grandmaster Kayden Troff, International Master Georgi Orlov, and International Master Anthony He. Special thanks to our sponsors SettleKing (Srikant + Nikash Vemparala), the Qin Family (Skyler, Shenghao, and Sha), the Bolender Family (Elliot, Tricia, and Tyler), and the Lee Family (Hock, Megan, and Michael). GM Kayden Troff and Seattle University



The top boards of the 5th grade section amidst the sea of chess players at the record-setting 2025 Washington State Elementary Chess Championships. Photo Credit: Meiling Cheng.

Chess Club President Andrew Fletcher were on-site throughout the day analyzing games and playing all-comers blitz with the kids between their games.

Once the word got out that GM Troff had scored a few victories against world number one GM Magnus Carlsen in online speed chess games, the line to play against the grandmaster grew longer! GM Troff, originally from Utah and now based in Charlotte, North Carolina, is a popular grandmaster and streamer on his Twitch Channel 'Chess Sharkz'. Some footage of GM Troff's games with the kids can be found on the CEA Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/Chess-Enrichment-Association-103012328212247>.

The intrepid Tacoma Convention Center staff oversaw securing the entrance to the playing hall, which only players and designated personnel wearing badges were permitted to enter after the start of each round. Chess photographer and videographer extraordinaire Meiling Cheng was once again our official photographer and took many phenomenal videos and photos over the course of the day, all of which can be seen on the CEA Facebook page mentioned above. Our only vendor this year was Northwest Designs Ink, a customized apparel company based in Bellevue, who were selling t-shirts and other customized chess-themed apparel.

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Two players engage in an imbalanced middlegame position in the 6th grade section of the 2025 WSECC. Photo Credit: Meiling Cheng.

Based on the never-ending line in front of their booth on the fifth floor, it seemed like sales were quite strong! Unfortunately, our beloved chess book and equipment vendor John Dill from Spokane couldn't make it out to State this year due to health issues, but we sincerely hope John will be back in future years. On the third floor just outside the parent waiting room, several chess teaching outfits including Chess4Life, Excel with Chess, and Grand Knights Academy set up tables for complimentary game review, analysis, and practice games.

Due to the large number of players, chess clocks were not used from the start of the game but were introduced after

30-40 minutes of play into unfinished games and set for 10-minutes per player with no delay or increment. Per WSECC tournament policy, in grades four and above, if one player brought a clock and wanted to use it from the start, then the clock was used. Most players opted to notate their games with the score sheets and pencils provided, much to the delight of many coaches. During the games, the pace of play was generally wild and fast-paced amongst the younger players, but more deliberate and measured amongst the older ones.

As usual, the Kindergarten section, which took place on the fourth floor of the convention center, was run on an

accelerated schedule and wrapped up just after 1:30 PM, much to the delight of many happy parents and youngsters who got to leave early with their well-deserved trophy or medal award. The organizers and volunteers were immensely impressed by the respectful behavior and sportsmanship on behalf of the players throughout the day, despite a couple of mishaps on the part of the parents!

When the dust settled after 3,000+ games of chess over the course of eight hours, a brief awards ceremony was held around 5:30 PM to honor the top-scoring players and teams. Those with a "plus" score of 3.0, 3.5, or 4.0 points picked up their point-based trophies immediately following the final round at the scoring tables. Participation medals were awarded to all players who did not earn a trophy. Special congratulations to the winners!

Kindergarten: Liam Pham (5.0, 741→840) and Liam Zeng (5.0, 868→913).

First Grade Championship: Ryan Lai (5.0, 1404→1441).

First Grade Premier: Vedanth Raghavendran (5.0, 669→854) and Austin Chiang (5.0, 669→849).

Second Grade Championship: Ayaansh Agrawal (5.0, 932→1230) and Harvey Wang (5.0, 1403→1451).

Second Grade Premier: Vikram Leon (5.0, 768→867), Josephine Armstrong (5.0, 673→816), Sebastian Lam (5.0, 769→846), Elke Johnson (5.0, 438→738).

Third Grade Championship: Shawn Li (5.0, 1572→1610) and Lewis Ma (5.0, 1495→1540).

Third Grade Premier: Alex Chen (5.0, 672→866) and Pranav Sankapal (5.0, 656→868).

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Fourth Grade Championship: Oliver He (5.0, 1489→1585).

Fourth Grade Premier: Leo Luo (5.0, 948→1072), Weiai Fang (5.0, 971→1060), Farhan Mohammed (5.0, 967→1049).

Fifth Grade Championship: Neevan Reddy Saddi (5.0, 1956→1974).

Fifth Grade Premier: Quinton Lu (5.0, 722→1022) and Mateo Campos (5.0, 763→1012).

Sixth Grade Championship: Arnav Gadde (5.0, 1705→1764).

Sixth Grade Premier: Eli Casino (5.0, 967→1086) and Arnav Kannapiran (5.0, 946→1056).

Middle School Open: Rian Raja (3.5, 1642→1658), William Chen (3.5, 1522→1556), Isaac Friedenson (3.5, 1456→1537), Atharv Rastogi (3.5, 1465→1508), Zikrain Salal (3.5, 1388→1487), Bei Shih (3.5, 1440→1484).

Middle School U1100: Mason Melius (5.0, 958→1144) and Sreeshan Sathyamurthy (5.0, 910→1152).

High School Open: Dayton Burtram (3.5, 1435→1466) and Brook Ayalew (3.5, 1811→1806).

High School U1100: Marcelo Hernandez (5.0, 1096→1239).

Adult U1500: Ian Bigelow (5.0, 1275→1503).

In addition to the individual trophies, plaques were awarded to the top scoring teams across grades K-6 for both the Championship and Premier sections. Team score consisted of the top five scores from players attending the same school. Three levels of tiebreaks based on strength of opposition were used to break ties between teams with the same score.

Congratulations to the top scoring teams!

Top Ten Championship Teams

First—Somerset Elementary
(18.0, Bellevue)

Second—Endeavor Elementary
(16.0, Issaquah)

Third—Open Window School
(15.5, Bellevue)

Fourth—Bellevue Children's Academy
(15.5, Bellevue)

Fifth—Medina Elementary
(15.5, Bellevue)

Sixth—Chestnut Hill Academy
(15.0, Bellevue)

Seventh—Ben Franklin Elementary
(15.0, Kirkland)

Eighth—Sunny Hills Elementary
(15.0, Sammamish)

Ninth—Evergreen School
(14.0, Shoreline)

Tenth—Samantha Smith Elementary
(14.0, Sammamish)

Top Ten Premier Teams

First—Samantha Smith Elementary
(16.5, Sammamish)

Second—Endeavor Elementary
(16.5, Issaquah)

Third—Ella Baker Elementary
(16.5, Redmond)

Fourth—Somerset Elementary
(16.5, Bellevue)

Fifth — Evergreen School
(16.0, Shoreline)

Sixth—Forest View Elementary
(16.0, Everett)



A young participant sports his chess-themed attire that would be equally appropriate for a Nascar race. Photo Credit: Meiling Cheng.

Seventh—Lakeview Elementary
(16.0, Kirkland)

Eighth—Wedgwood Elementary
(16.0, Seattle)

Ninth—Creekside Elementary
(15.5, Issaquah)

Tenth—Medina Elementary
(15.5, Bellevue)

Congratulations to the amazing chess warriors who competed and many thanks to all who contributed to this fantastic event!



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GM Kayden Troff Simul

(Issaquah, Washington, April 30, 2025)

Josh Sinanan



The Issaquah Highlands Chess Club and Washington Chess Federation teamed up to host IHCC's first ever Grandmaster Simul on Wednesday, April 30, in the spacious Blakely Hall venue located just off I-90 in the Issaquah Highlands. The 41-board simul was GM Troff's second simultaneous exhibition of the week, after coming off a strong 14-0 start in his clock simul at SCC the night before. This simul, however, would prove to be a much tougher test for the seasoned grandmaster, with several high-rated players in the lineup including a National Master and three experts!

The evening began with a brief welcome by WCF President Josh Sinanan

introducing GM Troff to the IHCC players. As is the custom in IHCC simul, complimentary Flying Pie pizza and beverages were provided for all players and guests courtesy of the organizers. The 41-board simul kicked off at 6:35 PM, and a few lucky players who showed up at-site managed to grab a spot on an empty board due to a few no-shows.

Players of all ages and ratings (unrated—2250) participated in the simul, which lasted a total of three hours! When the smoke had cleared, GM Troff won 33, drew six, and lost only two games, a truly impressive result considering the strength of the field and the high number players taking part.



Players spanning all ages and ratings fill the spacious Blakely Hall during GM Troff's simul at the Issaquah Highlands Chess Club. Photo Credit: Josh Sinanan.



Simul winner Atharv Rastogi was all smiles after his game. Photo Credit: Josh Sinanan.



US Chess expert Jamie Zhu after his simul win against GM Troff. Photo Credit: Josh Sinanan.

About a dozen games still under way at the cutoff time of 9:30 PM were adjudicated by WCF President Josh Sinanan, including a few positions that had to be checked with an engine for a second opinion! Congratulations to the following players who managed to score a win or a draw against GM Troff! Below are the results listed in order of when the games finished.

Draws were achieved by: NM Digesh Malla (2249, Sammamish), Vihaan Pai (1469, Sammamish), Gabriel Razmov (1858, Seattle), Valentin Razmov (1823, Seattle), Guanyu Ren (1788, Seattle), and Rafael Palathingal (1950, Bothell).

Two chess gladiators beat the odds and scored the full point against their illustrious opponent: Jamie Zhu (2006, Sammamish) and Atharv Rastogi (1465, Issaquah)!

GM Troff graciously congratulated the triumphant warriors, signed autographs, and posed for photographs to conclude the enchanting evening.

Editor's note: The photos below the game headers are also by Josh Sinanan.

Games

**Kayden Troff (2571) –
Rafael Palathingal (1950) [A40]**
GM Troff IHCC Simul, April 30, 2025



1.d4 g6 2.Nf3 Bg7 3.Nc3 d6 4.Bg5 c5 5.dxc5 dxc5 6.Qxd8+ Kxd8 7.0-0-0 Nd7 8.Ne4 Kc7 9.Bf4+ e5 10.Be3 b6 11.Nd6 Nh6 12.Bxh6 Bxh6+ 13.e3 Rf8 14.Bc4 f5 15.Be6 Rd8 16.Nf7 Bg7 17.Nxd8 Kxd8 18.Ng5 h6 19.Bxd7 Bxd7 20.Ne6+ Ke7 21.Nxg7 Rg8 22.Nxf5+ gxf5 23.g3 Bc6 24.Rhe1 Bf3 25.Rd3 Rc8 26.e4 fxe4 27.Ra3 Rc7 28.h3 Kf6 29.Kd2 Ke6 30.Rg1 Kf5 31.Kc3 Rd7 32.Re1 Bg2 33.Kc4 Bxh3 34.f3 Rd4+ 35.Kb5 Rb4+ 36.Kc6 Bg2 37.fxe4+ Bxe4+ 38.Kd6 a5 39.Rae3 Bxc2 40.Rxe5+ Kg4 41.b3 a4

42.bxa4 Rxa4 43.R1e2 Rxa2 44.R5e3 Bb1 45.Rxa2 Bxa2 46.Kc6 c4 47.Kxb6 Bb3 48.Kc5 h5 49.Kd4 h4 50.gxh4 Kxh4 51.Ke4 Kg4 52.Re1 Bc2+ 53.Ke3

½–½

**Kayden Troff (2571) –
Atharv Rastogi (1465) [D02]**
GM Troff IHCC Simul, April 30, 2025



1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Bf5 3.Bf4 Nf6 4.e3 e6 5.c4 Bb4+ 6.Nbd2 0-0 7.a3 Bd6 8.Ne5 Nbd7 9.c5 Bxe5 10.dxe5 Ne4 11.Nxe4 Bxe4 12.Rc1 c6 13.Qd2 Qc7 14.f3 Bg6 15.Qc3 Rac8 16.h4 h6 17.g4 Qd8 18.h5 Bh7 19.Bd3 Bxd3 20.Qxd3 f6 21.Qg6 Qe7 22.exf6 Rxf6 23.Bd6 Qd8 24.Qd3 Rxf3 25.Ke2 Qf6 26.Rcf1 Rxf1 27.Rxf1 Qxb2+ 28.Qd2 Qb5+ 29.Qd3 Qxd3+ 30.Kxd3 b6 31.cxb6 axb6 32.e4 Nc5+ 33.Bxc5 bxc5 34.Ra1 Ra8 35.a4 Kf7 36.Ke3 c4 37.Kd4 Ra5 38.exd5 cxd5 39.Kc3 Kf6 40.Kb4 Ra8 41.a5

0–1

**Kayden Troff (2571) –
Digesh Malla (2249) [D02]**
GM Troff IHCC Simul, April 30, 2025



1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 d5 3.Bf4 e6 4.e3 c5 5.Nc3 a6 6.Ne5 Be7 7.dxc5 Bxc5 8.Bd3 Nbd7 9.Nxd7 Bxd7 10.0-0 Bc6 11.Be5 d4 12.exd4 Bxd4 13.Bxd4 Qxd4 14.Be4 Qb6 15.Bxc6+ Qxc6 16.Ne2 0-0 17.c3 Rad8

18.Qc2 Rd6 19.Rad1 Rfd8 20.Rxd6 Qxd6 21.Nd4 Ng4 22.g3 Qd5 23.Qe2 h5 24.h3 Nf6 25.a3 Qe4 26.Re1 Qxe2 27.Rxe2 Rd5 28.Kg2 Kf8 29.Kf3

½–½

**Kayden Troff (2571) –
Jamie Zhu (2006) [D00]**
GM Troff IHCC Simul, April 30, 2025



1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.Bg5 Bg7 4.Nc3 d5 5.Bxf6 exf6 6.h4 h5 7.g3 Nc6 8.e3 Bf5 9.Bd3 Qd7 10.Na4 Nb4 11.Nc5 Nxd3+ 12.cxd3 Qb5 13.0-0-0 14.a4 Qc6 15.Rc1 Rac8 16.Qb3 b6 17.Na6 Qb7 18.Nb4 c6 19.Nd2 Rfd8 20.Rc3 c5 21.Nc2 Bxd3 22.dxc5 Bxf1 23.Nxf1 Bf8 24.cxb6 Qxb6 25.Nd4 Qxb3 26.Rxb3 Rb8 27.Rc3 Rxb2 28.Rc7 a6 29.Ra7 Bc5 30.Rxa6 Bxd4 31.exd4 Rb4 32.Rxf6 Rxd4 33.a5 Ra4 34.a6 d4 35.Nd2 d3

0–1

**Kayden Troff (2571) –
Matt Inouye (1387) [D02]**
GM Troff IHCC Simul, April 30, 2025



1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 c5 3.dxc5 e6 4.Be3 Na6 5.g3 Nxc5 6.Bg2 d5 7.0-0 Be7 8.c4 0-0 9.Nc3 dxc4 10.Ne5 Rb8 11.Bf4 Ra8 12.Nxc4 Nh5 13.Be3 Rb8 14.Qxd8 Rxd8 15.Rfd1 b6 16.g4 Nf6 17.Bf4 Rb7 18.Bxb7 Bxb7 19.Rxd8+ Bxd8 20.Rd1 Be7 21.Bd6 Kf8 22.Bxe7+ Kxe7 23.f3

Nd5 24.Nxd5+ Bxd5 25.Ne5 f6 26.Nd3
 Nxd3 27.Rxd3 a5 28.b3 Bb7 29.e4 Ba6
 30.Rc3 Kd6 31.Kf2 g5 32.h4 h6 33.hxg5
 hxg5 34.Ke3 e5 35.Rc1 Ke6 36.Rh1
 1-0

**Kayden Troff (2571) –
 Odbayar Yondon (1858) [D02]**
 GM Troff IHCC Simul, April 30, 2025



1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 d5 3.Bf4 e6 4.e3 Bd6
 5.Ne5 Nbd7 6.Nd2 0-0 7.Bd3 h6 8.g4
 Bxe5 9.dxe5 Nh7 10.Bxh7+ Kxh7 11.g5
 hxg5 12.Qh5+ Kg8 13.Bxg5 f6 14.exf6
 Nxf6 15.Qh4 e5 16.Rg1 c5 17.0-0-0 b5
 18.Ne4 Kf7 19.Bxf6 gxf6 20.Qh7+ Ke6
 21.Nxc5+ Kd6 22.Rxd5+ Kxd5 23.Rd1+
 Kc6 24.Qe4+ Kxc5 25.Rxd8 Bb7 26.b4+
 Kb6 27.Rd6+ Kc7 28.Qd3 Bc6 29.Re6
 Rad8 30.Qc3 Rd6 31.Re7+ Rd7 32.Qc5
 Rc8 33.Qxa7+ Kd8 34.Rxd7+ Bxd7 35.e4
 Ke7 36.Qe3 Rh8 37.Qg3 Rh3 38.Qg7+
 Ke6 39.f4 exf4 40.Qg4+ Ke7 41.Qxf4
 Rh5 42.h4 Be8 43.Kb2

1-0

**Kayden Troff (2571) –
 Gabriel Razmov (1858) [D02]**
 GM Troff IHCC Simul, April 30, 2025



1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 d5 3.Bf4 e6 4.e3 c5
 5.Nc3 a6 6.Ne5 Nc6 7.Be2 Bd6 8.Nxc6
 bxc6 9.dxc5 Bxc5 10.0-0 0-0 11.Na4
 Bd6 12.Bxd6 Qxd6 13.c4 c5 14.Rc1 Bd7



GM Kayden Troff makes his move versus chess dad Moinuddin Mohammed as he heads down the aisle of the simul's strongest players. Photo Credit: Josh Sinanan.

