



\$3.95

# September 2022



# Northwest Chess

September 2022, Volume 76-09 Issue 896

ISSN Publication 0146-6941

Published monthly by the Northwest Chess Board.

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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Office of Record:  
Northwest Chess c/o Orlov Chess Academy 4174 148th Ave NE,  
Building I, Suite M, Redmond, WA 98052-5164.

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

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(L-R) Jason Cigan and Nick Raptis, Co-Champions at 2022 Oregon Closed. Photo credit: Wilson Gibbins.

## On the back cover:

2022 Chess Journalists of America Awards for Best State Magazine/Newsletter (both for the Printed and Online categories).

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## From The Editor's Desk

**N**orthwest Chess has won the 2022 Chess Journalists of America (CJA) awards for Best State Magazine/Newsletter in both the Print and Online categories. This makes the ninth consecutive year we have been officially recognized nationally by CJA as the best! We won the Print category each year from 2014-2022 and since we've entered the Online category a few years ago, we have won that award too—except the first year was an honorable mention, but that's still an award!

I feel that competition is tough, and it is never a sure thing that we will win. But we are tough too, and we work very hard to produce a high-quality magazine each month. This issue is my 118th consecutive month as editor, I'm getting close to the ten-year mark, and I don't plan to stop anytime soon!

Many people are passionate about *Northwest Chess*, and I believe much of our success is due to the love and dedication people have always had for our magazine, going clear back to the beginning in 1947. It is this love I have always felt from the chess community that is the reason I know where there's a will, there's a way, and that is why I have always been optimistic and felt that we could produce an issue each month, even when it's hard—even during the COVID-19 pandemic—because people do cherish our magazine and somehow a way is found to keep going!

Until the retirement of our business manager, Eric Holcomb, I have had the same incredible (but small) staff from day one since I've been editor, but he still contributes even after he's retired! Brian Berger has decided to retire from submitting monthly cartoons, but I know he loves the magazine too, and I know he will *always* love the magazine.

Ralph Dubisch is much more than just a games editor. We've become great friends through the magazine, and his experience as an editor himself plus his incredible wisdom in many things adds much to each issue. Josh Sinanan, Wilson Gibbins, Duane Polich, Adam Porth... the names go on and on! But all add much value to the production value of these issues! I learn and grow with each issue. I try new things and build on old things, but each issue is unique and exciting.

I am writing this piece first (usually I write this part last) so I can only say, with a blank 32-pages in front of me at time of writing, that I look forward to seeing this issue grow and evolve into what it will be. It's kind of an amazing process.

—Jeffrey Roland, Editor



# 2022 Oregon Closed

Wilson Gibbins

The Oregon Chess Federation held the Oregon Closed July 15-18 at the Portland Chess Center. The current format is an eight-player round robin Championship section (which decides the official state championship title) and an eight-player round robin Challengers section, with the Champions and the top Challenger getting seeded into next year's tournament.

The Championship section came in like a lion through the first six rounds, with 20 of 24 games ending in decisive results, including a second-round game between the top seeds Nick Raptis and

Matt Zavortink. Matt beat Nick in 2021 with the white pieces in a key game leading to his championship win. (See page four of the September 2021 issue of *Northwest Chess* to see how he did it.) This year Nick used the white pieces to dispatch what appeared to be his main competition and take an early tournament lead. But fifth seed Jason Cigan was playing great chess, starting with a first-round draw with Matt followed by five straight wins. Nick gave up a draw in round four to Ryan Richardson, last year's Challengers Champion, allowing Jason to catch him. Nick and Jason were paired in round seven, but after six rounds of

carnage, discretion proved to be the better part of valor, and theirs was one of the three quick final-round draws, leading to a tie for first. Corey Russell and Michael Swearingin chose to play a real game in round seven, and Corey was rewarded with a win, allowing him to catch Matt for a tie for third place.

In the Challengers section, Ishaan Kodarapu and Austin Tang tied for first. Austin won on tiebreaks, earning the entry to the Championship section in 2023. Austin and Ishaan both lost their first rounds, so showed a lot of grit in fighting their way back to the top. This



**2022 Oregon Closed Championship Section**  
**Standing (L-R):** Matt Zavortink, Jason Cigan, Michael James Pendergast, Corey Russell, Michael Swearingin. **Seated (L-R):** Carl Haessler, Nick Raptis, Ryan Richardson.  
*Photo credit: Wilson Gibbins.*

was in the face of the blistering pace set by Jeremy Waterman who won his first three games and led with 4.0/5 after five rounds. Jeremy ended up tied for third with Eric Erard. And unlike the pacifist Championship section, the Challengers section had four decisive games in the last round, allowing them to finish with a 78% decisive game result compared to the 75% rate of the Championship section.

Thanks to the Portland Chess Club for allowing us to use their wonderful facility for the tournament. And thanks to Greg Markowski, Mike Morris, and Wilson Gibbins for directing the tournament. Special thanks to Austin Tang and David Murray for setting clocks to the 40/90, SD/30;+30 time control.

We hope to see a lot of you back next year. But don't count on us keeping your slot open, as I expect the youth movement, led by Zoey Tang, to reclaim their rightful slots in the Championship Section next year.

**Nick Raptis (2366) –  
Matt Zavortink (2303) [A09]**  
Oregon Closed Championship  
Portland, OR (R2), July 16, 2022  
[Wilson Gibbins]

#### 1.Nf3 d5

Same first two moves as last year, but this year Nick has White. Let us see how the players reinterpret this opening.

#### 2.c4

Nick is a little more direct. Matt played 2.g3 Nf6 3.Bg2 c6 4.c4 dxc4 5.0–0.

**2...e6 3.g3 Nf6 4.Bg2 d4 5.0–0 c5 6.d3 Nc6 7.e4**



Position after 7.e4

Nick transposes into a King's Indian Reversed, which will give him no objective advantage but plenty of opportunity to unleash chaos. I once believed that White should have a huge advantage by aiming

## 2022 Oregon Closed Championship Section

Place	Name	Rating	State	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	Total
1	Nick Raptis	2366	OR	W4	W3	W6	D7	W5	W8	D2	6
2	Mr. Jason Cigan	2169	OR	D3	W7	W8	W4	W6	W5	D1	6
3	Matt Zavortink	2303	OR	D2	L1	W7	W8	D4	W6	D5	4.5
4	Corey John Russell	2206	OR	L1	W6	W5	L2	D3	W7	W8	4.5
5	Carl A Haessler	2200	OR	D7	W8	L4	W6	L1	L2	D3	3
6	Michael James Pendergast	2140	OR	W8	L4	L1	L5	L2	L3	D7	1.5
7	Ryan Richardson	2045	OR	D5	L2	L3	D1	L8	L4	D6	1.5
8	Michael Swearingin	1986	OR	L6	L5	L2	L3	W7	L1	L4	1

for a reversed Benoni two moves up, but a young Wesley So barely worked up a sweat proving me wrong. This game was played during one of his early visits to Minnesota which must have made a good impression on him, as he ended up moving there permanently. This game was played in September—if he had visited in January, he might have chosen differently. 7.e3 Bd6 8.exd4 cxd4 9.Bg5 h6 10.Bxf6 Qxf6 11.Nbd2 Qd8 12.a3 a5 13.Qa4 Bd7 14.Ne4 Be7 15.c5 e5 16.Rfe1 0–0 17.Qc4?! Be6 18.Qb5 a4 19.Qxb7 Bd5 20.Rac1? Ra7 21.Qb6 Qa8! 22.Nxe5 Nxe5 23.Nf6+ Bxf6 24.Bxd5 Qxd5 25.Rxe5 Qb7 26.Qxb7 Rxb7 27.Re2 Rc8 28.c6 Rbc7 29.Rec2 Kf8 30.Rc4 Ke7 31.Rxa4 Rxc6 32.Ra7+ Kd6 33.Rxc6+ Rxc6 34.Rxf7 Rb6 35.a4 Rxb2 36.a5 Ra2 37.Ra7 Ra3 0–1 (37) Gibbins,W-So,W 2013 Noel Skelton Open 2013.

#### 7...Be7

Engines prefer to try to stop White from advancing his pawn to e5 with 7...e5.

#### 8.Ne1

Nick prefers a more traditional King's Indian approach of keeping the position closed to allow a kingside pawn advance. Lots of good traditional values here in Oregon Chess. From an historical perspective, I wish Nick would have played 8.Nh4 to honor the move 11...Nh5!? played on July 16, 1972 by Bobby Fischer against Boris Spassky in game three of their World Championship match, exactly 50 years before this game was played.

#### 8...0–0 9.f4 Rb8 10.h3

Nick continues to avoid the engine-recommended 10.e5 and continues to avoid developing his pieces. Will the chess gods punish him? If you read the tournament report, you already know the answer.

**10...Nd7 11.Nf3 Qc7 12.g4 b5 13.b3 bxc4 14.bxc4 f6 15.h4 Bd6 16.Ne1 Nb6**

#### 17.g5 Bd7 18.Rf2 Ne7 19.h5 e5?



Position after 19...e5

Up until now Stockfish has been impressed with Black's position, but this space-grabbing move gets us back to equality. Who says chess is logical? Well, authors Irving Chernev and Erik Kislik, but other than that? 19...Na4? says Stockfish, but this is still a King's Indian, and White will continue to have chances against Black's king.

#### 20.f5 Na4?!

20...fxg5 21.Bxg5 h6 looks like you are accelerating White's attack. But Stockfish says Black has equality, as he has sufficient room to defend. Maybe Matt wanted to avoid reminding Nick that he could develop his queenside pieces? ☺

#### 21.h6± gxh6 22.gxf6 Rxf6 23.Qh5



Position after 23.Qh5

#### 23...Kg7

23...Kh8 24.Bxh6 Ng8±



## 24.Bxh6+?!

Tricky, but not best. Less forcing moves retain an advantage for White.

24...Rxh6 25.Qg5+ Rg6 26.fxg6 Nxg6 27.Nf3



*Position after 27.Nf3*

Stockfish recommends bailing out with a draw by repetition with 27.Qf6+ Kg8 28.Qf7+ But one can't expect Nick to head for a draw when he up an exchange for a pawn.

27...Rf8 28.Nbd2

Nick develops a queenside piece! But with two bishops, an extra pawn, and a lot

of space, Black has more than enough for the exchange.

28...Be7 29.Qg3 Nb2 30.Bf1 Kh8?

30...Rf4! 31.Qh2 Rg4+ is unclear.

31.Rg2

And suddenly Stockfish prefers White again. White can make attacking moves on the kingside with his knights while uncovering an attack on Black's loose knight on b2. Even with a space disadvantage, White is playing on both sides of the board.

31...Bf6 32.Ng5! Rg8 33.Ndf3 Rg7

33...Na4 trying to save the knight fails 34.Nxe5! Bxe5 35.Nf7+ Kg7 36.Nxe5+-

34.Rxb2+-

Black's 29...Nb2 wasn't a mistake, but the loose piece required him to play very accurately to stay in the game.

34...Nf4 35.Kh1 Qd8 36.Rab1 Bc8 37.Rb8 h6 38.Qh2

1-0

Jason Cigan (2169) –

Ryan Richardson (2045) [B90]

Oregon Closed Championship  
Portland, OR (R2), July 16, 2022

[Wilson Gibbins]

A game that exemplifies Jason's play in the tournament. He chooses a theoretically critical opening, exploiting White's built-in initiative instead of just deferring the battle to the middlegame. He invites a double-edged battle of attacks on the wings. Finally, he is able to foresee the tactical finesse required by this style of chess.

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.f3 e5 7.Nb3 Be6 8.Be3 Nbd7 9.g4!

The only move in my database that gives White a plus score.

9...Nb6 10.g5 Nfd7

The decentralizing 10...Nh5 is more popular and scores better.

11.Qd2 Be7 12.0-0-0 Rc8 13.h4±

White and Black have both been playing normal, logical moves, but the engines



*2022 Oregon Closed Challengers Section  
(L-R): Ishaan Kodarapu, David Murray, Austin Tang, Noah Houston, Eric Christian Erard,  
Isaac Vega, Jeremy Waterman, Jerry Sherrard.  
Photo credit: Wilson Gibbins.*

say White stands a lot better. Maybe not quite winning, but Jason is comfortable in these tactical positions, as you are about to see.

13...Qc7 14.Qf2 Nc4 15.Bxc4 Bxc4 16.Kb1 b5 17.f4 a5 18.fxe5 dxe5 19.h5



Position after 19.h5

19...0-0?

Allowing White to win a pawn, as Black's king was responsible for defending the knight on d7. Perhaps Black sacrificed the pawn, as it seemed less relevant than leaving his king in the center. 19...a4 is Black's best try. White stands better, but with both kings under fire, anything can happen.

20.Nxa5

The engine prefers interpolating 20.h6 g6 21.Nxa5

20...Qxa5 21.Rxd7



Position after 21.Rxd7

This doesn't look so bad for Black, as he is only a pawn down and has two bishops plus what appears to be a fast moving attack on White's king.

21...Ra8

Ryan finds Black's best try, but Jason has things tactically under control. If Black tries to save his bishop with 21...Rfe8 then 22.Ra7 Qb4 23.h6 g6 24.a3 Qd6 25.Rd1 Qe6 26.Nd5 gives White an overwhelming position. I wouldn't resign Black's position, but Stockfish might.

## 2022 Oregon Closed Challengers Section

Place	Name	Rating	State	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	Total
1	Austin Tang	2053	OR	L3	D7	L6	W4	W5	W2	W8	4.5
2	Ishaan Kodarapu	1895	OR	L7	W6	D4	W5	W8	L1	W3	4.5
3	Jeremy Waterman	1910	OR	W1	W8	W7	L6	W4	L5	L2	4
4	Eric Christian Erard	1902	OR	D8	W5	D2	L1	L3	W7	W6	4
5	Isaac Vega	2007	OR	D6	L4	W8	L2	L1	W3	W7	3.5
6	David Edward Murray	1788	OR	D5	L2	W1	W3	D7	D8	L4	3.5
7	Jerry Sherrard	1970	OR	W2	D1	L3	W8	D6	L4	L5	3
8	Noah Houston	1696	OR	D4	L3	L5	L7	L2	D6	L1	1

22.Rxe7 b4 23.Bb6 Qa6 24.b3 bxc3 25.a4 Rfb8 26.a5

26.Rc7 is a little better, but Jason's move more than gets the job done.

26...Qb5 27.Qc5 Qxc5

27...Rxa5 28.Qxb5 Rxb5 29.Bc7! Rc8 30.Rh3± removes the pawn from c3, and with it all of Black's hopes and dreams.

28.Bxc5 Rxa5 29.Bb4!+-

Jason must have foreseen this move to enter this line, as all other moves lose for White.

29...Rab5

29...Rxb4 30.Re8#

30.Bxc3 Be6 31.Rf1 Kf8?

But White is winning after other moves too.

32.Rxe6

1-0

Ishaan Kodarapu (1895) –  
David Murray (1788) [A13]  
Oregon Closed Challengers  
Portland, OR (R2), July 16, 2022  
[Wilson Gibbins]

After losing his first round, Ishaan gets back on the winning track in round two to start his run to a tie for first place.

