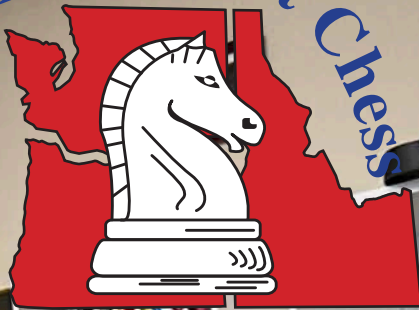


Northwest Chess



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2012 - Michael Morris	David Rupel
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2013 - Viktors Pupols	2020 - Wilson Gibbins
2014 - Carl Haessler	2021 - Wilson Gibbins
2015 - Carl Haessler	Lennart Bjorksten
2016 - Carl Haessler	2022 - Jim Tarjan
2017 - Michael Pendergast	Wilson Gibbins
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July 2023



## Northwest Chess

July 2023, Volume 77-07 Issue 906

ISSN Publication 0146-6941

Published monthly by the *Northwest Chess* Board.  
To see the games from this issue online click:

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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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### On the front cover:

Wilson Gibbins, Oregon Senior Open winner for the fourth  
consecutive year. Photo credit: Ellen Silva.

### On the back cover:

Christian Fobian is alert and ready for his first round  
game at the Washington Open.  
Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.

### Submissions

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## Northwest Chess Knights

Please donate today to help *Northwest Chess*!

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## From The Editor's Desk

We had so much material this month that we decided to put out a 48-page issue.

I really appreciate Josh Sinanan, Ralph Dubisch, Duane Polich, and even the retired Eric Holcomb. I have worked with these gentlemen now *as editor* for over 128 consecutive monthly issues (that's just over 10.5 years), and I feel as fresh today as when I started.

I hope you enjoy the issues!

And thank you to all who contributed material (games, photos, art, support, emails, etc.) as it is very much appreciated.

—Jeffrey Roland, Editor

# Oregon Senior Open

## Wilson Gibbins wins his fourth consecutive Oregon Senior Open

Wilson Gibbins

The 13<sup>th</sup> annual Oregon Senior Open was held May 5-7 at the Portland Chess Center. Attendance was up slightly, with 23 players fighting it out instead of a mere 20 last year, though nothing like the increase in youth chess, exemplified by the increase from 14 players in 2022 to 50 players in 2023. Hey retirees — we need to uphold our honor, and it is fun to play in tournaments with no chess punks.

There were plenty of players from out of state playing in the Oregon Irwin qualifier, with seven from Washington and three from California. I always worry that the out-of-staters will dominate and the Irwin qualification will be determined on tiebreaks between two Oregon also-rans, but this year the final game on board one featured two Oregon players, Wilson Gibbins with four points, Bill Heywood with 3.5, and nobody else with a chance to win the tournament. Your author managed to hold the draw to finish with

his usual 4.5 points and claim the Irwin qualification. Bill and Wilson also drew their fourth-round game in the 2021 event.

Stewart Katz from California won his last round game to tie Bill for second with four points. Other prizes winners were:

Chris Burris: Under 1800 and clear third place

John Hart: Under 1800 and tied for the over 70 prize

Phil Long: Under 1600

John Hoover: Under 1400

Robert Aiello: Tied for the over 70 prize

Allen Van Gelder: Over 80 prize

Thanks to Dave Murray for directing. And thanks to everyone for attending. We hope to see you back next year.

Allen Van Gelder pointed out after the tournament that all my games amounted to grabbing a pawn and squeezing out

a win in a long endgame. It is sort of a python strategy, but not the safety-first Tigran Petrosian version. My play was more like a pet python that has been released to the Florida Everglades by an irresponsible pet owner. He is trying to strangle alligators, too stupid to realize that alligators bite back. Let us look at a couple of the games. Now to the games.

**Wilson Gibbins (2221) – Stewart Katz (1840) [A29]**

Oregon Senior Open  
Portland, OR (R3), May 6, 2023  
[Wilson Gibbins]

**1.c4 e5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.g3 Nf6 4.Bg2 Bc5 5.Nf3 d6 6.0-0 0-0 7.d3 h6 8.e3**

Not the official book move, but it looks natural to me, and the engines say it is no worse than the alternatives. Marin and popularity contests vote for 8.a3.

**8...Bg4 9.h3 Bd7 10.a3 a5 11.b3 Re8 12.Qc2 Qc8 13.Kh2 Ba7 14.Bb2 Ne7 15.Rad1 c6 16.d4**

Thematic, trying to blunt the diagonal of Black's bishop on a7. Stockfish notices 16.Ne4± as after 16...Nxe4 17.dxe4 Black has a backward pawn on d6. It isn't indefensible, but it is an extra burden.

**16...Ng6**

For you fans of crazy engine lines 16...e4!? 17.Nxe4 Nxe4 18.Qxe4 Bf5 19.Qh4 Bc2 20.Rc1 Nf5 (20...Bxb3 21.Nd2±) 21.Qf4 Re4 22.Rxc2 Rxf4 23.exf4± is the kind of line you are fans of.

**17.e4?!**

It is time to release the pawn tension. 17.dxe5 dxe5 18.Nd2 Bf5 19.Nde4± The square d6



*Photo credit: David Murray.*



is a little weak.

**17...Bb8?**

17...b5!=

**18.Rfe1**

Yet again, I miss my chance to release the pawn tension favorably. 18.dxe5 dxe5 19.Na4±

**18...Bc7**

18...b5 is still best, but it isn't quite as strong as on the previous move Stockfish recommends 19.Nb1!? mitigating Black's threat to push b5-b4, and finding a new square for the knight. 19...Bc7 20.Nbd2±

**19.Bc1 Be6?! 20.d5**

And now we reach a King's Indian pawn structure. Is it better to have the King's Indian dark-squared bishop on g7 or c7? It might be strong on c7, as it might get to the attacking diagonal a7-g1. It might get exchanged for White's good dark-squared bishop, a positional plus. At least it will help defend invasion squares on the queenside. But Stockfish and I are happy with White's space advantage.

**20...cxd5 21.cxd5 Bd7 22.Be3 Qd8**

Threatening to play ...Bc7-b6 and exchange White's good bishop.

**23.Rc1 Rc8 24.Qd3 Bb6**

Mission accomplished.

**25.Nd2 Bc7**

Changing his mind. Perhaps the move 25.Nd2 made him worry about the weak b6-square.

**26.Rc2 Rf8**

The King's Indian pawn structure encourages him to try a King's Indian style kingside attack. But surely my queenside attack puts me ahead in the race, doesn't it? Keep watching to find out.

**27.Rec1 Ne8 28.Nb5 Bb8 29.Rxc8 Bxc8 30.Nc4**

The minor pieces are walking in on the b5- and b6-squares. The pawn on a5 is of historical interest only.

**30...Bd7 31.Bb6**

The bishop can attack on the queenside and defend key kingside squares simultaneously. The a7-g1 diagonal is valuable to both sides.

**31...Qf6 32.Nxa5?**

Here we have the stupid python munching on a pawn, oblivious to the alligator about

to bite back. Black gets a favorable King's Indian style counterattack, more than just cheapo potential. 32.a4 is better, securing one of my loose pieces. In the game continuation my queen will be stretched between trying to defend both my king and my loose pieces on the queenside.

**32...Nf4!**



*Position after 32...Nf4*

I didn't see this shot when I first started my minor-piece siege of the a-pawn, but I did see it coming a move or two before he played it. So, I didn't look shocked when the move appeared on the board, and could respond confidently.

**33.Qf1?**

Maybe it would have been better to have been surprised, as I might have thought a little more on this move. 33.Qf3± Bxb5 (33...Nxc2 34.Qxf6 Nxf6 35.Nc3!±) 34.gxf4 exf4 35.Rc8+-

**33...Nxc2=**

Normally I would be happy to get rid of my bad light-squared bishop. But with a kingside storm brewing, I would prefer to have another defensive piece near my king. I don't expect much help from either of my knights in the near future.

**34.Kxg2 Qg6 35.Nc3 Nf6 36.Qe2 Nh5 37.Kh2 f5 38.Rg1 Qf7**

38...fxe4! opens the light-squares around the kingside and weakens White's d-pawn. I get the e4-square for the knight, but Black's light-squared bishop is swooping in, ready to harass my king. 39.Nxe4 Qf5 40.Qg4 Qf7 41.Qe2 and Black can grab a draw by repetition with 41...Qf5 (or play on with 41...Bf5)

**39.Qd3**

The cold-blooded Stockfish likes 39.Nxb7±; 39.Nc4 fxe4 40.Nxe4 is okay for White, but no winning advantage.; 39.f3 fxe4 40.fxe4 Qf3 looked like trouble over the board, but Stockfish says equal.

**39...f4?**

39...fxe4 40.Nxe4 Bf5 is unclear, but I'd rather be Black. This seems like the kind of position King's Indian players live for. Oh, I forgot — this didn't start as a King's Indian.

**40.g4**

There is still plenty of chess to be played, but I am back in control.

**40...Nf6 41.Nc4 h5 42.f3**

42.g5 is a little better than what I played.

**42...Qg6 43.g5 Nh7 44.h4 Bc8**

Clever. Black will try to sneak his queen in to h3.

**45.Qf1 Qe8 46.a4 Qd7 47.Qg2**

I thought I could hold off his attack on the kingside. But I worried that White is too tied down to the defense of his King to create any winning chances.

**47...Re8 48.Rh1 Nf8 49.Kg1**

I am starting to feel better — the rook can cover the h3 invasion-square and the pawn on h4. Normally rooks are not great defensive pieces, but this one is earning its keep.

**49...Ng6 50.Qh2 Bc7 51.Qf2 Qd8 52.Bxc7 Qxc7 53.Nb5 Qd7 54.Nbxd6 Rd8 55.Qb6 Ne7 56.Kg2 Ng6? 57.Nxc8 Rxc8 58.Qxg6 Rxc4 59.bxc4 Qxa4 60.Qe6+ Kh7 61.g6+ Kh6 62.Qxe5**

62.Qf5 and White will checkmate with Qf5-g5.

**62...Qc2+ 63.Kh3**

**1-0**

**Wilson Gibbins (2221) –  
Bill Heywood (2000) [B38]**

Oregon Senior Open  
Portland, OR (R5), May 7, 2023  
[Wilson Gibbins]

I have 4.0 points, Bill has 3.5, nobody else has more than 3.0. I need only a draw to win the tournament and qualify for the Irwin.

**1.c4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 g6 5.e4 Bg7 6.Be3 Nf6 7.Nc3**

I was happy to reach a position that I had a lot of experience with and knew many of the tricks that Black might try. But I had forgotten that most of my games in this line run as follows: 1) I get an advantage; 2) I overextend and get into trouble; 3) My opponent gets a lot of counterplay, often based on playing the f7-f5 break;

and 4) I somehow find a way to struggle back to a draw. That script provides more drama than I want at this point, but it will achieve the goal.

**7...Qa5 8.Nb3 Qd8 9.Be2 0-0 10.0-0 d6 11.f3 Bd7 12.Qd2 Rc8 13.Rac1 b6 14.Nd5**

Stockfish playfully suggests 14.Na1 as c2 is a better square for the knight than b3, confirming that Bill's 7...Qa5 move, luring the knight to b3 had merit.

**14...e6**

Surprisingly enough, Stockfish agrees with Bill that Black's best move is to sacrifice the d-pawn for a little compensation.

**15.Nxf6+**

Grabbing the pawn on d6 keeps an advantage for White.

**15...Qxf6 16.Rc2 Qe7 17.Rd1 Rfd8 18.Qxd6 Qe8**



*Position after 18...Qe8*

**19.Qg3?**

I had played the opening quickly and had not really engaged my brain yet. The queen isn't in danger yet, but I was trying to avoid accidents. I wasn't worried, as I thought most of Black's pieces were passively placed, especially the bishop on d7. Once again, the stupid python is munching on a pawn, oblivious to the threat of the alligator biting back. 19.Qa3 keeps the knight off b4, but feels like it risks trapping my queen with a later Bg7-f8 by Black. It doesn't win the queen yet. 19...Bf8 20.c5 feels a little awkward for White but is still OK according to Stockfish.; 19.Rcd2 is the most practical move, keeping the Nc6-b4 move from gaining time on the rook on c2. 19...Bf8 20.Qg3 Bb4 21.Rc2 e5 Black has some play for his pawn.