15.cxd5 Bxa4 16.Qxa4 exd5 17.Rfd1
 Rfb8 18.b3 Rb6 19.Qa5 Rc6 20.Bf3 Re8
 21.Rd2 Ne4 22.Bxe4 Rxe4 23.Rcd1 d4
 24.exd4 cxd4 25.f3 Re8 26.Rxd4 Qg6
 27.Rd8 Rce6 28.Qxa6 Qc2 29.Qxe6 fxe6
 30.Rxe8+ Kf7 31.Red8 Qxa2 32.R8d3
 Qb2 33.R1d2 Qa1+ 34.Kf2 Qa7+ 35.Ke2
 Qg1 36.g4 Qxh2+ 37.Kd1 Qg1+ 38.Kc2
 Qa1 39.Rc3 Qa2+ 40.Kd3 Qa6+ 41.Rc4
 Qb5 42.Kc3 Qa5+ 43.Kc2

½-½

**Kayden Troff (2571) –
 Chad Fondren (1580) [A46]**
 GM Troff IHCC Simul, April 30, 2025



1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 c5 3.dxc5 Nc6 4.g3 e5
 5.Be3 Qa5+ 6.c3 Ng4 7.Qd2 Nxe3 8.Qxe3
 Qxc5 9.Qxc5 Bxc5 10.e4 d6 11.Nbd2 0-0
 12.Nc4 f5 13.exf5 Rxf5 14.Bg2 Bxf2+

15.Kxf2 e4 16.Nxd6 exf3 17.Bh3 Rf8
 18.Bxc8 Raxc8 19.Nxc8 Rxc8 20.Rhe1
 Rf8 21.Rad1 h6 22.Rd7

1-0

**Kayden Troff (2571) –
 Patrick Zhang (1196) [A46]**
 GM Troff IHCC Simul, April 30, 2025



1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.Bf4 Nc6 4.e3 Be7
 5.Bd3 d5 6.0-0 0-0 7.Ne5 Nxe5 8.dxe5
 Nd7 9.Nd2 f6 10.exf6 Nxf6 11.Nf3 Bd6
 12.Ne5 c5 13.c4 Qc7 14.Ng4 e5 15.Nxf6+
 Rxf6 16.Bg5 Rf8 17.cxd5 h6 18.Bh4 Bf5
 19.e4 Bd7 20.Bg3 c4 21.Rc1 b5 22.b3
 Ba3 23.Rc2 Qa5 24.bxc4 b4 25.Bxe5 Ba4
 26.Qg4 g5 27.Qe6+ Rf7 28.Qxh6 Rh7
 29.Qg6+ Kf8 30.Qxh7 Bxc2 31.Bd6+
 Ke8 32.Qe7#

1-0

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

SCC's Third Annual Friday Night Championship Invitational Tournament

John Selsky

The Seattle Chess Club (SCC) successfully landed the third annual Friday Night Championship Invitational tournament during the spring. Matthew van Eerde, a dedicated player in SCC's Friday night tournaments over the past four years, emerged as the 2024 Friday Night Champion with a perfect score of four wins in the four games played. It was a four-round tournament played on March 28, April 11, April 25 and May 9, 2025.

Van Eerde was also a candidate in the Championship tournaments of 2022 and 2023, losing to Chad Boey and Jason Loving respectively. His performance in the 2024 tournament earned him a \$100 cash prize, a fabulous trophy, and bragging rights for one year.

Last year's winner, Jason Loving, and rapidly improving young player Mike Tie, tied for second place with 2.5 points and split a modest cash prize.

SCC's Friday Night Championship is played concurrently with the regular Friday night game, with the same time control: 40 moves in 90 minutes, followed by sudden death in 60 minutes,

with a ten-second increment throughout. Winners and co-winners of each four-round monthly tournament are invited to participate in the Championship. For the 2024 Championship, invitations were extended to the ten (co-)winners and eight took up the challenge.

Games annotated by the Champion:

Matthew van Eerde (1787) – Jason Loving (2044) [B08]
2024 SCC Friday Night Championship
Seattle, WA (R2), April 11, 2025
[Matthew van Eerde]

Jason is the highest-rated regular in the Friday night tournaments, a good 300 points above me. But I've had better positions against him occasionally, and even nicked him for a draw once, so I am somewhat relaxed.

1.d4 d6

Jason chooses the Pirc! I love playing against the Pirc. So far so good.

2.e4 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6 4.Nf3 Bg7 5.Be2 0-0 6.Bg5 h6 7.Bh4 c6 8.0-0 Bg4 9.h3 Bxf3

The first big decision. I retake with the pawn to open the g-file. The computer microscopically prefers retaking with the bishop.

10.gxf3 Nh5 11.Kh2 g5 12.Bg3 e5 13.d5 c5 14.Rg1 Nd7 15.Nb5 Qe7 16.a4 a6 17.Na3 f5 18.exf5 Rxf5 19.Nc4 Ra8

Jason's attack on the kingside is gathering steam. I need to make more progress with my queenside counterplay. I found a rook maneuver that combines attack and defense.

20.Ra3 Nf4 21.Rb3 Nxe2

22.Qxe2 h5

Black's attack is visually scary, but White's counterplay on the b- and g-files is adequate. The position is equal.

23.Kh1 b5 24.axb5 axb5 25.Rxb5 h4 26.Bh2 Rxf3 27.Rb7 Qf7 28.Nxd6 Qxd5?

Jason succumbs to the siren's call. He takes an important pawn; the knight on d6 is hanging; if it moves the rook on b7 hangs; he is threatening twelve nasty discovered checks; and the pawn on f2 is going to fall. And yet, ...Qxd5 is a serious error. White has one move to secure an advantage—everything else loses. Can you find it?



Position after 28...Qxd5

29.Qc4!

The Black queen is pinned! Trading is forced, and White has a better endgame.

29...Qxc4 30.Nxc4

A key moment. Jason's best try is 30...Rxb3! Perhaps I will blunder 31.Rxd7? Rxf2 32.Rg2 Rf1+ with a perpetual. Even if I find 31.Kg2 Rhf3 32.Rxd7 Rxf2+ 33.Kh1 then Jason's rook is a cat among the pigeons, and the win is hard to prove.

30...R8f7?

The last mistake. Now my knight gets to e4, and Jason's pawn islands fall.

SCC 3rd Annual Friday Night Championship Invitational

##	Name	Pre-	Post	Score
1	Matthew van Eerde	1787	1860	4.0/4
2	Jason Loving	2044	2022	2.5/4
3	Mike Tie	1229	1337	2.5/4
4	Prasanna Desai	1767	1763	2.0/4
5	Jonathan Nakagawa	1730	1711	2.0/4
6	Pavan Nagaraja	1604	1602	1.5/4
7	Austin Wentz	1590	1594	1.0/4
8	Aiyl Dulurkha	1650	1609	0.0/4
Not participating: Stella Cluff, Dan Yates				

30...Rxb3! 31.Kg2 (31.Rxd7? Rxf2 32.Rg2 Rf1 +=) 31...Rh3 32.Rxd7 Rxf2+ 33.Kh1±

31.Nd6 Re7 32.Ne4 Nf6!?

An exchange sacrifice for activity. The rook, knight, and g- and h-pawns are scary, but fortunately the Bg7 is hemmed in by its own pawns.

33.Rxe7 Nxe4 34.Re1 Nxf2+ 35.Kg2 Rxh3

Now I can liquidate, and my b- and c-pawns will win the day.

36.Re2 g4 37.Rxf2 Rxh2+ 38.Kxh2 g3+ 39.Kg2 gxf2 40.Kxf2 Kh7 41.Rc7 e4

Jason tries one last swindle. I put on my best poker face and hover my hand over the rook, as if to take the pawn on c4... and then I push the c2-pawn instead.

42.c3 Kg6 43.Rxc5 Bh6 44.Re5 e3+ 45.Rxc3

After 45...Bxe3 46.Kxe3 my king can still stop Jason's h-pawn, even if his king tries to help it; and if Jason runs his king to the queenside to stop the b- and c-pawns then my king can take the h-pawn first and then wander lazily back over to the queenside. So, Jason resigns.

1-0

**Jonathan Nakagawa (1730) –
Matthew van Eerde (1787) [C02]
2024 SCC Fright Night Championship
Seattle, WA (R4), May 9, 2025
[Matthew van Eerde]**

Going into the final round I was on 3.0/3. There were three people on 2.0/3, but I had played two of them already, so I knew I would be playing Jonathan. In our previous games we had always played the Najdorf, but this time I wanted to change things up. All I need is a draw to clinch the championship—Jonathan needs a win to force a tiebreak. If he does, both Jason and Mike can win their games to join in the tiebreak (they are not playing each other.)

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5

Darn. I was hoping for 3.Nc3 or 3.Nd2, when I would have captured on e4 and played into the Rubinstein. That's okay, I can work with this.

3...c5 4.c3 Nc6 5.Nf3 Qb6 6.Bd3 Bd7 7.0-0 cxd4 8.Re1 Nge7 9.h4 h5 10.Nbd2 dxc3 11.bxc3 Nf5 12.Nb3

The battle lines are drawn; Black has

an extra pawn, but White has better development. The position is equal.

12...Be7?! 13.Rb1?! Nxb4 14.Nxb4 Bxb4 15.Nd4 Qa5 16.Rxb7 Qxc3??

A horrible blunder. Jonathan, two pawns down, is now completely winning because the knight gets to d6.

17.Nb5 Qc5 18.Qd2 a6?! 19.Nd6+?! Ke7 20.Qf4 Nxe5?! 21.Nf5+ Kf8 22.Be3 Qc6 23.Qxe5 exf5

The computer finds a killer blow here.



Position after 23...exf5

24.Rb6?

24.Rb8+! Rxb8 25.Qxb8+ Qc8 26.Bc5+ Kg8 27.Qxc8+ Bxc8 28.Re8+ Kh7 29.Rxc8 My extra pawns are no match for Jonathan's extra bishop.

24...Bf6? 25.Qf4?? Qc3?? 26.Re1?? Qe5

After trading blunders, I have blocked the lines leading to my king. The position is equal again, but Jonathan is still forced by the tournament position to play for the win.

27.Bc5+!? Kg8 28.Qd2 Rh6

An echo of 20.Ra3 in my game against Jason.

29.Bd6!? Qd4 30.Bc5 Qg4?! 31.Rb4? d4 32.Be2 Qg5 33.f4 Qg6

Somewhere around here I accidentally brushed my clock while picking up my water glass, so the clock was a move off, which becomes important later.

34.Bf3 Re8?! 35.Bxd4 Bxd4+ 36.Rxd4

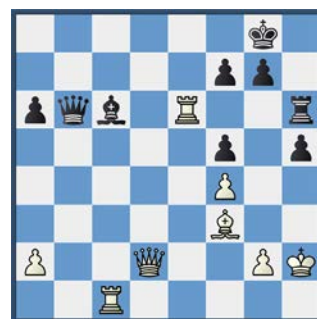


L-R: Mike Tie, Matthew van Eerde, Jason Loving.
Photo credit: Kyle Boddy.

Qb6 37.Kh2 Bc6?! 38.Rd6??

The time pressure gets to Jonathan, who is now playing on the 30-second increment. 38.Rb4! was necessary. Now Black has a big advantage. 38.Rb4!±

38...Ree6?! 39.Rxe6



Position after 39.Rxe6

Jonathan offered a draw, played this move, and pressed the clock, which now incorrectly indicated that he had made the time control, and that I had six minutes remaining to make one move. I declined.

39...Rxe6 40.Be2?? Be4?

40...Qf2! wins on the spot. I had ample time to spot this, even if the clock knew what move it was. Still, 40...Be4 is very solid. 40...Qf2! 41.Qd8+ Kh7 42.Qg5 Rg6!

41.Rc8+ Kh7 42.Bc4!? Rg6 43.Bf1 Rg4 44.Qd8 Qf2

Eventually I get the idea. Jonathan resigned here as mate cannot be stopped, only delayed.

0-1

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

2025 Washington Girls Championship

Josh Sinanan

The 2025 Washington Girls Championship took place at the Orlov Chess Academy in Greenlake on May 17-18. Female chess warriors from throughout the Pacific Northwest were represented in the 28-player field, including the towns of Redmond, Sherwood (Oregon), Portland, Gig Harbor, Bellevue, Seattle, Bothell, Sammamish, Mercer Island, University Place, Kirkland, Woodinville, and Issaquah. The event was hosted by the Washington Chess Federation directed by FIDE Arbiter Mani Atikankhotchasee.

The tournament featured 12 players in the five-round Swiss Elena Donaldson Championship section, eight in the four-round Swiss Katerina Rohonyan U1400

section, and eight in the brand new one-day, five-round Naomi Bashkansky U800 section, which were named in honor of Washington female chess legends.

Emel Bayrambeyli, a tenth grader attending Lincoln High School in Portland, topped the Elena Donaldson Championship section with an undefeated 4.5 points from five games, allowing just one draw against Shankaranand in the second round. Elena Donaldson-Akhmilovskaya was a Woman Grandmaster and former challenger for the Women's World Championship in the 1980's who later relocated to Seattle and ran a successful chess academy with her husband, IM Georgi Orlov, for many years.

As the highest finishing Washington resident with 3.5 points from five games, Deeksha Shankaranand was crowned the 2025 Washington State Girls Champion. Deeksha's careful approach paid off, as she finished the tournament with two wins, two draws, and one half-point bye in the third round. For her victory, Deeksha becomes the Washington State rep at the 2025 Haring National Girls Tournament of Champions, taking place concurrently with the US Open in late July in Madison, Wisconsin. Deeksha also receives a \$750 travel stipend from the WCF to offset her travel costs. Congratulations Deeksha!

Four chess queens—Selina Cheng of Seattle, Iris Zhang of Redmond, Alisa Rachiba of University Place, and Proud Tulsukchuentanat of Bellevue—shared third/fourth place honors a half-point back. Proud, a sixth grader from Woodridge Elementary and the eldest of three chess-playing sisters, scored the best upset win with a 402-point upset during her run. Anyi Li arrived dressed to the nines and was awarded the Best Dressed Prize for her fleek fashion sense. Alisa Rachiba, a fourth grader from Evergreen Primary School in Tacoma, was always jovial and earned the Kindness and Spreading Joy prize for her unconditional warmth and kindness.

In the eight-player Katerina Rohonyan U1400 section, Sruti Viswanatha, a seventh grader from Redmond Middle School, emerged victorious with 3.5 points from four games, allowing only a single draw against Prakrithi Balasubramanian in the second round. The Katerina Rohonyan U1400 section, which was named in honor of Google software engineer WGM Katerina Rohonyan, was run as four-round, G/40; +10 Swiss over one day (Saturday). Timberline Middle School sixth grader Lakshana Anand claimed second place honors a half-point back with three points. Prakrithi Balasubramanian, a sixth grader from Archer Glen Elementary School in Sherwood, Oregon, finished in third place



*2025 Washington State Girls Champion Deeksha Shankaranand.
Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.*

with a solid “plus one” score of 2.5 points. Emily Cai, a second grader from Chestnut Hill Academy in Bellevue, earned the fourth-place prize on tiebreaks with two points. Kokanee Elementary third grader Ishana Datta scored the biggest upset win thanks to a 261-point drubbing in the final round. The classy Yuwen Qu, a second grader from Rosa Parks Elementary in Redmond, was awarded the Best Dressed Prize for her colorful attire. Open Window School second grade phenom Joyce Gui, who always seems happy regardless of the outcome of her game, claimed the Kindness + Spreading Joy prize.

The new Naomi Bashkansky U800 section was conducted as a five-round, G/25; +5 Swiss over one day (Sunday) to encourage the younger

and less experienced girls to come out and play. Woman International Master Naomi Bashkansky was a many-time Washington State Girls Champion active from 2008 to 2018 who attained a peak rating US Chess rating of 2150 and went on to attend Harvard University after graduating from Newport High School in Bellevue. Amalia Cauich-Miller, a home-schooled fourth grader based in Seattle, topped the eight-player field with a perfect five points from five games! Along the way, Amalia scored the full point against Tricia Thomas and Callie Jiang, her closest rivals, in the first and second rounds, respectively. Kindergarten powerhouse Callie Jiang, who attends University Child Development school in Seattle, earned second place honors with 3.5 points.

Wilder Elementary third grader Tricia Thomas from Woodinville captured the third-place prize with three points and scored the biggest upset win (525 points). Anna Spataro, a third grader from St. Thomas School in Medina, finished in fourth place with an even 2.5-point score. Young Lakshana Venkatesan, the other Kindergartner in her section, won the best dressed prize for her stylish efforts. Thornton Creek Elementary third grader Alice Kolodeznaia, who always maintained her positive attitude, was awarded the Kindness + Spreading Joy prize.

Congratulations to all the amazing chess ladies who contributed to this fun event!