1.c4 e6 2.Nf3 d5 3.e3 Nf6 4.b3 Nbd7 5.Bb2 Bd6 6.Nc3 0-0 7.Qc2 a6 8.Be2

Leela's first suggestion is Δ8.Rg1!?— with the idea of attacking with 9.g4 This is probably due to the influence of some anti-Slav lines in repertoire books like "The Modern Reti — An Anti-Slav Repertoire." But if Leela is getting advice from repertoire books, that means she can read! The singularity is near.

8...dxc4 9.bxc4 e5 10.0-0 Re8 11.d4 exd4 12.exd4 c5 13.Rad1 cxd4 14.Nxd4

Qc7 15.h3 Ne5?



Position after 15...Ne5

This move blocks the bishop from moving to h2. This bishop needs this resource so it can escape from the attack of a white knight on b5 with check, giving the queen time to retreat. 15...Nb6 prevents the combination we will see in the game. But the following line is difficult to see through to the end. 16.Ndb5? axb5 17.Nxb5 Bh2+ 18.Kh1 Qf4 19.Bxf6 Bxh3 20.gxh3 Qxf6 21.Kxh2 Qe5+ 22.Kg2 Qxe2

16.Ndb5! axb5 17.Nxb5 Qa5 18.Nxd6 Re6 19.c5 Nfd7?

Loses a piece, but White is much better in any case.

20.f4

If 20...Nc6, 21.Nxc8 Rxc8 22.Rxd7

1-0

Noah Houston (1696) –  
Jeremy Waterman (1910) [A20]  
Oregon Closed Challengers  
Portland, OR (R2), July 16, 2022  
[Wilson Gibbins]

1.c4 e5 2.g3 c6 3.d4 e4 4.Nc3 d5

Jeremy's ambitious opening play is rewarded with a quick win.

5.Bg2 Nf6 6.Bg5 Be7 7.Qb3 Nbd7

7...dxc4 8.Qxc4 Be6 9.Qa4 Qb6



## 8.cxd5 cxd5 9.f3

A logical attempt to chip away at Black's center, like what Black might try in the French Defense. 9.Nh3 is White's other approach when Black tries to claim the center like this. Nf4 will put a lot of pressure on Black's d-pawn.

9...exf3 10.Nxf3 h6 11.Bd2 Nb6 12.Ne5 0-0 13.0-0 Be6 14.Be1 Bd6. 15.a4? Bxe5! 16.dxe5 Ng4

16...d4 is also strong.

17.Qb5?



Position after 17.Qb5

White wants to get his queen out of the line of fire from Black's bishop on e6, but to mix metaphors, the queen should continue to sit under the sword of Damocles and defend the e3-square from invasion. 17.Nb5

17...Ne3! 18.Rf2 Nxf2 19.Kxf2 Nc4 20.Nd1 d4 21.Kg1 a6 22.Qxb7 Bd5 23.Qb4 Qc7 24.Rc1 Rab8

24...Qxe5 25.Rxc4 Qe4 26.Rf3 Qxe2; 24...Rfc8

25.Qa3

25.Qd6! is best, but Black is still much better.

25...Qxe5 26.Qd3 Nxb2 27.Nxb2 Rxb2 28.Qxa6? Qe4

0-1

**Jerry Sherrard (1970) –  
Jeremy Waterman (1910) [B43]**  
Oregon Closed Challengers  
Portland, OR (R3), July 16, 2022  
[Wilson Gibbins]

This game got Jeremy to 3-0 and an early lead in the Challengers section.

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 a6 5.Nc3 b5 6.Be3 Bb7 7.f3 Qc7 8.Qd2 Nc6 9.Nb3 Nf6 10.Nc5 Ne5 11.Nxb7 Qxb7

White has traded his development advantage for the two bishops, which

doesn't seem to be worth a lot in this position. White may be able to castle kingside safely, but White castling queenside or Black castling either way feels like castling into the attack.

12.Qd4 Nc6 13.Qd3 Ne5 14.Qd4 Nc6 15.Qd2 Ne5 16.b3 Rc8 17.Bd4 Qc7 18.Nd1 Nc6 19.Bf2 Bb4

Stockfish likes 19...d5 the standard Sicilian pawn break to open the center in spite of the fact that Black is a few moves away from castling. Stockfish is so brave. Jeremy's approach is to soften up White's pawn structure a little bit and then use piece play to harass White's king.

20.c3 Bd6 21.g3 h5 22.Qe3 h4 23.Rg1 Nh5 24.f4 e5 25.f5 hxf3 26.hxf3 Nb4!?



Position after 26...Nb4

I wanted to label this "?!", but as this sacrifice creates too many problems to solve over the board, I promoted it to "!" Black is objectively better if he does not sacrifice, objectively worse if he does, but the course Jeremy takes is much more entertaining for all involved, with the possible exception of Jerry. The resulting position will be very difficult to play accurately, but Jeremy does a better job of making the most of his opportunities.

27.cxb4 Bxb4+ 28.Ke2 Nf6 29.Kf3±

29.a3± is most accurate, and White is better, but his defensive challenges persist.

29...d5! 30.exd5=

30.Bd3!±

30...Rh2

Approved for equality by Stockfish. Also approved are 30...e4+; 30...Qd6; and surprisingly 30...Kd7

31.Bd3 Nxd5?!

31...Qd6

32.Qe4=

32.Qa7±

32...Qd6?

32...Rd8=

33.a4?

33.Bd4!+-

33...Nf6!

And despite still being a piece down, Black's advantage is overwhelming. All his pieces are working, and White's are not.

34.Qe2 Qd5+ 35.Be4 Qxb3+ 36.Qd3 Nxe4! 37.Kxe4

37.Qxb3 Nd2+

37...Rc4+! 38.Ke3 Bc5+! 39.Ke2 Qxd3+

39...Rc2+ wins a little faster, but in a game like this one might want to prolong the enjoyment.

40.Kxd3 Bxf2 41.Nxf2 Rxf2 42.axb5 axb5 43.Ra7 e4+ 44.Ke3 Rf3+ 45.Kd2 Rd3+

0-1

**Jeremy Waterman (1910) –  
David Murray (1788) [B11]**  
Oregon Closed Challengers  
Portland, OR (R4), July 17, 2022  
[Wilson Gibbins]

1.e4 c6 2.Nc3 d5 3.Nf3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Nf6 5.Qe2

I thought the only legitimate move was 5.Nxf6+ exf6 6.d4 transposing into normal lines, but 5.Qe2 is actually quite popular and preferred by Stockfish.

5...Nxe4

Perhaps Jeremy was hoping for 5...Nbd7? 6.Nd6# 1-0 (6) Keres,P-Arlamowski,E Szczawno Zdroj 1950

6.Qxe4 Nd7 7.d4 Nf6 8.Qd3 g6 9.Be2 Bg7 10.Qb3 a5 11.a4 Qc7 12.Bc4 0-0 13.Ne5 e6 14.0-0 b6 15.f4?!±



Position after 15.f4

An attacking move that helps White



migrate heavy pieces towards Black's king. But it doesn't work out, as White's pieces don't get to Black's king quickly enough, and the weaknesses left behind, especially on e3 and f2, eventually proves fatal.

**15...Nd5 16.Qg3 Ba6 17.Bxa6 Rxa6 18.c4**

Temporarily kicking the knight out of range of the weak e3-square, but like General Douglas MacArthur, it will return.

**18...Ne7 19.Ra3 Rd8 20.Rd3 Nf5 21.Qf2 c5! 22.dxc5?**

Black is better after 22.d5 Raa8 but only slightly.

**22...Rxd3 23.Nxd3**

23...Bd4 is coming.

0-1

**Austin Tang (2053) –  
Ishaan Kodarapu (1895) [B32]**  
Oregon Closed Challengers  
Portland, OR (R6), July 18, 2022  
[Wilson Gibbins]

The key game in the Challengers section. These two players have faced each other 14 times previously, so they both have a fairly good idea about what might be coming. But as they had a week to prepare, one can assume they both have made a few adjustments to their opening repertoire.

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 e5 5.Nb5 d6 6.c4 Be7 7.N1c3 a6 8.Na3 f5**

Ishaan played 8...Be6 in round three of the 2022 OSCF Middle School Championship, with the game ending in a draw.

**9.exf5 Bxf5 10.Bd3**

Tony Rotella gives this an exclamation mark in his book, *The Killer Sicilian*. Austin played 10.Nc2 against Ishaan in the 2021 Oregon Junior Closed, the game ending in a draw after 61 moves. Both moves seem equally playable, according to databases and engines.

**10...Be6 11.Nc2 Nf6 12.0-0 0-0 13.Ne3 Nd4 14.b3 Rc8 15.Bb2 Qd7 16.Ncd5 Bd8 17.f4 Bxd5 18.cxd5**



Position after 18.cxd5

**18...Bb6**

The engines' second choice, but it seems logical and fun to intimidate White's king down the b6-g1 diagonal. Stockfish and Leela slightly prefer 18...g6 perhaps to allow Black to bypass White's f-pawn without allow an en passant capture in lines such as 19.f5 g5, but White still has a slight edge after 19.fxe5 dxe5 20.Nc4± as 20...Qxd5?! loses the exchange after 21.Ba3 Re8? 22.Nd6.

**19.fxe5!**

Austin's move is stronger than immediately moving the king away from the bishop's attack with 19.Kh1 and allowing 19...e4 20.Bxe4 Nxe4 21.Bxd4 Bxd4 22.Qxd4 Rce8 which looks like a clear pawn to me, but Stockfish says Black's well placed knight gives him compensation.

**19...dxe5 20.Kh1!± g6?**

20...Bc7 avoids the ensuing problems because 21.Nc4 no longer attacks an undefended bishop, so Black can calmly play 21...Qxd5; 20...Kh8 is another approach to the defense, getting Black's king off the dangerous c4-g8 diagonal to make capturing White's d-pawn with the Black's queen less risky. 21.Nc4 Bc5 22.Nxe5 Qxd5; 20...Rce8 avoids a knight fork on b6, and defends the e-pawn.

**21.Nc4! Bc7 22.d6 Bxd6**

22...Bd8 23.Nxe5 Qxd6 24.Bc4+ Kg7 25.Qxd4; 22...Bb8 23.Nb6 Qxd6 24.Nxc8

**23.Nb6 Qe7 24.Nxc8 Rxc8 25.Bc4+ Ne6 26.Rxf6 Qxf6 27.Qxd6 Re8 28.Rf1 Qe7 29.Qxe5 Qf6 30.Qxf6 Re7 31.Qh8#**

1-0

**Matt Zavortink (2303) –  
Michael Pendergast (2140) [D02]**  
Oregon Closed Championship  
Portland, OR (R6), July 18, 2022  
[Wilson Gibbins and Matt Zavortink]

Annotations by Wilson Gibbins are prefaced by WG, annotations by Matt Zavortink prefaced by MZ.

WG: Last year's champion demonstrates tactical skills and positional judgment that made him champion last year.

**1.Nf3 d5 2.g3 Nf6 3.Bg2 c5 4.0-0 e6**

WG: One doesn't expect a miniature from a closed opening like this. Watch Matt crack open the center before Black is fully developed or castled, at the investment of only a pawn.

**5.d4**

WG: Is Matt aiming for a reversed Gruenfeld, or perhaps the Tarrash Variation of the Queen's Gambit Declined after he advances his pawn to c4?

5.d3 WG: is the King's Indian Attack,

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**September 3-5, 2022**

which my generation over-valued because Bobby Fischer had success with it. Today's repertoire books claim that Black is fine, but when the words "King's Indian" are in the opening name, you can be sure that fighting chess will ensue.

### 5...b5

WG: Trying to prevent White from opening the game with 6.c2-c4, but Matt is persistent.

### 6.a4! b4 7.c4! Bb7

MZ: The most natural continuation seems to be 7...bxc3 8.Nxc3 when Black has an obviously superior structure. But Black is dangerously far behind in development. Trying to castle quickly with something like 8...Be7 runs into 9.dxc5 Bxc5 10.e4 and the position opens in White's favor.

### 8.Nbd2 Nbd7 9.cxd5 Bxd5 10.e4!

White sacrifices a pawn to maintain his lead in development.

### 10...Nxe4 11.Nxe4 Bxe4 12.Re1 Bd5!±

MZ: The move 12...Bb7? runs into 13.d5 with the entertaining line 13...Nf6 14.dxe6 Qxd1 15.exf7+ Kxf7 16.Rxd1± White has regained the pawn but more importantly the immediate threat of Ng5+ forces Black to make a major concession like ...Bxf3 or ...Kg8.

WG: After 12...Bxf3 the sequence 13.Bxf3 Rc8 14.Bf4 Be7 15.Bb7 nets White the exchange.

### 13.dxc5 Nxc5

WG: Not 13...Bxc5? 14.Qxd5;

MZ: The best continuation for Black is 13...Be7! 14.Bg5! Nf6 This variation might represent "best play" from both sides after 5...b5; the computer says White has an edge though practically it's hard to tell if the c5-pawn is more of an asset or a liability.

### 14.Bg5 Be7 15.Bxe7 Qxe7 16.Qd4±

WG: And White has a significant advantage despite Black not making any particularly dubious moves. Black will to need to invest some time and probably his b-pawn to get his king to safety.

### 16...Kf8?!

16...0-0?? 17.Qxd5 exd5 18.Rxe7; 16...f6! 17.Rad1 Rd8 18.Qxb4 0-0 19.Rc1 Rc8 20.Nd4 Bxg2 WG: And White has some advantage after the complicated 21.Nxe6! (or the simpler 21.Kxg2).

### 17.Rad1!

MZ: I thought 16...Kf8 was actually very clever, as now I really should not play 17.Qxb4 allowing 17...Nd3 when White must enter a thankless endgame with 18.Qxe7+. I also have to defend against ...Nb3 so it was only through process of elimination that I arrived at 17.Rad1 which is by far the strongest move, but not immediately obvious. The difference between 16...Kf8 and 16...f6 is that after ...f6 White can take on b4 and ...Nd3 will drop a piece to Qb5+.

### 17...Nxa4 18.Nh4!



Position after 18.Nh4

### 18...Nb6?

WG: This is logical, getting the knight back into the game and shoring up the defense of the bishop on d5, but White has a trick. 18...Qc5 is best but insufficient to hold the game. In many of the lines, White is attacking Black's king with three or four pieces, and Black is defending with only one or two, as his knight and at least one of the rooks ends up serving as spectators.

MZ: I had seen that I can continue the attack with 19.Qf4! which cross-pins the d5-bishop to the d7-square, as allowing 20.Rd7 will lead to some kind of queen and rook mate on f7. White is also threatening 20.Rc1 with a similar rook invasion on the 7th rank. I felt like this was immediately decisive. During the game I did NOT see the computer's suggested 19...Nxb2 with the point that now Black can meet 20.Rc1 with ...Nc4, blocking the c-file (or perhaps ...Nd3 going into an endgame with three pawns vs a piece). I think I would've found Rd4 or Rd2 though, as the positions where White is allowed to take on d5 and then go Nf5 seem very hard to defend as Black.