**19...Nb4!**

Chomp!

**20.Rcd2 Ba4!**

And Black threatens Nxa2. Stockfish says equal, but White has to be careful.

**21.Qh4**

I was happy to find this move — it mostly holds the balance. One of my problems is defending the pawn on b2. Black will have to temporarily concede the d-file or block the bishop's attack on b2. Stockfish says 21.Qg5 is a slightly more accurate version of White's idea.

**21...f6**

21...Rxd2 22.Rxd2 Nxa2 23.Nd4 is roughly equal, which I consider an achievement after my shaky 19.Qg3 move.

**22.Rxd8**

22.e5!?

**22...Rxd8 23.Rxd8 Qxd8 24.Nd4 Qd6 25.a3**

I have weaseled out of my problems.

**25...Na6 26.b4± f5?!**

Weakening, but a good try to confuse the issue.

**27.exf5 exf5 28.Nb5**

I didn't see that 28.c5 bxc5 29.Ne6 is winning for White. 29...Qxe6? 30.Bc4

**28...Bxb5 29.cxb5 Nc7 30.Qc4+ Ne6 31.Qc6**



*Position after 31.Qc6*

This move is correct, but I regretted it after making it. My bishops had been doing a great job defending all the entry squares for White's queen that I hadn't noticed that they were a little exposed after trading pawns on the e-file.

**31...Qe5 32.Qe8+ Bf8 33.Kf2 f4 34.Bd2!?**

Loses the advantage but wins the tournament. 34.Bc1!±; 34.Bxf4 Qxf4 35.Qxe6+ Kg7 36.g3

**34...Qd4+ 35.Ke1 Qa1+ 36.Kf2 Qd4+**

and Bill made me the offer of a draw and a trip to the 2023 Irwin.

1/2-1/2



**Stewart Katz (1840) – Chris Burris (1686) [B28]**

Oregon Senior Open  
Portland, OR (R4), May 7, 2023  
[Stewart Katz]

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 a6 3.g3 g6 4.d4 cxd4 5.Qxd4 Nf6 6.e5 Nc6 7.Qf4 Nd5 8.Qe4 e6 9.c4 Nde7 10.Nc3 Bg7 11.Bg2 0-0 12.0-0 d6 13.Bf4 dxe5 14.Nxe5 Nxe5 15.Bxe5 Nc6 16.Bxg7 Kxg7 17.Rfd1 Qc7 18.b3 Bd7 19.Qe3 Rfd8 20.Ne4 Be8 21.Qc3+**

**Δ21.c5 Nd6**

**21...Qe5 22.Qxe5+ Nxe5 23.Nd6 Rd7**



*Position after 23...Rd7*

**24.Nxe8+!?**

I can't explain just not picking up the b7-pawn immediately. Not as though the bishop on e8 is well-placed.

**24...Rxe8 25.Rxd7 Nxd7 26.Bxb7 Re7?**

26...Nc5 27.Bf3

**27.Bxa6 Nc5 28.Bb5 Ra7 29.b4?**

Much better was Rb1 keeping the passed-pawns connected. Black can go ahead and pick up the a- and f- pawns.

**29...Nd3 30.a4 Nxb4 31.c5 Nd5 32.c6 Nc3 33.Kg2 Kf6 34.Ra3 Nd5 35.Rd3 Nb6 36.Kf3 h5 37.Ke3 g5 38.Kd4 e5+ 39.Kc5 Nxa4+ 40.Bxa4 Rxa4**

**1-0**



# 2023 Detective Cookie Chess Classic

Josh Sinanan

The inaugural Detective Cookie Chess Classic took place on Saturday, May 20, 2023 at the Rainier Beach Community Center in Seattle! We had an impressive turnout, with 89 scholastic chess players in grades K-12 competing across three sections parsed by grade-level and rating: K-3 U500, K-6 U800, K-8 U1100, and K-12 Open.

For several courageous chess warriors, it was their first-ever chess tournament! The centralized south Seattle location made the tournament accessible to players from throughout the region, including the cities of Seattle, Tukwila, Monroe, Kirkland, Duvall, Burien, Sammamish, Ocean Shores, Bellevue, Clyde Hill, Redmond, Snohomish, Mercer Island, Renton, Bothell, and Phoenix (Arizona). The pace of play was expedient and friendly between the younger competitors, and leisurely amongst the older ones. All players put forth their best effort and exhibited the chess skills that many of have been fine-tuning over the course of the chess season. Each round featured daring

attacks, brilliant sacrifices, and ingenious defenses devised by the many colorful characters taking part in the proceedings! As observed by tournament director Rekha Sagar, players were respectful and demonstrated genuine sportsmanship and integrity throughout the day.

The event was co-hosted by the Detective Cookie Chess Club and Washington Chess Federation, organized by Detective Denise “Cookie” Bouldin and WCF President Josh Sinanan, and directed by WCF Scholastic Director Rekha Sagar.

Wonderful photos and video footage were taken throughout the day by photographer extraordinaire Meiling Cheng! Chess moms Lisa Pleasants, Amy Ephrem, and Selam Tekle ran the concessions booth, which was attached to the spacious parent waiting area in the multi-purpose room. In the morning just before the first round, Seattle Parks & Recreation Deputy Superintendent Christopher Williams delivered an inspiring speech and offered words of wisdom to the budding chess champions competing in the five-round event.

We’d also like to thank the team of amazing volunteers and community center staff that made this fantastic event possible. We hope to establish the Detective Cookie Chess Classic as an annual tradition that continues to grow and flourish in the years to come!

Congratulations to the winners.



*Detective Denise “Cookie” Bouldin makes her opening remarks at the Detective Cookie Chess Classic.  
Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.*

## Individual Winners

Place	K-3 U500	K-6 U800	K-8 U1100	K-12 Open
1st	Arnav Sai Appineni	Ziliang Ma	Imai Maharaja	Nehanraj Ramesh
2nd	Clayton Lawardy	Apollo Yen	Anton Novosselov	Bogdan Genkin
3rd	Ronen Nagpal	Wenyou Wang	Ravi Pillai	Emmett Bates-Callaghan
4th	Likhith Reddy Vallela	Gabriel Pleasants	Snehil Ghosh	Selina Cheng
5th	Tristen Guo	Ella Lo	Yabi Ephrem	Veronique Joseph
6th	Eric Wong	Vishvak Yaramati	Sambuddha Sekhar Das	Rafael Palathingal
7th	Sebastian Littlefield-Davis	Isaac Choi	Alex Love	Kanav Shah
8th	Biniyam Adane	Sophia Ting	Oliver Reimer	Jackson Miller
9th	Ren Wadhwani	Harvey Ericson	Noble Schasteen	Hongren Zhen
10th	Siana Razmov	Natalie Xu	Alex Ye	Jonathan Chin



Top-Finishing Teams			
Place	School	Team Players	Team Score
1st	Detective Cookie Chess Club	Ziliang Ma (797) 4.5; Gabriel Pleasants (792) 4.0; Isaac Choi (unr.) 4.0; Harvey Ericson (unr.) 3.5; Selina Cheng (1455) 3.0; Jackson Miller (1290) 3.0; Hongren Zhen (1138) 3.0; Yabi Ephrem (1063) 3.0; Keli Ephrem (725) 3.0; Harvey Ericson (unr.) 3.0; Eric Wong (unr.) 3.0; Nash Miller (unr.) 2.5; Jonathan Chin (1328) 2.0; Joshua Pantea (1135) 2.0; Noble Schasteen (970) 2.0; Liam Zhen (579) 2.0; Lucy Chin (496) 2.0; Sophia Michael (100) 2.0; Jesseray Williams (100) 2.0; Hala Abdulbary (unr.) 2.0; Lincoln Griffin (unr.) 2.0; Juan David Hernandez (unr.) 2.0; Alex Love (unr.) 2.0; Sir Vontre Route-Brooks (unr.) 2.0; Tea Timmons (100) 1.0; Ammar Abdulbary (unr.) 1.0; Brayden Eli Aniag (unr.) 1.0; Aurelio Diaz (unr.) 1.0; Dylan Gay (unr.) 1.0; Kameron Wright (unr.) 1.0; Jinyi Zhao (400) 0.5; Athena Huynh (578) 0.0; Karaya Jackson (117) 0.0; Andres Alvarez-Martinez (unr.) 0.0; Koren Connell (unr.) 0.0; Detrick Huynh (unr.) 0.0.	16
2nd	Dutch Hill Elementary	Likhith Reddy Vallela (191) 4.0 Vihaas Goolla (572) 3.0 Prudhvi Reddy Vallela (546) 3.0 Devansh Goolla (100) 1.5 Anish Varala (632) 0.0	11.5
3rd	Somerset Elementary	Ella Lo (609) 4.0 Amy Zhang (502) 2.5 Zhibo Zhang (1090) 2.0 Arwen Zhang (561) 2.0 Kaiyi Han (338) 2.0	10.5
4th	Thurgood Marshall Elementary	Tristen Guo (unr.) 3.5 Biniyam Adane (unr.) 3.0 Sebastian Littlefield-Davis (unr.) 3.0 Khai Tang (unr.) 0.0	9.5
5th	Rockwell Elementary	Imai Maharaja (897) 4.5 Apollo Yen (707) 4.5	9

Special Prize Winners		
Section	Best Female Player	Biggest Upset Win
K-3 U500	Akira Balchandani	Bryan Huang
K-6 U800	Abigail Lew	Prudhvi Reddy Vallela
K-8 U1100	N/A	Anton Novosselov
K-12 Open	N/A	Balen McCarthy



*Scenes from the Detective Cookie Chess Classic.  
Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.*





# Idaho Open

**Niall McKenzie Wins**

Jay Simonson

**T**wenty-eight players came to the Idaho State University, Student Union, Salmon River Suites, in Pocatello, Idaho on May 13, 2023, playing for a chance to win the title of Champion in the 2023 Idaho Open Chess Championship. The air conditioning system was at full blast, which made it uncomfortably cool for many players. In the last round, the penultimate match between Niall McKenzie and the 2022 Idaho Open Champion, Jeremy Thomas, from Pocatello, Idaho, who went from an unrated player to Champion in last year's tournament, took place. In a very close, 56-move, back and forth game, Niall finally triumphed. This win gave Niall, from Pocatello, a perfect 5-0 score, which earned him the Championship plaque and \$200. In last year's Idaho Open Championship, Niall won Second Place in Class B. This was a five round Swiss System tournament, directed by veteran Tournament Director Jay Simonson, from Idaho Falls, Idaho.

Raul Villacorta, of Rexburg, Idaho, who was also unrated at last year's Idaho Open Championship, but who is now a Class C player, claimed Second Place and \$100. Michael Presutti, the 2022 Idaho Chess Association (ICA) Senior Champion, from Boise, Idaho, won Third Place and \$75, which he donated to the 2023 ICA Senior Chess Tournament.

The top player in each class, B, C, D, E, F, and Unrated, each earned a cash prize of \$50. No prize was awarded for Class A. First Place Class B honors went to DeWayne Derryberry, of Pocatello. Gary Hollingsworth, also of Pocatello, won First Place in Class C. Tyler Yazzie, from New Plymouth, Idaho, claimed First Place in Class D. Tanner Hunter, of Rexburg, won First Place in Class E. Sophie Ma, from Idaho Falls, won the prize for the Top of Class F, and Colton Robinson of American Falls, Idaho, took top honors among the six unrated players who battled in this prestigious tournament.



*Jay Simonson presents 2023 Idaho Open Championship plaque to Niall McKenzie. Photo credit: Tilly Backstrom.*

**Niall McKenzie (1667) –  
Jeremy Thomas (1723) [C50]**  
Idaho Open Pocatello, ID  
(R5), May 13, 2023  
[Ralph Dubisch]

**1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.0-0 Nf6  
5.d3 0-0 6.Bg5 h6 7.Bh4 Be7 8.c3 d6  
9.Re1 Be6**

Black offers to allow doubled e-pawns to alleviate the pressure from the c4-bishop.