2025 Washington Girls Championship: Elena Donaldson Championship										
#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total	
1	1	Emel Bayrambeyli	1836	W7	D2	W12	W3	W4	4.5	1st Place
2	2	Deeksha Shankaranand	1607	W5	D1	H---	W9	D3	3.5	2nd Place
3	3-6	Selina Cheng	1677	W9	W12	D4	L1	D2	3	3rd Place
4		Iris Zhang	1579	W11	D7	D3	W5	L1	3	
5		Alisa Rachiba	1210	L2	W8	W11	L4	W7	3	
6		Proud Tulsukchuentanat	820	U---	H---	H---	W8	W11	3	
7	7-10	Aarya Patel	1482	L1	D4	H---	W10	L5	2	
8		Darya Byelashova	1222	L12	L5	B---	L6	W9	2	
9		Anyi Li	1326	L3	W11	W10	L2	L8	2	Best Dressed
10		Elina Khudiyev	1174	H---	H---	L9	L7	B---	2	
11	11-12	Sofia Byelashova	1047	L4	L9	L5	B---	L6	1	
12		Shanna Wu	1670	W8	L3	L1	U---	U---	1	
2025 Washington Girls Championship: Katerina Rohonyan U1400										
#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Total	T-Mod. Med	
1	1	Sruti Viswanatha	933	W4	D3	W7	W5	3.5	6.5	1st Place
2	2	Lakshana Anand	1182	L3	W4	W6	W8	3	6.5	2nd Place
3	3	Prakrithi Balasubramanian	1015	W2	D1	W5	L4	2.5	8.5	3rd Place
4	4-6	Emily Cai	1041	L1	L2	W8	W3	2	5.5	4th Place
5		Siana Razmov	943	W7	W6	L3	L1	2	4.5	
6		Ishana Datta	825	W8	L5	L2	W7	2	3	Biggest Upset Win
7	7	Yuwen Qu	1086	L5	W8	L1	L6	1	4	Best Dressed
8	8	Joyce Gui	1010	L6	L7	L4	L2	0	5	Kindness + Spreading Joy
2025 Washington Girls Championship: Naomi Bashkansky U800										
#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total	
1	1	Amalia Cauich-Miller	652	W3	W2	W4	W5	W6	5	1st Place
2	2	Callie Jiang	625	W7	L1	W6	D4	W5	3.5	2nd Place
3	3	Tricia Thomas	185	L1	7	L5	W8	W4	3	3rd Place+ Upset Win
4	4	Anna Spataro	710	W6	W5	L1	D2	L3	2.5	4th Place
5	5-7	Pearl Tulsukchuentanat	441	W8	L4	W3	L1	L2	2	
6		Alice Kolodeznaia	281	L4	W8	L2	W7	L1	2	Kindness + Spreading Joy
7		Preme Tulsukchuentanat	105	L2	3	W8	L6	B---	2	
8	8	Lakshana Venkatesan	unr.	L5	L6	L7	L3	U---	0	Best Dressed

2nd Annual Snohomish County Open



CHESSTOURNAMENT

Saturday, August 23rd, 2025

PRIZES W/ 50
PLAYERS
REGISTERED

OPEN
PRIZES

1ST \$260

2ND \$160

3RD \$105

U1500
PRIZES

1ST \$160

2ND \$90

3RD \$65

UNRATED
PRIZES

1ST \$100

2ND \$65

3RD \$45

SCHEDULE

REGISTRATION: 9-9:30 AM

RD 1 - 9:45 AM

RD 5 - 4:45 PM

RD 2 - 11:15 AM

LUNCH

CLOSING
CEREMONY

RD 3 - 1:45 PM

~6:15 PM OR
ASAP

RD 4 - 3:15 PM

REGISTRATION



FORMAT: 5-ROUND SWISS (OPEN, U1500, UNRATED)

TIME CONTROL: G/25 + 5 SECOND INCREMENT

ENTRY FEE: OPEN \$50 | U1500 \$40 | UNRATED \$30

MAXIMUM OF 100 PLAYERS, PLEASE REGISTER EARLY!

MISC: PLEASE BRING A CLOCK AND A CHESS SET!

MUKILTEO PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

4514 84TH ST SW, MUKILTEO, WA 98275



TOM@LAKESTEVENSCHESS.COM



360-913-0452

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 Washington Senior Championship

Josh Sinanan

The 2025 Washington Senior Championship took place at the Orlov Chess Academy in Redmond from Friday, May 16 to Sunday, May 18. This year's event was once again split into two sections by rating: Championship and Premier U1700, to ensure more competitive and harder-fought games throughout the weekend.

Veteran chess warriors from throughout the Pacific Northwest were represented in the respectable 20-player field, from cities including Newcastle, Seattle, Olympia, Brier, Renton, Tenino, Bellevue, Redmond, Kirkland, Mineral, Gig Harbor, Olympia, Federal Way, Kingston, Edmonds, Redondo Beach (California), and Port Townsend. The event was hosted by the Washington Chess Federation and directed by WCF Member-at-Large Ani Barua. Barua, who is working hard to become a senior TD, genuinely enjoys directing this



2025 Washington State Senior Champion Leonid Gavrysh. Photo credit: Ani Barua.

tournament and spending time with the wise and well-travelled senior players.

Leonid Gavrysh, the Ukrainian chess wizard two-time Washington Senior Champion, successfully defended his title for a third year in a row with an undefeated 4.5 points from five games, allowing only a single draw against Paul Harwood (1837) in the third round. Leonid is a wily chess veteran who achieved a peak FIDE rating of 2237 in 2014 while he was still living in Ukraine. Leonid is easily one of Washington's most active senior players and plays tournament chess most weekends as his time allows. For his victory, Leonid receives the title of 2025 Washington State Senior Champion and a \$750 travel stipend from the WCF to attend the 2025 Irwin National Tournament of Senior State Champions, which will be held concurrently with the US Open in late July in Madison, WI. Congratulations Leonid!

A pair of chess kings, NM Matthew Edwards of Olympia and Paul Harwood of Bellevue shared second/first U2000 honors a full point back with 3.5 points apiece. Seattle Chess Club board member and chess benefactor Rich Lavoie earned the first U1800 prize with three points thanks to a clutch final round win against Edmonds everyman Fritz Scholz.

The four-player Premier U1700 section was conducted as a quad with players ranging from 478 to 1300. The four gentlemen involved in the proceedings enjoyed the relaxed three-round schedule, which concluded on Sunday morning and allowed for an early trip back home while it was still light outside! Two chess wise-guys, Henry Louie of Mineral and Allen Messenger of Gig Harbor, topped the group with two points from three games apiece and shared the first and second place prizes between them. Louie recovered well from his first-round loss against Olympia Chess King Colin O'Sullivan (478) and won his next

two games in a row, including a clutch final-round victory against quad leader and WCF Scholastic Director Allen Messenger. Redmond chess renegade Brian Kruse and O'Sullivan shared the first U1600/U1400 prize with one point apiece.

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

**Roger Hanson (1800) –
Leonid Gavrysh (2070) [A08]**
Washington Senior Championship
Redmond, WA (R1), May 16, 2025
[Ralph Dubisch]

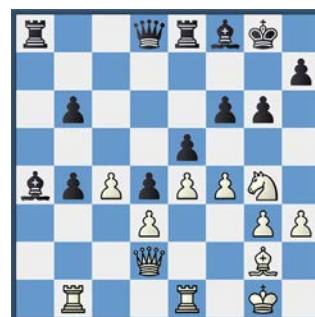
1.e4 Nf6 2.d3

White declines the invitation to expand in the center against the Alekhine Defense, instead choosing to make it a King's Indian Attack.

2...d5 3.Nd2 c5 4.g3 Nc6 5.Bg2 g6 6.Ngf3 Bg7 7.0-0 0-0 8.Re1 e5 9.c3 d4 10.cxd4 cxd4 11.Nc4 Ne8 12.a4 Nd6 13.b3

13.Nfd2

13...Nxc4 14.bxc4 Re8 15.Rb1 b6 16.Bd2 Bf8 17.h3 a5 18.Nh2 Nb4 19.Bxb4 axb4 20.f4 Bd7 21.Ng4 Bxa4 22.Qd2 f6?!



Position after 22...f6

Doesn't GM Finegold say, "Never play...f6?" At least in this case, 22...b5 may be a better choice. 23.cxb5 Bxb5 24.Nxe5 (24.fxe5 Ra3!? 25.Nf6+ Kg7

26.Nxe8+ Qxe8 27.Bf1 Qxe5 with good compensation for the exchange: pawn plus bishop-pair, pressure on d3, kingside weakening.) 24...Ra3 25.Bf1 (25.Rxb4 Bxb4 26.Qxb4 Qa5) 25...Rc3 and Black's passed b-pawn combines with the bishop-pair to be a strength, rather than a weakness.

23.fxe5 fxe5 24.Rf1 Re6 25.Rxb4!?

The alternative is 25.Rf2 with rough equality. Taking this rook looks scary...

25...g5

Careful analysis suggests the exchange offer was more bluff than actual danger. 25...Bxb4 26.Nh6+ (26.Qxb4 Qe7) 26...Kg7 27.Rf7+ Kh8 28.Qxb4 Qd6 29.Qb2 Rf6 and White doesn't seem to have enough compensation.

26.Rbb1 h5?!

26...Bg7

27.Nh2?!

White gains a solid advantage with the intermezzo 27.Qf2!, when 27...Qe7 (27...hxg4? 28.Qf7+ Kh8 29.Qxe6 simply wins for White.) 28.Nf6+ suggests a far superior placement for that knight.

27...Bh6 28.Kh1

28.g4 seems natural, though it's painful to entomb one's own bishop. Rf5 and Nf3 are then ideas to put pressure on the fixed e- and g-pawns.

28...Be8 29.Qb2 Qe7 30.Bf3 Ra3 31.Qe2 g4 32.hxg4 h4



Position after 32...h4

33.gxh4?

The game now swings toward Black. White can keep the battle complex and roughly balanced with 33.g5! hxg3 (33...Bxg5 34.gxh4 Bf4 (34...Bxh4? 35.Bh5 actually leaves the black king more exposed.) 35.Bh5 Qxh4 36.Bxe8 Rxe8) 34.Bg4 Rg6 35.gxh6 Rxh6 36.Qf3 Rxh2+ 37.Kg1

33...Qxh4 34.g5 Bxg5 35.Rg1 Kh8 36.Rg4 Qh6 37.Rbg1 Rg6 38.Qg2

38.R4g2!?, but 38...Be3 39.Rf1 Ra7 builds pressure.

38...Be3

38...Bf4! looks even stronger.

39.Rxg6 Bxg6 40.Rd1 Kh7

The engine insists the king is better-placed on h8, preferring here 40...Ra7.

41.Bg4 Ra7

Stockfish wants to undo the "error" by retreating 41...Kh8 here.

42.Qh3 Qxh3 43.Bxh3 Bh5 44.Bg4

After 44.Ng4!?, there is an intriguing possibility: 44...Rg7 45.Nf6+ Kh6 46.Nxh5 (46.Rf1 Be2! 47.Rf5 Bf4 48.Bg2 Bxd3+) 46...Kxh5 and we're in an opposite bishops ending. It is not drawish, though; Black maintains an enduring initiative due to superior king placement. 47.Rf1 Kh4 48.Rf3 Rg1+ 49.Kh2 Rd1 50.Bf1! Rd2+ 51.Kh1? Kg4 and White must pitch the d-pawn to prevent the black king from infiltrating. 52.Rf6 Kg3 53.Rg6+ Kf2 54.Rf6+ Bf4 is a disaster.

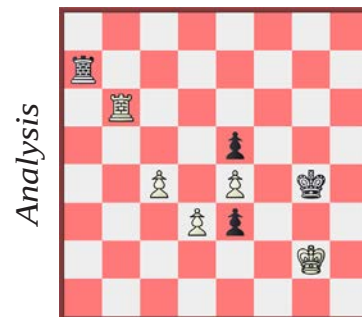
44...Kh6 45.Rb1 Bxg4

Or 45...Kg5 46.Bxh5 Kxh5 47.Kg2 (47.Rxb6 Ra1+ 48.Kg2 Rg1+ 49.Kf3 (49.Kh3 Bf4+) 49...Kh4! soon winning the

knight (...Rg3+ and...Rg2+ threatened.) 47...Bf4 48.Rb2 Rg7+ 49.Kh1 (49.Kf3 Rg3+ 50.Kf2 Rxd3+) 49...Rg3! 50.Rxb6 (50.Rb3 Rh3) 50...Rxd3 51.Nf1 Rc3 52.Rb4 Kg4+. Black's active pieces dominate the board.

46.Nxg4+ Kg5 47.Nxe5

47.Nxe3 dxe3 48.Kg2 Kg4 49.Rxb6



(#Diagram-analysis after 49.Rxb6)

Now there's only one way to win: 49...Ra1!! (49...Ra2+ is insufficient: 50.Kf1 Rd2 (50...e2+ 51.Kf2) 51.Rf6) 50.Rb2 Rd1! 51.Re2 Rd2 52.Kf1 Kf3+

47...Kf4 48.Nc6

48.Kg2 Kxe5 lasts longer, but doesn't offer much hope for White.

48...Rc7 49.Rf1+ Kg3

0-1

2025 Washington Senior Championship: Championship

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total	Prize
1	1	CM Leonid Gavrysh	2070	W5	W16	D3	W7	W4	4.5	\$142
2	2-3	NM Matthew B Edwards	2193	H---	W9	L7	W6	W5	3.5	\$85.50
3		Paul Harwood	1836	W14	W4	D1	L5	W7	3.5	\$85.50
4	4-6	NM David G Arganian	2000	W13	L3	W14	W11	L1	3	
5		Roger Hanson	1800	L1	W13	W16	W3	L2	3	
6		Richard Lavoie	1753	H---	W10	H---	L2	W11	3	\$76
7	7-10	Geoff Gale	2037	W12	H---	W2	L1	L3	2.5	
8		NM Gerald Larson	2025	D10	D15	L11	D13	W12	2.5	
9		H G Pitre	1700	H---	L2	L12	B---	W15	2.5	
10		Bruce W Gregg	1700	D8	L6	D15	D14	B---	2.5	
11	11-14	Fritz Scholz	1814	L16	W12	W8	L4	L6	2	
12		Brian Kelly	1702	L7	L11	W9	W15	L8	2	
13		Kevin Scull	1656	L4	L5	B---	D8	D14	2	
14		Derek Adair	1573	L3	B---	L4	D10	D13	2	
15	15	Michael Shaw	1524	H---	D8	D10	L12	L9	1.5	
16	16	NM Viktors Pupols	2200	W11	L1	L5	U---	U---	1	

2025 Washington Senior Championship: Premier U1700

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Total	Prize
1	1-2	Henry Louie	1300	L4	W3	W2	2	\$80.50
2		M Allen Messenger	1245	W3	W4	L1	2	\$80.50
3	3-4	Brian Kruse	562	L2	L1	W4	1	\$57
4		Colin O'Sullivan	478	W1	L2	L3	1	\$57

NEW ADVENTURE SCHOLASTIC

CHESS TOURNAMENT

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2025

HOTEL 116 BELLEVUE

625 116TH AVE NE, BELLEVUE, WA 98004



FORMAT

A 5-round, G/25; +5 Swiss tournament in four sections:

K-3 U700

K-3 Open

4-12 U900

4-12 Open

SCHEDULE

Rd. 1 – 9:00am

Rd. 2 – 10:30am

Lunch

Rd. 3 – 12:30pm

Rd. 4 – 1:45pm

Rd. 5 – 3:00pm

Awards ~ 4:30pm

ELIGIBILITY

Open to all students in grades K-12 as of the 2025-26 school year. Out-of-state players welcome!

ENTRY FEE

\$50 by 9/20, \$60 after.
Room for 80 players.

AWARDS

Section Prizes: Amazon Gift Cards awarded in each section:
1st – 5th: \$60–55–50–45–40.

Special Prizes (per section): Medals for first-time players, best female player, best dressed, and biggest upset win. ***Top player (by TPR) in each of the K-3 Open and 4-12 Open sections wins free entry into the 2025 SPFNO!***

RATING

Dual NWSRS and US Chess rated, with **US Chess membership required in all sections.** Establish or update your national rating! Higher of current NWSRS or US Chess regular rating will be used to determine section and pairings.

CLOCKS + NOTATION

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

REGISTRATION

Register online at NWchess.com/OnlineRegistration/
Pay by SettleKing/Zelle/Cash/Check.
100% pre-registered, no on-site entries or payments. Entry + payment deadline Fri September 26 @ 5:00pm.
No registrations accepted or refunds offered after the deadline.

PROCEDURE

Pairings will be posted in the hallway near the parent waiting area.

WA State Elementary Qualifier!

Questions?

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

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

King County Scholastic

CHESS TOURNAMENT

Sunday, September 28, 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

\$50 by September 21, \$60 after.
Room for 80 players; please register
early to reserve your spot.

AWARDS

Amazon Gift Cards awarded in each
section:

1st-4th: \$75, 65, 55, 45.

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

RATING

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

ELIGIBILITY

Open to all students in grades K-12
as of the 2025-26 school year. Out-
of-state players welcome!

**Washington State
Elementary Qualifier!**

THE DETAILS

Online Registration:

NWchess.com/OnlineRegistration/

Pay by

SettleKing/Zelle/Cash/Check.

**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



YOU'RE INVITED

Join us for a special fundraising gala on September 28th, 2025, dedicated to supporting and empowering girls in chess. This elegant evening will include a gourmet dinner, and complimentary parking all to make the night truly memorable. The auction will feature gift cards, Victoria's Secret baskets, stunning paintings, chess lesson vouchers and more.

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



DATE: September 28th, 2025

TIME: 6:30pm to 9:30pm

TICKETS: Adult \$125 | Children \$90

LOCATION: Hilton Bellevue Hotel
300 112th Avenue SE | Bellevue, WA



Hello@MyChessWorld.com



Washington Open

(and its side-events!)

Josh Sinanan

The 2025 Washington Open was held over Memorial Day weekend May 24-26 at the Redmond Marriott. The central Redmond Town Center location is a fan-favorite due to its proximity to amenities, ease of access, and free parking. Chess players from throughout North America including parts of Washington, Oregon, California, Hawaii, Alaska, and British Columbia, were represented in the three-day chess extravaganza.

The event was hosted by Washington Chess Federation and directed by NTD Jacob Mayer with assistance from WCF Scholastic Director Allen Messenger, Member-at-Large Ani Barua, Co-Vice Present Rekha Sagar, Co-Vice President Duane Polich, Registrar David Hendricks, Treasurer Robert Allen, and Chess Mom Sujatha Ramigani. FA Mani Atikankhotchasee managed the pairings for the main tournament while WCF President Josh Sinanan and Tournament Coordinator Valentin Razmov orchestrated the busy slate of events that spanned the holiday weekend.

Chess photographer extraordinaire Meiling Cheng took hundreds of amazing photographs while her daughter Selina took part in the tournament.

A total of 263 players participated in the main three-day main tournament, a six-round Swiss tournament across four sections: Elite, Premier U1800, and Rising U1500, and Dynamos U1200. The new Dynamos U1200 section was added this year to accommodate the influx of newer players who are just discovering tournament chess and adjusting to classical time controls. As usual, players had the option of entering the 3-day or 2-day schedule to accommodate their weekend plans and preference for classical or faster time controls.