20.Rd4! WG: Black is up three pawns, but the engine says White is winning. 20...Nc4 21.Bxd5 exd5 22.Nf5 h6 23.Ne7 Nb6 24.Rd3 Rd8 25.Rf3 and Black's defenses are crumbling.

### 19.Nf5! Qf6 20.Qc5+ Kg8 21.Ne7+ Kf8 22.Nxd5+

### 1-0

For the next seven games (chronicling all the games of Corey Russell from the event), unattributed annotations are made by Fritz, a chess software. Comments by -cjr are by Corey Russell.—Editor.

Nick Raptis (2366) –  
Corey Russell (2206) [D01]  
Oregon Closed Championship  
Portland, OR (R1), July 15, 2022  
[Tactical Analysis 2.10 (7s)]

### 1.d4 d5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.Bg5 Bf5 4.f3 c6 5.Qd2 Nbd7 6.g4 Bg6 7.h4

Nick mentioned to me that he never plays like this, but was resorting to such rash moves because I was playing a good line. -cjr

### 7.Bf4=

### 7...h6

At the time of the game I couldn't decide which was better. ...h6 or ...h5. What I didn't see is what Nick pointed out: 7...h5 8.Bh3 e5 is good for Black. -cjr

Black should try 7...h5. 8.gxh5 Nxh5

### 8.Bf4=

The position is equal.

### 8...e6 9.e3 a6 10.Bd3 Bxd3 11.cxd3 c5 12.dxc5 Bxc5

Nick felt like my move was inaccurate. He said he was worried about 12...e5 13.Bg3 Bxc5 14.d4 Bd6 and he felt like his position was garbage. It looks even to me, but I can see why Nick doesn't want to play that position. -cjr

### 13.d4 Bb4 14.Nge2 Nb6 15.Kf2 Nc4 16.Qc2



Position after 16.Qc2

Aiming for Qc2-a4+.

### 16...Bd6 17.b3 Na3



Nick felt this was a serious mistake. And indeed, for the rest of the game the knight never saw any action. Nick recommended ...Nb6 instead. I was hoping to use the knight to force a ...Rc2 but that never panned out. -cjr

**18.Qd3 Rc8 19.Rac1**

Strongly threatening Bf4xd6.

**19...0-0**

Nick mentioned instead 19...Ke7!? might be an idea because then Black could do ...Bxf4 Nxf4 g5. -cjr

**20.Bxd6 Qxd6 21.Nf4 Rc7 22.g5 Nh7 23.gxh6 gxh6 24.Nce2 Rxc1 25.Rxc1 Qe7 26.Rg1+ Kh8 27.Rg4 Nb5**

27...Nf6= 28.Rg1 Re8

**28.Ng3**

28.Qg6!± Qf6 29.Qh5

**28...Qc7**

28...Qa3!± 29.Nfe2 Qe7

**29.Nge2**

White should play 29.Ngh5± Rc8 30.Rg7 Qc2+ 31.Qxc2 Rxc2+ 32.Ke1

**29...h5?!**

The beginning of the end. In the postmortem Nick and I came up with ...Rg8 to blunt White's attack. And indeed in a great many lines it seems the position is fairly level. -cjr

29...Nd6=

**30.Rg1→**

Black needs to defend precisely.

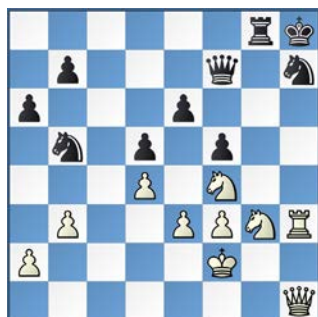
**30...Qd8 31.Nxh5 Qxh4+ 32.Nhg3 f5**

32...Qh2+± 33.Kf1 Qh3+ 34.Ke1 Qh6

**33.Rh1+- Qg5 34.Nf4 Rg8 35.Rh3 Qe7 36.Qf1 Qf7**

36...Nc7 37.Qh1 Rg5

**37.Qh1**



Position after 37.Qh1

And now Rh3–h6 would win.

**37...Nc7?**

37...Rc8 38.Nxe6 Qg8

**38.Rh6**

Precision: White = 51%, Black = 24%. — Fritz

Black is utterly helpless to prevent death by Ng3–h5–f6. So resignation seemed to be in order. -cjr

**1-0**

**Michael Pendergast (2140) – Corey Russell (2206) [D85]**  
Oregon Closed Championship  
Portland, OR (R2), July 16, 2022  
[Tactical Analysis 2.10 (7s)]

**1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.e3 g6 4.c4 Bg7 5.cxd5 Nxd5 6.e4 Nb6 7.h3 0-0 8.Nc3 Nc6 9.Be3 e5 10.d5 Ne7 11.Qb3**

11.a4±

**11...c6! =**

White has an edge.

**12.0-0-0**

12.d6= Qxd6 13.Rd1

**12...cxd5. 13.exd5 e4 14.Ng5 Nf5! 15.Ngxe4 Nxe3 16.fxe3 Bh6**

16...Bf5. 17.g4 Bxe4 18.Nxe4 Re8

**17.g4↑**

White has some pressure.

**17...Bxe3+ 18.Kb1 Bd7**

Black should try 18...Bf4±

**19.Bb5± Bxb5 20.Nxb5 Bh6 21.Rhf1 a6 22.Nbd6 Nd7**

I rejected a more expected move like 22...Rb8 because of the line: 22...Rb8 23.Nf6+ Kh8 24.Nde4 and it looked like a winning position to me for White. Black is paralyzed and White basically has all day to grind out a win. And indeed, in the post-mortem Michael mentioned he was going to play that if I allowed it. -cjr

**23.Qxb7 Nc5**

23...Bg7± was necessary. 24.b3 Nc5

**24.Qc6 Nxe4 25.Nxe4 Bg7 26.Nf6+ Bxf6 27.Qxf6 Qd7 28.d6 Rab8 29.Rf3**

Better is 29.Rfe1+-

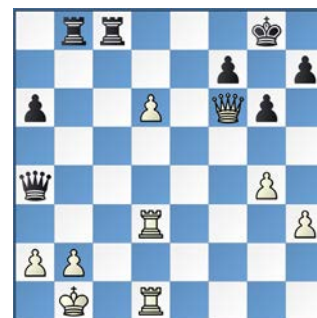
**29...Qa4**

29...Rfe8 30.Rc3 Re6

**30.Rfd3**

d6–d7 is the strong threat.

**30...Rfc8**



Position after 30...Rfc8

(→...Qa4–c2+)

**31.R3d2 Qe4+ 32.Ka1**

Hoping for d6–d7.

**32...Rc2**

32...Qe3± is a better defense. 33.b3 Rc1+ 34.Rxc1 Qxd2

**33.Rxc2+- Qxc2 34.Qd4??**

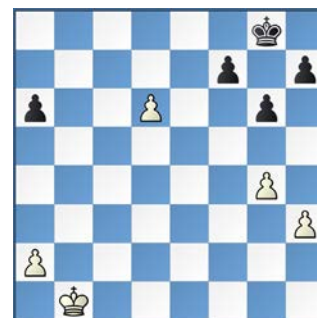
Interestingly enough my opponent mentioned that the reason he played this was it was a “safe” move. He had used quite a bit of time by this point, and he wanted to make time control. -cjr

34.Rf1+- Rf8 35.h4

**34...Rxb2!+- 35.Qxb2 Qxd1+ 36.Qb1 Qxb1+**

Not 36...Qxd6 37.Qb3±

**37.Kxb1**



Position after 37.Kxb1

Strongly threatening d6–d7.

**37...Kf8**

Precision: White = 37%, Black = 33%.

**0-1**

**Corey Russell (2206) – Carl Haessler (2200) [E18]**  
Oregon Closed Championship  
Portland, OR (R3), July 18, 2022  
[Tactical Analysis 2.10 (7s)]

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 e6 3.c4 Be7 4.g3 Nf6  
5.Bg2 0-0 6.0-0 Nbd7

Developing the QB first is more prudent if Black intends a Queen's Indian structure. This move order leads to a lot of trouble. -cjr

7.Nc3 b6 8.Ne5 Bb7 9.Qa4 Nxe5 10.dxe5 Ne8

One might wonder why Carl didn't try to more natural 10...Nd7. The reason is because of this line: 10...Nd7? 11.cxd5 Nxe5 12.d6! Bxg2 13.dxe7 Qxe7 14.Kxg2 and White is up a piece -cjr.

11.cxd5 exd5 12.Nxd5! Bxd5 13.Rd1 c6 14.e4 Nc7 15.exd5 cxd5 16.Bc5

Containing the black d-pawn is prudent. I also want to prevent an unopposed ...Bc5 by Black. Then I can bring pressure to bear with Qc6. -cjr

16...Bc5



Position after 16...Bc5

17.Bxc5! bxc5 18.Qc6 Qe7 19.Rac1 Qxe5?



Position after 19...Qxe5

19...c4± 20.Qd6 (20.Bxd5 Qxe5 21.Bxc4 Ne6±) 20...Rae8

20.Re1!+-

Weaker is 20.Qxc5 Ne6±; And not 20.Bxd5 Nxd5 21.Rxd5 (21.Qxd5 Qxb2 22.Rxc5 Rae8=) 21...Qxb2=

20...Qxb2 21.Qxc7 Qxa2 22.Qxc5 Rad8 23.Red1 d4 24.Rxd4 Rxd4 25.Qxd4 a5 26.Bd5

White is clearly winning.

26...Qa3 27.Rc7 g6

27...h6 28.Qe5 Kh8

28.Qf6

1-0

Jason Cigan (2169) –  
Corey Russell (2206) [B76]  
Oregon Closed Championship  
Portland, OR (R4), July 17, 2022  
[Tactical Analysis 2.10 (7s)]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.Be3 Bg7 7.f3 0-0 8.Qd2 Nc6 9.0-0-0 Nxd4 10.Bxd4 Be6 11.Kb1 a5 12.h4 a4 13.a3 Qa5

White is better.

14.Qg5 Rfc8 15.g4 Qxg5 16.hxg5 Nd7 17.Bxg7 Kxg7 18.Rd4 Ne5 19.Be2

White wants to play f3-f4.

19...Bc4 20.Bd1 Rc5 21.f4 Nd7 22.Bf3↑

Hoping for e4-e5. White has good play.

22...Nf8 23.f5! Ra6

23...Kg8±

24.e5 dxe5 25.Rd8 b5

25...f6± is a better defense.

26.Ne4+- Rd5 27.Rc8

27.Re8+- Strongly threatening f5-f6+. 27...Nd7 28.Rxe7

27...Rd4?

27...Nd7±

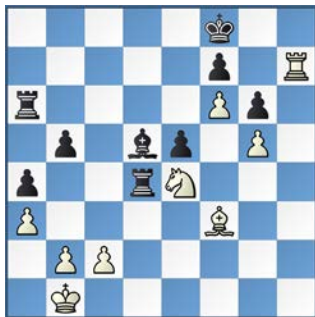
28.f6+! exf6 29.gxf6+?

29.Nxf6+- Threatening mate with Rh1xh7+! 29...Rxf6 30.gxf6+ Kxf6 31.Rxf8

29...Kg8= 30.g5 Bd5 31.Rxf8+?

31.Re1= Ra8 32.Rc5

31...Kxf8+- 32.Rxh7



Position after 32.Rxh7

32...Ke8??

This game was quite draining for me. I felt the position was a difficult one to play. In any case, by this point I was fatigued and when fatigued my tendency is to play fast. As a result, I didn't see that 32...Kg8! 33.Rg7+ Kh8 is winning for me! And it felt so weird to intentionally trap myself yet White can do nothing about it. -cjr 32...Kg8-+ 33.Rh4 Rb6

33.Nc5+- Kd8

...Ra6-c6 is the strong threat.

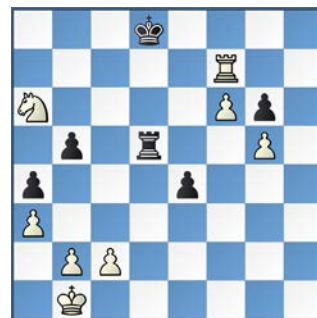
34.Bxd5

And not 34.Nxa6 Bxf3 35.b3 Bd5±

34...Rxd5 35.Nxa6

Endgame KRN-KR

35...e4 36.Rxf7



Position after 36.Rxf7

Black must now prevent Na6-c7.

36...Rxc5 37.Rf8+ Kd7 38.Nb8+ Ke6 39.Nc6 Rg1+ 40.Ka2 Rd1 41.Nd8+

White is clearly winning.

41...Rxd8

41...Kd5 42.f7 Rf1

42.Rxd8 Kxf6 43.Kb1 Kf5 44.Kc1 g5 45.Kd2

Precision: White = 46%, Black = 27%. — Fritz

Here I could see that the white king and rook were containing my pawns. I also saw even in a best-case scenario where I force White to sac his rook, White just easily wins by using his king to pick up my queen-side pawns. Thus, seemed like resignation time. -cjr

1-0

Corey Russell (2206) –  
Matt Zavortnik (2303) [D11]  
Oregon Closed Championship  
Portland, OR (R5), July 17, 2022  
[Tactical Analysis 2.10 (7s)]



1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.c4 c6 4.g3 Bf5 5.Bg2 e6 6.Nc3 h6 7.0-0 Be7 8.b3 0-0 9.Bb2 Nbd7 10.Re1 Qb6 11.Ne5 Nxe5 12.dxe5

Black is slightly better.

12...Ng4 13.e3

13.Rf1!= remains equal.

13...Nxe5

13...dxc4!⚡ Strongly threatening ...Ra8-d8. 14.Na4 Qa5

14.Nxd5. exd5 15.Bxe5 Bb4

Threatening ...Rf8-e8.

16.Rf1 Rfe8

16...dxc4 with more complications.

17.bxc4 Rfd8 18.Qf3 Be6 19.Qf4 Qc5

17.Qd4

My opponent stated he missed this otherwise he could have done the correct ...dxc4. It should be noted that if either 17...Bc5 or 17...c5 then 18.Qf4 is good for White. -cjr

17...Qxd4 18.Bxd4 Bd3 19.Rfc1

19.cxd5= Bxf1 20.Kxf1

19...Ba3! 20.cxd5 Bxc1 21.Rxc1 cxd5 22.Bxd5 Be4

This was a really good and important move. If instead 22...Bd3?! 23.f3 followed by e4 would give Black lots of trouble. -cjr

23.Bxe4 Rxe4

Endgame KRR-KRB

24.Rc7 b6 25.Kg2 Ree8 26.g4 Rec8 27.Rb7 Rc2 28.a4 Rc1! 29.h4 Rb1 30.g5 hxg5 31.hxg5 Rxb3 32.g6 f6

Hoping for ...Rb3-a3. Don't do 32...fxg6 33.Rxg7+ Kf8 34.Rh7=

33.f4

I rejected 33.a5 because then 34.axb6 axb6 35.Rxb6 Rg5+ 36.Kf3 Rxg6, and I felt that position would be easier to win as White has no counter play now. -cjr

33.a5⚡

33...Rb4 34.Kf3 Rxa4 35.Rd7 Ra3

Black sees White wants to play e4-e5 for counter play, so he slows my plan down with this move. -cjr

36.Ke4

36.Kg4

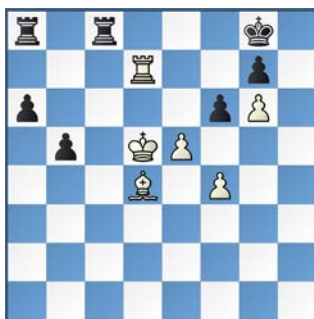
36...b5+ 37.Rb7 a6 38.Kd5 Ra4 39.Rd7

White hopes to continue with e3-e4.