There are dozens of subtleties in these

“quiet” Italian openings. Should Black play 9...g5, here or perhaps back on move seven? Do the a-pawns advance, and if so, one or two squares? Should Black remove the c4-bishop with ...Na5? Is it bad to allow doubled f-pawns, after something like Bg5/Nc3/Nd5/xf6, or does the open g-file give Black attacking chances? Does White end up retreating the bishop from c4 back to c2, or allow it to be exchanged? Does White pin with Bg5? When challenged, retreat to h4 and

g3? Which side advances the d-pawn into the center?

### 10.Bb3

White should seriously consider 10.Bxe6 fxe6 11.d4±.

### 10...Bg4

Black took a weird little stutter-step en route to the g4-pin, but it's hard to describe it as a simple loss of time as White also spent a move retreating the c4-bishop.

### 11.Nbd2 a6 12.Qc2?!

Cuts off the bishop's natural retreat and prematurely commits the queen to a square that isn't clearly ideal. 12.h3 Bh5 13.g4 Bg6 14.Bg3±

### 12...Nd7

### 12...Nh5

### 13.Bxe7 Qxe7 14.d4 Na5 15.Qd3 Bxf3 16.Nxf3 Nxb3 17.axb3 c6 18.b4



Position after 18.b4

### 18...exd4?!

18...Rfe8 remains roughly balanced. White seems to have a little more space, but Black has comfortable capacity after the previous exchanges.

### 19.Nxd4 g6 20.Qe3 Kh7 21.f4!? c5?! 22.bxc5 dxc5?!

### 22...Nxc5 23.b4 Ne6 24.Rad1±

### 23.Nf3 b6?!±

Black has created a number of small weaknesses in his position, and his king is slightly less safe. White's pieces are well-coordinated.

### 24.Red1?!

### 24.e5±

### 24...a5 25.e5 Rfd8 26.Rd2?!

Doubling the rooks is likely to lead to exchanging all of them on the d-file, which tends to reduce White's ability to pressure weaknesses and advance pawns.

### 26.h3 Nf8 27.Nd2 f5 28.Nc4; 26.f5!?

### 26...Nf8 27.Rad1 Ne6?!

### 27...b5; 27...Rxd2 28.Nxd2 (28.Rxd2?! Rd8) 28...Rd8 29.Re1 f5 30.Nc4 Ne6± 31.Nxb6?! Qb7 32.Nc4 Qb5

### 28.Rd6! Ra7?

### 28...Nd4!? 29.Qd3! Nxf3+ 30.Qxf3±

### 29.Qe4

### 29.f5! gxf5 30.Qd3±

### 29...Rad7 30.f5 Rxd6??

### 30...Nf8±



Position after 30...Rxd6

### 31.Rxd6?

### 31.exd6! Rxd6 32.Rxd6 Qxd6 33.fxe6+-

### 31...gxf5 32.Qxf5+ Kg8 33.Qd3 Kf8?

### 33...b5∞

### 34.Qh7! Ke8 35.Rxd8+?

Much better: 35.Rxb6±; Also interesting: 35.Qg8+ Qf8 (35...Nf8? 36.Rxh6 Rd1+ 37.Kf2 b5 38.Ra6+- Black has nothing going on, and the white h-pawn plans a run to promotion.) 36.Rxe6+!? (36.Qxf8+ Kxf8 37.Rxb6±) 36...fxe6 37.Qxe6+ Qe7 38.Qxb6±

### 35...Qxd8 36.Qxh6 Qd1+ 37.Kf2 b5 38.Qd2 Qb3 39.h4 Qc4

### 39...b4

### 40.g3

### 40.h5

### 40...Ng7??

40...b4 41.h5, according to Stockfish. Still a battle.

### 41.h5?!

### 41.Ng5!

### 41...Qg4?

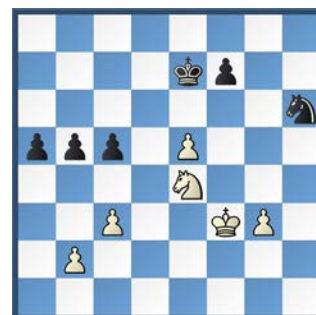
Black trusts his opponent. White's idea was that after 41...Nxb5 42.Qg5 scoops the knight. However 42...Qb3 43.Qxh5 Qxb2+ 44.Kg1 Qxc3± and it is not clear

how White will convert the extra piece into a full point.

### 42.h6?

### 42.Qd3 c4 43.Qd4±

### 42...Nf5 43.Qg5 Qxg5 44.Nxg5 Nxh6 45.Kf3 Ke7 46.Ne4



Position after 46.Ne4

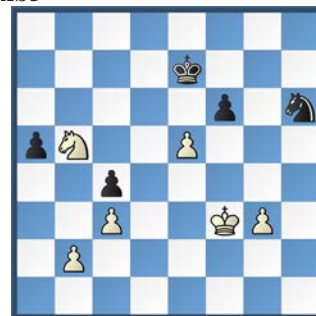
### 46...c4

46...Ke6 47.Nxc5+ (47.Kf4 c4 48.Nd6 f6!) 47...Kxe5 48.Nb3 a4 49.Nd4 b4 (49...Kd5 50.Nxb5 Kc4 51.Nd4 Kd3 52.Kf4 f6) 50.Nc6+ Kd5 51.Nxb4+ Kc4 Perhaps surprisingly, all of these endings are drawn even with the extra white pawn, due to the activity of the black king and the reduced material. 52.Kf4 f6 53.Ke4 (53.g4 Nf7 54.Kf5 Nh6+) 53...Nf7 54.Kf5 Nd6+ 55.Kxf6 Ne4+ 56.Ke6 Nxc3

### 47.Nd6 f6??

### 47...Ke6 48.Ke4±

### 48.Nxb5



Position after 48.Nxb5

### 48...fxe5?

48...Nf7 49.exf6+ Kxf6 50.Ke4 Ne5 51.Nd6 Ke6 52.Nb7 Nd3 53.Nxa5 Nxb2 54.Kd4 should also be a technical win for White.

### 49.Na3 Ke6 50.Nxc4 a4 51.Nb6 a3 52.bxa3 Kd6 53.Ke4 Kc5 54.Nd7+ Kc4 55.a4 Nf7 56.Nxe5+

### 1-0



**Hans Morrow (1900) –  
Niall McKenzie (1667) [D35]**  
Idaho Open Pocatello, ID  
(R4), May 13, 2023  
[Ralph Dubisch]

**1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 e6 3.g3**

Three other moves are more popular and likely better: 3.Nf3; 3.e4; 3.d4

**3...d5 4.cxd5 exd5 5.d4**

Otherwise Black will gain space with ...d4.

**5...Bd6 6.Bg2 c6 7.Nf3 0-0 8.Bg5 h6**

**8...Nbd7 9.0-0 h6**

**9.Bd2**

9.Bxf6 Qxf6 10.0-0 Re8 11.Re1 White will achieve e2–e4 with activity to compensate for the bishop-pair and the slight weakness of d4.

**9...Bf5 10.0-0 Re8**



*Position after 10...Re8*

**11.Re1?!**

White is now quite unlikely to be able to force e2–e4.

**11.Bf4!?**

**11...Nbd7 12.Nh4 Bh7 13.e3 Ne4**

Black can approach this position more slowly, systematically improving his pieces and gaining space before committing to central action. 13...a5 14.Bh3 b5 15.Bf5 Bxf5 16.Nxf5 Bf8. The d2–bishop is the worst piece on the board.

**14.Bxe4?**

**14.Bh3**

**14...Bxe4?**

14...dxe4 White's bishop and h4–knight are inferior.

**15.Nxe4 Rxe4?!**

**15...dxe4**

**16.Nf3 Qf6 17.Kg2 Qg6 18.Bc3 h5 19.Nd2?!**

**19.Qc2 Rae8 20.Nd2 R4e6 21.Qxg6 Rxxg6 22.e4**

**19...Re6 20.Qe2?**

**20.Qb1**

**20...Rae8 21.Rac1 h4 22.a3 Nf6 23.b4?**

**23.Bb4 Bc7**

**23...Ne4?**

23...Nh5! targets the g3–square and threatens ...Nf4+.

**24.Nxe4 Rxe4**

Or 24...Qxe4+ 25.f3 Qh7 26.Qc2 Qh6 and White is in deep trouble.

**25.Qd3 Qg5**

**25...Qf5 26.f3? hxxg3 27.hxxg3 Bxxg3–+**

**26.Bd2**



*Position after 26.Bd2*

**26...hxxg3?**

26...R8e6 builds the attack, as the rook sacrifice after 27.f3 hxxg3 28.fxe4 gxh2+ 29.Kh1 Rg6 is sound. 30.Qe2 Qh4 31.Qf3

**Rg3–+**

**27.hxxg3 R8e6?**

**27...Rg4**

**28.Rh1 Rg6 29.Rh3 Rh6 30.Rch1 Rxxh3 31.Rxxh3**

The Black attack has dissipated largely due to the premature opening of the h-file.

**31...Qg6 32.f3 Re6 33.Qxxg6 Rxxg6 34.f4 f5 35.Rh5 Rf6 36.Kf3 g6**



*Position after 36...g6*

**37.Rg5??**

So the game is finally determined by a blunder, self-entombing the rook. 37.Rh1 is quite equal.

**37...Bf8 38.a4 Bh6 39.a5 Bxxg5 40.fxxg5 Rf7 41.Kf4 Re7 42.b5 cxb5 43.Bb4 Re4+ 44.Kf3 Kf7 45.Bc5 b6 46.axb6 axb6 47.Bxb6 b4 48.Bc5 b3 49.Ba3 Re6 50.Bb2 Rc6**

**0–1**



*Jay Simonson congratulates Raul Villacorta on winning Second Place at 2023 Idaho Open. Photo credit: Tilly Backstrom.*

# WASHINGTON *SUMMER SIZZLER*

## CHESS TOURNAMENT

SATURDAY, JULY 15<sup>TH</sup>, 2023

LAKE SIDE UPPER SCHOOL

14050 1ST AVE NE, SEATTLE, WA 98125



### *DUAL FORMAT:* *ENTRY FEE:* \$45 before

Format 1: A 7-Round  
G/25; +5 Swiss in three  
sections:

**K-3 U700**

**K-8 U1000**

**K-12 U1300**

#### Schedule:

Rounds: 9am, 10:30am,  
11:45am, Lunch Break,  
1:45pm, 3:00pm,  
4:15pm, 5:30pm.

Awards ~ 7pm or ASAP.

Format 2: A 4-Round  
G/60; +5 Swiss in one  
section:

**K-12 Open**

#### Schedule:

Rounds: 9am, 11:30am,  
2pm, 4:30pm.

Awards ~ 7pm or ASAP.

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

*AWARDS:* Amazon Gift  
Card Prizes awarded in each  
section: 1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>: \$70, \$60, \$50,  
\$40, \$30. Medals for first-  
timers, biggest upset win, and  
best female player (by TPR).

*RATING:* K-3 and K-8  
sections will be NWSRS rated.  
K-12 sections will be dual  
NWSRS and US Chess rated,  
with US Chess membership  
required. Higher of current  
NWSRS and US Chess Regular  
rating will be used to determine  
section and pairings.

*ELIGIBILITY:* Open to  
all students in grades K-12 as of  
the 2022-23 school year. Out-  
of-state players welcome!

### *REGISTRATION:*

Register online at

[nwchess.com/online/registration/](http://nwchess.com/online/registration/)

Pay by Credit/Debit/PayPal.

100% preregistered, no on-site entries or  
payments. **Entry + payment deadline July  
14<sup>th</sup> @ 5pm.** No registrations accepted or  
refunds offered after the deadline.

### *HEALTH/SAFETY PROTOCOLS:*

Face masks optional for players and  
spectators. If interested, please bring your  
own mask.

*CLOCKS:* Chess clocks will be used  
from the beginning in the K-12 sections.  
Clocks not required for the K-3 and K-8  
sections, until a judge places one on  
your board after 40 minutes of play.