The Washington Open Faustino Oro Scholastic, directed by WCF Co-VP Rekha Sagar, Tim Campbell, and Sujatha Ramigani, attracted 103 juniors on Saturday, May 24. The immersive chess experience featured a non-stop frenzy of eleven fun side events including the Gary Dorfner Memorial Adult Novice Swiss, Fischer Chess960 Rapid, Robson Puzzle

Solving, Wenjun Chess Workshop for Girls and Women, Third Annual Carol Kleist Memorial Adult Swiss, Carlsen Rapid, Awonder Liang Bughouse, Firouzja Bullet, WaldowChess Rapid, and Ignacio Perez Memorial Blitz!

In the 83-player Elite 1800+ section, the top three seeds—IM Georgi Orlov (2503 → 2501, 5.0), NM Siddarth M. Sundaram (2404 → 2409, 5.0), and FM Aziz Degenbaev (2364 → 2380, 5.0)—emerged victorious with five points apiece. Each of the Washington Open Co-Champs started off well by winning his first three games in a row, which set up a big fourth-round showdown on board one between Orlov and Degenbaev, while Sundaram would face 2024 Washington State Champion NM Daniel He on board two. A complicated King's Indian ensued, with Aziz getting the better of the complications in time pressure and driving Orlov's exposed king into the center of the board.

Now the clear leader with four points from four games, Aziz would face Sundaram on the top board in the next



GRAND KNIGHTS
CHESS ACADEMY



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- Small Group Classes
- Tournament Support
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round, which ended peacefully despite the game beginning with a risky King's Gambit. Clutch last-round wins by Orlov and Sundaram would allow them to catch up with Degenbaev, who only managed to draw against Daniel He in the sixth round. A quintuplet of chess warriors shared the combined fourth–sixth/First U2100/Second U2100 prize with 4.5 points apiece: NM Daniel He (2359 → 2364, 4.5) of Redmond, FM Stephen Willy (2276 → 2281, 4.5) of Sammamish, Roger Tabet (2137 → 2147, 4.5) of Portland, Justin Gao (1857 → 2010, 4.5) of Vancouver (BC), and Gabriel Razmov (1862 → 1993, 4.5) of Seattle.

A pair of chess knights—Alexander Gross (1863 → 1965, 4.0) of Seattle and William Summerfield (1847 → 1917, 4.0) of Mercer Island—split the =First/Second U1900 prize with a “plus two” score. Several special prizes were also up for grabs in addition to the overall and class prizes to recognize other players.

The Biggest Upset Wins were achieved by Akim Pikh (Round one—260 points) of Redmond, Alexander Gross (Rounds two + six, 203 + 329 points, respectively) of Seattle, Jesse Hutton (Round three—202 points) of Portland, Drew Bunch (Round four—276 points) of Bainbridge Island, and Gabriel Razmov (Round five—295 points) of Seattle. The Highest USCF rating gain prizes were awarded to Vijay Nallappa (First Place—105 points) of Redmond and CM Tim Moroney (shared Second Place—52 points) of Shoreline and Nikhil Ramkumar (shared Second Place—52 points) of Bothell.

Classiness was on full display at the Washington Open, with three players taking home the Best Dressed prizes for their fleck attire: Ashton Taylor (Saturday) of Vancouver, Veronique Joseph (Sunday) of Seattle, and NM Daniel He (Monday) of Redmond. Fritz Scholz of Edmonds, always a jolly and good-natured fellow, won the “Fair Play, Kindness and Spreading Joy” prize! Oregon living chess legend Grandmaster Jim Tarjan won the Best Senior prize to fund his retirement travels.

Ravensdale chess ranger Zane Wirkkala (1550 → 1724, 5.0) topped the 62-player Premier U1800 section with an undefeated four wins and two draws! After a slow start with draws against Tu (1758) and Rubaiyat (1689) in the first two “warmup” rounds, Wirkkala kicked it

into high gear and won his next four games to overtake section leader Hetamsaria (1430) in the final round. For his victory, Wirkkala is seeded into the Challengers section of the 2026 Washington State Championship.

Seven up-and-coming chess prodigies shared the combined =Second-Fifth + First/Second U1600 prize with 4.5 points apiece: Daniel Wilke (1653 → 11690, 4.5) of Bellevue, Thrinay Subramanian (1613 → 1654, 4.5) of Bellevue, Gavin Shi (1499 → 1647, 4.5) of Seattle, Selina Cheng (1612 → 1640, 4.5) of Seattle, Austin Wentz (1594 → 1631, 4.5) of Seattle, Aadi Hetamsaria (1430 → 1605, 4.5) of Bellevue, and Evan Takayoshi (1354 → 1583, 4.5) of Edgewood.

The Premier section as usual was comprised of many fast-improving and underrated youngsters, which created prime upset conditions. Those claiming the biggest scalps were Patrick Perry (Rounds one + two, 277 + 212 points, respectively) of Kailua (Hawaii), Yuchang Yang (Round three—245 points) of Vancouver (Washington), Theodore Miller (Round four—211 points) of Sunnyvale (California), Evan Takayoshi (Round five—217 points) of Edgewood, and Jimmy Yang (Round six—158

points) of Kirkland. The highest USCF rating gains were achieved by Benjamin Yau (First Place—120 points) of Lake Forest Park and Stephen Belgau (Second Place—61 points) of Olympia.

Three snappy dressers took home the best dressed prizes for their stylish ensembles: Jeb Stroud (Saturday) of Bellingham, Lewis Ma (Sunday) of Bellevue, and Selina Cheng (Monday) of Seattle. Aadi Hetamsaria of Bellevue was awarded the Fair Play, Kindness, and Spreading Joy prize for his unconditionally kind disposition. Two chess queens—Deeksha Shankaranand (1570 → 1622, 3.5) of Redmond and Joanne Wangluo (1558 → 1621, 3.5) of Vancouver (BC)—shared the Best Female Prize. Seattle chess king Corey Bloom (1780 → 1732, 3.0) claimed the Best Senior prize with an even score.

The Rising U1500 section, which in recent years has ballooned into more of an “uprising” with 100+ players last year, was split into the Rising U1500 and Dynamos U1200 to better serve the players and provide better competition. Renton-based software engineer Andra Marinescu (1351 → 1517, 5.5), who often dons colorful hair of varying hues, topped the 57-player Rising U1500 section with five wins and one half-point bye in the



The top boards of the Elite section applaud the out-of-state players before the start of the second round. Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.

second round. Marinescu ground down her nearest rival, Gunnar Goetz, with a clutch last-round victory to maintain her lead over the red-hot Kate Wong, who would have tied for first place with Marinescu and Goetz in the event of a draw. Kate Wong (1321 → 1411, 5.0) of Redmond won the Second Place prize with five points, having finely tuned her game with the Lakeside Middle School chess team during Rookly matches over the past few months.

A quintuplet of chess questers shared Third-Fifth Place + First/Second U1300 honors a half-point back: Gunnar Goetz (1487 → 1494, 4.5) of Seattle, Andrew Inforzato (1318 → 1379, 4.5) of Belfair, Kendrick Johnson (1288 → 1374, 4.5) of La Grande (OR), Aarya Patel (1312 → 1348, 4.5) of Redmond, and Jacob Herr (1234 → 1296, 4.5) of Eagle River (AK). The biggest upset-win prizes were awarded to Port Angeles chess pioneer Christian Fobian (Round one—153 points), La Grande's (OR) Kendrick Johnson (Rounds two + three, 194 + 225 points, respectively), Kirkland's Aidan Moran (Round four—139 points), and Seattle's Justin Lee (Rounds five + six, 217 + 246 points, respectively).

The highest USCF rating gains were achieved by Eastside chess studs Kevin



*Oregon chess legend James Tarjan was the sole grandmaster playing in the Washington Open.
Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.*

Zhang (First Place—261 points) and Vishnu Vijayanandh (Second Place—140 points). Three players went above and beyond the call of fashion duty and were recognized for their impeccable attire with the best dressed prizes: Don Hack (Saturday) of Ladysmith (BC), Balbir Singh (Sunday) of Seatac, and Ziliang Ma (Monday) of Seattle. Reed McNames of Portland was awarded the Fair Play, Kindness, and Spreading Joy prize for her wonderful attitude and ability to lift the mood, even during tense chess battles. Beaverton chess believer Olivia Maoakhampio (1266 → 1351, 4.0) won the Best Female prize thanks to her “plus two” performance while Ladysmith Ladies’ Man Don Hack (1305 → 1281, 3.0) took the Best Senior player prize back home to Canada for his charming efforts.

The brand-new Dynamos U1200 section attracted 61 players of varying ages and featured an interesting mix of scholastic players seeking to transition to longer games and new adult players who in many cases have significant online experience. With a steady flow of several new and unrated players, the Northwest chess boom continues to go strong! Seattle chess superstar Shyam Pujara (1161 → 1298, 6.0), the Washington Open’s only perfect score, topped the Dynamos U1200 section with an incredible six-game winning streak! Along the way, Pujara vanquished his nearest rivals Ge (984), Boulanger (691), and Lan (953). Raghav Chaturvedi (804 → 976, 5.0) of Bellevue claimed the Second Place prize with five points by virtue of being the only five-point scorer with an established rating. The other five-point scorer—Tre Chadic (unrated → 1215, 5.0) of Bonney Lake —took home the First Place Unrated prize. Five rising chess stars shared the Third-Fifth Place prize a half-point back: Krish Chhibber (1151 → 1154, 4.5) of Portland, Ruhaan Natarajan (1091 → 1108, 4.5) of Corvallis, Emma Ge (984 → 1097, 4.5) of Sammamish, Valentin Boulanger (691 → 1038, 4.5) of Sammamish, and Jordan Woltjer (738 → 955, 4.5) of Seattle.

Mercer Islander Kenan Khatib (838 → 980, 4.5) also finished with a “plus three” score but was ineligible to win a prize due to the recension of a sixth-round bye per

US Chess rules. Gig Harbor chess queen Sofia Byelashova (980 → 943, 3.5) won the First U1000 prize with two wins, one draw, and a full-point bye.

A quadruplet of chess wizards shared the Second U1000 prize with an even score: Damien Davies (689 → 813, 3.0) of Bothell, Siana Razmov (826 → 831, 3.0) of Seattle, Jacob Rish-Brown (853 → 837, 3.0) of Gig Harbor, and Kevin Zhao (unrated → 818, 3.0) of Redmond. Redmond chess royal Wei Li (unrated → 764, 3.0) earned the Second Place Unrated prize with a par score.

The explosive Dynamos section was action-packed with many decisive results and minimal draws between the fearless chess gladiators taking part. The biggest upset-win prizes were achieved by Damien Davies (Rounds one + six, 182 + 207 points, respectively) of Bothell, Felicity Mei (Round two—204 points) of Sammamish, Vasishta N. Komara (Round three—315 points) of Bothell, Kyle Jiang (Round four—136 points) of Clyde Hill, and Jacob Rish-Brown (Round five—252 points) of Gig Harbor.

The highest USCF rating gains (amongst players with established US Chess ratings) were achieved by Mercer Island chess star Elon Tsay (First Place—137 points) and Sammamish chess specialist Elina Khudyev (Second Place—83 points). Three chess fashionistas were recognized by judges and tournament directors for their vibrant runway dress: Claire Wong (Saturday) of Redmond, Yuwen Qu (Sunday) of Redmond, and Emma Ge (Monday) of Sammamish. Seattle chess friend Coby Schemmer was awarded the Fair Play, Kindness, and Spreading Joy prize for his warmth and never-ending friendliness.

Four chess divas shared the Best Female prize for their fantastic 4.0-point performances: Darya Byelashova (992 → 1034, 4.0) of Gig Harbor, Lakshana Anand (1057 → 1064, 4.0) of Redmond, Elina Khudyev (935 → 1018, 4.0) of Sammamish, and Aditi Sembium (1029 → 1026, 4.0) of Redmond.

Esteemed chess elders Chad Foster (1053 → 985, 3.0) of Snohomish and Shane Groff (941 → 927, 3.0) of Redmond shared the Best Senior player prize and added it to their retirement portfolios

The Best Annotated Game prizes are still being decided and will be announced in an upcoming issue of *Northwest Chess!*

Mixed Doubles

The Washington Open once again featured a popular mixed doubles competition, in which the top three two-player mixed gender (including male-female) teams combined among all four sections qualified for a prize. A total of thirteen mixed double teams threw their hats into the ring, which included a few siblings' teams and many close friends joining forces!

In the end, the "Wild Pandas" team of Selina Cheng of Seattle and Stephen Willy of Sammamish scored a combined nine points to bring the First Place prize back to their bamboo castle. Two teams shared =Second/Third Place honors a point and a half back: the "2xRaz" team of Siana + Gabriel Razmov from Seattle and the "Little Calculating Masters" team of Emma Ge and Easton Ren from Sammamish.

Gary Dorfner Memorial Adult Novice Swiss

The Washington Open Gary Dorfner Memorial Adult Novice Swiss, named in honor of long-time Tacoma-based tournament director and WCF Board Member Gary J. Dorfner (1947-2022), was held on Saturday from 11:00 AM-4:00 PM. Several parents whose kids were playing in the Faustino Oro Scholastic decided to jump in and registered on-site to keep themselves preoccupied while their kids engaged in the scholastic event next door.

The six-player adult-only (18+) four-round Swiss featured a fun G/30; +5 time control and was unrated, which required no memberships and was perfect for new adult players just getting into the game!

The event was run under the supervision of WCF Member-at-Large Ani Barua and took place in a corner of the main event playing hall in Salons one+two. Newcomer Brandon Z. Rangel topped the cottage-sized field with a perfect four points out of four games to earn the first-place prize. Bellevue chess buddy Jie Shan captured Second Place honors with three points. Renton chess renegade Tyler Gleasman won the Third Place prize for his rebellious efforts. Three chess musketeers shared the First Place U1000/U700/Unrated Prize with one point apiece: Colin O'Sullivan of Olympia, Chetak Sirsat of Redmond, and Ian Holden of Tacoma.

Washington Open Mixed Doubles Teams						
Name	Partner	Event	Section	Team Name	Team Score	Place (and Prize)
Anyi Li	Ryan Lai	3day	Rising	Ryanyi	3 + 3.5 = 6.5	
Ryan Lai	Anyi Li	2day	Rising			
Ananya Sabarish	Sarang Sankrithi	3day	Dynamos	Masala Masters	3 + 1.5 = 4.5	
Sarang Sankrithi	Ananya Sabarish	3day	Premier			
Reed McNames	Michael Pendergast	3day	Rising	Oregon Originals	0.5 + 3.5 = 4	
Michael Pendergast	Reed McNames	3day	Elite			
Kruti Thanikonda	Riaan Babbar	3day	Rising	Cryptic Elephants	2 + 2.5 = 4.5	
Riaan Babbar	Kruti Thanikonda	3day	Rising			
Kaiyi Han	Lewis Ma	3day	Rising	Somerset Warriors	2 + 2 = 4	
Lewis Ma	Kaiyi Han	3day	Premier			
Selina Cheng	Stephen Willy	3day	Premier	Wild Pandas	4.5 + 4.5 = 9	1st: \$200
Stephen Willy	Selina Cheng	3day	Elite			
Olivia Maokhampio	Lucas Maokhampio	3day	Rising	Knightmares	4 + 3 = 7	
Lucas Maokhampio	Olivia Maokhampio	3day	Premier			
Siana Razmov	Gabriel Razmov	2day	Dynamos	2xRaz	3 + 4.5 = 7.5	Shared 2nd-3rd:\$125
Gabriel Razmov	Siana Razmov	3day	Elite			
Emma Ge	Easton Ren	3day	Dynamos	Little Calculating Masters	4.5 + 3 = 7.5	Shared 2nd-3rd:\$125
Easton Ren	Emma Ge	2day	Rising			
Zoe Xu	Ziqian Gao	3day	Premier	Z Squared	2.5 + 3.5 = 6	
Ziqian Gao	Zoe Xu	3day	Premier			
Yuwen Qu	Jimmy Yang	3day	Dynamos	IND Team	3 + 3 = 6	
Jimmy Yang	Yuwen Qu	3day	Premier			
Eesha Juneja	Parth Juneja	3day	Premier	Team Juneja	1 + 2.5 = 3.5	
Parth Juneja	Eesha Juneja	2day	Dynamos			
Joanne Wangluo	Ryan Leong	3day	Premier	Richmond Chess Champions	3.5 + 3 = 6.5	
Ryan Leong	Joanne Wangluo	3day	Elite			



Brandon Z. Rangel (L) vs Colin O'Sullivan during the first round of the Gary Dorfner Memorial Adult Novice Swiss. Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.

Gary Dorfner Memorial Adult Novice Swiss: Open								
#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Total
1	1	Brandon Z. Rangel	unr.	W4	W2	W3	W5	4
2	2	Jie Shan	966	W5	L1	W6	W4	3
3	3	Tyler Gleasman	793	W6	W4	L1	H---	2.5
4	4-6	Colin O'Sullivan	478	L1	L3	W5	L2	1
5		Chetak Sirsat	266	L2	W6	L4	L1	1
6		Ian Holden	unr.	L3	L5	L2	B---	1

Faustino Oro Scholastic

The 2025 Washington Open Faustino Oro Scholastic took place on Saturday, May 24 in Salon three of the Grand Ballroom at the Redmond Marriott. Scholastic chess players in grades K-11 participated from throughout the Pacific Northwest, including the cities of Sammamish, Portland, Redmond, Snohomish, Bothell, Seattle, Bellevue, Bellingham, Bremerton, Shoreline, Gig Harbor, Kirkland, Beaverton, Newcastle, Lynnwood, Kenmore, Issaquah, Snoqualmie, and Medina.

The event was hosted by the Washington Chess Federation and directed by WCF Co-Vice President Rekha Sagar

with assistance from popular chess coach Tim Campbell and Chess mom Sujatha Ramigani. Amazing photographs were taken throughout the day by chess mom extraordinaire Meiling Cheng. A solid attendance of 103 players competed across four sections parsed by grade level and rating: K-3 U800, 4-8 U900, K-3 Open, and 4-12 Open.