39...Rc4 40.e4 Rcc8

40...a5! 41.e5 a4

41.e5



Position after 41.e5

41...fxe5?

41...Rd8!-+ 42.e6 Re8

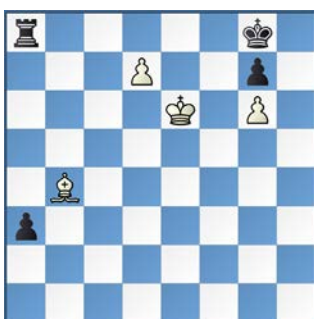
42.fxe5= Rd8 43.e6 Rxd7+??

Black was getting pretty low on time here. I believe he saw a forced draw here and decided to go into it rather than lose by time... -cjr 43...Rab8=

44.exd7

KR-KB

44...b4 45.Ke6 a5 46.Bc5 a4! 47.Bxb4 a3!



Position after 47...a3

Intending ... a3-a2.

48.Bxa3! Rd8

48...Rxa3 49.d8Q#

49.Ke7 Rxd7+ 50.Kxd7+-

Fritz's statement that White is "winning" is quite the exaggeration. If Black plays it right he draws by force. -cjr

50...Kh8 51.Ke7 Kg8 52.Bb2 Kh8 53.Bf6

Threatening mate with Ke7-f7.

53...Kg8 54.Bg5 Kh8 55.Bh6

White threatens Ke7-f7 and mate.

55...Kg8 56.Bg5 Kh8 57.Kf7

Precision: White = 38%, Black = 47%. 57.Kd8

½-½

Ryan Richardson (2045) –  
Corey Russell (2206) [B07]  
Oregon Closed Championship  
Portland, OR (R6), July 19, 2022  
[Tactical Analysis 2.10 (7s)]

1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 c6 4.a4 Qa5 5.Bd3 e5 6.Nge2 Be7 7.0-0 0-0 8.h3 Nbd7 9.Be3 Re8

The position is equal. — Friz

While the black position is cramped it also is very solid. I felt it was unlikely my opponent was prepared for this. -cjr

10.Qd2 Qc7 11.f4 exd4

Taking the center pawn is better: 1) trades center pawn for center pawn, than the wing pawn for f4.; 2) opens up c5 for my knight; and 3) avoids opening up the f-file for White which seemed pretty useful for White if I were to do that. -cjr

12.Nxd4 Nc5 13.Rae1 a5 14.Nf3 Nxd3 15.cxd3 Bd7 16.Rc1 Qd8 17.e5 Nd5 18.Nxd5 cxd5 19.b3 dxe5 20.fxe5 Bf5

My opponent criticized this move in the post-mortem because it lead to bishops of opposites. However, by going into this I also won two pawns and created two passed-pawns on the queenside which eventually won the game for me. The other thing, bishops of opposites are NOT necessarily draw. -cjr

21.Ng5 Bg6 22.e6

22.Nf3=

22...Bxg5

Black should try 22...f6!⚡ 23.Nf3 Bb4

23.exf7+= Bxf7 24.Bxg5 Qb6+ 25.Kh1 h6 26.Bh4 Bh5

I really wish I had chosen 26...d4. It would have saved me a lot of grief. -cjr

27.Bf2 Qxb3 28.Rc7

Intending Bf2-d4 and mate.

28...Rf8 29.Re1

29.Rfc1= deserves consideration. 29...Qxa4 30.Qb2

29...Rf7↑

Black is more active.

30.Rxf7 Bxf7 31.Bd4 Qxa4 32.Qf4

Strongly threatening Qf4-e5.

### 32...Re8 33.Rc1 Qb4

I spent a large amount of time here. I had to construct a defense. I knew if I could just hold my queenside pawns can carry the day for me. -cjr

**34.Rc7 Re7 35.Rc8+ Be8! 36.Kh2 a4 37.Qg4**

37.Rd8

**37...Qd6+?**

37...g5! 38.Rd8 Qd2

**38.Kg1**

38.g3!= g5 39.Bc5

**38...g5 39.Qh5**

39.Bc5 39... was worth a try. 39...Re1+ 40.Kf2

**39...Qe6!-+ 40.Rd8 Kh7 41.Qf3**

Intending Qf3-f8.

**41...Bf7**

41...Rf7-+ 42.Qg3 Re7

**42.Kh2**

Better is 42.Ra8

**42...Kg6 43.h4**

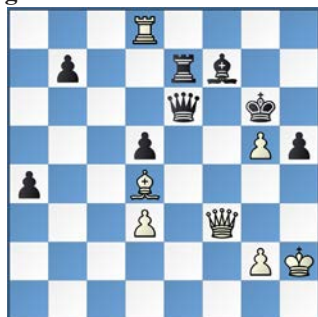
43.Qf2

**43...h5??**

I didn't play ...gxh4 because I was worried about 44.Qf4 threatening to win my queen with Rd6. However, ...Rd7 and Black is doing well. -cjr

43...gxh4-+ and life is good for Black. Threatens to win with ...Qe6-f5. 44.Qf2 Qf5 45.Qxh4 Re2

**44.hxg5?**



Position after 44.hxg5

44.Rh8!+- Qd6+ 45.g3

**44...Kxg5**

44...Qf5! 45.Qg3 Qxg5

**45.Rxd5+?**

My opponent spent a large amount of time here, in fact nearly his entire regulation time he was almost on increment time only. While this combination does win a pawn it's a technically lost endgame. There are chances to draw for him so don't fault him for it. I thought it would be more difficult if he had kept queens on. I was expecting a line like this: 45. Qg3+ Qg4 46. Be3+ Kg6 47. Rd6+ Re6 48. Rxe6+ Bxe6 49. Qe5 and White fights on. -cjr

45.Rh8! 45... Qf5 46.Qg3+ Qg4 47.Be3+ Kg6 48.Qf2 Rxe3 49.Qxe3

**45...Qxd5 46.Bf6+ Kg6**

(→...Qd5xf3)

**47.Qxd5 Bxd5 48.Bxe7**

Endgame KB-KB

**48...Kf5 49.g3?**

49.Kh3 was necessary.

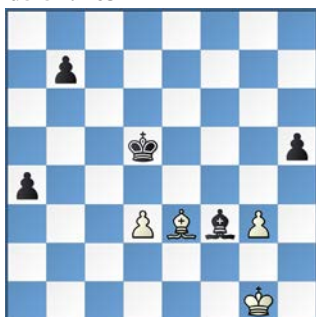
**49...Ke5**

Black is clearly winning.

**50.Bc5 Bf3 51.Kg1**

White hopes to continue with Kg1-f2.

**51...Kd5 52.Be3**



Position after 52.Be3

The necessity of this move is unfortunate. White would have preferred a move like Bf8 but then 52...Kd4 53.Kf2 Bg4 54.Ke1 Kxd3 and White is helpless to a ...Kc2-b3 and forcing White to sac his bishop for a black queen side pawn. -cjr

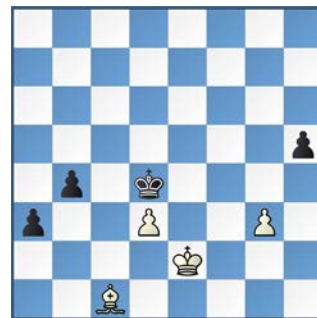
52.Bf8 Kd4 53.Kf2

**52...b5 53.Kf2 b4! 54.Kxf3**

Black must now prevent Kf3-e2. KB-K3P — Fritz

I saw was winning after this. Instead, 54.Bc1 is slightly more resistant. E.g., if 54... a3 then 55.Ke3 holds! However I was going to play instead 54...Kd4! 55.Kxf3 Kxd3 56.Kf4 Kc2 and Black's passers will prevail. -cjr

**54...a3 55.Bc1 Kd4 56.Ke2**



Position after 56.Ke2

**56...Kc3! 57.Bd2+ Kb3 58.Bg5 Ka2 59.Bf6 b3**

Precision: White = 21%, Black = 53%.

0-1

Corey Russell (2206) –  
Michael Swearingin (1986) [D85]  
Oregon Closed Championship  
Portland, OR (R7), July 19, 2022  
[Tactical Analysis 2.10 (7s)]

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.e4 Nxc3 6.bxc3 Bg7 7.Nf3 0-0 8.Rb1**



Position after 8.Rb1

After taking the time to study the theory for this line I've had just tremendous success with this line including against masters and experts. I was happy with my opponent's opening choice and felt confident to play for a win. -cjr

**8...c5 9.Be2 b6 10.0-0 cxd4 11.cxd4 Nc6 12.d5 Na5**

I agree this is better than 12...Ne5 e.g., 12...Ne5 13.Nxe5 Bxe5 14.Bh6 Re8 15.f4 and White gets a strong initiative.

**13.Bb2 Bxb2**

White has an edge.

**14.Rxb2 Nb7 15.Nd4 e6 16.Nc6↑**

White is more active.

**16...Qc7 17.Rc2 Nc5 18.Qd4**



18.Bb5± exd5 19.exd5

18...exd5= 19.exd5 Re8 20.Bb5



Position after 20.Bb5

d5–d6 is the strong threat.

20...Qd6

Black should try 20...Bd7!=

21.Nxa7! Re4 22.Nxc8 Rxc8 23.Qxe4 Nxe4 24.Rxc8+ Kg7 25.Rd1 Qf6



Position after 25...Qf6

26.f3

I now see why Rc2 is much better. Because then ...Nc3 doesn't work! e.g. 26.Rc2 Nc3 27.Rxc3 Qxc3 28.Ba4! and Black must go all the way back 28...Qc7 29.d6 Qd8 and Black is helpless to stop h3, Re1–e8 and d8(Q). f3 allows a check on c5. -cjr

26.Rc2!±

26...Nc3= 27.Rxc3 Qxc3

Endgame KQ-KRB

28.Ba4

Strongly threatening d5–d6.

28...Qc5+ 29.Kh1

Threatens to win with d5–d6.

29...Qd6 30.Bb3 h5 31.g3 g5 32.Kg2 f5 33.f4

33.Bc2= remains equal.

33...gxf4± 34.gxf4

34.Rd4±

34...h4 35.Kf3 Qb4

And now ...Qb4–e4+ would win. — Fritz  
I've looked at this for quite a while and as long I am careful where to put my king I don't see a win for Black. In any case here I cannot play for win as my opponent can draw at will with perpetual check. I also knew a draw offer could alter my opponent's thinking—that is he can see that he can win two pawns with check. Also if I am careless he can even pick up my d-pawn with check which would then make it an easy win. My draw offer probably confirms to my opponent that he *must* be winning. This lead to fatal thinking. Objectivity is crucial for chess success. -cjr

36.d6 Qe4+ 37.Kf2 Qxf4+ 38.Ke2?

38.Ke1 was necessary.

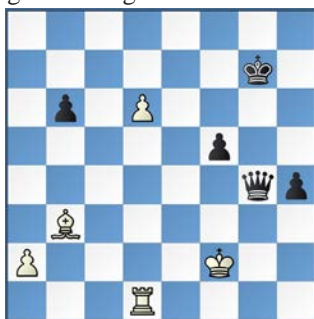
38...Qxh2++ 39.Ke3 Qe5+ 40.Kf2 Qg3+ 41.Ke2

Intending d6–d7. — Fritz

The reason I believe Black needs to take the perpetual is because of three key lines: 1) 41...f4 42.d7 Qe3+ 43.Kf1 f3 44.Bc4! wins; 2) 41...f4 42.d7 f3+ 43.Ke3 f2+ 44.Ke2 Qg1 45.d8(Q) wins; and 3) 41...Qg2+ 43.Ke3 Qe4+ 44.Kf2 h3 45.d7 h2 46.d8(Q) h1(Q) 47.Qg5+ leads to mate. Thus, these lines show that Black must win in two non-checking moves. If I queen first, Black's exposed king ensures a white win. -cjr

41...Qg4+ 42.Kf2

Hoping for Rd1–g1.



Position after 42.Kf2

42...f4??

I disagree with Fritz's analysis. I believe White can hold. So here Black probably realized that ...Qg3+ is three-fold repetition. He also greatly underestimated Kf2 as I was just "responding" to his check and running. Plus, he might have interpreted my move as a draw offer. And I am an exposed king with no pieces

able to block for me what could I do? My opponent had also spent all his regulation time and was on increment only. He was no doubt greatly fatigued at trying to find a win in an equal position. Thus, all of this contributed to his fatal mistake. -cjr

42...Qf4++ 43.Ke2 Qh2+ 44.Ke1 Qg3+ 45.Ke2 f4

43.Rg1+- Qg3+ 44.Rxg3+ fxg3+

KB-K3P

45.Kg2

Intending d6–d7 and mate. — Fritz

While I am winning, careful thought is still required. There's a number of issues to work out such as my weak d-pawn and dealing with the black connected passers. -cjr

45...Kf8 46.Be6 Ke8 47.Kf3?

Fritz's question mark is nonsense; my move is just fine. -cjr

47.Bh3 Kf7 48.a4

47...Kd8?

47...Kf8 48.Bd5 Ke8

48.Bh3 b5 49.a3

My move here is also good. Generally speaking, denying Black any free moves is helpful for White. So, I disagree with Fritz here too. -cjr

49.Ke4 Ke8 50.Ke5 g2 51.Bxg2 Kf7 52.Bh3 Kf8 53.Ke6 Ke8 54.d7+ Kd8 55.Kf7

49...Ke8 50.Ke4!

Precision: White = 44%, Black = 53%. — Fritz

Here White's true purpose is revealed. He will win with the d-pawn as Black can't win it. e.g. 50...g2 51.Bxg2 Kd7 52.Kd5 holds the pawn. Also, thanks to the white KB, Black will be unable to prevent the white king from getting to c7 which in turn will guarantee the white d-pawn sees its destiny. Therefore, Black throws in the towel and goes home (this was the last round). -cjr

1–0





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Round 2 G/10;d5 Saturday, 11:30 am

Round 3 G/30;d5 Saturday, 1:00 pm

Round 4 G/45;d5 Saturday, 2:30 pm

Round 5 G/60;d5 Sunday, 10 am

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US Chess Required for Open section. Unrated section is FREE.