### *QUESTIONS?*

Contact: Rekha Sagar,  
WCF Scholastic Director,  
[rekha4chess@gmail.com](mailto:rekha4chess@gmail.com)

# Washington Open

Josh Sinanan

The 2023 Washington Open was held over Memorial Day weekend May 27-29 at the fantastic Redmond Marriott hotel. Players and spectators were glad to be back at the Redmond Marriott once again, favored by many for its easily accessible location, proximity to restaurants and amenities, and plentiful parking options. Chess players from throughout North America including parts of Washington, Oregon, Idaho, British Columbia, Nevada, Minnesota, and Virginia were represented in the three-day chess extravaganza. The event was hosted by Washington Chess Federation and directed by Senior TD Fred Kleist with assistance from five-time Washington State Champion FM Slava Mikhailuk, WCF Scholastic Director Rekha Sagar, and UT Dallas chess stud Vignesh Anand. WCF President Josh Sinanan and Tournament Coordinator Valentin Razmov orchestrated the proceedings. Amazing photographs were taken throughout the event by chess photographer extraordinaire Meiling Cheng. Our wonderful chess vendor John Dill came all the way from Spokane to offer a wide selection of high-quality chess books, equipment, and customized apparel!

Local artist and chess enthusiast Gabriela Osias (Instagram: gosi\_creates) was on-site on Saturday displaying some of her chess-inspired artwork, including a special poster that she created exclusively for the Washington Open!

Around 300 players participated in the three-day chess festival which spanned the holiday weekend, about 100 more than last year! The Washington Open main event, a six-round Swiss tournament across three sections — Open, Premier (U1800), and the Rising (U1400) division — once again offered flexible three-day or two-day options to accommodate players preferring either classical or faster time controls. The Washington Open Scholastic, directed by WCF Scholastic Director Rekha Sagar, attracted 130 juniors on Saturday, May 27! Numerous fun side events including the Carol Kleist Memorial Adult Swiss, Chess 960 (Fischer Random) Championship, Puzzle Solving Competition, Workshop for Girls and Women, Rapid Championship, and Ignacio Perez Memorial Blitz rounded out the immersive chessical experience!

No two chess tournaments are ever quite the same, and this year's Washington Open was no exception. Around 1:00 PM on Saturday afternoon, the fire alarm went off and all players had to evacuate the building. Of course, this was somewhat of a disturbance since many games in the three-day schedule were still underway and some of the games in the scholastic tournament had just begun. Players were instructed to pause their clocks and leave the playing hall while the local fire department came to clear the premises





and check that everything was ok. Indeed, it was a false alarm, as some curious kid had pulled the fire alarm in the foyer area just outside the parent waiting room. The anonymous fire alarm-pulling assailant is still at large, but hopefully has learned his or her lesson!

Four chess masters, IM Georgi Orlov (2504 → 2505, 5.0) of Sammamish, NM Samuel He (2258 → 2273, 5.0) of Redmond, NM Kyle Haining (2287 → 2273, 5.0) of Lake Forest Park, and FM Ryan Porter (2250 → 2252, 5.0) of Bellevue, were crowned Washington Open Co-Champions in the 81-player Open section, each with five points from six games. Orlov got off to a hot start, winning his first four games in a row in the two-day schedule against Spokane City Champion Ryan Ackerman (1944), Idaho chess stud James Wei (2002), former South Carolina State Champion NM Timur Aliyev (2332), and fellow co-champion NM Samuel He (2258). On the last day of play after the schedule merge, Orlov slowed down a bit and drew his last two games against co-leader NM Daniel He (2307) and Redmond powerhouse FM Tian Sang. This allowed a chasing pack of masters, Samuel He, Kyle Haining, and Ryan Porter to catch up with him, each winning their last two games.

A future playoff amongst the co-champions will determine the seed into the 2024 Washington State Championship. In the Open section, it was truly a collective victory, with each of the top twenty-two finishers winning a prize! Sharing fifth place honors a half-point back were NM Daniel He (2307 → 2316, 4.5) of Redmond, NM Timur Aliyev (2332 → 2313, 4.5) of Kirkland, FM Tian Sang (2322 → 2324, 4.5) of Redmond, Oscar Sprumont (2075 → 2091, 4.5) of Seattle, Ryan Yang (1711 → 1868, 4.5) of Vancouver (B.C.), and Ryan Richardson (2112 → 2114, 4.5) of Portland. Two players, Yevgeniy Rozenfeld (2073 → 2095, 4.5) of Redmond and Nathan Zhou (1787 → 1842, 4.5) of Portland, split the First U2100/First U1900 prize, also with four and a half points. An octuplet of players shared Second U2100 honors, each with four points: CM Robert Hecht (2094 → 2079, 4.0) of Beaverton, Austin Liu (2049 → 2052, 4.0) of Sammamish, Leonid Gavrysh (1999 → 2023, 4.0) of Brier, Eddie Chang (2029 → 2016, 4.0) of Bellevue, Yiding Lu (2092 → 2093, 4.0) of Bellevue, James Wei (2002 → 2042, 4.0) of Boise, Vidip Kona (2011

→ 2013, 4.0) of Redmond, and Harrison Toppen-Ryan (1930 → 1936, 4.0) of Kirkland. Arnold Yang (1745 → 1800, 4.0) of Portland and WCF Tournament Coordinator Valentin Razmov (1751 → 1864, 4.0) of Seattle shared the Second U1900 prize with four points apiece.

Several special prizes were also awarded in addition to the overall and class prizes. The Biggest Upset Wins were earned by Vijay Patankar (First Place — 506 points) of Redmond and Nathan Zhou (Second Place — 474 points). The Highest US Chess Rating Gain prizes were awarded to Vijay Patankar (First Place — 174 points) and Ryan Yang (Second Place — 157 points). Classiness was on full display at the Washington Open, with three players taking home the Best Dressed prizes: Tim Moroney (Saturday) of Mountlake Terrace, Valentin Razmov (Sunday), and Yevgeniy Rozenfeld (Monday). Ozgun Ozusta (1613 → 1691, 3.0) of Kirkland, always a cheerful fellow who raises the mood in any room upon entering it, won the “Fairplay, Kindness, and Spreading Joy” prize!

Local star Vijay Nallappa (1451 → 1664, 6.0) of Redmond topped the 86-player Premier U1800 section with a perfect six points from six games! Along the way, Vijay scored wins against Patrick Adams (1573), Michael Shapiro (1615), William Dann (1515), and Christos Boulis (1585). For his victory, Vijay is seeded into the Invitational section of the 2024 Washington State Championship.

A trio of players tied for Second-Fourth Place honors a full point back: Michael Shapiro (1615 → 1648, 5.0) of Sammamish, Daniel Aisaka (1577 → 1594, 5.0) of Snoqualmie, and Abhinav Mishra (1373 → 1598, 5.0) of Redmond. The fifth-place prize was shared by four players, each with a “plus three” score: H.G. Pitre (1720 → 1710, 4.5) of Federal Way, Christos Boulis (1585 → 1600, 4.5) of Redmond, Nihanth Tatikonda (1491 → 1508, 4.5) of Bothell, and Christopher Gilbert (1606 → 1606, 4.5) of Seattle.

Kirkland chess stud William Dann (1515 → 1580, 4.5) captured the First U1650 prize thanks to a red-hot start, winning his first four games in a row! A sextuplet of up-and-comers shared with Second U1650 prize with four points apiece: Odbayar Yondon (1527 → 1520, 4.0) of Redmond, Amana Demberel (1425 → 1422, 4.0) of Seattle, Nirmalya Routray

(998 → 1218, 4.0) of Sammamish, Gabriel Razmov (1549 → 1529, 4.0) of Seattle, David Marcella (1110 → 1269, 4.0) of Issaquah, and Hiruna Devadithya (1257 → 1288, 4.0) of Issaquah.

Young Selina Cheng (1229 → 1405, 4.0) of Seattle, a veteran student of Detective Cookie’s Chess Club, earned the First U1500 prize by winning her last three games in a row! Three chess musketeers, Balbir Singh (1218 → 1287, 3.5) of Seatac, Evan Takayoshi (1163 → 1318, 3.5) of Milton, and Niranjan Prashant (993 → 1168, 3.5) of Bellevue, shared Second U1500 honors, each scoring two wins, three draws, and only one loss!

The biggest upset wins were scored by the underrated chess femme fatales Olivia Ding (First Place — 287 points) of Idaho Falls and Laasya Lanka (Second Place — 273 points) of Portland. The highest US Chess rating gain prizes went to the fast-improving juniors Abhinav Mishra (First Place — 225 points) and Vijay Nallappa (Second Place — 213 points). Gentlemanly decorum was on full display in the Premier section, with William Dann (Saturday), William Corbit (Sunday) of Seattle, and Gabriel Razmov (Monday) winning the best dressed prizes! Michael Shapiro, Slava’s son and senior at Eastlake High School in Sammamish, was awarded the “Fairplay, Kindness, and Spreading Joy” prize by virtue of exuding positive vibes regardless of the situation on or off the chess board.



This year's newly renamed "Rising" U1400 section was more popular than ever, with an astounding 104 players taking part! When the dust settled, only one player emerged unblemished from the quagmire of underrated juniors and deceptively skillful adult "novice" players saturating the field: Jonah Kolar (1188 → 1348, 6.0) of Seattle! En route to the title, Jonah scored victories against Keith Ciani (682), Richard Mogstad (1154), Malcolm Certain (1170), Sriram Nagarajan (Unrated), Adam Hard (987), and Alfred Su (946). Fritz Mangan (unrated → 1519, 5.5) of Seattle captured Second Place honors a half-point back, allowing only a single draw against South Sound Chess Club Founder Kyle Boddy (1087) in the third round.

Three chess kings shared Third-Fifth Place, each with a "plus four" score: Laurion Burchall (1106 → 1174, 5.0) of Seattle, Rafael Palathingal (866 → 1041, 5.0) of Redmond, and Neil Kossuri (478 → 858, 5.0) of Bothell. Newcomer Connor Watts (unrated → 1257, 5.0) of Seattle won the First Unrated prize with an impressive five points, rebounding well after a first-round misstep against the dangerous Justin Lee (553).

Three fast-improving adults — Nola Fung (1213 → 1203, 4.5) of Bellevue, Austin Wentz (1204 → 1211, 4.5) of Seattle, and Dan Yates (1083 → 1148, 4.5) of Seattle - split the First/Second U1200 prize a half-point back. Aaron "the Richland wrecking ball" Rausch (unrated → 1172, 4.5) of Richland claimed First U1000 honors with an impressive "plus three" score. Newcomer Vilmos Foltenyi (unrated → 1179, 4.5) of Redmond earned the Second Place Unrated prize by winning his last three games in a row! A sextuplet of players shared the Second Place U1000 prize on an even three

points: Lucas Xiang (590 → 716, 3.0) of Bellevue, Nimalan Venkatesan (478 → 583, 3.0) of Snohomish, Cong Chen (618 → 678, 3.0) of Sammamish, Aavir Singh (597 → 753, 3.0) of Redmond, William Guthrie (958 → 927, 3.0) of Redmond, and Nehanth Kakani (413 → 535, 3.0) of Bellevue.

The biggest upsets wins were scored by Richland chess stud Aaron Rausch (First Place — 751 points) and Zillah chess queen Amanda Panell (Second Place — 614 points), who also played in the Carol Kleist Memorial Adult Swiss! The highest US Chess rating gains, amongst players who had established US Chess ratings, were achieved by Anish Bharadwaj (First Place — 200 points) of Redmond and Lucas Xiang (Second Place — 126 points).

Three gentlemen went above and beyond the demands of "chess fashion" and were awarded with the best dressed prizes: John Fawcett (Saturday) of Enumclaw, Gabriel Lee (Sunday) of Tacoma, and Tomoaki Asakura (Monday) of Bellevue. Asakura's disposition matched his style sense, for which he was

awarded the "Fairplay, Kindness, and Spreading Joy" prize. The Best Annotated Game prizes are still being decided and will be announced in an upcoming issue of *Northwest Chess*!