Congratulations to the gift card winners.



The playing hall of the Faustino Oro Scholastic side event at the Washington Open. Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.

Washington Open Faustino Oro Scholastic: K-3 U800

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total	Prize
1	1	Advaith Sairam	653	W11	W5	W9	W2	W3	5	1st
2	2-4	Callie Jiang	633	W27	W4	W6	L1	W7	4	2nd,3rd &4th
3		Vishakh Raghavendran	648	W24	W16	W7	W8	L1	4	
4		Roy Shen	unr.	W17	L2	W16	W10	W6	4	
5	5	Brayden Wei	590	W21	L1	W11	D15	W8	3.5	5th
6	6-14	Leo Li	733	W14	W13	L2	W9	L4	3	
7		Liam Zeng	786	W19	W10	L3	W13	L2	3	
8		Sanya Sirsat	320	W15	W23	W12	L3	L5	3	
9		Anirudh Iyer	595	W25	W12	L1	L6	W18	3	
10		Arnav Premjith	630	W26	L7	W14	L4	W15	3	
11		Keshav Iyengar	323	L1	W20	L5	W25	W23	3	
12		Reuben Mathew	678	W18	L9	L8	W17	W19	3	
13		Edwin Niu	603	W22	L6	W18	L7	W16	3	
14		Ethan Hu	515	L6	W22	L10	W20	W17	3	
15	15	Krishna Anand	651	L8	W27	W19	D5	L10	2.5	
16	16-21	Kheiron Chin	557	W20	L3	L4	W24	L13	2	
17		Aariv Reddy	571	L4	W24	W21	L12	L14	2	
18		Srinivasan Kalyanasundaram	435	L12	W25	L13	W21	L9	2	
19		Archith Jayakrishnan	553	L7	W26	L15	W22	L12	2	
20		Rahul Acharya	unr.	L16	L11	W26	L14	W25	2	
21		Everett Szeto	100	L5	B---	L17	L18	W24	2	
22	22-23	Krystal Wang	100	L13	L14	B---	L19	H---	1.5	
23		Aria Shah	100	H---	L8	L24	W26	L11	1.5	
24	24-25	Yingyao Szeto	247	L3	L17	W23	L16	L21	1	
25		Rhea Prasad	100	L9	L18	X27	L11	L20	1	
26	26	Sreesha Reddy Avuthu	100	L10	L19	L20	L23	H---	0.5	
27	27-29	Joshua John	139	L2	L15	F25	U---	U---	0	
28		Neeraj Raghav Manjunatha	655	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	0	
29		Vihaan Shaurya Alle	552	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	0	



Adheesh M. Sundaram (L) vs Alex Ye during the fourth round of the Faustino Oro Scholastic.
Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.

Washington Open Faustino Oro Scholastic: 4-12 U900

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total	Prize
1	1-2	Avyukt Kasala	569	W5	W2	W4	W6	L3	4	1st & 2nd
2		Vihaan Padmanabhuni	810	W7	L1	W3	W8	W4	4	
3	3	Suryaa Srishankar	678	W11	D9	L2	W10	W1	3.5	3rd
4	4-6	Aariv Shah	671	W12	W8	L1	W5	L2	3	4th & 5th
5		Samay Sajeeth	713	L1	W7	W9	L4	W8	3	
6		Gautham Satishkumar	675	L8	W12	W10	L1	W11	3	
7	7	Brian He	670	L2	L5	W11	D9	W10	2.5	
8	8-9	Anirudh Raghavan	440	W6	L4	W12	L2	L5	2	
9		Harish Veeramani	645	W10	D3	L5	D7	L12	2	
10	10-12	Arnav Besati	772	L9	W11	L6	L3	L7	1	
11		Sai Akshaj Kancharakuntla	515	L3	L10	L7	W12	L6	1	
12		Arjun Balaji	812	L4	L6	L8	L11	W9	1	
13	13-15	Pavithran Vinoth Ganapathy	886	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	0	
14		Akhil Marella	814	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	0	
15		Aiden Lee	455	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	0	



Louis Liu (L) vs Alex Chen during the second round of the Faustino Oro Scholastic.
Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.

Washington Open Faustino Oro Scholastic: K-3 Open

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Total	T-Solkoff	T-Cumul.	T-Op. cumul.	Prize
1	1-2	Lemuel Daniel	1106	W24	W15	W13	W5	4	8	10	24	1st & 2nd
2		Yuanyi Jiang	944	W31	W18	W4	W3	4	8	10	22	
3	3-8	Ishana Datta	908	W19	W9	W6	L2	3	11.5	9	28.5	3rd,4th & 5th
4		Caroline Ma	798	W12	W14	L2	W17	3	10.5	8	25.5	
5		Ved Dixit	923	W28	W7	W21	L1	3	8.5	9	22	
6		Jiyong Ruan	1002	W20	W25	L3	W13	3	8	8	23	
7		Chidhu Balasubramanian	1200	W26	L5	W15	W14	3	8	7	23	
8		Andrew Xing	1050	W23	L13	W24	W21	3	5.5	7	17.5	
9	9-12	Emily Cai	1051	W22	L3	W26	D10	2.5	8.5	6.5	20.5	
10		Alex Chen	954	L16	W20	W19	D9	2.5	8.5	5.5	19.5	
11		Nathan Zhou	804	L14	D12	W23	W16	2.5	8	4.5	19	
12		Kana Kayali	954	L4	D11	W30	W27	2.5	7	4.5	17	
13	13-22	Samik Kulkarni	859	W30	W8	L1	L6	2	10.5	7	26.5	
14		Ryan Zhang	967	W11	L4	W25	L7	2	9.5	6	23.5	
15		Nolan Yin	916	W29	L1	L7	W25	2	8.5	5	22	
16		Lars Johnson	651	W10	L17	W27	L11	2	8	6	18	
17		Parth Juneja	972	L25	W16	W18	L4	2	8	5	23	
18		Corina Maokhampio	790	W27	L2	L17	W26	2	8	5	21	
19		Neev Bansal	721	L3	W22	L10	W30	2	8	4	19	
20		Louis Liu	806	L6	L10	W28	W24	2	7	3	16.5	
21		Naksh Tripathi	778	B---	B---	L5	L8	2	6	5	16	
22		Suryen Charuvil Vinu	851	L9	L19	W31	W29	2	5	3	11.5	
23	23	Pavithran Meenakshi Sundaram	848	L8	D30	L11	W31	1.5	6	2.5	13	
24	24-29	Vedanth Raghavendran	854	L1	W29	L8	L20	1	9.5	3	21	
25		Emma Zhao	806	W17	L6	L14	L15	1	9	4	24	
26		Anne Nishino	857	L7	W28	L9	L18	1	8	3	18.5	
27		Aditya Alok	947	L18	W31	L16	L12	1	6.5	3	15.5	
28		Andy Sang	735	L5	L26	L20	B---	1	6	0	15	
29		Louis Xu	723	L15	L24	B---	L22	1	5	1	11	
30	30	Ekansh Salvi	unr.	L13	D23	L12	L19	0.5	8	1.5	18	
31	31-32	Elke Johnson	738	L2	L27	L22	L23	0	8.5	0	18.5	
32		Leo Gu	804	U---	U---	U---	U---	0	0	0	0	



*Leonid Zandanov (L) vs Yuvan Oruganti during their second-round game of the Faustino Oro Scholastic.
Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.*

Washington Open Faustino Oro Scholastic: 4-12 Open

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Total	T-Solkoff	T-Cumul.	T-Op. cumul.	Prize
1	1	Gavin Shi	1679	W17	W5	W4	W3	4	11	10	28	1st
2	2	Maksim Shapiro	1225	W25	D10	W13	W9	3.5	8	8.5	23.5	2nd
3	3-8	Naaditha Nawagamudewage	1442	W18	W19	W16	L1	3	10	9	26	3rd, 4th & 5th
4		Jizhou He	1197	W27	W14	L1	W13	3	9	8	25	
5		Troy Chabot	1153	W31	L1	W20	W15	3	8.5	7	22.5	
6		Ryan Lai	1441	L12	W25	W10	W11	3	8.5	6	22.5	
7		Julian Chen	1271	L13	W28	W18	W16	3	7	6	19	
8		Liam Glaser	1210	W30	L13	W21	W14	3	6.5	7	18.5	
9	9-12	Inura Nawagamudewage	1253	W24	W12	D11	L2	2.5	10	8	26	
10		Adheesh Meenakshi Sundaram	1106	W23	D2	L6	W22	2.5	9.5	6.5	22	
11		Lakshana Anand	1184	W29	W20	D9	L6	2.5	8.5	8	20	
12		Anirudh Rengarajan	1119	W6	L9	D22	W23	2.5	8.5	6	21.5	
13	13-21	Sruti Viswanatha	1100	W7	W8	L2	L4	2	12.5	7	29.5	
14		Niko Elmieh	994	W22	L4	W19	L8	2	9.5	6	24	
15		Skyler Qin	1336	W21	L16	W17	L5	2	9	6	22	
16		Jeremy Ge	1144	W32	W15	L3	L7	2	8	7	21	
17		Alexander Rogovoy	1137	L1	W29	L15	W25	2	8	4	19	
18		Eric Yu	1131	L3	W26	L7	W27	2	8	4	19	
19		Blaise Fredette	1173	W26	L3	L14	W24	2	7.5	5	20.5	
20		Sanjay Kaushal Mudragada	762	W28	L11	L5	W30	2	7	5	17.5	
21		Farhan Mohammed	1116	L15	W32	L8	W26	2	6	4	15	
22	22-24	Alex Ye	1214	L14	W27	D12	L10	1.5	8	4	20.5	
23		Leonid Zandanov	1335	L10	D30	W31	L12	1.5	6	3.5	15.5	
24		Aryan Pande	1076	L9	D31	W30	L19	1.5	5.5	3.5	16	
25	25-29	Anjalika Mukherjee	1053	L2	L6	W29	L17	1	9.5	2	19.5	
26		Ishay Sinha	941	L19	L18	W28	L21	1	7	2	14	
27		Chethan Krishna Jayakrishnan	942	L4	L22	W32	L18	1	6.5	2	16	
28		Mridula Raghavan	957	L20	L7	L26	W31	1	6.5	1	14.5	
29		Eric Tsen	941	L11	L17	L25	W32	1	5.5	1	14	
30	30-31	Yuvan Oruganti	970	L8	D23	L24	L20	0.5	8	1.5	19	
31		Jethro Xia	929	L5	D24	L23	L28	0.5	7	1.5	15	
32	32	Rohan Karnik	917	L16	L21	L27	L29	0	6	0	14	

Fischer Chess960 Rapid

The Washington Open Fischer Chess960 Rapid, a four-round Swiss in one section, took place on Saturday May 24 at 2:15 PM under the direction of WCF President Josh Sinanan. Sixteen Chess960 players honored the great American World Champion as they scrambled up the back-rank pieces and played from randomly generated starting positions each round! Pieces were drawn at random from a bag between rounds by the players themselves, and two minutes were allowed to analyze the starting position before clocks were started. The positions drawn were as follows: Round One—Position 867: BQRKRNNB, Round two—Position 65: BNNBRKQR, Round three—Position 193: BQNBKRN, Round four—Position 861: RKNBRNBQ.

After four fun action-packed rounds of G/10; +3 rapid Chess960 games, NM Daniel Shubin (2264, 4.0) of Redmond was crowned the Washington Open Fischer Chess960 Rapid Champion with a perfect four points from four games. Along the way, Shubin mowed down his closest rivals just like Fischer in the 1971 Candidates Matches, scoring victories against Arnav Gadde (1764), CM Tim Moroney (2078), NM Bruce Kovalsky (2153), and Lucas Yao (2106) along the way. A trio of chess fishermen shared



Stephen Willy (L) draws a piece from the bag to select the next Chess960 position as Siva Sankrithi and his son Vivaan look on. Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.

the Second/Third/First U2000 prize with three points apiece: FM Stephen Willy (2276, 3.0) of Sammamish, Lucas Yao

(2106, 3.0) of Pitt Meadows (BC), and Gabriel Razmov (1861, 3.0) of Seattle. Raghav K. Sundaram (1394, 1.5) of Redmond claimed the First U1700 prize with 1.5 points while young Vivaan Sankrithi (1302, 1.0) of Lake Forest Park captured the First U1400 prize for his Fischeresque efforts. Congratulations to the winners!

Robson Puzzle Solving

On Saturday afternoon at 4:45 PM, 32 brave puzzle solvers were given a maximum of 45 minutes to solve 16 chess puzzles. The puzzles, which were designed by WCF Tournament Coordinator Valentin Razmov and his son Gabriel, contained a challenging mix of tactical and strategic themes. Solutions were written on paper, and contestants were evaluated based on accuracy, completeness, and speed. Congratulations to the winners:

We have included the puzzles below for the *Northwest Chess* readers to enjoy. How many can you solve?

Solutions will be revealed in a future issue of *Northwest Chess*!

WA Open Fischer Chess960 Rapid							
#	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Total
1	NM Daniel Shubin	2264	W10	W8	W7	W3	4
2	FM Stephen Willy	2276	W13	L3	W6	W8	3
3	Lucas Yao	2106	W16	W2	W11	L1	3
4	Gabriel Razmov	1861	H---	H---	W14	W7	3
5	NM Samuel He	2276	D11	L6	W13	W9	2.5
6	Rafael Palathingal	1950	H---	W5	L2	W11	2.5
7	Bruce Kovalsky	2153	W14	W9	L1	L4	2
8	CM Timothy Moroney	2078	W15	L1	W10	L2	2
9	Valentin Razmov	1823	W12	L7	W15	L5	2
10	Arnav Gadde	1764	L1	W12	L8	W15	2
11	Neevan Reddy Saddi	1974	D5	W13	L3	L6	1.5
12	Raghav Kalyana Sundaram	1394	L9	L10	D16	W14	1.5
13	Odbayar Yondon	1856	L2	L11	L5	W16	1
14	Ziliang Ma	1432	L7	W16	L4	L12	1
15	Vivaan Sankrithi	1302	L8	B---	L9	L10	1
16	Siva Sankrithi	1411	L3	L14	D12	L13	0.5

Washington Open - Puzzle Solving Competition

May 24, 2025
Time allowed: 45 mins

(Designed by Gabriel Razmov; adapted and compiled by Valentin Razmov)

Puzzle #1: White to move and mate in 1.

Solution: 1. _____



Puzzle #2: White to move and mate in 2.

Solution: 1. _____ 2. _____



Puzzle #3: White to move and mate in 2.

Solution: 1. _____ 2. _____



Puzzle #4: White to move and mate in 3.

Solution: 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____



1 of 4

Washington Open - Puzzle Solving Competition

Puzzle #5: White to move and win material.

Solution: 1. _____ 2. _____



Puzzle #6: Black to move and win material.

Solution: 1... _____ 2... _____ 3... _____



Puzzle #7: White to move and win.

Solution: 1. _____ 2. _____



Puzzle #8: Black to move and win.

Solution: 1... _____ 2... _____ 3... _____



2 of 4

Washington Open - Puzzle Solving Competition

Puzzle #9: White to move and win.

Show and explain your idea.

Solution: 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

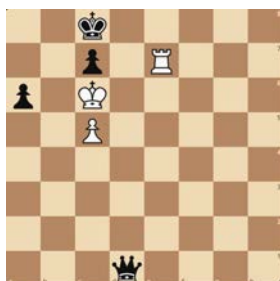
Idea: _____



Puzzle #10: White's position looks lost. What is White's best chance to save the game? Explain.

Solution: 1. _____ 2. _____

Idea: _____



Puzzle #11: Black started a tactic with ...Nfxe4.

How should White defend? Explain briefly.

Solution: 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

Idea: _____



Puzzle #12: Black's queen and king-side are under attack. Black to move. How to best proceed?

Solution: 1... _____ 2... _____ 3... _____



3 of 4

Washington Open - Puzzle Solving Competition

Puzzle #13: White is under pressure on several fronts. How can White avoid losing material?

Solution: 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

(or 1... _____ 2... _____ 3... _____)



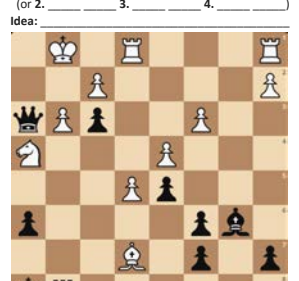
Puzzle #14: What is Black's best chance to continue putting White under pressure? Explain.

Solution: 1... _____ and then if

2... _____ 3... _____ 4... _____

(or 2... _____ 3... _____ 4... _____)

Idea: _____



Puzzle #15: Black to move. How can Black successfully convert their endgame advantage?

Solution: 1... _____ 2... _____ 3... _____

(or 2... _____ 3... _____)

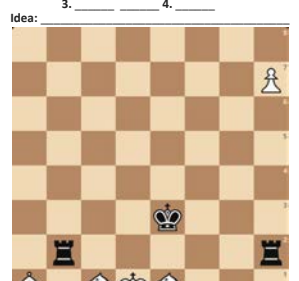


Puzzle #16: White seems to be in serious trouble. White to move. How to best defend? Explain.