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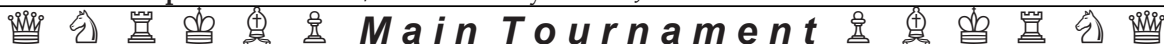
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# Kids Say The Darndest Things At Chess Camp

*Karen Schmidt*

A few months ago, Seattle's Detective Cookie (locally famous police officer who has run a free Saturday chess club in the Rainier Valley neighborhood for the past 15 years) asked me if I would be interested in teaching a summer chess camp at the Green Lake Community Center in my Seattle neighborhood. The Seattle Parks and Recreation Department had wanted her to teach it, but her police work schedule was too busy. I told her I was interested, and a few weeks later I got an email from the Parks Department... and it evolved that I did teach two week-long chess camps, one in July and one in August.

Although I had been the assistant coach at my son's elementary school chess club (a few decades ago), and have been teaching my two neighbor kids private lessons for about two years, I was a bit anxious about coaching ten seven- to nine-year-olds all by myself for three hours a day. As a young child growing up in Yakima, I had loved watching the Art Linkletter television show, *Kids Say the Darndest Things*. Little did I know that I was about to hear some pretty funny stuff in real life at chess camp.

I prepared for the first session as well as I could ahead of time. Happily, the Washington Chess Federation loaned me five chess sets and the Community Center provided a hanging chess instruction board. On day number one I was seated and ready early in the nice upstairs space, awaiting the arrival of my charges. The first boy and his mom arrived, and I introduced myself as Coach Karen. The boy announced, "My name is Judah and I'm a boy." I was a bit taken aback but chuckled to myself, showed no reaction, and asked "Does that mean some people think you're a girl?" He matter-of-factly said, "Yeah... most of them... because I have long hair." (As if I hadn't noticed when he came in that he had beautiful long wavy brown hair down to his waist.) It turned out that Judah knew more about chess than the other kids, so he became my right-hand man for the first couple days.

There were seven boys and two girls in the July group, and surprisingly, the girls were the rambunctious ones. All nine students were pretty good beginner-level players, and by employing high energy and lots of teaching tricks, I was able to keep them focused quite well—although those two girls were a challenge. In both

sessions, the first couple days were spent learning or reviewing how all the pieces move and capture; the point values of the pieces; a short history of the game of chess; and playing pawn battles. Then as the week progressed, we moved on to classic chess, the main principles in chess, and tactics such as pins, forks, and skewers.

Thankfully there was a 15-minute snack break at 10:15 AM each day, and I was allowed to take the kids outdoors to play on the adjacent playground. On day number one in July, I was in a bit of a panic during the recess, because there were about 200 kids on the playground. (I was madly counting heads to nine for the duration... alarmed at the possibility that I could lose one of my students.) After I did a very loud two-finger whistle at the end of the break and called the chess kids over, all seven boys came running. The two girls continued playing as if they hadn't heard a thing. Each day at the end of the recess, I would pick a boy and ask him to please run over and tell the girls "Coach Karen says to get over here." It worked well.

One day that first session I decided to wear my fleece Batman pants—black with



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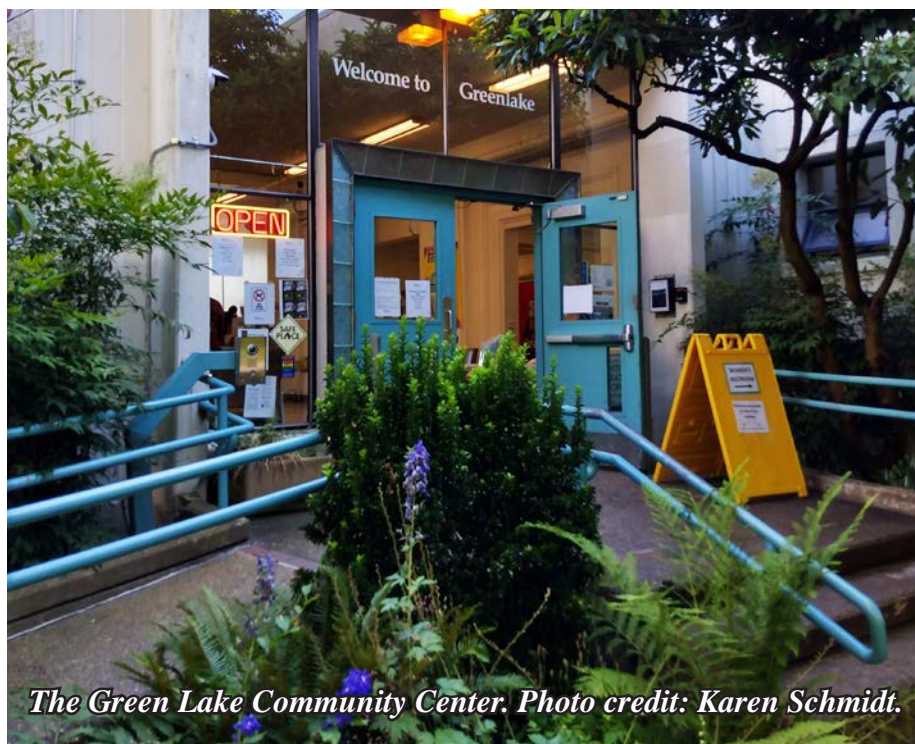
the classic yellow logo. When everyone had arrived, a calm and studious boy named Kieran sized me up and asked me, “Why are you wearing pajama pants?” I replied that SOME people might wear these as pajama pants, but I wear them as regular pants. That seemed to satisfy him, although I wondered if perhaps he had a pair of Batman pajamas at home. (In truth, these probably WERE fleece pajama pants...)

One July morning Kiaan raised his hand and when I called on him, he asked if we knew that a teenager had beaten World Champion Magnus Carlsen. I asked him when that had happened, and he told the group that it was about three months earlier, and that the boy was from India. (Kiaan is of Indian ancestry.) He didn’t know the teenager’s name but volunteered to research it that night and let us know the next day. True to his word, when he arrived the following morning, he came up to my table and printed the 16-year-old’s name for me. (Rameshbabu Pragganandhaa)

I asked Kiaan if he would please pronounce the boy’s name for us, and he replied, “You try it!” I gave it my best shot and did ok on the first name but was way off the mark on the last name. Kiaan pronounced the name correctly and told us that the teenager probably speaks Hindi. I was impressed with Kiaan’s enthusiasm doing online research and then sharing the results with the group.

I had to laugh at the close of day number one of the July session. Judah—my right-hand man—came up to me and asked, “Tomorrow are you going to cover castling and en passant?” I answered, “Absolutely!” But to myself I said “I guess I am now!”

At the end of that first week, we had a little two-round tournament on the last



*The Green Lake Community Center. Photo credit: Karen Schmidt.*

day—one round before recess and one after. As they started the first game, I was amazed that the room was suddenly silent. They had actually absorbed and taken to heart everything I taught them in that short week: including no talking during tournament games: the only exceptions being “check,” “checkmate,” “en passant,” “I offer a draw,” and “I resign.” I sat down at the front table for the first time all week. It was extremely gratifying to see how much the boys and girls had learned in five short days.

On August 10, I was fortunate enough to have a special visit at the second chess camp by Detective Cookie. She spoke to the boys and girls about safety issues such as strangers and bullying, as well as

the history behind her Detective Cookie Chess Club, and then she took questions. The children were pretty excited to meet a real live police officer who is also a chess expert! She wrapped up her visit by watching them play chess games, and she gave some individual tips and pointers.

I hope that the Seattle Parks Department will run several more chess camps next summer, and that I can repeat this very exhausting, very rewarding, and often hilarious teaching experience. A word of warning though: coaching a chess camp three hours a day is not for the faint of heart. Be prepared to be starving by noon, wishing for an afternoon nap, and hearing some very funny *Candid-Camera* type stuff.

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# An Ode To Winning At Chess

By Nobel Ang

The knight jumps nimbly through the enemy ranks

Enemy pawns and queen alike tremble in fear

At the approach of this fearsome unpredictable beast;

The bishop zips confidently through holes around the enemy king

Slicing through whatever little remains of the crumbling enemy fortress.

Checkmate is nigh and morale is low

The opponent tries vainly to sue for peace ("Would you like a draw?")

Knowing full well what the answer would be ("Hell no!").

There is little in this world

Or the next

That can compare to the incredible almost unbearable lightness

Of winning at chess.

Winning at chess

Makes one feel that one might be the best thing that has happened to chess

Even though

None less than Kasparov has warned

That satisfaction with victory can lead to a lack of vigilance and future defeats

Even though none less than Capablanca has counseled

That one learns much more from defeats than victories.

All of which may well be true

But why deny myself this wonderful lightness of victory in this present moment?

Who knows when Caissa

Would deign to smile again on my fortunes over the sixty-four squares?

# Detective Cookie Chess Park Ground-Breaking Ceremony

By Josh Sinanan

On Sunday June 12, several chess players and supporters of the future Detective Cookie Chess Park gathered on the corner of South Barton Place and Rainier Avenue in South Seattle from 2-4 PM to officially break ground and begin construction of the future Detective Cookie Chess Park!

Seattle Police Detective Denise "Cookie" Bouldin runs a chess club for Rainier Beach Youth and is currently assigned as a Youth Outreach and Community Relations Detective. Detective Cookie's vision is to inspire and empower local youth by providing them with the life skills learned through chess. The project has culminated with the creation of a public park in Rainier Beach, Seattle, where chess can be played outdoors on built-in chess tables and on a giant in-ground chess board. The event featured free food, good company, and of course chess. In attendance were Detective Denise "Cookie" Bouldin, Seattle Chief of Police Adrian Diaz, former Seattle Seahawks player K.J. Wright, WCF Women's and Girls Director Chouchanik Airapetian, and WCF President Josh Sinanan among others. Many thanks to the City of Seattle, Four Culture, and Seattle Parks Foundation for their support.



*(L-R) Efrem McGaughey, Detective Denise "Cookie" Bouldin, and Virginia Fullwood break ground at the site of the future Detective Cookie Chess Park. Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.*



# 2022 Seattle Summer Kickoff

By Josh Sinanan

The 2022 Seattle Summer Kickoff was held online via Chess.com on Saturday, June 25. Scholastic chess players in grades K-12 participated from throughout the Pacific Northwest, including the cities of Sammamish, Bothell, Kirkland, Olympia, Bellevue, Redmond, Auburn, Lake Forest Park, Ravensdale, Vancouver (WA), and Vancouver (BC)! The event was co-hosted by the Chess Mates Foundation and the Washington Chess Federation and directed by WCF Scholastic Director Rekha Sagar with assistance from college chess volunteer Andrew Jiang. A total of 32 players competed across four sections separated by grade level and rating: K-3 U1000, K-3 Open, K-12 U1200, and K-12 Open. A special raffle was conducted in which the winners each received a *Winning Chess* series book by Washington

State's very own Grandmaster Yasser Seirawan! Congratulations to the winners, and thanks to all who contributed to this amazing event!

## Section Champion(s):

### K-3 U1000

First/Second Place – Akshita Swaminath & Sabeer Shaikot (4/5) Co-Champions!

### K-3 Open

First/Second Place – Arnav Gadde & Vincent Liu (4/5) Co-Champions!

### K-12 U1200

First/Second Place – Yuchang Yang & Ankita Swaminath (4/5) Co-Champions!

### K-12 Open

First Place – Ayaan Kang (3.5/4): Champion!

## Raffle Book Winners:

K-3 U1000: Vivaan Sankrithi;  
K-3 Open: Arnav Gadde; K-12 U1200: Vindhya Seshadri, K-12 Open: Kenneth Yuodelis.

# The Summer Sizzler Ends With Fire For More!!

By Josh Sinanan and Lakshana Anand

The 2022 Washington Summer Sizzler chess tournament was held online via Chess.com on Saturday, July 16. Scholastic chess players in grades K-12 participated from throughout the West Coast, including the cities of Redmond, Bellevue, Bothell, Kirkland, Seattle, Sammamish, Issaquah, Everett, Yarrow Point, Lake Forest Park, Vancouver (Washington), and San Diego (California)! The event was hosted by the Washington Chess Federation and directed by WCF Scholastic Director Rekha Sagar with assistance from college chess volunteer Andrew Jiang. A total of 49 players competed across four sections separated by grade level and rating: K-4 U1100, K-4 Open, 5-12 U1300, and 5-12

## Washington Women's Championship

September 9 - 11, 2022



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

**Mail To:** Washington Chess Federation  
c/o Orlov Chess Academy  
4174 148th Ave. NE  
Building 1, Ste. M  
Redmond, WA 98052

**Contact:** Josh Sinanan, WCF President

**Phone:** 206-769-3757

**Email:**

WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com

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

*Highest finishing WA resident seeded into the Premier section of the 2023 WA State Championship.*

**Site:** Orlov Chess Academy – Greenlake:  
7212 Woodlawn Ave. NE, Seattle, WA 98115.

**Format:** A 5-round Swiss in one section. Open to all female chess players. Maximum of 30 players, please register early. In case of a tie for 1<sup>st</sup> place, a follow-up playoff match will determine the seed for the 2023 Premier.

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

**Prize Fund:** \$750 (based on 25 paid entries).

1<sup>st</sup> \$200, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$150, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$100

1<sup>st</sup> U1800/U1600/U1400/U1200/U1000: \$60

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

**Entry Fee:** \$50 if postmarked or online by 9/4, \$60 after or at site. Free entry for WGMs, WIMs, and WFMs.

**Registration:** Friday 6:00-6:45 PM.

**Rounds:** Friday 7:00 PM; Saturday 10:00 AM, 3:00 PM; Sunday 10:00 AM, 3:00 PM.

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

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

**Health/Safety Protocols:** All players and parents (if U18) are required to sign the [WCF Health/Safety Protocols & Waiver of Liability](#) form prior to the start of the tournament.

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

## Winners:

### Section Champion(s):

K-4 U1100 – First Place: Elijah Edwin (4.5/5)!

K-4 Open – First Place: Yuchen Zhou (5/5)!

5-12 U1300 – First Place: Hasini Juluri (5/5)!

5-12 Open First/Second Place: Vijay Patankar & Gordon Winter (4/5)!

Now it is my pleasure to turn it over to Third Grader Lakshana Anand, who finished in Second Place in the K-4 U1100 section. Lakshana has kindly recounted her tournament experience and annotated one of her games for the *Northwest Chess* readers to enjoy.

The Summer Sizzler tournament ended on Saturday, July 16, and all the participants were of different ages, but all were tough. I, myself, had rough competition! As a strong chess player,

you must uphold your name of greatness (especially in tournaments)!

And these 1st graders did just that.

The Best (at chess) 1st Graders on Earth!!!

Jonathan Lan and Elijah Edwin are 1st graders who are probably destined to be grandmasters. If I had defeated at least one of them, I would have won the U1100 K-4 section of the tournament. Instead, Elijah did, and I was in second. I am only a third grader with high hopes, so who are you kidding?!

Elijah ended up with a 1-1-0.5-1-1 score, and I had a 1-1-0.5-0.5-1 score. 4.5 is bigger than 4, so Elijah won. Congrats, Elijah and all participants!