## Mixed Doubles Teams

In addition to the regular overall, class, and special prizes, this year's Washington Open featured a Mixed Doubles Competition in which the top three two-player male-female teams combined among all three sections qualified for a prize. A total of eight mixed double teams threw their hats into the ring, which included a spouse's team and several friends joining forces to jump into the mix! In the end, the "Chengona" team consisting of Selina Cheng of Seattle and Vidip Kona of Redmond scored a combined eight points to bring home First Place honors. Team "Gavrysh," a wife-and-husband team consisting of Iryna and Leonid Gavrysh from Brier, took Second Place with a combined score of seven points. Team "Emma-Ted," consisting of Emma Li of Redmond and Ted Wang of Medina, rounded out the winners with a combined score of six points.

Mixed Doubles Teams						
Name	Partner	Event	Section	Team Name	Team Score	Place (and Prize)
Selina Cheng	Vidip Kona	3-day	Premier	Chengona	4 + 4 = 8	1st -> \$450
Vidip Kona	Selina Cheng	3-day	Open	Chengona		
Iryna Gavrysh	Leonid Gavrysh	3-day	Premier	Gavrysh	3 + 4 = 7	2nd -> \$300
Leonid Gavrysh	Iryna Gavrysh	3-day	Open	Gavrysh		
Emma Li	Ted Wang	3-day	Premier	Emma-Ted	2.5 + 3.5 = 6	3rd -> \$150
Ted Wang	Emma Li	3-day	Open	Emma-Ted		
Mary Kuhner	Valentin Razmov	3-day	Open	Racoon	1 + 4 = 5	4th
Valentin Razmov	Mary Kuhner	3-day	Open	Racoon		
Olivia Ding	Leonardo Wang	3-day	Premier	Olivianardo	2 + 2.5 = 4.5	5th
Leonardo Wang	Olivia Ding	3-day	Open	Olivianardo		
Kate Wong	Dann Merriman	3-day	Premier	Merriwong	2 + 2 = 4	6th/7th/8th
Dann Merriman	Kate Wong	3-day	Premier	Merriwong		
Zoe Xu	Owen Xu	3-day	Premier	Xu^2	1.5 + 2.5 = 4	6th/7th/8th
Owen Xu	Zoe Xu	3-day	Open	Xu^2		
Deeksha Shankaranand	Devansh Sharma	3-day	Premier	DeDe	2 + 2 = 4	6th/7th/8th
Devansh Sharma	Deeksha Shankaranand	3-day	Premier	DeDe		

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## Washington Open Carol Kleist Memorial Adult Swiss

The Washington Open Carol Kleist Memorial Adult Swiss took place May 27-29 alongside the main tournament to honor the late Carol Kleist, who passed away during last year's Washington Open. The 12-player adult-only (18+) six-round Swiss featured a slightly faster time control of G/90;+30 to provide an alternative event for those adults seeking to spend less time at the board and wishing to avoid playing those pesky underrated kids! The event was run under the supervision of Senior TD Fred Kleist, Carol's beloved husband, and was sponsored by the Seattle Chess Club with a generous prize fund of \$1000 guaranteed by SCC board member and chess benefactor Henry Yan.

Zillah chess queen Amanda Panell opted to "simul" the Carol Kleist Memorial Adult Swiss and the two-day Rising section of the main tournament and managed to pull it off without a hitch, playing a total of nine tournament games over the course of the holiday weekend!

NM Gerald Larson (2108 → 2111, 6.0) of Seattle. emerged victorious with a perfect six wins from six games. Larson was in deep trouble after mishandling the white side of a Dutch in his game against tournament sponsor Henry Yan (1679) in the third round but managed a lucky escape in time pressure.

Two Seattle Chess Club board members — Henry Yan (1679 → 1672, 4.0) of Bellevue and Nicholas Liotta (1433 → 1470, 4.0) of Seattle — shared Second/Third Place honors two points back. Henry Hua (1399 → 1423, 3.5) of Seattle and Hong Xu (1203 → 1269, 3.5) of Kenmore split the First Place U2000/U1700 prize with three and a half points apiece.

Shoreline chess king Jacob Gulotta (1072 → 1258, 3.0) earned the First U1400 prize with an even three points and scored the biggest upset win (451 points) to add to his earnings. Amanda Panell (156 → 196, 2.5) captured the First U1100 prize with a clutch fifth-round win against fellow chess queen Audrie Gordon (215).

The results below are presented with a pink title in honor of Carol's favorite color.

## Washington Open Scholastic

The 2023 Washington Open Scholastic chess tournament took place on Saturday, May 27 at the Redmond Marriott. Scholastic chess players in grades K-12 participated from throughout the Pacific Northwest, including the cities of Bothell, Redmond, Bellevue, Sammamish, Kirkland, Mill Creek, Olympia, North Bend, Snoqualmie, Woodinville, Seattle, Vancouver (Washington), Yarrow Point, Renton, Snohomish, Camano Island, Mercer Island, Stanwood, Issaquah, Bainbridge Island, Vashon, Kent, Marysville, White Salmon, Puyallup, Kenmore, and Ravensdale!

The event was hosted by the Washington Chess Federation and directed by WCF Scholastic Director Rekha Sagar with assistance from high school chess studs Melina Li and Ojas Kandhare. Amazing photographs were taken throughout the day by chess mom extraordinaire Meiling Cheng. A packed house of 130 players competed across three sections parsed by grade level and rating: K-4 U1200, 5-12 U1200, and K-12 Open.

Congratulations to the Amazon gift card winners:

### K-4 U1200:


1<sup>st</sup> Lewis Ma, 5.0 points — Champion!

2<sup>nd</sup> Wenyou Wang, 4.5 points

=3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Elijah Edwin, Yugo Bandai, Peter Luo, Lakshana Anand, Imai Maharaja, Aarya Patel, Ellis Nelson, 4 points each

Biggest Upset: Suryaa Srishankar (510 points)

Final Results & Standings: Washington Open Carol Kleist Memorial Adult Swiss												
#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Total pts	Prize	
1		NM Gerald Larson	2108	W4	W11	W2	W3	W7	W5	6	1st -> \$240	
2		Henry Yan	1698	W9	W7	L1	W4	L3	W8	4	=2nd/3rd -> \$165	
3		Nicholas Liotta	1398	W12	W10	D8	L1	W2	H---	4	=2nd/3rd -> \$165	
4		Henry Hua	1368	L1	W9	W12	L2	D8	W7	3.5	=1st U2000/U1700 -> \$105	
5		Hong Xu	1103	D8	H---	W10	W11	H---	L1	3.5	=1st U2000/U1700 -> \$105	
6		John Christy	1523	L7	L8	D9	W12	W11	H---	3		
7		Jacob Gulotta	1072	W6*	L2	W11	W8	L1	L4	3	1st U1400 -> \$90 + Biggest Upset Win* (451 pts.) -> \$50	
8		Ralph Anthony	1527	D5	W6	D3	L7	D4	L2	2.5		
9		Henry Louie	1310	L2	L4	D6	W10	H---	H---	2.5		
10		Amanda Panell	156	B---	L3	L5	L9	W12	H---	2.5	1st U1100 -> \$80	
11		Don Hack	1393	X---	L1	L7	L5	L6	W12	2		
12		Audrie Gordon	215	L3	B---	L4	L6	L10	L11	1		



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## 5-12 U1200:

=1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> Oliver Wakeman & Joseph Loi, 4.5 each — Co-Champions!

=3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Aayan Hetamsaria, Rahul Mitra, Rowan Goldman, Karthik Yakkali, 4 points each

Biggest Upset Win: Carlos Howell (388 points)

## K-12 Open:

=1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> Odbayar Yondon & Samuel Cha, 4 points each — Co-Champions!

3<sup>rd</sup> Bichen Liu, 3.5 points

=4<sup>th</sup> Miles Kuipers & Keeran Balayoghan, 3 points each

Biggest Upset Win: Kevin Zhang (525 points)

## Washington Open Fischer Random Chess 960 Championship

The Washington Open Chess 960 (Fischer Random) Championship, a four-round Swiss in one section, took place on Saturday May 27 at 2:15 PM under the direction of WCF President Josh Sinanan. A dozen players honored the great American World Champion as they scrambled up the back-rank pieces and played from randomized starting positions each round! Pieces were drawn at random from a bag between rounds by the players themselves, after which they were given two minutes to analyze the starting position before clocks were started.

The positions drawn were as follows:  
Round 1: Position 14—QNNRKBBR,  
Round 2: Position 470—RNBKNBRQ,  
Round 3: Position 742—RKBNNBQR,  
Round 4: Position 453—RNBBNKQR.  
The third round starting position, which featured the knights swapped for the king and queen, made for especially intriguing play!

After four fun action-packed rounds, Kirkland chess stud Ozgun Ozusta (1813, 3.5) was crowned the Washington Open Chess 960 Champion, with an undefeated three and a half points from four games, conceding a single draw to Northwest Master Nehanraj Ramesh (2203) in the final round to clinch the title. A duo of Chess 960 daredevils CM Nikash Vemparala (2122, 3.0) of Redmond and

## Final Results and Standings - WA Open Chess960 Championship

#	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Total pts	Prize
1	Ozgun Ozusta	1813	W8	W2	W3	D4	3.5	1st -> \$40
2	CM Nikash Vemparala	2122	W7	L1	W6	W5	3	=2nd/3rd -> \$25
3	Valentin Razmov	1805	W11	W5	L1	W7	3	=2nd/3rd -> \$25
4	Nehanraj Ramesh	2203	L6	W10	W9	D1	2.5	
5	Michael Shapiro	1710	W12	L3	W8	L2	2	
6	Sridhar Seshadri	1638	W4	L9	L2	W11	2	
7	Gabriel Razmov	1589	L2	W12	W10	L3	2	
8	William Dann	1562	L1	W11	L5	W9	2	
9	Qingsheng Chen	1490	H---	W6	L4	L8	1.5	
10	Xinyu Chen	1242	H---	L4	L7	W12	1.5	1st U1400 -> \$10
11	Kayne Winter	1170	L3	L8	W12	L6	1	
12	Zion Pantea	555	L5	L7	L11	L10	0	

Valentin Razmov (1805, 3.0) of Seattle shared =Second/Third Place honors a half-point back. Bellevue Chess 960 stud Xinyu Chen (1242, 1.5) won his final game against the luckless Zion Pantea (555) to capture the First Place U1400 prize.

## Chess-Inspired Artwork On Display

Local artist and chess player Gabriela Osias was on-site on Saturday 5/27 to display some of her chess-inspired artwork! Players and parents had a chance to check out samples of her creative brilliance on her Instagram ([https://www.instagram.com/gosi\\_creates/](https://www.instagram.com/gosi_creates/)). Gabriela's work is notable for its novelty and fine craftsmanship and makes a wonderful gift for any chess enthusiast!

## Washington Open Puzzle Solving Competition

On Saturday afternoon at 4:30 PM, 30 intrepid puzzle warriors were given a maximum of 45 minutes to solve 16 chess puzzles.

The puzzles, which were designed by WCF Tournament Coordinator Valentin Razmov, contained a challenging mix of tactical and strategic themes. Solutions were written on paper, and contestants were evaluated based on accuracy, completeness, and speed.

We have included the puzzles on the next page for the *Northwest Chess* readers to enjoy. How many can you solve correctly? Solutions will be revealed in a future issue of *Northwest Chess*!



*Popular local chess coach Michael Hosford works through the challenging set of puzzles at the Washington Open Puzzle Solving Competition. "Coach Mike" won the competition by less than half a point!  
Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.*

## Washington Open - Puzzle Solving Competition

May 27, 2023

Time allowed: 45 minutes

(Designed and compiled by Valentin Razmov: [https://www.chess.com/member/coach\\_valentin](https://www.chess.com/member/coach_valentin))

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

Solution: 1. \_\_\_\_\_



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

Solution: 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_



**Puzzle #3:** Black to move and win.

Solution: 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_



**Puzzle #4:** Black to move and mate in 3.

Solution: 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_



1 of 4

## Washington Open - Puzzle Solving Competition

**Puzzle #5:** Black to move and win material.

Solution: 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_ 4. \_\_\_\_\_



**Puzzle #6:** Black to move and win.

Solution: 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_



**Puzzle #7:** What move and idea offers Black best chances to avoid a loss? Explain briefly.

Solution: 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_ 4. \_\_\_\_\_

Idea: \_\_\_\_\_



**Puzzle #8:** What is White's best chance here?

Solution: 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_

Explanation (optional): \_\_\_\_\_



2 of 4

## Washington Open - Puzzle Solving Competition

**Puzzle #9:** What move and idea gives White best chances in the coming middlegame? Explain.

Solution: 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_

Idea: \_\_\_\_\_



**Puzzle #10:** Black to move and win.

Solution: 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_ 4. \_\_\_\_\_ 5. \_\_\_\_\_



**Puzzle #11:** White to move and win.

Solution: 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_

Explanation (optional): \_\_\_\_\_



**Puzzle #12:** What move and idea gives Black best chances? Explain briefly.

Solution: 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_

Explanation: \_\_\_\_\_



3 of 4

## Washington Open - Puzzle Solving Competition

**Puzzle #13:** Black to move. Which side is better?

What is Black's best move? Explain briefly.