Solution: 1. _____ 2. _____

3. _____ 4. _____

Idea: _____



4 of 4

Washington Open Robson Puzzle Solving Competition							
Last Name	First Name	Highest Rating	Start Time	End Time	Minutes used	Score (out of 16)	Prize
Shubin	Daniel	2264	4:50 PM	5:28 PM	38	15.5	1st: \$85
Palathingal	Rafael	1950	4:50 PM	5:35 PM	45	15.25	2nd: \$68
Vemparala	Nikash	2266	4:50 PM	5:23 PM	33	14.75	3rd: \$51
He	Daniel	2366	4:50 PM	5:28 PM	38	14.5	
He	Samuel	2276	4:50 PM	5:28 PM	38	14.5	
Willy	Stephen	2276	4:50 PM	5:14 PM	24	14.5	
Ouyang	Raymond	1849	4:50 PM	5:19 PM	29	14.25	
Lin	Michael	1917	4:50 PM	5:24 PM	34	14	
Wirkkala	Zane	1704	4:50 PM	5:21 PM	31	14	
Merriman	Dann	1733	4:50 PM	5:30 PM	40	13.75	
Lim	Hayul	1920	4:50 PM	5:35 PM	45	13.5	
Yondon	Odbayar	1856	4:50 PM	5:35 PM	45	13.5	
Moghe	Arjun	1377	4:50 PM	5:35 PM	45	13.5	1st U1700: \$34
Maokhampio	Lucas	1412	4:50 PM	5:35 PM	45	12.75	
Karamali	Saiya	1732	4:50 PM	5:32 PM	42	12.5	
Maharaja	Imai	1536	4:50 PM	5:17 PM	27	12.5	
Liu	Zachary	2274	4:50 PM	5:15 PM	25	12	
Cheng	Selina	1680	4:50 PM	5:35 PM	45	11.75	
Gao	Ziqian	1660	4:50 PM	5:24 PM	34	11.75	
Gadde	Arnav	1764	4:50 PM	5:21 PM	31	11.5	
Ma	Ziliang	1432	4:53 PM	5:35 PM	45	11.5	
Hu	Yi-En Pi	1158	4:50 PM	5:35 PM	45	11.25	1st U1400: \$34
Yang	Jimmy	1490	4:50 PM	5:35 PM	45	11	
Bhatia	Tanush	1743	4:50 PM	5:35 PM	45	10.75	
Singh	Balbir	1460	4:50 PM	5:32 PM	42	10.5	
Khudiyev	Elina	1148	4:50 PM	5:31 PM	41	10.5	
Stroud	Jeb	1571	4:50 PM	5:35 PM	45	10.25	
Fredette	Blaise	1173	4:50 PM	5:35 PM	45	10	
Wentz	Austin	1595	4:50 PM	5:35 PM	45	9.5	
Kulkarni	Samik	859	4:50 PM	5:35 PM	45	9.5	1st U1100: \$34
Mohammed	Farhan	1116	4:50 PM	5:35 PM	45	8.5	
Mitton	Jeff	unrated	4:50 PM	5:35 PM	45	8	1st Unrated: \$34

Ju Wenjun Chess Workshop For Girls And Women

The Sixth Annual Washington Open Ju Wenjun Chess Workshop for Girls and Women, led by WCF Director of Chess for Women and Girls, WFM Chouhan Airapetian, took place on Saturday evening from 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM in the stylish and modern studio space of the Redmond Marriott. A nice turnout of about a dozen female chess players attended the workshop and enjoyed some complimentary Pagliacci pizza and soft drinks courtesy of WCF while discussing the topic of: “How to develop and cultivate women’s and girls’ chess.” The friendly chess analysis and constructive conversation were well received and lasted late into the enchanting evening.

Carol Kleist Memorial Adult Swiss

The Third Annual Washington Open Carol Kleist Memorial Adult Swiss took place May 25-26 alongside the main tournament in honor of the late Carol Kleist. Carol was a long-time board member of the Seattle Chess Club and a versatile chess organizer who was active in the Seattle area for several decades after marrying Fred Kleist, the love of her life. The 24-player adult-only (18+) four-round Swiss featured a time control of G/120; +30 to provide an alternative event for those adults seeking to spend less time at the board compared with the main event and wishing to avoid playing those pesky underrated kids! This year’s edition was split into two-sections—the Botvinnik Open and the Korchnoi U1500—and saw significant growth from last year’s event,

which had only 14 players. The event was run under the supervision of WCF Co-Vice President Rekha Sagar and was sponsored by the Seattle Chess Club with a generous guaranteed prize fund of \$1000 donated by SCC board member and chess benefactor Henry Yan. Gerald Larson was also a co-sponsor. US Chess Expert Alex Kaelin (2004 → 2032, 3.5), originally from Mercer Island and now based in Charlotte, (NC), topped the 12-player Botvinnik Open section with an undefeated 3.5 points from four games by virtue of winning three games against Patton (1666), Harwood (1900), and Larson (2000) and taking a third-round half-point bye! The legendary Viktors Pupols (2200 → 2200, 3.0) finished in second place a half-point back while “simul-ing” the main tournament as well as the CK Memorial Adult Swiss. That’s amazing stamina for a living legend who recently celebrated his 90th birthday! Three chess musketeers shared Third Place honors with a solid “plus one” score: NM Daniel Shubin (2234 → 2222, 2.5) of Redmond, NM Gerald Larson (2000 → 2018, 2.5) of Seattle, and Erkan

Chabuk (1811 → 1825, 2.5) of Silverdale. Olympia chess king Michael Shaw (1527 → 1546, 2.0) took home the First U1650 prize for his royal efforts.

In the 12-player Korchnoi U1500 section, Seattle chess man Bruno Mello (1377 → 1400, 3.5) calmed down his competitors with a fantastic 3.5 points from four games to capture the First Place prize, allowing just one draw against Dahlke (1101) in the third round. A dynamic duo of chess discoverers—Mark W. Smith (1400 → 1400, 3.0) of Port Townsend and Jeffrey M. Burgert (1373 → 1381, 3.0) of Renton—shared Second/ Third Place a half-point back. Seattle chess specialist Addison Dahlke (1101 → 1261, 2.5) captured the First U1300 prize and increased his rating by more than 150 points! A pair of classy chess queens—

Washington Open 3rd Annual Carol Kleist Memorial Adult Swiss : Botvinnik Open

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Total	Prize
1	1	Alexander Kaelin	2002	W9	W11	H---	W3	3.5	1st
2	2	NM Viktors Pupols	2200	W12	D3	W4	H---	3	2nd
3	3-5	NM Gerald Larson	2025	W8	D2	W5	L1	2.5	shared 3rd
4		Erkan Chabuk	1811	H---	W6	L2	W7	2.5	shared 3rd
5		NM Daniel Shubin	2234	W7	H---	L3	W11	2.5	shared 3rd
6	6-7	Robin Tu	1758	H---	L4	W9	D8	2	
7		Michael Shaw	1524	L5	B---	W10	L4	2	1st U1650
8	8-10	Guanyu Ren	1700	L3	D9	D11	D6	1.5	
9		Lorenzo Patton Jr	1698	L1	D8	L6	B---	1.5	
10		Francisco J Lopez	1678	D11	W12	L7	U---	1.5	
11	11	Paul Harwood	1836	D10	L1	D8	L5	1	
12	12	Henry Yan	1749	L2	L10	U---	U---	0	

Washington Open 3rd Annual Carol Kleist Memorial Adult Swiss : Korchnoi U1500

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Total	Prize
1	1	Bruno Mello	1377	W10	W2	D4	W5	3.5	1st
2	2-3	Jeffrey M Burgert	1399	W12	L1	W6	W4	3	shared 2nd-3rd
3		Mark Smith	1401	L4	W11	W12	W8	3	shared 2nd-3rd
4	4-6	Addison Dahlke	1093	W3	W7	D1	L2	2.5	1st U1300
5		Laila Volpe	unr.	W11	H---	W8	L1	2.5	shared 1st Unrated
6		Sujatha Avula	unr.	X---	H---	L2	W9	2.5	shared 1st Unrated
7	7	Kyle Boddy	1414	D8	L4	D11	W12	2	
8	8-10	Olin Martin	1197	D7	W9	L5	L3	1.5	
9		Girisudha Sundararajan	1196	H---	L8	W10	L6	1.5	
10		John Selsky	787	L1	H---	L9	B---	1.5	
11	11-12	Hong Xu	1234	L5	L3	D7	H---	1	
12		Aaron Chin	861	L2	B---	L3	L7	1	



Daniel Shubin (L) vs Gerald Larson exchange pleasantries as they kick off their second round game in the Carol Kleist Memorial Adult Swiss. Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.

Sujatha Avula (unrated → 1194, 2.5) of Redmond and Laila Volpe (unrated → 862, 2.5) of Seattle—shared the First Unrated prize with a very respectable 2.5-points apiece.

The prizes listed below are presented in pink in honor of Carol's favorite color.

Carlsen Rapid

The Washington Open Carlsen Rapid, a four-round Swiss in two sections—Kasparov Open and Anand U1600—took place on Sunday afternoon from 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM under the direction of NTD Jacob Mayer, WCF Member-at-Large Ani Barua, and WCF Scholastic Director Allen Messenger. Thirty-two players ranging from unrated to Master competed in the popular side event, which featured

the offbeat time control of G/12; +4 and was dual US Chess Quick and FIDE Rapid rated!

For the second year in a row, a Canadian player topped the 18-player Kasparov 1600+ section, with young Lucas Yao (unrated → 1872, 4.5) of Pitt Meadows (BC) emerging victorious with an undefeated 4.5 points from five games after IM Bindi Cheng of Coquitlam won it last year. A trio of chess masters shared Second/Third Place honors a half-point back: FM Aziz Degenbaev (2298 → 2269, 4.0) of Seattle, FM Stephen Willy (1871 → 1918, 4.0) of Sammamish, and NM Vidip Kona (1838 → 1849, 4.0) of Duvall. Young Devansh Sharma (1039 → 1102, 2.0) of Redmond used some Kasparov-style tactics to claim the U1700 prize with an impressive two points. Two rising chess stars—Neevan R. Saddi (1544 → 1559, 3.0) of Issaquah and Rafael Palathingal (1538 → 1597, 3.0) of Bothell—split the First U2000 prize with three points apiece. Sammamish chess stud Tanush Bhatia (835 → 1120, 3.0) collected the First U1700 prize with an impressive three-point score and won the biggest upset win prize by upsetting a Canadian master in the first round!

In the 14-player Anand U1600 section, fourth grader Moses Li (159 → 635, 4.5), who divides his time between Bothell and Vancouver (BC), claimed victory with an undefeated 4.5 points from five games. Li recovered well from a first-round draw against Moran (770) and finished strong with four consecutive victories in true Carlsen fashion. Li, who is a long-time student of IM Georgi Orlov’s, also won the Biggest Upset Win Prize with a huge 940-point second-round upset victory. Oregon chess guy Eric Spletstoser (unrated → 1303, 4.0) earned the Second Place prize a half-point back. Lynnwood chess legend Inura Nawagamudewage (1066 → 1086, 3.5) took home the Third-Place prize with a “plus two” score. A trio of chess gents shared the First U1400/U1200 prize with three points apiece: Aidan Moran (770 → 867, 3.0) of Kirkland, Alexander Alvarado-Lopez (1233 → 1172, 3.0) of Lake Stevens, and Oliver Wakeman (666 → 774, 3.0) of Kenmore. Benjamin Gustafsson (unrated → 1053, 3.0), originally from Texas and now based in Seattle, won the First-Place Unrated prize with a solid three-point score. Puyallup’s Sam Acevedo captured the First U1000 prize with two hard-earned points.

Washington Open Carlsen Rapid: Kasparov 1600+										
#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total	
1	1	Lucas Yao	1646	W6	D8	W11	W10	W3	4.5	
2	2-4	FM Aziz Degenbaev	2379	W14	W11	W4	L3	W6	4	
3		FM Stephen Joh Willy	2256	W15	W5	W10	W2	L1	4	
4		NM Vidip Kumar Kona	2217	W9	W7	L2	W13	W11	4	
5	5-7	Neevan Reddy Saddi	1974	W16	L3	L9	W15	W13	3	
6		Rafael Palathingal	1950	L1	W15	W16	W9	L2	3	
7		Tanush Bhatia	1524	W17	L4	W12	L11	W15	3	
8	8-9	Gabriel Razmov	1861	H---	D1	L13	W16	D9	2.5	
9		Zane Wirkkala	1704	L4	W18	W5	L6	D8	2.5	
10	10-13	NM Samuel He	2276	W12	W13	L3	L1	U---	2	
11		CM William W Wachira	1985	X---	L2	L1	W7	L4	2	
12		Ujwal Garine	1842	L10	D17	L7	D14	W16	2	
13		Arnav Gadde	1621	W18	L10	W8	L4	L5	2	
14	14	Omar Beltran	1872	L2	L16	L15	D12	B---	1.5	
15	15-16	Robin Tu	1791	L3	L6	W14	L5	L7	1	
16		Ziqian Gao	1660	L5	W14	L6	L8	L12	1	
17	17	Zachary Liu	2274	L7	D12	U---	U---	U---	0.5	
18	18	Ryan Leong	1938	L13	L9	U---	U---	U---	0	

Washington Open Carlsen Rapid: Anand U1600										
#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total	
1	1	Moses Li	447	D4	W9	W3	W6	W5	4.5	
2	2	Eric Spletstoser	1331	W14	L3	W13	W7	W6	4	
3	3	Inura Nawagamudewage	1096	W9	W2	L1	D8	W11	3.5	
4	4-7	Aidan Moran	1207	D1	D13	L7	W10	W8	3	
5		Alexander Alvarado-Lopez	1158	W12	W7	L6	W11	L1	3	
6		Oliver Wakeman	1099	B---	W11	W5	L1	L2	3	
7		Benjamin Gustafsson	unr.	X---	L5	W4	L2	W12	3	
8	8	Naaditha Nawagamudewage	1138	L11	W14	W10	D3	L4	2.5	
9	9-12	Vidur Ganesan	1387	L3	L1	L11	W14	W13	2	
10		Kendrick Johnson	1226	L13	W12	L8	L4	W14	2	
11		Samuel M Acevedo	836	W8	L6	W9	L5	L3	2	
12		Bryce Barlin	unr.	L5	L10	W14	W13	L7	2	
13	13	Warren Chung	471	W10	D4	L2	L12	L9	1.5	
14	14	Alex Ye	870	L2	L8	L12	L9	L10	0	



Vidip Kona (L) vs Zane Wirkkala during their first-round game of the Carlsen Rapid.
Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.

Awonder Liang Bughouse

The Washington Open Awonder Liang Bughouse tournament—named in honor of American Grandmaster Awonder Liang, whose expertise spans numerous chess variants—was held on Sunday, May 25 from 3:00 PM – 4:15 PM and attracted 13 two-player teams. The event was hand-paired by tournament directors Jacob Mayer and Allen Messenger and run as a seven-round Single Swiss in one section. A maximum average team rating of 1800 was allowed to encourage balanced competition and enjoyable games. The hypersonic time control of G/3; +0 was employed to encourage wild bughouse action and to ensure that the event didn't clash with round six of the main tournament, which began at 6:00 PM.

After seven fun and exciting rounds of bughouse madness, the team of Kirsten + Corey (1550, 7.0) topped the field with a perfect seven points from seven games, claiming the biggest upset win prize along the way. Kirsten Parker is locally

Awonder Liang Bughouse											
#	Team Name	Avg Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	Total pts	Prize
1	Sarang + Odbayar	1750	L7	W13	W6	L2	W8	L3	W10	4	1st K-6
2	Patrick + Drew	1700	W8	W5	L3	W1	L7	W4	W11	5	shared 2nd/3rd
3	Vivaan + Tim	1700	W9	W6	W2	L7	W4	W1	L13	5	shared 2nd/3rd
4	Siva + Valentin	1600	W10	L7	W8	W9	L3	L2	W5	4	
5	Dann + Lewis	1600	W11	L2	L7	W12	L13	W9	L4	3	3rd K-6
6	Brian + Brandon	1600	W12	L3	L1	L8	Bye	W11	L7	3	
7	Corey + Kirsten	1550	W1	W4	W5	W3	W2	W13	W6	7	1st + Biggest Upset Win
8	Neil + Ruhaan	1500	L2	W10	L4	W6	L1	Bye	W12	4	
9	Harvey + Terrick	1450	L2	D11	W12	L4	W10	L5	Bye	3.5	2nd K-6
10	Darya + Ziliang	1300	L4	L8	L13	Bye	L9	W12	L1	2	
11	Cedric + Damien	1300	L5	D9	Bye	L13	W12	L6	L2	2.5	Best Sportsmanship
12	Gabriel + Sofia	1150	L6	Bye	L9	L5	L11	L10	L8	1	
13	Jeb + Ryan	1100	H	L1	W10	W11	W5	L7	W3	4.5	

known as a bughouse specialist who frequents meetups and gatherings where folks congregate to “get their bug on”. Two teams shared Second/Third Place honors two points back: Patrick + Drew (1700, 5.0) and Vivaan + Tim (1700, 5.0). Since the sections were combined into one single section due to lack of players, separate K-6 Scholastic Prizes were also awarded to the top-finishing scholastic teams. Winning First Place amongst the K-6 teams were Sarang + Odbayar (1750,

4.0), who have been close friends for more than four years. The team of Harvey + Terrick (1450, 3.5) captured Second Place K-6 with an even score. Chess buddies Dann + Lewis (1600, 3.0) earned the Third Place K-6 prize a half-point back. The Best Sportsmanship Prize was awarded to the father-son team of Cedric + Damien Davies for the unconditionally jubilant and encouraging vibes.

Congratulations to the winners!



Vivaan Sankrithi (L) & Tim Moroney vs Brian Lee & Brandon Z. Rangel during their second round game of the Awonder Liang Bughouse. Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.

Firouzja Bullet

The Washington Open Firouzja Bullet tournament took place on Sunday evening from 5:00 PM – 5:50 PM immediately following the Carlsen Rapid. This year's edition was conducted as a five-round Single Swiss in one section with a lickety-split time control of game in two minutes with a one-second increment.

The expeditious pace of play appealed to online bullet specialists and in-person speed chess hustlers alike, as they attempted to channel bullet phenom and perennial top-ten player Alireza Firouzja, who now plays for France.

The Formula 1® event took place under the direction of WCF Member-at-Large Ani Barua and was unrated with no memberships required!

Twenty-five chess daredevils ranging in Elo from unrated to 2366 competed in the 50-minute-long side event, which featured one round every ten minutes and created never-ending zeitnot amongst its contestants!