My tournament-changing game with Elijah:

**Lakshana Anand (1397) –  
Elijah Edwin (887) [C50]**  
Washington Summer Sizzler  
Chess.com, July 16, 2022  
[Lakshana Anand]

**1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.d3 Bc5  
5.Nc3 0-0**

This put Elijah's king on a safer square. I

should have castled queenside, actually...

**6.Bg5 h6 7.Bh4 g5 8.Bg3 a6?**

Elijah might have lost a pawn!

**9.Bb3?**

I don't capture but ...b5??: I still have a chance.

**9...b5 10.Nd5?**

Still don't capture: Nxd5? Have a chance.

**10...Nxd5? 11.Bxd5 Bd4?**

Um...

**12.Bxe5??**

I forgot! Bishops are better than knights but

**12...Bxe5? 13.Nxe5 Nxe5 14.Bxa8**

Free rook

**14...c6 15.0-0?**

Advantage gone.

**15...d6? 16.d4! Ng6 17.Bxc6 Qc7 18.Bd5  
Qe7 19.Re1 Be6 20.Bxe6 Qxe6 21.d5  
Qe5 22.c3 b4 23.Qd4 bxc3 24.Qxe5  
Nxe5 25.bxc3 Rc8 26.Rac1!?**

Loses material.

**26...Nd3 27.Red1 Nxc1 28.Rxc1 Rc4**

# Washington G/60 Chess Championship

## October 8, 2022

### A Northwest Chess Grand Prix Event

**Site:** Orlov Chess Academy – Greenlake:  
7212 Woodlawn Ave. NE, Seattle, WA 98115.

**Format:** A 4-Round Swiss in one section.  
Maximum of 30 players, please register  
early to guarantee your spot!

**Time Control:** G/60; +10 sec. increment.

**Entry Fee:** \$50 if postmarked or online by  
10/1, \$60 after 10/1. 100% preregistered, no  
on-site registration. Free entry for GMs, IMs,  
WGMS.

**Rounds:** Sat. 10 AM, 1 PM, 4 PM, 7 PM.

**Prize Fund:** \$650 (based on 25 paid entries).  
1<sup>st</sup> \$150, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$120, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$80  
1<sup>st</sup> U2000/U1800/U1600/U1400/U1200: \$60

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

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

**Rating:** Dual US Chess and NWSRS Rated.  
Highest of current US Chess Regular, US  
Chess Online, or NWSRS rating will be used  
to determine pairings and prizes.

**Health/Safety Protocols:** All players and  
parents (if U18) are required to sign the [WCF  
Health/Safety Protocols & Waiver of Liability](#)  
form prior to the start of the tournament.



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

**Mail To:** Washington Chess Federation  
c/o Orlov Chess Academy  
4174 148<sup>th</sup> Ave. NE  
Building I, Ste. M  
Redmond, WA 98052

**Contact:** Josh Sinanan, WCF President

**Phone:** 206-769-3757

**Email:**

WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com

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

Registration and payment **deadline 5pm  
on Wednesday, October 5.**

29.Re1?

Loses a pawn.

29...Rxc3 30.h3!?

Missed an open file.

30...Rc2

And the game went on. This game lasted 53 moves, then we agreed on a draw. Thank you for reading this page. Have a nice rest of your day!—Lakshana Anand, Third Grade

*Editor's Note: We do have the rest of the game:*

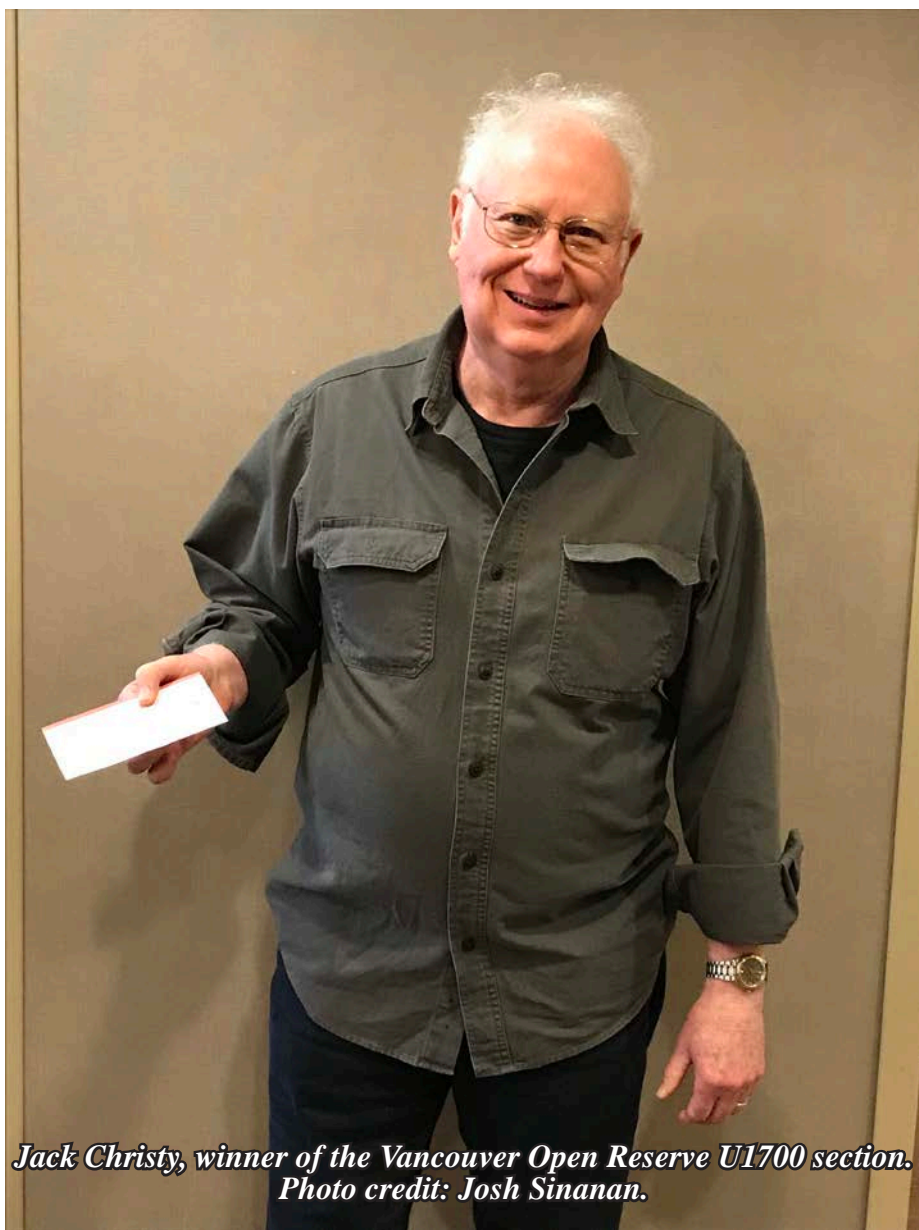
31.a4 Ra2 32.e5 dxe5 33.Rxe5 Rxa4  
34.Re3 Rd4 35.Re8+ Kg7 36.Ra8 Rxd5  
37.Rxa6 f6 38.g4 Kg6 39.Kg2 Rd2  
40.Kg3 Rd3+ 41.f3 Rd1 42.Kg2 Rd2+  
43.Kg3 Re2 44.Ra8 Re1 45.Kg2 Re2+  
46.Kg3 Re1 47.Kf2 Rh1 48.Kg2 Rb1  
49.Rg8+ Kh7 50.Rf8 Kg7 51.Re8 Rb2+  
52.Kg3 Rb1 53.Re7+ Kg6

1/2–1/2

## Vancouver Open

By Josh Sinanan

The Washington Chess Federation hosted the Ninth Annual Vancouver Open July 23-24, 2022, at the Vancouver Hampton Inn & Suites. Chess players from throughout the Pacific Northwest were represented in the 64-player field, from cities including Portland (Oregon), Mercer Island, Vancouver (Washington), Sherwood (Oregon), Redmond, Bothell, Anacortes, Ridgefield, Kirkland, Shoreline, Bellevue, Battle Ground, Olympia, Sammamish, Napavine, Edmonds, Camas, Pullman, Duvall, Woodinville, Lake Oswego (Oregon), Beaverton (Oregon), Gresham (Oregon), Medina, and Seattle. Despite the proximity to the Oregon-Washington border, only ten Oregon players took part, compared with 54 from Washington State! The tournament was directed by WCF Scholastic Director Rekha Sagar with assistance from WCF Women's and Girls' Chess Director Chouchan Airapetian, WCF Treasurer Robert Allen, former WCF Tournament Coordinator Dan Mathews, and WCF President Josh Sinanan. The field was split evenly between two sections, with 33 players in the Open and 31 in the Reserve U1700.



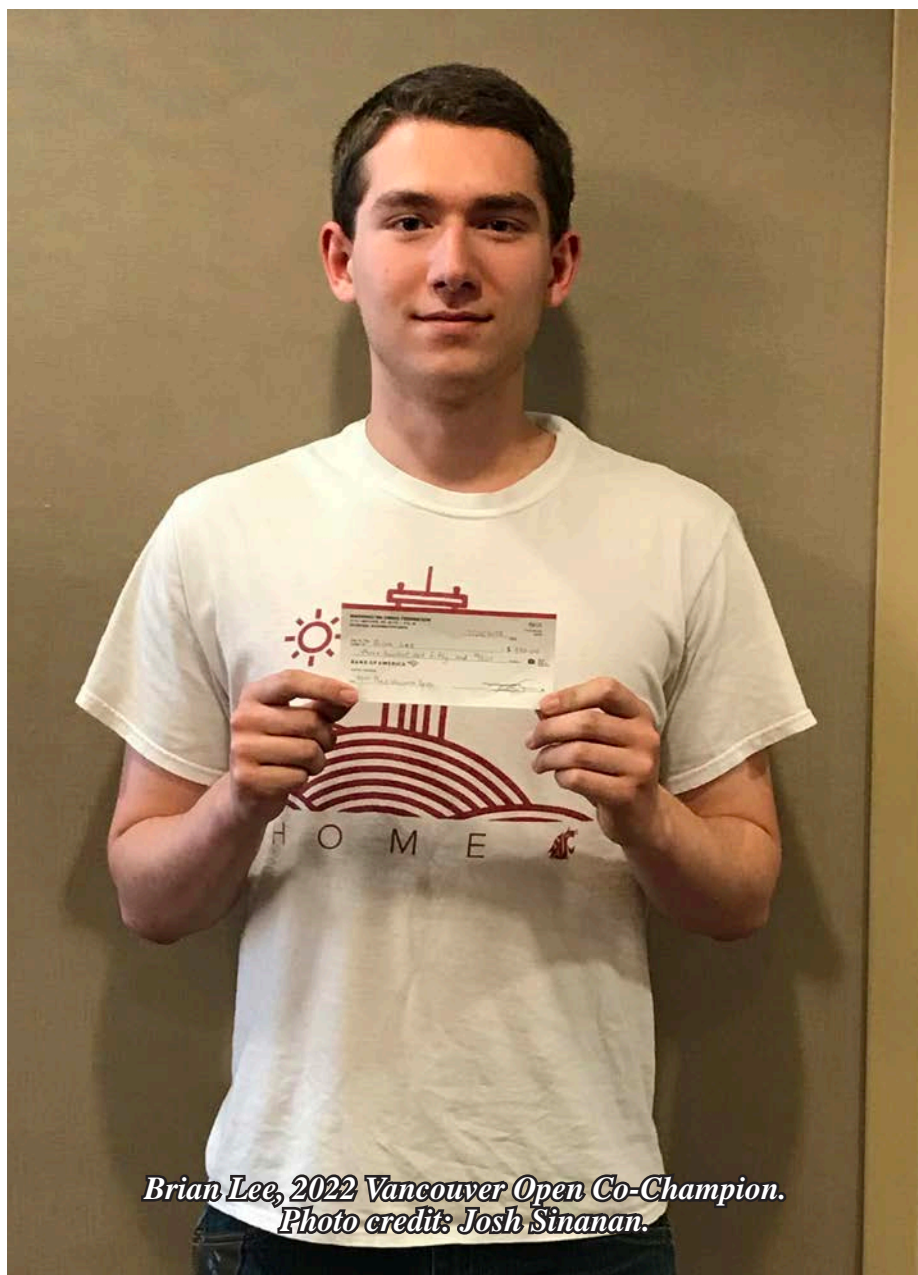
*Jack Christy, winner of the Vancouver Open Reserve U1700 section.  
Photo credit: Josh Sinanan.*

As has been the trend both locally and nationally, more scholastic players are coming out to play, even in Open tournaments such as this one, which traditionally attracted more adult players. Specifically, 28 adults and 36 juniors took part, with a higher concentration of adults (18) in the Open section and junior players (22) dominating the Reserve section.

In the Open section, top seed FIDE Master Marcel Milat (4.0, 2351 → 2352) from Woodinville and college student Brian Lee (4.0, 1949 → 1947) from Napavine shared first place with 4.0/5. Milat, who was in the area for business,

came out of retirement and played in his first event since 2018. In fact, Milat was the only at-site registrant for the entire event! Despite taking two half-point byes due to dinner plans on both evenings, he still managed to tie for first place, winning against up-and-coming juniors Edward Li and Ted Wang along the way! For Brian Lee, it was his second consecutive Vancouver Open victory, as he had tied for first place with Zoe Tang in 2021. Six players shared third/U2200/U2000 honors half-a-point back: Josh Sinanan (3.5, 2259 → 2238) from Seattle, Micah Smith (3.5, 1944 → 1961) from Vancouver (Washington), Michael





*Brian Lee, 2022 Vancouver Open Co-Champion.  
Photo credit: Josh Sinanan.*

Hosford (3.5, 1835 → 1836) from Olympia, Ted Wang (3.5, 1844 → 1863) from Medina, Harrison Toppen-Ryan (3.5, 1792 → 1818) from Kirkland, and Ujwal Garine (3.5, 1447 → 1643) from Redmond. Washington State's strongest fourth grader, Vihaan Jammalamadaka (3.0, 1663 → 1763) from Redmond, won the upset prize by virtue of scoring a 596-point upset against his former coach, WCF President Josh Sinanan! National Master Zoey Tang (3.0, 2226 → 2215) from Portland, Oregon's strongest female chess player and last year's Vancouver

Open Co-Champion, won the best female player prize.

In the 31-player Reserve U1700 section, experience prevailed over youth despite the abundance of participants who were still too young to have a driver's license! Jack Christy (4.5, 1400 → 1496) from Anacortes emerged victorious with an impressive four wins and one draw from five games. Jack has been playing tournament chess since the early 90's and has worked with his coach IM Georgi Orlov on and off over the years.