Solution: 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_

Explanation: \_\_\_\_\_



**Puzzle #14:** Which move and idea gives White best chances to play for a win? Explain briefly.

Solution: 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_

Idea: \_\_\_\_\_



**Puzzle #15:** Which of the following 3 options gives White best chances: 1.f6, 1.Ra7, or 1.Rb8+?

Explanation: \_\_\_\_\_

Solution: 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_



**Puzzle #16:** How can Black successfully defend in this endgame? Explain your idea briefly.

Idea: \_\_\_\_\_

Solution: 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_



4 of 4



## Final Results and Standings: Washington Open Puzzle Solving Competition

Last Name	First Name	Highest Rating	Start Time	End Time	Minutes used	Score (out of 16)	Prize
Hosford	Michael	1974	4:43 PM	5:29 PM	46	11.75	1st -> \$75
Razmov	Gabriel	1589	4:43 PM	5:23 PM	40	11.5	=2nd/3rd -> \$42
Cheng	Edward	1811	4:43 PM	5:30 PM	47	11.5	=2nd/3rd -> \$42
Reddy Saddi	Neevan	1526	4:43 PM	5:23 PM	40	10.75	=1st U1700/U1400 -> \$15
Shah	Aarit	1392	4:43 PM	5:28 PM	45	10.75	=1st U1700/U1400 -> \$15
Certain	Malcolm	1030	4:43 PM	5:28 PM	45	10.75	=1st U1700/U1400 -> \$15
Rausch	Aaron	603	4:43 PM	5:30 PM	47	10.5	
Vemparala	Nikash	2122	4:43 PM	5:24 PM	41	10	
Yondon	Odbayar	1626	4:43 PM	5:30 PM	47	9.75	
Ramesh	Nehanraj	2203 (P)	4:43 PM	4:57 PM	14	9	
Kuhner	Mary	1860	4:43 PM	5:30 PM	47	8.75	
Koppala	Sambhav	1346	4:43 PM	5:30 PM	47	8.75	
Dantzler	Ryan	1393 (P)	4:43 PM	5:29 PM	46	8	
Bharadwaj	Samarth	1429	4:43 PM	5:23 PM	40	7.25	
Maharaja	Imai	1067	4:43 PM	5:30 PM	47	7.25	
Winter	Kayne	1170	4:43 PM	5:30 PM	47	6.75	
Li	Edgar	1159	4:43 PM	5:14 PM	31	6.25	
Asakura	Tomoaki	1247	4:43 PM	5:30 PM	47	5.75	
Willaford	Loyd	1585	4:43 PM	5:30 PM	47	5.75	
Cheng	Selina	1454	4:43 PM	5:24 PM	41	4.25	
Covey	Lashawna	Unrated	4:43 PM	5:29 PM	46	3.75	1st Unrated -> \$23
	Jackie		4:43 PM	5:30 PM	47	3.5	
Bhende	Shaurya	727	4:43 PM	5:30 PM	47	3	
Chen	Max	691	4:43 PM	5:24 PM	41	2.5	
Chen	Felix	839	4:43 PM	5:26 PM	43	2.5	
Grabski	Ben	Unrated	4:43 PM	5:30 PM	47	2.5	
Palathingal	Rafael	1291	5:19 PM	~5:35 PM	16	2.25	
Panter	Joshua	1102	4:43 PM	5:30 PM	47	2	
Wakeman	Oliver	1170	4:43 PM	~5:10 PM	27	1.5	
Bharadwaj	Shriya	Unrated	4:43 PM	5:25 PM	42	0.75	

### Washington Open Annual Chess Workshop for Girls and Women

The Fourth Chess Workshop for Girls and Women, led by WCF Scholastic Director, Rekha Sagar, took place on Saturday evening from 6:00-8:00 PM in the studio space. A solid turnout of about a dozen girls and women attended the workshop and enjoyed some complimentary Pagliacci pizza and beverages courtesy of WCF while discussing the topic of: "How to develop and cultivate women's and girls' chess". The ladies enjoyed some fun blitz and bughouse games to round out the enchanting evening.

### Washington Open Rapid Championship

The Washington Open Rapid Championship, a five-round Swiss in one section, took place on Sunday afternoon at 2:00 PM under the direction of five-time Washington State Champion FM Slava Mikhailuk.

Thirty-eight players ranging from unrated to master level competed in the popular side event, which featured a time control of G/15;+5 and was US Chess Quick Rated!

After the smoke cleared from the fast and furious pace of play, FM Peter Yu (2142 → 2141, 4.5), originally from California but now living in Bothell,

emerged victorious with an undefeated four and a half points from five games, allowing only a single draw against Ozgun Ozusta (1677) in the penultimate round.

A quintuplet of players shared =Second/Third/U1900 honors a half-point back: CM Vignesh Anand (1536 → 1581, 4.0) of Redmond, CM Nikash Vemparala (1565 → 1577, 4.0) of Redmond, NM David Rupel (1996 → 1989, 4.0) of Olympia, Miles Kuipers (1400 → 1483, 4.0) of Bellevue, and Ozgun Ozusta (1677 → 1736, 4.0) of Kirkland.

Five up-and-coming juniors contributed to their college funds by splitting the First U1600 prize with three points apiece: Gabriel Razmov (1048 → 1076, 3.0) of Seattle, Dann Merriman

Final Results & Standings: WA Open Rapid Championship										
#	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total pts	Prize	
1	FM Peter Yu	2226	W17	W10	W4	D6	W5	4.5	1st -> \$150	
2	CM Vignesh Anand	2130	W22	W11	L5	W18	W10	4	=2nd/3rd/U1900 -> \$54	
3	CM Nikash Vemparala	2122	W24	W13	L8	W14	W9	4	=2nd/3rd/U1900 -> \$54	
4	NM David Rupel	1996	W25	W15	L1	W13	W12	4	=2nd/3rd/U1900 -> \$54	
5	Miles Kuipers	1822	W27	W35	W2	W8	L1	4	=2nd/3rd/U1900 -> \$54	
6	Ozgun Ozusta	1813	W23	W16	W7	D1	D8	4	=2nd/3rd/U1900 -> \$54	
7	FM Ryan W Porter	2289	D21	W28	L6	W20	W18	3.5		
8	Nehanraj Ramesh	2203	W34	W9	W3	L5	D6	3.5		
9	Valentin Razmov	1805	W36	L8	W17	W16	L3	3		
10	David Merrikin	1690	W37	L1	W22	W15	L2	3		
11	Sankalp Koppala	1665	W38	L2	L24	W21	W19	3		
12	Gabriel Razmov	1589	L28	W23	W25	W24	L4	3	=1st U1600 -> \$11	
13	Dann Merriman	1565	W29	L3	W27	L4	W30	3	=1st U1600 -> \$11	
14	Neevan Reddy Saddi	1526	W31	D18	D19	L3	W22	3	=1st U1600 -> \$11	
15	Arjun Yadav	1511	W32	L4	W26	L10	W27	3	=1st U1600 -> \$11	
16	Lucas Huang	1408	W30	L6	W35	L9	W24	3	=1st U1600 -> \$11	
17	Brynden Olson	1295	L1	W37	L9	W35	W31	3	1st U1300 -> \$45	
18	Richard Lavoice	1901	W26	D14	W20	L2	L7	2.5		
19	Pratik Dhumal	1688	L35	W33	D14	W28	L11	2.5		
20	Qingsheng Chen	1490	H---	W21	L18	L7	W28	2.5		
21	Sambhav Koppala	1345	D7	L20	W33	L11	W32	2.5		
22	Venu Koppala	1290	L2	W38	L10	W23	L14	2		
23	Richard W Mogstad	1273	L6	L12	W29	L22	W34	2		
24	Lydia Xiong	1255	L3	W31	W11	L12	L16	2		
25	Patrick Yu	1182	L4	W29	L12	L30	W36	2		
26	Oliver Wakeman	1170	L18	W30	L15	L31	W35	2		
27	Leonid Zandanov	1165	L5	W32	L13	W34	L15	2		
28	Aaron Rausch	603	*W12	L7	W34	L19	L20	2	*Biggest Upset Win (986 pts.) -> \$45	
29	Zion Pantea	555	L13	L25	L23	W38	W37	2		
30	Xavier Palathingal	unr.	L16	L26	W38	W25	L13	2	=1st Unrated -> \$19	
31	John Fawcett	unr.	L14	L24	W36	W26	L17	2	=1st Unrated -> \$19	
32	Riyaan Ravindran	unr.	L15	L27	D37	W33	L21	1.5		
33	William Pan	unr.	H---	L19	L21	L32	X38	1.5		
34	Ayan Deshpande	1335	L8	W36	L28	L27	L23	1		
35	Joshua Pantea	1102	W19	L5	L16	L17	L26	1		
36	Keith Ciani	1017	L9	L34	L31	W37	L25	1		
37	Roman Davis	938	L10	L17	D32	L36	L29	0.5		
38	Akshay Gupta	708	L11	L22	L30	L29	F33	0		

(1082 → 1088, 3.0) of Duvall, Neevan Reddy Saddi (1228 → 1279, 3.0) of Issaquah, Arjun Yadav (1239 → 1240, 3.0) of Sammamish, and Lucas Huang (933 → 1017, 3.0) of Sammamish. Eatonville chess king Brynden Olson (unrated → 1232, 3.0) captured the First Place U1300 prize with a solid “plus one” score.

Two players split the First Place unrated prize down the middle, each with two points: local fellow Xavier Palathingal (unrated → 637, 2.0) of Redmond and John Fawcett (unrated → 703, 3.0) of Enumclaw.

The biggest upset win was achieved by Aaron “the wrecking ball” Rausch (986 points) of Richland in the very first round.

## Washington Open Ignacio Perez Memorial Blitz Tournament

In honor of the late great Pacific Northwest chess legend FM Ignacio Perez, the inaugural Ignacio Perez Memorial Blitz Tournament was held on Monday evening at 8:00 PM. Ignacio was especially fond of blitz chess, often playing marathon blitz sessions that lasted into the wee hours of the morning with the strongest players he could find.

The fantastic 55-player turnout was a testament to Ignacio’s legacy, as he has touched the lives of many throughout his chess career and was a loved and cherished figure in the local chess

community. To attract as many strong and titled players as possible, WCF juiced up the prize fund to \$1,600! The high-stakes blitz tournament would have appealed to Ignacio, who is likely now playing blitz with Tal and trying to out-sacrifice him!

The Ignacio Perez Memorial Blitz tournament wrapped up the weekend’s festivities on Monday night, when only a few games in the main tournament remained elsewhere in the playing hall. Newly elected WCF Co-Vice President Rekha Sagar directed the nine-round single Swiss tournament, which featured a time control of G/4;+2, allowing for more relaxed play than the typical G/3;+2 time control permits.

Two of Ignacio’s former rivals, FM Slava Mikhailuk (2307 → 2313, 8.0) of Sammamish and NM Samuel He (2259 → 2266, 8.0) of Redmond, were crowned Co-Champions, each with an impressive eight points from nine games. Samuel was perfect through six rounds before losing the head-to-head game in round seven to Mikhailuk, who dropped a point to young blitz phenom Vidip Kona (2037) earlier in the tournament.