Identical-twin chess masters, NMs Samuel and Daniel He, made a last-minute decision to jump into the event and didn't regret their choice. NM Samuel He (2276, 4.5) of Redmond emerged victorious with an undefeated four wins and one draw against his brother Daniel in the fourth round.

A clutch final-round win against up-and-comer Neevan R. Saddi (1974) sealed the deal and secured sole first place, with Daniel taking a last-round half-point bye to prepare for his fourth-round game in the main tournament. A trio of chess tricksters shared Second/Third/ U2000 honors with four points apiece: NM Daniel He (2366, 4.0) of Redmond, Emerson Wong-Godfrey (1983, 4.0) of Seattle, and Rafael Palathingal (1950, 4.0) of Bothell.

Bellingham's Jeb Stroud (1571, 3.0) and Redmond's Imai Maharaja (1536, 3.0) shared the First U1600 prize with a solid three points each. Chess besties Jonathan Wu (1101, 2.0) of Seattle and Jayden Wu (1010, 2.0) of Kirkland, who both attend University Child Development School in Seattle, shared the 1st U1200 prize. Kirsten Parker (unrated, 2.0), who used to be an active tournament player in high school but now plays casually, took down the First Unrated prize by virtue of winning her first two games.

Washington Open Firouzja Bullet: Open

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total	Prize
1	1	NM Samuel He	2276	W17	W9	W21	D2	W6	4.5	\$63
2	2-4	NM Daniel He	2366	W16	W10	W5	D1	H---	4	\$37.67
3		Emerson Wong-Godfrey	1983	L12	W18	W23	W10	W8	4	\$37.67
4		Rafael Palathingal	1950	L9	W25	W15	W21	W12	4	\$37.67
5	5-6	NM Vidip Kona	2194	W18	W12	L2	D6	W13	3.5	
6		Neevan Reddy Saddi	1974	W25	W14	W13	D5	L1	3.5	
7	7-12	CM Timothy Moroney	2078	L11	L17	W25	W15	W20	3	
8		Ryan Leong	1938	W24	L21	W17	W16	L3	3	
9		Albert Eksarevskiy	1832	W4	L1	L16	W18	W17	3	
10		Aarav Bharathy Mohan	1765	W20	L2	W11	L3	W21	3	
11		Jeb Stroud	1571	W7	L13	L10	W14	W16	3	\$12.50
12		Imai Maharaja	1536	W3	L5	W14	W22	L4	3	\$12.50
13	13	Alexander Alvarado	1409	D22	W11	L6	W23	L5	2.5	
14	14-21	Yash Syal	1687	W19	L6	L12	L11	W22	2	
15		Gavin Shi	1679	L21	W24	L4	L7	W23	2	
16		Ziqian Gao	1660	L2	W19	W9	L8	L11	2	
17		Vishnu Mohan	1622	L1	W7	L8	W19	L9	2	
18		Austin Wentz	1595	L5	L3	W24	L9	B---	2	
19		Jonathan Wu	1101	L14	L16	B---	L17	W24	2	\$12.50
20		Jayden Wu	1010	L10	B---	L22	X25	L7	2	\$12.50
21		Kirsten Parker	unr.	W15	W8	L1	L4	L10	2	\$25
22	22-23	Alex Ye	1214	D13	L23	W20	L12	L14	1.5	
23		Oliver Wakeman	1148	H---	W22	L3	L13	L15	1.5	
24	24	Eva Aksutina	1306	L8	L15	L18	B---	L19	1	
25	25	Ziliang Ma	1432	L6	L4	L7	F20	U---	0	

WaldowChess Rapid

The Washington Open "WaldowChess" Rapid took place between rounds of the main tournament on Monday afternoon from 1:45-3:50 PM. In "WaldowChess," a chess variant invented by chess aficionado Mark Waldow of Spanaway, play begins with White to move having already played e4 and d4. In return, Black receives draw odds and is allowed to swap his or her king and queen after White's next move (and this does not count as a move). The generous \$2000 guaranteed prize fund and free entry attracted players ranging in rating from Unrated to Master, including two FIDE Masters, seven National Masters, and one Candidate Master! Players competed over the course of five rounds in a single 62-player section, which set the stage for many imbalanced and exciting struggles! Mark Waldow himself made a special surprise guest appearance during the tournament to observe the games and

collect statistical data resulting from the games played in the tournament.

Top seed FM Aziz Degenbaev (2379, 5.0) of Seattle dominated the tournament with a perfect score, which included wins against FM Stephen Willy and NM Samuel He, respectively, in the final two rounds. Nine players shared Second-through Eighth-Place honors a full-point back: Nikhil Ramkumar (1810, 4.0) of Bothell, NM Vinesh Ravuri (2321, 4.0) of Bellevue, NM Daniel He (2366, 4.0) of Redmond, FM Stephen Willy (2276, 4.0) of Sammamish, NM Nicholas Bartochowski (2181, 4.0) of Seattle, Lucas Yao (2106, 4.0) of Pitt Meadows (BC), NM Samuel He (2276, 4.0) of Redmond, NM Aaryan Deshpande (2076, 4.0) of Sammamish, and NM Vidip Kona (2194, 4.0) of Duvall. Samarth Swain (1047, 3.0), a second grader from Margaret Mead Elementary School in Sammamish, won the upset prize thanks to a last-round 640-point upset-win.

Ignacio Perez Memorial Blitz

The Third Annual Ignacio Perez Memorial Blitz, a tournament held in honor of the late great Pacific Northwest chess legend FM Ignacio Perez, was held on Monday evening at 8:00 PM. The popular blitz side event concluded the weekend's busy slate of chess activities and provided an outlet for fun and friendly blitz action amongst friends and competitors alike. Ignacio loved to play speed chess, sometimes playing all-night marathon blitz sessions even during tournament weekends. The strong 44-player turnout in this year's edition is once again a testament to Ignacio's legacy. The organizing team of Jacob Mayer, Ani Barua, and Allen Messenger ran the event, which featured a time control of game in three minutes with a two-second increment. The marathon 11-round Single Swiss event was split into two sections, the Nakamura 1600+ and the Tal U1600, to accommodate players of all levels. Both sections were US Chess Blitz rated and as an extra bonus, the Nakamura section was also FIDE Blitz rated. Ignacio's presence could be felt throughout the enchanting evening, as he no doubt was kibitzing the games with Misha Tal as the two of them looked on.

Sammamish chess prince FM Stephen Willy (2114 → 2181, 9.5) was crowned the blitz king with nine wins, one draw, and one loss from eleven games in the star-studded 32-player Nakamura section, which included ten titled players! Willy started off hot with five straight wins out of the gate before he was stopped by CM Vihaan Jammalamadaka (2068) in the sixth round. Despite the temporary setback, Willy regained his composure and four consecutive wins against Ravuri (2321), He S. (2242), Taylor (2098), and Vijayakumar (2238) to finish the tournament a full-point ahead of Jammalamadaka, his nearest rival. Vihaan Jammalamadaka (1950 → 2053, 8.5) captured Second-Place honors, recovering well after a first-round upset-loss against dark horse Ziqian Gao (1573). Bellevue-based chess master and Amazonian NM Vinesh Ravuri (2088 → 2116, 8.0), originally from California, earned Third Place a half-point back. Ryan Leong (1855 → 1904, 6.5), a chess organizer and player based in Richmond (BC), claimed the First U2000 prize with an impressive 6.5 points. Seattle's Valentin Razmov

Washington Open WaldowChess Rapid: Waldow										
#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total	
1	1	FM Aziz Degenbaev	2379	W34	W39	W13	W5	W8	5	
2	2-10	Nikhil Ramkumar	1810	W43	W10	W7	L8	W32	4	
3		NM Vinesh Ravuri	2321	W12	W30	W17	L6	W13	4	
4		NM Daniel He	2366	W26	L14	W46	W11	W6	4	
5		FM Stephen Willy	2276	W20	W27	W14	L1	W22	4	
6		NM Nicholas Bartochowski	2181	W36	W31	W15	W3	L4	4	
7		Lucas Yao	2106	W33	W18	L2	W15	W19	4	
8		NM Samuel He	2276	W59	W24	W22	W2	L1	4	
9		NM Aaryan Deshpande	2076	W50	W38	L11	W24	W16	4	
10		NM Vidip Kona	2194	W49	L2	W34	W30	W17	4	
11	11-12	Aarav Bharathy Mohan	1765	W55	W21	W9	L4	H---	3.5	
12		Ziqian Gao	1660	L3	W61	W21	W14	H---	3.5	
13	13-25	Alexander Kaelin	2014	W32	W29	L1	W18	L3	3	
14		Ryan Leong	1938	W40	W4	L5	L12	W34	3	
15		Ihsan M. N. Thahir	1918	W37	W16	L6	L7	W36	3	
16		NM Derek Zhang	2299	W35	L15	W26	W39	L9	3	
17		Rafael Palathingal	1950	W47	W19	L3	W38	L10	3	
18		Owen Scollon	1774	W25	L7	W47	L13	W44	3	
19		Jinmo Nam	1709	W56	L17	W43	W23	L7	3	
20		Karsh Havaldar	1582	L5	W41	L23	W43	W39	3	
21		CM Michael Adario	2108	W28	L11	L12	W54	W38	3	
22		Neevan Reddy Saddi	1974	W54	W44	L8	W29	L5	3	
23		Akim Pikh	1934	H---	H---	W20	L19	W35	3	
24		Raymond Ouyang	1849	W42	L8	W54	L9	W33	3	
25		Samarth Swain	1047	L18	L33	W49	W50	W45	3	
26	26-32	Gavin Shi	1679	L4	W40	L16	W37	H---	2.5	
27		Odbayar Yondon	1856	W41	L5	L28	W47	H---	2.5	
28		Patrick Perry	1521	L21	W55	W27	H---	U---	2.5	
29		Arnav Gadde	1764	W57	L13	W37	L22	H---	2.5	
30		Gabriel Razmov	1861	W61	L3	W33	L10	H---	2.5	
31		Drew Bunch	1831	W51	L6	W50	H---	U---	2.5	
32		Naaditha Nawagamudewage	1442	L13	D57	W59	W45	L2	2.5	
33	33-44	Nathan Tan	1521	L7	W25	L30	W56	L24	2	
34		Evan Cen	1680	L1	W45	L10	W42	L14	2	
35		Walter Guity	1627	L16	L37	W51	W40	L23	2	
36		David Hirschowitz	1543	L6	W51	L39	W41	L15	2	
37		Vivaan Sankrithi	1302	L15	W35	L29	L26	W55	2	
38		Lorenzo Patton Jr	1749	W58	L9	W42	L17	L21	2	
39		Jeffrey O Yan	1934	W60	L1	W36	L16	L20	2	
40		Siva Sankrithi	1411	L14	L26	W55	L35	W56	2	
41		Inura Nawagamudewage	1253	L27	L20	W58	L36	W49	2	
42		Alex Ye	1214	L24	W59	L38	L34	W50	2	
43		Moses Li	1104	L2	W49	L19	L20	X54	2	
44		Lawson Wirkkala	227	B---	L22	L45	W57	L18	2	
45	45-48	Yash Syal	1687	H---	L34	W44	L32	L25	1.5	
46		Zane Wirkkala	1704	H---	W48	L4	U---	U---	1.5	
47		Rushil Singh	1416	L17	W56	L18	L27	H---	1.5	
48		Guanyu Ren	1788	H---	L46	W57	U---	U---	1.5	
49	49-56	Jeb Stroud	1571	L10	L43	L25	W51	L41	1	
50		Aayan Hetamsaria	1480	L9	W58	L31	L25	L42	1	
51		Raghav Chaturvedi	1117	L31	L36	L35	L49	W57	1	
52		Daniel Shubin	2264	H---	H---	U---	U---	U---	1	
53		Valentin Razmov	1823	H---	H---	U---	U---	U---	1	
54		Warren Chung	1430	L22	X62	L24	L21	F43	1	
55		Colin O'Sullivan	584	L11	L28	L40	B---	L37	1	
56		Nels Wirkkala	unr.	L19	L47	W61	L33	L40	1	
57	57-58	Wethula Nawagamudewage	unr.	L29	D32	L48	L44	L51	0.5	
58		Brandon Zacarias Rangel	unr.	L38	L50	L41	H---	U---	0.5	
59	59-62	Vishnu Mohan	1622	L8	L42	L32	U---	U---	0	
60		Eva Aksutina	1306	L39	U---	U---	U---	U---	0	
61		Anyi Li	1301	L30	L12	L56	U---	U---	0	
62		Shreyas Krishna Sandeep	unr.	U---	F54	U---	U---	U---	0	

Washington Open Ignacio Perez Memorial Blitz: NAKAMURA 1600+ BLITZ																
#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	Rd 8	Rd 9	Rd 10	Rd 11	Total	
1	1	FM Stephen Willy	2276	W22	W7	W4	W21	W6	L2	D10	W3	W5	W8	W9	9.5	
2	2	CM Vihaan Jammalamadaka	2068	L27	W13	W31	W5	W8	W1	D4	W10	L3	W9	W6	8.5	
3	3	NM Vinesh Ravuri	2321	W12	W14	W5	D6	L4	D15	W11	L1	W2	W21	W8	8	
4	4	NM Vidip Kona	2190	W30	W28	L1	W7	W3	D10	D2	L5	W21	D15	W17	7.5	
5	5	NM Samuel He	2242	W18	W8	L3	L2	W16	W12	W21	W4	L1	L6	W15	7	
6	6-8	NM Siddarth M. Sundaram	2418	W11	W16	W15	D3	L1	L21	L8	W19	W17	W5	L2	6.5	
7		Ryan Leong	1938	W29	L1	W23	L4	W26	D9	D15	L17	W12	D10	W16	6.5	
8		Ashton Taylor	2098	W17	L5	W24	X20	L2	W25	W6	D9	W15	L1	L3	6.5	
9	9-14	NM Advaita Vijayakumar	2238	L14	W32	W12	L17	W18	D7	W19	D8	W10	L2	L1	6	
10		NM Nicholas Bartochowski	2181	W26	W23	L21	W18	W17	D4	D1	L2	L9	D7	D14	6	
11		Rafael Palathingal	1927	L6	L29	W13	W31	W30	W17	L3	L21	D14	W24	D18	6	
12		Akim Pikh	1895	L3	W30	L9	W28	W27	L5	W18	L15	L7	W26	W24	6	
13		Albert Eksarevskiy	1870	L15	L2	L11	W22	W31	W30	L17	W26	L16	W23	W21	6	
14		Drew Bunch	1831	W9	L3	L16	L26	W23	W24	L25	W27	D11	W19	D10	6	
15	15-20	Zachary Liu	2274	W13	W27	L6	D16	D21	D3	D7	W12	L8	D4	L5	5.5	
16		CM Michael Adarlo	2108	W31	L6	W14	D15	L5	L19	W29	D25	W13	D17	L7	5.5	
17		Tristan Taylor	2062	L8	W22	W27	W9	L10	L11	W13	W7	L6	D16	L4	5.5	
18		Gabriel Razmov	1861	L5	W25	W29	L10	L9	W26	L12	W23	L19	W27	D11	5.5	
19		Varin Nallabothula	1857	H---	L21	D25	D29	W28	W16	L9	L6	W18	L14	W31	5.5	
20		Valentin Razmov	1792	H---	H---	H---	F8	U---	D27	L23	W28	D29	W30	W32	5.5	
21	21-23	NM Nikash Vemparala	2270	H---	W19	W10	L1	D15	W6	L5	W11	L4	L3	L13	5	
22		Siddharth Bhaskaran	1881	L1	L17	L30	L13	B---	D31	W28	D29	L24	W32	W27	5	
23		Gavin Shi	1511	W24	L10	L7	L25	L14	W32	W20	L18	W31	L13	W26	5	
24	24	Yevgeniy Rozenfeld	2039	L23	W26	L8	L30	W32	L14	D27	W31	W22	L11	L12	4.5	
25	25-27	Emerson Wong-Godfrey	1967	L28	L18	D19	W23	W29	L8	W14	D16	U---	U---	U---	4	
26		Owen Scollon	1660	L10	L24	B---	W14	L7	L18	W30	L13	W32	L12	L23	4	
27		Ziqian Gao	1573	W2	L15	L17	W32	L12	D20	D24	L14	W30	L18	L22	4	
28	28-29	Sarang Sankrithi	1414	W25	L4	D32	L12	L19	L29	L22	L20	B---	W31	L30	3.5	
29		Nabil Shahad	unr.	L7	W11	L18	D19	L25	W28	L16	D22	D20	U---	U---	3.5	
30	30	Oliver Wakeman	1722	L4	L12	W22	W24	L11	L13	L26	L32	L27	L20	W28	3	
31	31	Daniel Wilke	1653	L16	B---	L2	L11	L13	D22	W32	L24	L23	L28	L19	2.5	
32	32	Corey Bloom	1780	H---	L9	D28	L27	L24	L23	L31	W30	L26	L22	L20	2	

Washington Open Ignacio Perez Memorial Blitz: TAL U1600 BLITZ																
#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	Rd 8	Rd 9	Rd 10	Rd 11	Total	
1	1	Jeb Thacher Stroud	1438	W9	W8	L5	W7	W3	W6	W12	W4	W2	W11	W10	10	
2	2	Patrick Perry	1521	W11	W10	W9	W8	W5	D7	W3	W6	L1	W4	W12	9.5	
3	3	Ziliang Ma	1269	W5	W7	W12	W6	L1	W4	L2	W11	W10	W9	W8	9	
4	4	Imai Maharaja	1464	W10	W9	W8	W5	W7	L3	W6	L1	W12	L2	W11	8	
5	5	Guru Harshith Reddy Avula	1185	L3	W6	W1	L4	L2	W11	W10	W9	D8	W12	L7	6.5	
6	6	Siva Sankrithi	1400	W8	L5	W7	L3	W12	L1	L4	L2	W11	W10	W9	6	
7	7	Snehil Ghosh	1219	W12	L3	L6	L1	L4	D2	W11	L10	W9	W8	W5	5.5	
8	8	Jonathan Wu	718	L6	L1	L4	L2	W11	W10	D9	W12	D5	L7	L3	4	
9	9	Jayden Wu	658	L1	L4	L2	W11	L10	W12	D8	L5	L7	L3	L6	2.5	
10	10-11	Samarth Swain	562	L4	L2	L11	L12	W9	L8	L5	W7	L3	L6	L1	2	
11		Sujatha Avula	unr.	L2	W12	W10	L9	L8	L5	L7	L3	L6	L1	L4	2	
12	12	Brandon Zacarias Rangel	unr.	L7	L11	L3	W10	L6	L9	L1	L8	L4	L5	L2	1	

(1576 → 1576, 5.5) won the First U1800 prize despite taking three half-point byes to start the blitz event after his main event game ran long. In the 12-player Tal U1600 section, which was conducted as a 12-player Round Robin, Bellingham's Jeb Stroud (1298 → 1395, 10.0) emerged victorious with an impressive 10.0-point score from eleven games. Stroud's only loss came at the hands of Guru Harshith Reddy Avula (1185) in the third round. Hawaiian chess king Patrick Perry (1316 → 1372, 9.5) finished in Second Place a half-point back. Seattle chess swindler Ziliang Ma (1326 → 1353, 9.0) captured the third-place prize, losing only to Perry

and Stroud. Redmond chess ringer Guru Harshith Reddy Avula (unrated → 1124, 6.5) won the First U1400 prize with a solid "plus two" score. Seattle speedster Jonathan Wu (unrated → 882, 4.0) won the First U1200 prize for his expeditious efforts while his buddy, Jayden Wu (unrated → 874, 2.5) of Kirkland took home the First U1000 prize. Chess mom and rising tournament director Sujatha Avula (unrated → 918, 2.0) of Redmond won the First Unrated prize with two hard-earned points.