This was Jack's first tournament win in as long as he can remember, and it was a convincing one, as he allowed only a single draw against the solid Varnika Jammalamadaka in the second round. John Strohbahn (4.0, 1400 → 1410) from Vancouver (Washington) finished in 2nd Place half a point back, scoring clutch wins in the final two rounds against Washington whiz kids Yuchen Zhou and Dann Merriman. Similar to the Open section, six players tied for 3rd/U1600/U1400/U1200 with 3.5 points apiece: Daniel Vasey (3.5, 1507 → 1501) from Gresham, James "Skip" Hamlett (3.5, 1420 → 1431) from Shoreline, Emerson Wong-Godfrey (3.5, 1437 → 1477) from Seattle, Phil Stephenson (3.5, 1281 → 1372) from Beaverton, Anisha Sripada (3.5, 1303 → 1327) from Portland, and Kenneth Yuodelis (3.5, 1001 → 1109) from Bellevue. A trio of new players tied for the 1st Unrated prize with 2.5 points apiece: Brian Corcoran (2.5, unrated → 999) from Ridgefield, Neil Kossuri (2.5, 157P3 → 403) from Bothell, and Teja Koripella (2.5, 1446P10 → 1419) from Sammamish. Yuchen Zhou (2.5, 797 → 914) from Bellevue was awarded the biggest upset prize by virtue of winning against a 358-point higher-rated player. Team Jammalamadaka struck again in the Reserve section, this time with Varnika Jammalamadaka (3.0, 1531 → 1505) of Redmond, Vihaan's older sister, claiming the best female player prize. Varnika won the best female prize with a tournament performance rating (TPR) of 1354 by winning her first game and then drawing the remaining four. Congratulations to the winners, and many thanks to all who contributed to this successful event!

**Brian Lee (1949) –  
Michael Hosford (1863) [E10]  
2022 Vancouver Open (Open)  
Vancouver, WA (R5), July 24, 2022  
[Brian Lee]**

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 Nc6 3.Nf3 e6 4.a3 d5**

I was expecting 4...d6 followed by 5...e5 which is more popular and scores better than 4...d5. After 4...d5 the knight seems a little bit misplaced on c6 blocking the c-pawn.

**5.Nc3 a6 6.g3?**

Usually when White allows the capture on c4 he is able to regain the pawn or get enough compensation with play in the center or with tricks down the h1-a8

diagonal, but here neither is the case. Both of us missed this for the next couple of moves. In the future I would play 6.cxd5 and develop normally.

**6...Be7?**

6...dxc4 7.Bg2 Be7 8.0-0 Na5 9.Bg5 b5 10.Ne5 Rb8 Black keeps his extra pawn with a better position.

**7.Bg2? 0-0? 8.0-0? dxc4**

Finally capturing.

**9.e4 b5 10.d5?!**

d5 is a normal idea in this structure but here it leads to trouble with my rook on a1, which was honestly the furthest thing from my mind.

**10...Na5 11.Bf4 Nb3**



*Position after 11...Nb3*

**12.Rb1?!**

White can save the rook by playing 12.dxe6 (12.Ra2 is a terrible place for the rook.) 12...Bxe6 (12...Nxa1 13.exf7+ Rxf7 14.Qxa1) 13.Qxd8 Rfxd8 14.Rad1 but this is a miserable endgame which I would never choose over keeping queens on the board.; Since I am losing material anyway, an interesting try is 12.Nd4 Nxa1 13.Nc6 Qe8 14.Qxa1 (14.Nxe7+ also leads to a losing endgame after 14...Qxe7 15.d6 Qd8 16.e5 Nd5 17.Nxd5 exd5 18.Qxd5 Rb8 19.dxc7 Qxc7 20.e6 Bxe6 21.Bxc7 Bxd5 22.Bxb8 Rxb8 (22...Bxg2 23.Rxa1 Rxb8 24.Kxg2) 23.Rxa1 Bxg2 24.Kxg2)

**12...exd5 13.exd5?! Bf5 14.Ne5 Bd6**

The rook is still trapped so Black makes a good decision stopping White's counterplay.

**15.Nc6 Qd7 16.Bg5 Bxb1 17.Qxb1 h6?**

Loses a tempo and allows White to destroy Black's pawn structure in front of his king.

17...Ng4+

**18.Bxf6 Nd2??**



*(L-R) WCF Treasurer Robert Allen, President Josh Sinanan, and Scholastic Director Rekha Sagar make the pre-round announcements at the Vancouver Open. Photo credit: Haiyong Wang.*

This loses all of Black's advantage. Black still remains up material but he loses a lot of his activity. I had a feeling my opponent was planning this after he played 17...h6 because there was no other reason to allow 18.Bxf6. 18...gxf6 Black is still winning although White has some counterplay now thanks to Black's damaged kingside structure.

**19.Qd1**

I think another reason my opponent played 17...h6 was because of the line 19.Qc1 Nxf1 when if not for the pawn on h6, White could play 20.Qg5.

**19...Qf5??**



*Position after 19...Qf5*

My opponent told me that he thought he had gotten too greedy and decided to bail out. Unfortunately, he miscalculated and thought he was still up the exchange but then realized later that I had gotten two pieces for the rook instead of just one. 19...Nxf1 20.Ne4 Nxh2 21.Kxh2 Qf5 22.Bc3 White has three minor pieces for two rooks and two pawns, which still gives Black a significant material advantage, but the White's activity compensates for

that. Computer says equal but with such a strange material imbalance it seems unlikely that this will be a draw with two humans playing.

20.Qxd2 Qxf6 21.Ne4 Qg6 22.f4 f5 23.Nxd6 Qxd6 24.Qc2 Rae8 25.Kh1 Qc5 26.Rd1 Qe3 27.Nd4 g6 28.Nf3 Re4 29.Ne5 Rd4 30.Nxg6 Re8 31.Ne5 h5 32.h4??

I wanted to get rid of my back rank issues and turns out I had the right idea, but the wrong execution. 32.h3! does the same thing but avoids the perpetual check in the notes to the next move.

**32...c5??**

Now the game is over. 32...Rxd1+ 33.Qxd1 Qxg3 34.Qxh5 Re7 35.Qg5+ (Black has a perpetual after 35.Qxf5 Qxh4+ 36.Bh3 Qe1+) 35...Rg7 36.Qxg3 Rxg3 37.Bf3 (to stop 37...Rb3) 37...Rh3+

**33.Rxd4 cxd4 34.Qxf5 Rxe5 35.fxe5**

**1-0**

**William Dann (1400) – Austin Tang (2043) [B23]**

2022 Vancouver Open (Open)  
Vancouver, WA (R4), July 24, 2022  
[William Dann]

This game contains the most disrespectful combinations I have ever played. I highly recommend trying to solve the diagram after 24...Qxe4 if you're going to skip this game.

**1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nd4 4.Nf3 g6**

Jerry Sherrard played 4...a6 against me the round before this and I got a great



position, so I was feeling confident.

**5.Nxd4 cxd4 6.Ne2 Bg7 7.d3?? e6??**

I will be telling my children the move order of the game was O-O e6 d3. Don't play your openings on autopilot no matter how confident you feel!

**7...Qa5+ Just wins the Bb5**

**8.0-0 Ne7 9.f4 0-0 10.Qe1 a6 11.Ba4 d6 12.Qf2 e5 13.Qg3 Kh8?!**



*Position after 13...Kh8*

This is the kind of move one plays when one doesn't want to calculate something like ...f5. This combined with my opponent missing 7...Qa5+ gave me the impression that I could push them around some more with:

**14.Bb3 f6?! 15.h4 Bd7 16.h5 gxh5 17.f5!**

No Ng6. Black's king is now surrounded by defenders only optically.

**17...d5 18.Qh4 Be8 19.Ng3 dxe4 20.dxe4 d3 21.Be3!?**

I saw the possibility of the combination that ended up winning the game before 18. Qh4, but for that to work we need the dark square bishop hitting the h6 square.

**21...dxc2 22.Nxh5 Bxh5 23.Qxh5 Qd3 24.Kf2! Qxe4??**

I could not contain my excitement here as my combo now works! White to move and win!

**25.Qxh7+!! Kxh7 26.Rh1+ Bh6 27.Rxh6+ Kg7**

My opponent did not see the idea here and was looking at me with a confused look.

**28.Rh7+ Kxh7 29.Rh1+**

My opponent resigned because they now saw the idea.

**29...Kg7 30.Bh6+ Kh8 31.Bxf8+ Qh4+ 32.Rxh4#**

**1-0**

**Michael Lin (1618) –**

**Jerry Sherrard (1970) [D31]**

2022 Vancouver Open (Open)

Vancouver, WA (R1), July 23, 2022

[Ralph Dubisch]

**1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Qc2 c5 5.dxc5 d4 6.a3 Qa5?!**

Provocative. 6...Ba5 7.b4 dxc3 8.bxa5

**7.axb4 Qxa1 8.Nb5**

8.Ne4!? Na6 9.b5 Nb4 10.Nd6+ Ke7 11.Qd1

**8...Kd7??**

8...Na6 threatens ... Nxb4, and things are not at all clearly in White's favor.

**9.Qd2**

White's position is now so over-powering that there is no longer need to discuss compensation for the exchange—the material imbalance simply has no significance here.

There are plenty of paths for White to advantage: 9.Nf3 Na6 10.Nfxd4 The black queen is on sabbatical while the black king swims in shark-infested waters.; 9.Qd1 Nc6 10.Nf3 e5? 11.Nxe5+! Nxe5 12.Qxd4+ Ke6 (12...Ke8 13.Nc7+ Ke7

## Washington G/15 Chess Championship

**October 9, 2022**

**Site:** Orlov Chess Academy – Greenlake:  
7212 Woodlawn Ave. NE, Seattle, WA 98115.

**Format:** A 6-Round Swiss in one section.  
Maximum of 30 players, please register early to reserve your spot!

**Time Control:** G/15; +10 sec. increment.

**Entry Fee:** \$40 if postmarked or online by 10/2, \$50 after. 100% preregistered, no on-site registration. Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs.

**Rounds:** Sun. 10 AM, 11 AM, 12 PM, 1:30 PM, 2:30 PM, 3:30 PM.

**Prize Fund:** \$500 (based on 25 paid entries).  
1<sup>st</sup> \$110, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$80, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$60  
1<sup>st</sup> U2000/U1800/U1600/U1400/U1200: \$50

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

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

**Rating:** US Chess Quick Rated. Highest of current US Chess Quick regular or US Chess Quick online rating will be used to determine pairings and prizes.

**Health/Safety Protocols:** All players and parents (if U18) are required to sign the [WCF Health/Safety Protocols & Waiver of Liability](#) form prior to the start of the tournament.



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

**Mail To:** Washington Chess Federation  
c/o Orlov Chess Academy  
4174 148<sup>th</sup> Ave. NE  
Building I, Ste. M  
Redmond, WA 98052  
**Contact:** Josh Sinanan, WCF President  
**Phone:** 206-769-3757  
**Email:** WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com  
**Registration:** Online at [nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration](http://nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration).  
Registration and payment **deadline 5pm on Thursday, October 6.**



14.Qd6#) 13.Nc7+ Kf6 14.Qh4+ Kf5  
15.e4+ Kg6 16.Qg5#

9...Nc6 10.Nf3 Nf6 11.Nfxd4 Ne4  
12.Qd1 Nxd4 13.Nxd4

13.e3 a6 14.Nxd4

13...Ke8 14.Nb5?

14.f3! Drive the knight back first, while providing an escape path for the white king.

14...Bd7



Position after 14...Bd7

15.Nc7+?

15.Nd6+ Nxd6 16.cxd6± White should still be fairly pleased with the position, though perhaps not quite as happy as a

few moves previous.

15...Kd8??

15...Kf8 16.Nxa8 Ba4! 17.Qd8+ Be8  
18.Kd1 (18.Qd1 Ba4) 18...Qa4+ The  
draw is forced.

16.Bg5+ Nxc7 17.Qxa1 Kxc7 18.e3  
e5 19.Be2 f6 20.0-0 Rhd8 21.Rd1 Nf7  
22.Bf3 Be6 23.Bd5 Re8 24.Qa4 Bd7  
25.Qa5+ b6 26.Qa6 Bc8 27.cxb6+ Kb8  
28.b7 Bxb7 29.Qxb7#

1-0

Owen McDevitt (1373) –  
Phil Stephenson (1302) [D04]  
2022 Vancouver Open (U1700 Reserve)  
Vancouver, WA (R3), July 23, 2022  
[Phil Stephenson]

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 d5 3.e3 c5 4.b3 Nc6  
5.Bb2 Bf5

I'm not very familiar with this opening for White. I just try to play natural moves and develop my pieces here.

6.Bd3 Bxd3 7.Qxd3 e6 8.a3

I guess he was worried about Nb4 but I'm not sure I would have played it either way.

8...Bd6 9.Nbd2 cxd4

I was a little worried here White might play e4 next move so I play this to clarify White's plan.

10.exd4 0-0 11.0-0 Rc8 12.Ne5 Qc7  
13.f4 Bxe5 14.fxe5

This move at least shuts down Black's b2-bishop. 14.dxe5 Nd7 15.c4 This also looks nice for White.

14...Nd7 15.Rf3 Ne7 16.c3

White doesn't want to close c2 but he's still not doing his bishop any favors.

16...Qb6

Threatening Nxe5 and eyes b3.

17.Kh1 Ng6 18.Raf1

18.Rh3 f5 19.exf6 Rxf6 20.c4

18...Ndx5

Thought for a while before making this move. I was happy to win the material, but I worried that opening the center might give his bishop better scope after white eventually plays c4. Still, I thought this was my best plan and it gives me good control over the center with my e and d pawns.

## Washington Blitz Chess Championship

October 9, 2022

**Site:** Orlov Chess Academy – Greenlake.  
7212 Woodlawn Ave. NE, Seattle, WA 98115.

**Format:** A 7-Round Double Swiss in one section.  
(Play 2 games, one as white and one as black, against each opponent.) Maximum of 30 players, please register early to reserve your spot!

**Time Control:** G/3; +2 sec. increment.

**Entry Fee:** \$35 if postmarked or online by 10/1, \$45 after. 100% preregistered, no on-site registration. Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs.

**Rounds:** Sun. 5 PM, 5:30 PM, 6 PM, 6:30 PM, 7 PM, 7:30 PM, 8 PM.

**Prize Fund:** \$500 (based on 25 paid entries).  
1<sup>st</sup> \$110, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$80, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$60  
1<sup>st</sup> U2000/U1800/U1600/U1400/U1200: \$50

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

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

**Rating:** US Chess Blitz Rated. Highest of current US Chess Blitz regular or US Chess Blitz online rating will be used to determine pairings and prizes.

**Health/Safety Protocols:** All players and parents (if U18) are required to sign the [WCF Health/Safety Protocols & Waiver of Liability](#) form prior to the start of the tournament.

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

**Mail To:** Washington Chess Federation  
c/o Orlov Chess Academy  
4174 148<sup>th</sup> Ave. NE  
Building I, Ste. M  
Redmond, WA 98052

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

**Registration:** Online at [nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration](http://nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration).  
Registration and payment **deadline 5pm on Thursday, October 6.**

19.dxe5 Nxe5 20.Qe2 Nxf3 21.Rxf3 f6

I'm anticipating c4 next move so I'm quick to try to move my pawn chain up and restrict the bishop.