A trio of players shared Third Place honors a point and a half back: Vahe Muselimyan (2129 → 2127, 6.5) of Everett, Vidip Kona (2037 → 2060, 6.5) of Redmond, and James Wei (1938 → 1957, 6.5) of Boise. Two young chess studs, Sam Maurer (unrated → 1766, 5.5) of Bellevue and Benjamin Frederick (1017 → 1210, 5.5) of Seattle, split the First U1900/U1700 prize with a “plus two” score. Milton speed chess wizard Evan Takayoshi (unrated → 1414, 4.5) and rampaging Redmond chess speedster Kanav Shah (unrated → 1021, 4.5) tied for the First U1500 prize with an even score. Redmond blitz kings Aditya Karri (unrated → 1104, 4.0) and Sriram Nagarajan (unrated → 1109, 4.0) shared the First Place U1300 prize. The First Place unrated prize was awarded to Vishal Suram (1045 → 1180, 4.0) of Bothell.

Ralph Anthony scored the biggest upset win (889 points) by virtue of upsetting IM Leslie Leow (2472) of Bellevue in the first round! Bellevue chess princess Lavina Abhilash (age nine) won the youngest female player award. Selina Cheng of Seattle won the Best Female Player prize with a tournament performance rating of 1522. A pair of veteran chess kings – IM Leslie Leow (2220 → 2174, 5.5) and Dave Juchau



Final Results and Standings: Ignacio Perez Memorial Blitz Tournament													
#	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	Rd 8	Rd 9	Total	Prize
1	FM Slava Mikhailuk	2385	W22	W31	W14	L4	W9	W8	W2	W7	W6	8	=1st/2nd: \$350 each
2	NM Samuel He	2260	W23	W18	W5	W8	W4	W7	L1	W3	W13	8	
3	Vahe Muselimyan	2207	W28	W20	L4	W21	W31	W14	W6	L2	D5	6.5	=3rd: \$66 each
4	Vidip Kona	2011	W35	W55	W3	W1	L2	L6	W10	W8	D7	6.5	
5	James Wei	2002	W36	W39	L2	W20	L6	W12	W18	W15	D3	6.5	
6	FM Tian Sang	2337	W32	W10	L8	W25	W5	W4	L3	W11	L1	6	
7	CM Vignesh Anand	2130	W46	D21	W19	W15	W12	L2	W14	L1	D4	6	
8	Bertrand Wan	2019	W29	W38	W6	L2	W22	L1	W15	L4	W19	6	
9	CM Chris M Kalina	1970	W37	W51	L52	W23	L1	W22	D25	W12	D14	6	
10	Vihaan Jammalamadaka	1950	W30	L6	L21	W36	W19	W20	L4	W22	W18	6	
11	IM Leslie Leow	2472	L41	D43	W24	W38	L15	W32	W16	L6	W26	5.5	Best Senior Player
12	NM Daniel Shubin	2263	W42	W16	D15	W13	L7	L5	W26	L9	W25	5.5	
13	Neharaj Ramesh	2203	W33	D19	W26	L12	W21	L15	W41	W25	L2	5.5	
14	NM Aaryan Deshpande	2157	W34	W25	L1	W32	W16	L3	L7	W28	D9	5.5	
15	CM Nikash Vemparala	2122	W43	W41	D12	L7	W11	W13	L8	L5	W28	5.5	
16	Sam Maurer	1766	W49	L12	W34	W40	L14	D28	L11	W21	W29	5.5	=1st U1900/U1700: \$150 each
17	Benjamin Frederick	1501	L52	W50	L18	X54	L20	W42	D27	W24	W31	5.5	
18	Edward Cheng	1811	X57	L2	W17	L22	W33	W40	L5	W20	L10	5	
19	Valentin Razmov	1805	W48	D13	L7	W45	L10	W38	D21	W23	L8	5	
20	Michael Shapiro	1710	W50	L3	W35	L5	W17	L10	W33	L18	W34	5	
21	Gabriel Razmov	1589	W53	D7	W10	L3	L13	W29	D19	L16	W40	5	
22	Blessington Moses	1567	L1	W37	W55	W18	L8	L9	W40	L10	W38	5	
23	William Dann	1562	L2	W30	W53	L9	L40	W36	W34	L19	W37	5	
24	Jeffrey Tiglon	1731	L39	L29	L11	W43	D45	W49	W38	L17	W42	4.5	
25	Ujwal Garine	1654	W44	L14	W46	L6	W34	W31	D9	L13	L12	4.5	
26	Odbayar Yondon	1626	W54	D52	L13	D29	D46	W30	L12	W41	L11	4.5	
27	Dave Juchau	1609	F55	L35	W43	L30	W48	W47	D17	L29	W41	4.5	Best Senior Player
28	Neevan Reddy Saddi	1526	L3	W49	L40	W47	W51	D16	W31	L14	L15	4.5	
29	Evan Takayoshi	1421	L8	W24	D45	D26	D41	L21	W32	W27	L16	4.5	=1st U1500: \$60 each
30	Kanav Shah	1318	L10	L23	W50	W27	D32	L26	L45	W44	W43	4.5	
31	Miles Kuipers	1822	W47	L1	W33	W51	L3	L25	L28	W36	L17	4	
32	Aniruddha Barua	1565	L6	W36	W39	L14	D30	L11	L29	D49	W47	4	
33	Arjun Yadav	1511	L13	W48	L31	W39	L18	W51	L20	L40	W49	4	
34	Selina Cheng	1454	L14	W44	L16	W53	L25	W45	L23	W35	L20	4	Best Female Player
35	Eliot Amalo	1404	L4	W27	L20	L42	L39	W53	W47	L34	W50	4	
36	Aarit Shah	1392	L5	L32	W49	L10	W55	L23	W39	L31	W45	4	
37	Niranjan Prashant	1348	L9	L22	L48	L50	B---	W55	W51	W45	L23	4	
38	Aditya Karri	1295	X56	L8	W41	L11	W42	L19	L24	W46	L22	4	=1st U1300: \$50 each
39	Sriram Nagarajan	1000	W24	L5	L32	L33	W35	L43	L36	B---	W46	4	
40	Vishal Suram	unr.	H---	H---	W28	L16	W23	L18	L22	W33	L21	4	1st Unrated: \$100
41	Ralph Anthony	1583	W11	L15	L38	W48	D29	W46	L13	L26	L27	3.5	Biggest upset win: \$80
42	Karsh Havaladar	1563	L12	W47	L51	W35	L38	L17	W48	D43	L24	3.5	
43	Balbir Singh	1426	L15	D11	L27	L24	W44	W39	D46	D42	L30	3.5	
44	Zion Pantea	555	L25	L34	L47	D49	L43	B---	W53	L30	W55	3.5	
45	AFM Sridhar Seshadri	1638	H---	H---	D29	L19	D24	L34	W30	L37	L36	3	
46	Samarth Bharadwaj	1429	L7	W54	L25	W55	D26	L41	D43	L38	L39	3	
47	Rafael Palathingal	1295	L31	L42	W44	L28	W53	L27	L35	W48	L32	3	
48	Joshua Pantea	1102	L19	L33	W37	L41	L27	W50	L42	L47	B---	3	
49	Snehil Ghosh	1051	L16	L28	L36	D44	W50	L24	W55	D32	L33	3	
50	Eshaan Verma	852	L20	L17	L30	W37	L49	L48	B---	W51	L35	3	
51	Alex Foltenyi	unr.	B---	L9	W42	L31	L28	L33	L37	L50	W53	3	
52	Oscar Sprumont	2200	W17	D26	W9	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	2.5	
53	Xavier Palathingal	unr.	L21	B---	L23	L34	L47	L35	L44	W55	L51	2	
54	Riyaan Ravindran	unr.	L26	L46	B---	F17	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	1	
55	Lavina Abhilash	unr.	X27	L4	L22	L46	L36	L37	L49	L53	L44	1	Youngest Female Player
56	Ozgun Ozusta	1813	F38	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	0	
57	Kyle Boddy	1230	F18	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	0	



*Olivia Ding (L) vs Karan Khanolkar.  
Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.*

(1607 → 1524, 4.5) of Seattle — were recognized as the best senior players.

As part of the annotate games competition, several players have annotated their games for the *Northwest Chess* readers to enjoy.

**David Murray (1824) –  
Davey Jones (1691) [D00]**

Washington Open  
Redmond, WA (R2), May 27, 2023  
[Ralph Dubisch]

**1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.Nc3!?**

3.c4 Bg7 4.Nc3

**3...d5 4.Bf4 Bg7 5.Nb5**

5.e3 0-0 6.Be2 c5 7.Ne5

**5...Na6 6.e3 0-0 7.h3 c6 8.Nc3 Ne7  
9.Bd3 Ne6 10.Be5 c5 11.0-0 b6 12.b3  
Bb7 13.Na4 Rc8 14.Qe2?!**

14.dxc5 bxc5 15.c4!?



*Position after 14.Qe2*

**14...Ne4**

14...c4!? 15.bxc4 dxc4 16.Bxc4 Bxf3  
17.gxf3 Rxc4!? 18.Qxc4 Qd7 19.Nc3 (19.  
Bxf6 Bxf6 20.Nc3 Ng5) 19...Rc8 20.Qd3  
Ng5 21.Bxf6 and now, for example,  
21...Rxc3 22.Qxc3 Bxf6 23.f4 Qxh3  
24.fxg5 Qg4+ with perpetual check.;  
14...cxd4 15.Nxd4 (15.exd4 Bh6. White's  
offside knight is a problem.) 15...Nc5  
16.Nxc5 bxc5 17.Nf3 c4 18.bxc4 dxc4  
19.Bxc4 Bxf3 20.gxf3 Rc5, and Black  
has definite compensation for the pawn  
and bishop pair.

**15.Bxg7 Kxg7 16.c4 cxd4 17.cxd5?!**

17.Nxd4 dxc4 (or 17...Nxd4 18.exd4 Bc6)  
18.Nxe6+ fxe6

**17...Bxd5**

17...Qxd5 18.Bc4 Qf5.

**18.Nxd4 Nxd4**



*Position after 18...Nxd4*

**19.Qb2?**

Perhaps a bit too fancy. Simply recapturing  
with 19.exd4 Nf6. does leave White  
defending the IQP position, though.

**19...f6?**

19...e5! 20.exd4 Qg5! ♣ and suddenly  
Black is developing a serious kingside  
initiative.

**20.exd4 Qd7 21.Rfe1 Ng5 22.Re3 Rc7?!**

22...Ne6∞ eyes f4.

**23.Rae1 e6 24.Nc3 Bc6 25.h4 Nf7  
26.Ne4?!**

26.Ne2± with better coordination.

**26...Qd5??**

26...Bxe4 removes White's most  
threatening piece.

**27.Bc4 Qd7**

27...Qd8 28.Nxf6! Bxg2

a) 28...Qxf6 29.Rxe6 and 30.d5+ to  
follow.;

b) 28...b5 29.Rxe6 bxc4 (29...Nh6  
30.d5 Rxf6 31.Rxf6 Qxf6 32.Qxf6+  
Kxf6 33.Re6+ Kg7 34.Rxc6) 30.d5  
Kh6 31.dxc6;



*Selina Cheng (L) vs William Corbit during round 5.  
Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.*





*Andra Marinescu (L) keeps well caffeinated in her game against the shaggy WCF Treasurer Robert Allen.  
Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.*

29.Nh5+ gxh5 30.Rg3+ Kh8 31.Kxg2

28.Nxf6 Kxf6 29.Rxe6+

29.d5+ is similarly decisive.

29...Kg7 30.d5+ Kg8 31.dxc6 Rxc6 32.  
Re7 Qf5



*Position after 32...Qf5*

33.Rxf7!

Although Stockfish prefers continued queen maneuvers with 33.Qd4, the capture on f7 wins the queen or checkmates, delivering instant clarity.

1-0

**Sujan Saravanan (1701) –  
Harrison Toppen-Ryan (1930) [B22]**  
Washington Open  
Redmond, WA (R2), May 31, 2023  
[Harrison Toppen-Ryan]

1.e4 c5 2.c3

A lot of club players love playing the Alapin Sicilian as White. It was a popular opening at the Bellingham Open as well. I've seen this played against me more times than any other variation besides the mainline 2.Nf3 and 3.d4 open Sicilian.

2...Nf6

2...d5 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.d4 This is the more popular line Black can try. I decided to play 2.Nf6 instead as it's more advanced and more comfortable for Black in my opinion.