As part of the annotate games competition, several players have

annotated their games for the *Northwest Chess* readers to enjoy...

Guru H.R. Avula (1210) – Justin Lee (938) [D31]
 Washington Open (Rising U1500)
 Redmond, WA (R5), May 26, 2025
[Justin Lee]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6

I like to play the Slav against the Queen's Gambit. If I played the Queen's Gambit Declined, my opponent could take the d-pawn and would have two pawns in the center.

3.e3 e6 4.Nc3 Nf6 5.Bd2 Be7 6.Bd3 Nbd7 7.cxd5 cxd5 8.Bb5 0-0 9.Nf3 a6 10.Bxd7

My opponent shouldn't have traded his bishop for my knight. His bishop was more active than my knight. So, making this trade just helped develop my bishop.

10...Bxd7 11.Ne5 Rc8 12.0-0 Bd6 13.Nxd7 Qxd7

This was another unnecessary trade. The position is closed, and knights are usually better than bishops in closed positions. He traded his more useful knight for my bad bishop.

14.f4 Rc6 15.a3 Rfc8 16.Rc1 R8c7 17.Qb3 Qc8 18.Na2 Ne4

Because my opponent played f4, I have a permanent outpost for my knight.

19.Qd3 Rc2



Position after 19...Rc2

This move by me was a blunder. If White takes the rook and I take back, My rook would be trapped with Bc3.

20.Rxc2 Rxc2 21.Rc1

21.Bc3 Qc4 22.Qxc2 Qxa2

21...Rc7 22.Nc3 b5 23.Na2 Rc4 24.Rxc4 Qxc4 25.Qxc4 dxc4 26.Bc3 Nxc3 27.Nxc3 f5 28.h3 h5 29.Kf2 Kf7 30.Kf3 h4 31.g4 hxg3 32.Kxg3 Ke7 33.Kf3

Kd7 34.e4 g6 35.exf5 exf5 36.Ke3 Kc6 37.Ne2 a5 38.Kd2 b4 39.axb4 axb4 40.Ke3 Kd5 41.Nc1 Bc7 42.Na2 Ba5 43.Nc1 Bb6 44.Ne2 Ba7

This is a waiting move. Once White runs out of safe pawn moves, I will be able to win the d-pawn.

45.h4 Bb6 46.h5 gxh5 47.Ng3

I'm not worried about White taking my h- or f-pawn. My c-pawn or b-pawn will promote. White won't be able to promote their f-pawn. My king is able to stop it from moving.

47...Bxd4+ 48.Kd2 Ke6 49.Nxh5 Bxb2 50.Kc2 Bd4 51.Ng3 b3+ 52.Kb1 Be3 53.Ne2 Kd5 54.Ng3 Bxf4 55.Nxf5 c3 56.Ne7+ Kc4 57.Nd5 c2+ 58.Kb2 c1Q# 0-1

Pranav Kurungod Anoop (2156) – Gabriel Razmov (1862) [C51]
Washington Open (Elite 1800+)
Redmond, WA (R5), May 26, 2025
[Gabriel Razmov]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.b4 Bb6

A line that avoids the theory of the Evans Gambit mainline, bringing the position into more well-known Italian waters.

5.a4 a6 6.Nc3 d6 7.Nd5 Nf6

While allowing doubled pawns on b6 and b7 seems awkward at a glance, this holds back White's queenside and central play quite well. Black intends to play on the kingside or center.

8.Nxb6 cxb6 9.d3 h6 10.0-0 Bg4 11.c3 0-0 12.h3 Be6 13.Bb3 Ne7?!

Black follows through on the traditional plan to re-route the knight to g6 and eventually f4, but taking more direct measures was called for here. 13...d5 leads to a pleasant position for Black after 14.exd5 Bxd5 15.Bxd5 Nxd5 16.Bd2 Nc7, with the idea of maneuvering to e6 and controlling both d4 and f4 while maintaining some pressure on the backward d3 pawn.

14.Re1 Ng6 15.d4?!

White decides to push forward in the center; however, they haven't completed their development yet, which could backfire later. 15.Bxe6 fxe6 16.Be3

15...Qe7?!

A natural choice, but slightly inaccurate. 15...Bxb3 was a better option, with the

idea of blocking the queenside or opening the a-file after 16.Qxb3 b5.

16.d5

The center is now closed, and White doesn't yet have much going on the queenside, so Black should have chances to attack on the kingside.

16...Bd7 17.Nd2 b5

Preventing the knight from reaching c4, thus forcing White to make a decision to capture and open the a-file or else freeze the queenside with a5.

18.axb5 axb5 19.Rxa8 Rxa8

Now Black not only has potential kingside pressure, but also an open a-file and ideas to infiltrate on the queenside.

20.Bc2 Nf4 21.Nb1?!



Position after 21.Nb1

An awkward attempt to guard both the queenside and kingside. 21.Qf3 was a better defensive setup, aiming to meet 21...N6h5 with 22.Nf1 Qf6 23.Kh2

21...g5?!

After spending much time calculating N6h5, I somehow talked myself out of it. 21...N6h5! is indeed a better move that puts pressure. 22.Qf3 allows infiltration on the queenside with (22.Kh2? doesn't work because of a double-piece sacrifice: 22...Ra2 23.Na3 Qh4 24.Qf3 Bxh3! 25.gxh3 Nxh3 and calculating up to this point, I thought White "must have something" to help them defend... In reality, White is lost, since Black has two pawns for a piece, is about to capture a third, and has four pieces in the attack. Further, White has almost no moves since all of their pieces are tied up.) 22...Ra1

22.Bxf4 gxf4

Despite the missed opportunity, Black still retains a good position with a half-open g-file to attack along.

23.Bd3 Kh8 24.Qf3 Nh7 25.Bf1?

A sensible defensive move, but first White

had to focus on slowing down the attack. 25.Qh5 can be effective, since there is no ...Qg5 for Black and the h6 and f7 pawns are weak too. 25...Kg7

25...Rg8?

Too slow! Black needs to keep making threats to further improve their position. 25...Qh4! avoids Qh5 and threatens ...Ng5 followed by ...f3, which can't really be prevented. 26.Qe2 Ng5 27.Kh2 f3, and Black is close to winning.

26.Kh2 Qf6

26...Qh4

27.Nd2 Qg5 28.Ra1 Nf6?

Dreaming about sacs on g4. Instead, Black should still try to put a knight on g5 and push ...f3. 28...Qg6 29.Qd3 Ng5 30.h4 Nh7 and now the g4 square is weak.

29.Ra7

White senses that Black has a strong initiative and attempts counterplay on the queenside. Meanwhile, Black has six minutes to complete the two moves before the time control, and has to find a concrete plan.

29...Bc8

29...Qh4 30.Qe2! Bxh3 31.Nf3 Ng4+

30.Bxb5??

This pawn grab cannot be right, and it isn't. 30.Ra8 pinning the bishop creates better practical defensive chances.

30...Qh4!

Played instantly, with threats of ...Bg4 and ...Bxh3.

31.Ra8

31.Bf1 Bxh3 32.Qxh3 (32.gxh3 Ng4+ 33.Kg1 (33.Kh1 Nxf2+ 34.Kh2 Rg3) 33...Nxf2+ 34.Bg2 Nxh3+ 35.Kf1 Rg3) 32...Ng4+ 33.Kg1 Qxf2+



Position after 31.Ra8

31...Kh7??

A natural move to avoid a trade on g8

with check, but with that Black misses a clear win. 31...Bg4! wins instead, since after 32.Rxg8+ Kxg8 33.Qd3 Qxf2! wins material or mates, which Black missed in calculating this line: 34.Nf1 (34.hxg4?! Nxg4+ 35.Kh3 Ne3! cuts off White's queen from the defense, creating a dual threat of ...Qxg2 and ...Qg3.) 34...f3 35.Qd2 Qh4

32.Be2??

A creative attempt, but at this point the attack is almost sure to succeed, so White must quickly seek to eliminate some of the key attackers. 32.Rxc8! leads to an equal-ish endgame after 32...Rxc8 33.Nc4 Rd8 34.Na5 Ra8 35.Nxb7 Ra2 36.Kg1 Ra1+ 37.Bf1 Ne8 and Black doesn't have a clear way in, while White has two pawns for the exchange and can also create distractions on the queenside.

32...Bg4 33.Rxg8 Bxf3 34.g3

"Trapping" the black queen. However, the material White had to give up to achieve this was too much.

34...Bxe2

This capture wins, since if the queen is captured, Black will recapture the rook and be up a piece in an endgame; and if White moves his rook instead, the black queen would no longer be trapped. This was an important victory for me in multiple ways, putting me in serious contention for the top spots in the tournament.

0-1

**Stephen Willy –
Ryan Leong [B22]**

Washington Open (Elite 1800+)
Redmond, WA (R3), May 25, 2025
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.d4 cxd4 5.Qxd4 e6 6.Nf3 Nc6 7.Qe4 f5 8.Qe2 d6

This is usually delayed a little. 8...Qc7; and 8...b6 are the common moves here.; 8...b5!? is an idea sometimes seen after 8...Qc7, but has some merit played right away. 9.Qxb5 Qc7 10.Qe2 a5 11.Nbd2 Ba6 12.Nc4 Bc5 13.Qc2 0-0 looks like plenty of development, not to mention Black can almost certainly regain the pawn at will.

9.c4 Nde2

Things already start going downhill for Black from here. Possibly the best is the sharp 9...Qa5+ 10.Bd2 Ndb4 11.exd6 (11.

a3 Nc2+ 12.Kd1 Qa4+; 11.Qd1 dxe5 12.a3 e4 13.Ng5 Nd4?) 11...Bxd6 12.Bc3 e5, posing problems for both players.

10.exd6 Qxd6 11.Nc3 g6

Creates more dark-square weaknesses, but 11...Ng6/ is still better for White.

12.Nb5! Qb8

12...Qb4+?? 13.Bd2 Qxb2 14.Bc3+., and both black rooks are under threat.

13.Qd3

Direct, controlling d6. An alternative is 13.b3 Bg7 (13...a6 14.Bb2 Rg8 15.Nc3± leaves Black in disarray) 14.Bb2 Bxb2 (14...0-0 15.Bxg7 Kxg7 16.Qb2+ Kg8 17.Rd1 transposes.) 15.Qxb2 0-0 16.Rd1± White owns the d-file.

13...Bg7

13...Ng8± attempts to defend d6.

14.Nd6+ Kf8 15.Bd2 e5 16.Bc3 Bf6?!

A couple not-very-impressive alternatives: 16...h6 17.0-0-0 Rh7 18.c5 Be6; 16...Be6 17.0-0-0 Nc8 18.Nxc8 Qxc8 19.Qd6+ Kg8 20.Ng5 Bh6 21.h4

17.0-0-0 Kg7 18.Re1 Rd8 19.c5 Qc7 20.Nxe5 Nxe5



Position after 20...Nxe5

21.Rxe5! b6

21...Bxe5 22.Bxe5+ Kf8 23.Bg7+ Kxg7 24.Qd4+ Kh6 (24...Kg8 25.Bc4+ Nd5 26.Bxd5+ Kf8 27.Qf6+; 24...Kf8 25.Qf6+ Kg8 26.Bc4+) 25.Nf7+ Kh5 26.Be2#

22.Qe3 Nc6 23.Rd5 bxc5

23...Qe7 24.Qxe7+ Nxe7 25.Bxf6+ Kxf6 26.Ne4+ fxe4 27.Rxd8+-

24.Bxf6+ Kxf6 25.Qc3+ Ke6

25...Kg5 26.Qg3+ Kf6 (26...Kh5 27.Qh3+ Kg5 28.Ne4+ Kf4 29.Qf3#; 26...Kh6 27.Qf4+ g5 28.Nxf5+ Bxf5 29.Qxc7 Rac8 30.Qf7+-) 27.Ne8+ Rxe8 28.Qxc7+-

26.Bc4 Rxd6 27.Re1+ Kd7 28.Qg7+

1-0

Georgi Orlov (2507) –

Bertrand Wan (2134) [E92]

Washington Open (Elite 1800+)
Redmond, WA (R2), May 25, 2025
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.c4 Bg7 4.Nc3 0-0 5.e4 d6 6.Be2 e5 7.dxe5 dxe5 8.Qxd8 Rxd8 9.Bg5 c6 10.Nxe5 Re8 11.f4 h6!

I like Black's plan with ...h6/...g5, breaking up the white center. I've seen it before, but delayed a move: 11...Na6 12.0-0-0 h6 13.Bh4 g5, with actual results slightly favoring Black.

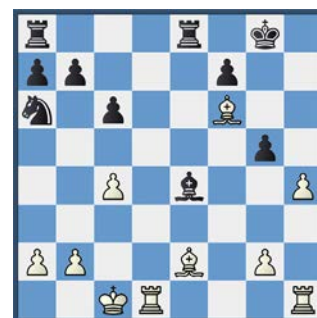
12.Bh4 g5! 13.fxg5 hxg5 14.Bg3 Nxe4?!

After 14...Na6 White now has the option to go kingside with some pressure on the f-file: 15.0-0 Nc5 16.Nxf7!, but Stockfish says this is still equal, with complicated-looking lines such as 16...Ncxe4 17.Nxe4 Nxe4 18.Bh5 Be6 19.Be5 Bxc4 20.Rf5. Seriously? I have no idea if this works for either player.

15.Nxe4± Bxe5 16.0-0-0 Bf5 17.Bxe5 Bxe4 18.Bf6 Na6

If 18...Bxg2 19.Rhe1 Na6 20.Bh5 Rxe1 21.Rxe1 Nc5 22.Rg1± guarantees White will recover the pawn with bishop-pair and initiative.

19.h4



Position after 19.h4

19...Bh7

This looks like a double-purpose move, blocking the h-file against Rh8# while gaining a tempo on the e2-bishop. What could go wrong?

The alternative 19...g4 20.Bxg4 isn't fun for Black, of course.

20.hxg5! Rxe2 21.Rxh7! Kxh7 22.Rh1+ Kg6 23.g4!

The trap snaps shut. The only way to avoid checkmate now is to toss both rooks: 23...Re1+ 24.Rxe1 Rh8 25.Bxh8 Kxg5.

1-0

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For more information: Call, Write or E-mail Organizer and Chief TD, N.T.D. Jerome (Jerry) Weikel,
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1	2	3	4	5	6
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August 2

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. **Check-in:** 9:15-9:45am. **Rounds:** 10am, 2 & 6pm. **Byes:** 0 – must play all 3 rounds! US Chess membership req'd.

August 10

4-round Swiss. **Time Control:** Game/50 + 10 sec. increment. **Entry fee:** \$25 (+\$10 day membership for non-SCC). **Prize fund:** sum of \$14/entry. **Prizes:** 1st (35% of prize fund), 2nd (27%), bottom half (by rating) 1st (22%), 2nd (16%). **Check-in:** 9:15-9:45am. **Rounds:** 10am, 12:20, 2:40, 5pm. **Byes:** 1 half-pt., commit at registration. US Chess membership req'd.

August 1, 8, 15, 22

See below.

August Quads

August Tornado

Dog Days

August 29

4 or 5 rounds depending on turnout, beginning at 7:30pm. **Time control:** Game15, no increment! **Entry:** Free for SCC members, \$5 others. US Chess Quick rated.

Fifth Friday G/15

Coming up (tentative to be confirmed):

- **September Quads** – Saturday September 6
- **September Tornado** – Sunday September 21
- **Seattle Fall Open** – October 4-5

Check our events calendar periodically for confirmed dates.

Wednesdays are for
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~ SCC Friday Nights ~

One US Chess-rated round per night, 4 rounds per month, at 7:30pm.

Time control: 40 moves in 90 minutes with 10-second increment, followed by sudden death 60 minutes with 10-second increment.

Entry: Free for SCC members, \$5/night others. Drop in for any round!

Dog Days

August 1, 8, 15, 22

*Autumn Leaves**

September 5, 12, 19, 26

Pumpkin Spice

*October 3, 10, 17, 24, (31**)*

November Rains

November 7, 14, 21, 28

* Close ratings pairing

** Fifth Friday G/15 on Halloween? Stay tuned!

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.

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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



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