22.Rg3 e5 23.Qg4 Rc7 24.h4



Position after 24.h4

Really lashing out at me here, but White is starting to leave some holes in his own position now.

24...Qf2 25.Rd3 f5

25...e4 26.Rxd5 e3 27.Nc4 e2+ Should have really given this more consideration.

26.Qd1 Rd7

Again I should have considered ...e4. I think I was just afraid of the board

opening up and missing some tactic.

27.c4 d4 28.Qf1 Qxh4+

I knew this was a little risky after Rh3, but with two extra pawns and my connected passers e and d I felt I should win here.

29.Rh3 Qg4

Probably ...Qg5 or ...Qf6 was safer. I ended up in a bit of trouble here getting my queen kicked around.

30.Nf3 Qf4 31.Bc1 Qe4 32.Ng5 Qc6 33.Nxh7

Better this pawn than e5 I figured.

33...Rff7 34.Qe1 Qe4!

Prevents Qh4 and with tempo. White cannot afford to trade the queens being a pawn down and with my passers coming down quickly.

35.Qd1 Qg4 36.Qe1 Qe4

I was getting low on time and needed to make the 40th move time control.

37.Qd1 f4 38.Ng5

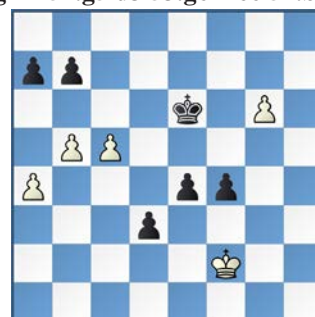
38.Qh5 Qf5

38...Qg6 39.Nxf7 Rxf7 40.Qe1 Qf6 41.Qe2 g5 42.a4 Rh7 43.Rxh7 Kxh7 44.Qh5+ Qh6 45.Qxh6+ Kxh6 46.g4

e4 47.Kg2 Kg6 48.b4 Kf6 49.c5 Ke6 50.Kf2 Kd5 51.Bxf4

If White does nothing I'll just leave my pawns where they are, keeping the white king out and pick up the queenside pawns with my own king.

51...gxf4 52.g5 d3 53.g6 Ke6 54.b5



Position after 54.b5

Thought I was completely lost here and nearly resigned. Decided to just play a few more moves to see what happened.

54...e3+ 55.Ke1 f3 56.g7 d2+ 57.Kd1 Kf7 58.g8Q+ Kxg8 59.c6 bxc6 60.bxc6 f2

White can't prevent Black from queening. 0-1

## WASHINGTON CHALLENGER'S CUP



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

**Mail To:** Washington Chess Federation  
c/o Orlov Chess Academy  
4174 148th Ave. NE  
Building J, Ste. M  
Redmond, WA 98052

**Contact:** Josh Sinanan, WCF President

**Phone:** 206-709-3757

**Email:**  
WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com

**Registration:** Online at  
[nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration](http://nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration)  
Registration and payment **deadline:**  
**Wed. 11/2 @ 5pm.**

**NOVEMBER 4-6, 2022**

**A NORTHWEST CHESS  
GRAND PRIX EVENT**

**Site:** Orlov Chess Academy – Greenlake:  
7212 Woodlawn Ave NE, Seattle, WA 98115.

**Format:** A 5-round Swiss tournament in two sections: Open (FIDE Rated) and Reserve U1700. Maximum of 30 players – please register early! In case of a tie for 1st place, a follow-up playoff match will determine the seed for the Championship section of the 2023 Washington State Championship.

**Entry Fee:** \$70 by 10/28, \$80 after. Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs. \$40 play-up fee if rated under 1700 and playing in Open section.

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

**Rounds:** Friday 7:00 PM; Saturday 10:00 AM, 3:00 PM; Sunday 10:00 AM, 3:00 PM.

**Highest finishing Washington resident in the Open Section seeded into the 2023 Washington State Championship.**

**Prize Fund:** \$1,100 (based on 30 total paid entries)

**Open:** 1st \$200, 2nd \$140, 3rd \$100, 1st U2100/U1900: \$60

**Reserve:** 1st \$140, 2nd \$100, 3rd \$60

1st U1500/U1300/U1100: \$50; 1st Unrated: \$50

Biggest Upset (per section): \$20

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

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

**Rating:** US Chess and NWSRS Rated. Open section is also FIDE Rated. Higher of current US Chess Regular, US Chess Online, and NWSRS ratings used to determine pairings and prizes. Higher of US Chess and foreign ratings used at TD discretion.

**Health/Safety Protocols:** All players and parents (if U18) are required to sign the [WCF Health / Safety Protocols & Waiver of Liability](#) form prior to the start of the tournament.





*The playing hall at the start of the second round of the Vancouver Open.  
Photo credit: Haiyong Wang.*

# Washington Class Championships

**November 25-27, 2022**



*Highest finishing WA resident in the Master, Expert, Class A, and Class B sections seeded into the 2023 WA State Championship, in the Championship, Premier, Invitational, and Challengers sections, respectively.*

**Format:** A 6-round Swiss across 7 class sections:

Master / Expert / Class A / Class B / Class C / Class D / Class E

**Schedule:** 3-day or 2-day option; up to 2 byes available. A Northwest Chess Grand Prix Event.

**Rating:** Dual Rated - US Chess & NWSRS, plus FIDE rated in top sections.

**Fun Side Events:** G/45, Blitz, Chess960, Puzzle Solving, Women's and Girl's Workshop, and more!

**New Prizes:** Mixed Doubles, Best Female Player, Best Annotated Game!



# Seattle Chess Club Tournaments

→ Address ↙  
 7212 Woodlawn Ave NE ↖  
 Seattle WA 98115  
 ↗ Info ↘  
 www.seattlechess.club  
Addresses for Entries  
 SCC Tnmt Dir  
 2420 S 137 St  
 Seattle WA 98168  
 —or—  
 www.seattlechess.club

**Sept 4** **SCC G/20 Hexes**  
**Format:** 5-RR in 6- or 5-player sections. **TC:** G/20;+8. **EF:** \$12 (+\$6 fee for non-SCC). **Prize Fund:** \$\$\$54 b/6. **Prizes:** \$36-18. **Reg:** 12-12:45 p.m. **Time Frame:** 1 to ~6:30 p.m. **Byes:** 0. **Misc:** US Chess. NS, NC.

♠ **Sept 17** **Saturday Quads** ♠  
**Format:** 3-RR, 4-player sections by rating. **TC:** G/120;d5. **EF:** \$9 (+\$7 fee for non-SCC). **Prizes:** Free quad entry. **Reg:** 9-9:45 a.m. **Rds:** 10:00-2:15-6:30. **Misc:** US Chess, WCF; OSA. NS, NC.

**Sept 18** **SCC Novice**  
**Format:** 4-SS. Open to U1200 and UNR. **TC:** G/75; d5. **EF:** \$15 by 9/12, \$20 at site. (-\$2 SCC mem., -\$1 mem. other NW dues-req'd CCs). **Prizes:** SCC membership(s). **Reg:** 9-9:45a.m. **Rds:** 10-12:45-3:30-6. **Byes:** 1 (Rd 3/4—commit at reg.). **Misc:** US Chess memb. req'd. NS, NC.

The first round of the Washington Women's Championship is on Friday, September 9; so regular Friday night play will be curtailed or perhaps canceled altogether.

## Seattle Fall Open September 24-25

A 4-round Swiss chess tournament with a time control of 40/90 & SD/30 with a 30-second increment. The prize fund of **\$500** is based on 26 paid entries, 6 per prize group.

*A Northwest Grand Prix event*

First	\$150	U1600	\$60
Second	\$100	U1400	\$40
U2000	\$60	U1200/UNR	\$30
U1800	\$60		

**Entry Fees:** \$35 by 9/19, \$45 at site. SCC members –subtract \$10. Unrated players FREE with purchase of 1-yr US Chess & WCF.

**Registration:** Sat. 9-9:45 am. **Rounds:** Sat. 10-4, Sun. 10-4.

**Half-Point Byes:** 1 available. Rounds 3 or 4 must commit at registration. **Misc.:** US Chess & WCF required. NS. NC.

# The 2022 Ignacio Perez Memorial Northwest Chess Grand Prix

Murlin Varner, bookkeeper

Not too many changes this month. I only added the results for three events. One, however, was the Vancouver Open, with 63 players and a 3x multiplier. THAT had a bit of an impact to the numbers of players, especially among the “others.” A few players improved their leaderboard positions by playing there. I, on the other hand, did not have time to play there and, as a result, I have fallen off the leaderboard. I may not get a chance to get back on it, as I opened my bookstore in Olympia the first of August. Hard to close on the weekend for too many chess tournaments.

Among the changes that did happen, Michelle Zhang moved from first in Washington Class C to the same spot in Class B. Abhay Sankar made a move from second Class D to third Class C. With that move, the entire Washington Class C is new to the leaderboard, including that spot I mentioned above. A new overall leader in Washington too, but you can look at that for yourself.

August should have had a little more impact, as there was the Seattle Seafair Open, the Seattle Chess Classic (3x multiplier) in Seattle and Redmond, the SCC monthly Tornado, and the new format in Boise at the Chandra Alexis Chess Club. In that latter event, rounds are held at 5 PM Mondays during each month. Check them out. September was called Ce Russe Impossible. In October it will be the Genise Wynell Memorial.

Also, in September will be two events in Seattle. These are the SCC Quads on September 17th and the Seattle Fall Open on the weekend of the 24th and 25th. No SCC Tornado in September. And then, on the second weekend in October, the Norman Friedman Memorial makes an appearance in Coeur d’Alene. This is a six-round event with a different time control each round, which is kind of cool. It has a \$1000 guaranteed prize fund, so

will be receiving a 3x multiplier. That means a player could gain as much as 24 Grand Prix points while playing in a truly lovely town on a lovely lake.

Data below current through August 1.

Washington			Idaho			Other Places					
last	first	pts.	last	first	pts.	last	first	state	pts.		
Masters			Masters			Masters					
1	Pupols	Viktors	70.0			1	Donaldson	W. John	CA 21.0		
2	Lee	Megan	35.0			2	Tang	Zoey	OR 9.0		
2	Orlov	Georgi	35.0								
2	Ready	John L	35.0								
5	Haining	Kyle	30.0								
Experts			Experts			Experts					
1	Jiang	Brandon	58.5	1	Cambareri	Michael E	23.0	1	Sripada	Havish	OR 32.5
2	Gottumukkala	Ananth S	53.0	2	Parsons	Larry R	5.5	2	Tang	Austin	OR 30.5
3	Liu	Austin	52.0					3	Zhang	Brendan	MN 30.0
4	Arganian	David G	48.0					4	Sherrard	Jerry	OR 15.0
5	Two Tied At		35.5					5	Yu	Peter C	CA 10.0
Class A			Class A			Class A					
1	Wang	Ted	81.0	1	Kircher	Caleb	32.0	1	Merwin	Steven E	NV 18.0
2	Lee	Brian	73.0	2	Bodie	Brad R	6.0	2	Murray	David E	OR 15.0
3	Tessiore	Luca G	60.0					2	Nazriev	Rasul	MT 15.0
4	Kona	Vidip K	51.0					4	Walthall	Thomas K	MT 12.0
5	Razmov	Valentin N	47.5					5	Aiello	Roberto	OR 10.0
Class B			Class B			Class B					
1	Zhang	Michelle	65.5	1	Herr	Griffin G	16.5	1	Ravid	Orren	NJ 40.0
2	Chowdhery	Evan M	60.5	1	McKenzie	Niall	16.5	2	Yang	Arnold T	OR 27.5
3	Lin	Michael	54.5	3	Barrett	Evan	11.5	3	Lykins	Pace	OR 22.5
4	Li	Edward S	51.5	4	Presutti	Michael J	0.0	4	Rankin	Andrew J	MT 16.5
5	Willaford	Lloyd J	42.5					5	Skovron	James J	MT 15.0
Class C			Class C			Class C					
1	McDevitt	Owen	65.0	1	Lundy	George	72.5	1	Sripada	Anisha	OR 39.0
2	Wong-Godfrey	Emerson P	64.5	2	Minichiello	Anthony J	16.5	1	Morehouse	Ethan	OR 22.5
2	Sankar	Abhay	55.0	3	Longhurst	Corey K	10.5	3	Vasey	Daniel	OR 16.5
4	Jammalamadaka	Varnika	47.5	4	Forster	Manfred	5.5	4	Driscoll	Jesse	MT 15.0
5	Merriman	Dann H	47.0					5	Wagner	Eric	MT 13.5
Class D and below			Class D and below			Class D and below					
1	Han	Shuyi	67.0	1	Widdifield	Tristen A	17.5	1	Deshusses	Simon M	MO 39.0
2	Vijeyanandh	Vishnu	65.5	2	Roberts	Liam	14.0	2	Hack	Don	CAN 27.5
3	Burchall	Laurion	58.0	3	Blue-Day	Alexander P	13.0	3	Kodarapu	Neev	OR 25.0
3	Marinescu	Andra	58.0	3	Nosarev	Vladislav	13.0	3	Lim	Hayul	OR 25.0
5	Zhang	Michael	52.0	5	Nosarev	Dimitri	9.0	3	Yang	Arthur T	OR 25.0
Overall standings											
1	Wang	Ted	81.0	1	Lundy	George	72.5	1	Ravid	Orren	NJ 40.0
2	Lee	Brian	73.0	2	Kircher	Caleb	32.0	2	Deshusses	Simon M	MO 39.0
3	Pupols	Viktors	70.0	3	Cambareri	Michael E	23.0	2	Sripada	Anisha	OR 39.0
4	Han	Shuyi	67.0	4	Widdifield	Tristen A	17.5	4	Sripada	Havish	OR 32.5
5	Vijeyanandh	Vishnu	65.5	5	Herr	Griffin G	16.5	5	Tang	Austin	OR 30.5
5	Zhang	Michelle	65.5	5	McKenzie	Niall	16.5	6	Zhang	Brendan	MN 30.0
7	McDevitt	Owen	65.0	5	Minichiello	Anthony J	16.5	7	Hack	Don	CAN 27.5
8	Wong-Godfrey	Emerson P	64.5	8	Roberts	Liam	14.0	7	Yang	Arnold T	OR 27.5
9	Chowdhery	Evan M	60.5	9	Blue-Day	Alexander P	13.0	9	Kodarapu	Neev	OR 25.0
10	Tessiore	Luca G	60.0	9	Nosarev	Vladislav	13.0	9	Lim	Hayul	OR 25.0
11	Jiang	Brandon	58.5	11	Barrett	Evan	11.5	9	Yang	Arthur T	OR 25.0
12	Burchall	Laurion	58.0	12	Longhurst	Corey K	10.5	12	Lykins	Pace	OR 22.5
12	Marinescu	Andra	58.0	13	Nosarev	Dimitri	9.0	12	Morehouse	Ethan	OR 22.5
14	Sankar	Abhay	55.0	14	Nosarev	Liam	8.0	14	Donaldson	W. John	CA 21.0
15	Lin	Michael	54.5	15	Two Tied At		6.0	15	Merwin	Steven E	NV 18.0