3.e5 Nd5 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.Bc4 Nb6 6.Bb3 d6  
7.exd6 Qxd6 8.0-0 g6

8...c4 9.Bc2 Bg4 is Black's main try. Probably better than the ...g6 plan that I went for.

9.d4 cxd4 10.Nxd4 Nxd4 11.cxd4 Bg7



*Position after 11...Bg7*

12.Qf3?!

I wasn't so sure about White's plan here going for the IQP, as it will always be a target for Black in this kind of middlegame.

12...0-0 13.Rd1 Qf6 14.Qg3 Bf5 15.Bg5  
Qd6 16.Qxd6 exd6 17.Nc3 Rfc8 18.Nb5  
Nc4 19.Bxc4 Rxc4 20.b3

Here I thought I was losing had White taken my d6-pawn. Apparently, computer thinks it's about equal. 20.Nxd6 Rxd4 21.Rxd4 Bxd4 22.Nxf5 gxf5±

20...Rc6 21.Bf4 Bf8?!

This move seemed passive. I should have played more actively with 21...Rd8 22.Nxa7 Rb6!±

22.d5 Rb6 23.a4!

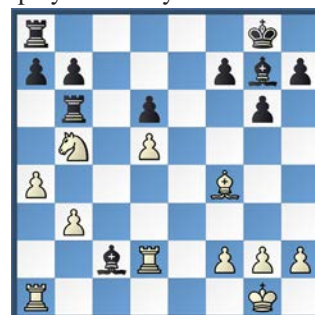


*Position after 23.a4*

This is the critical position of this game. 24.Be3 trapping rook is coming if Black doesn't act immediately. Without looking at the next move, what would *you* play here?

23...Bc2! 24.Rd2 Bg7!

The only moves to keep Black in the game. White is still slightly better here if White plays correctly.



*Position after 24...Bg7*

25.Rf1??

This was the game-turning move. The move Rc1 looks natural and is in fact the correct move to play. My opponent probably thought that after 25.Rc1 Bxb3 26.Be3 Bxa4 27.Bxb6 axb6 White can't stop both ...Bxb5 and ...Bh6, but after 28.Ra2!± Black has nothing for the exchange. My opponent had to see all of this before playing Rc1, however.

25...Bxb3 26.Be3?

Going for the plan now doesn't work, since ...Bxb5 will hit the rook on f1.

26...Bxa4 27.Bxb6 Bxb5 28.Rb1?  
axb6!-+

Game over. White cannot take on b5 as ...Ra1 will be checkmate.

29.g3 Ra1 30.Rdd1 Rxb1 31.Rxb1 Bc4

### 32.Rxb6 Bxd5 33.Rxd6 Bc6

The rest of the game will be a pretty show of how two bishops + pawn > one rook.

### 34.Rd8+ Bf8 35.Kf1 Kg7 36.Ke2

The b5-pawn now has a red carpet to promote to a queen. White puts up as much resistance as he can, but the result will be never be in doubt.

### 36...b5 37.Kd3 b4 38.Kc4 Bg2 39.Rd4 Bf1+ 40.Kb3 Ba6 41.Rd8 Bb7 42.Kc4 Bf3 43.Rd4 h5 44.h4 Bg4 45.Kb3 Be6+ 46.Kb2 Kh6 47.Kb1 b3 48.f3 Bg7

The bishops are snipers.

0-1

**Daniel He (2352) –  
Pranav K. Anoop (2134) [B31]**  
Washington Open  
Redmond, WA (R3), May 28, 2023  
*[Daniel He]*

### 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5

The trendy Rossolimo variation.

### 3...g6 4.0-0 Bg7 5.c3 e5

One of the two main options by Black to deal with d4. 5...Nf6 6.Re1 0-0 7.d4 cxd4 8.cxd4 d5 9.e5 Ne4, the other option leads to more closed structures, but White does have the extra central space.

### 6.d4

Sacrificing a pawn for dynamics, which highlights the risk of Black's ...e5 move while he remains uncastled.

### 6...cxd4 7.cxd4 exd4 8.Bf4

The idea is I can ensure a Bd6 next move, hindering Black's development of the queenside.



*Position after 8.Bf4*

### 8...a6!

More precise than ...Nge7. Black forces me to reveal if I will retreat the bishop to a4 or c4 first. 8...Nge7?! 9.Bd6 a6 10.Bc4. Now that Black cannot play ...d6, Bc4 is

the better square for the bishop, putting pressure on the a2–g8 diagonal once Black gets castled.; 8...d6? 9.Nxd4

### 9.Ba4

9.Bc4?! here is no longer effective because Black can simply play 9...d6.

### 9...Nge7 10.Bd6 b5 11.Bb3 Bb7 12.Re1 Nc8

Inviting e5, where he's forced to play ...Kf8, leading to wild imbalances.

### 13.e5 Nxd6 14.exd6+ Kf8



*Position after 14...Kf8*

We reach the end of the opening stage with quite an imbalanced position! Statics favor Black with the bishop-pair and an extra pawn. However, White has a lead in development and Black's king is stuck in the center, so it is essential to capitalize on the dynamics before Black coordinates his pieces. It is interesting to note how the d6-pawn could either be a strength or a weakness. If Black manages to win it, my entire attack fizzles out. Otherwise, it is a big thorn in his position.

### 15.Nbd2 f5!?

Looks very counterintuitive, opening

up the only key diagonal in front of his king. But with further analysis, if Black manages to stop my initiative and get in the moves ...Bf6 and ...Kg7, he's totally fine and now owns an extra pawn and the bishop-pair. I had to act fast. I had expected 15...Bf6, but after Ne4–Nc5 there is more than enough positional compensation for the pawn.

### 16.a4?!

I played this move with the intention of dropping my bishop back followed by Qb3 to further pressure the weak a2–g8 diagonal and open up the queenside. However, it was a bit slow. 16.Bd5 Bf6 17.Nb3 is the most ambitious plan, creating counterplay on the queenside with Nb3–Nc5, really disrupting his development.

### 16...Bf6 17.h4 Kg7



*Position after 17...Kg7*

### 18.Ng5!?

The idea behind h4. White offers another pawn to swap off Black's most valuable defender: the dark-squared bishop. If accepted, the e7-square is ready for invasion.



*Mino Nakura (L) vs Michael Shapiro.  
Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.*



### 18...Rf8

Black decides to keep his dark-squared bishop and slowly untangle with ...Qb8 followed by ...Qxd6. Once my d6-pawn drops, I am simply lost. If 18...Bxg5 19.hxg5 Qxg5, I planned on playing 20.Bd5, with ideas of both plugging the long diagonal and threatening Bxc6 followed by Re7+. 20...Qf4 21.Bxc6 Bxc6 22.Re7+ Kh6 (22...Kf8 23.Qb3) 23.Ra3!? brings the other rook in the game laterally. It gets quite messy here with Rh3+ coming, and Black's rooks cannot easily join the defense. Practically, I ended my calculation here, concluding Black should not enter this line.

### 19.Qe2

Threatening to take twice on b5.

### 19...Qb6

Black just needs one move, ...Ne5, to win d6 and catch up on development. I knew I had to act fast here. 19...Qb8 20.axb5 axb5 21.Qxb5 Qxd6 22.Qxb7 Rfb8 23.Qxa8! Black's back rank is too weak.

### 20.Rac1

20.a5 Qc5 21.Qe6!? I was pumped when I saw this Qe6 idea, but unfortunately,

...Bc8 holds for Black no matter how hard I tried to make it work. 21...Bc8!! (21...dxe6 22.Nxe6+ Kh8 23.Nxc5 I simplify into a winning endgame, and the passed d-pawn wins the game.)

### 20...Rac8??

Completely missing my point. 20...Ne5 21.Rc7, with threat of Ne6+, and creating pressure on the seventh rank; 20...Rae8 moving a rook to e8 forces me to sacrifice my queen in exchange for both rooks. Given Black's king is nearly enclosed in a mating net, I was optimistic about my chances. 21.Qxe8 Rxe8 22.Rxe8 Kh6 23.Ndf3. 24.Rf8 is next followed by Rf7.



Position after 20...Rac8

### 21.Rxc6!!

Removing the key defender of the e7-square. Black has four ways to recapture and none of them save him.

### 21...Qxc6

With 21...Rxc6, he does have the option of blocking the check with Rc4, but fortunately, Nxc4 comes with a key tempo on Black's queen 22.Qe7+ Bxe7 23.Rxe7+ Rf7 24.Rxf7+ Kg8 25.Rxd7+ Rc4 26.Nxc4 bxc4 27.Bxc4+ Kf8 28.Nxh7+ Ke8 29.Nf6+ Kf8 30.Rf7#

### 22.Qe7+! Bxe7 23.Rxe7+ Rf7

Only try to not get mated right away. 23...Kh6 24.Rxh7#; 23...Kf6 24.Nxh7# Funny how the d6-pawn wins the game for me as the rook on e7 is defended!; 23...Kh8 24.Rxh7#

### 24.Rxf7+ Kg8

24...Kh6 25.Rxh7#

### 25.Rxd7+ Kf8

Only other moves are blocking the check with the queen, leading to material gain.

### 26.Nxh7+ Ke8 27.Nf6+ Kf8 28.Rf7#

Nice mating net to finish.

1-0



The playing hall at the Washington Open. Photo credits: Meiling Cheng.



**Jonah Kolar (1329) –  
Malcolm Certain (1170) [B18]**  
Washington Open  
Redmond, WA (R3), May 28, 2023  
*[Malcolm Certain]*

**1.e4 c6**

The Caro-Kann, which I hadn't played for a while but picked back up for this tournament as a safe option against 1.e4.

**2.d4 d5 3.Nc3**

The main line.

**3...dxe4 4.Nxe4 Bf5**

Classical variation.

**5.Ng3 Bg6 6.Nf3**



*Position after 6.Nf3*

**6...h6??**

Already a big mistake. I was attempting to give a square for my bishop to retreat after Ne5, but 7.Ne5 creates big problems after ...Bh7, as White gains a massive attack on f7 that leads to a winning position. Fortunately, my opponent missed the idea.

**7.Bc4?**

7.Ne5 Bh7 8.Qh5 g6 9.Qf3 Nf6 10.Qb3 Nd5 11.Qxb7. Here I would have to choose between losing the rook and taking on a massive attack, giving White a huge advantage.

**7...e6 8.0-0 Nf6 9.Re1 Bd6!**

I finally prevented Ne5 ideas and kept White from developing his dark-squared Bishop to f4.

**10.c3 0-0 11.a4 Qc7 12.Be3 Nbd7 13.Qd2**

Not a bad move from White, but it allowed a lot of pressure to be placed on his position down the d-file. 13.Qe2 was perhaps a safer square.

**13...Rfd8 14.Re2?**

With my rook now aligned with White's

queen, 14.Re2 was too slow. It allows for me to play 14...c5 and favorably open the position.

**14...c5 15.Bb3?**

15.Bd3 to prevent tactics and trade light-squared bishops would have been stronger.

**15...cxd4**



*Position after 15...cxd4*

**16.Bxd4??**

In order to maintain a reasonable position, White had to take back with the pawn and accept a worse pawn structure.

After 16.Bxd4 Bf4, I could have achieved a more active position.



*The WCF annual meeting and officer elections, which took place between rounds 5 and 6: (L-R) Rekha Sagar, David Hendricks, Duane Polich, Josh Sinanan, Robert Allen, Ani Barua, and Valentin Razmoy. Newly elected officers included Sridhar Seshadri, Joseph Levine, Shri Humrudha, and Suresh Balaji.  
Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.*



### 16...Bxg3??

Here I went for a tactical combination that I thought would win a piece, but ultimately blundered away my advantage. 16...Bf4 17.Qd1 (17.Be3 loses to 17...Bxg3 18.hxg3 Nc5, and 17.Qe1 allows 17...Bd3, winning the exchange.) 17...e5 18.Be3 Nc5 19.Rd2 the most testing defensive line, but this still would have led to multiple pinned pieces and a very passive game for White. With best play, this is a winning position for Black.

### 17.hxg3 e5

Attacking the pinned bishop. If it moves away, say 18.Be3, ...Nc5 wins either the bishop on b3 or the queen. Thus, 18.Nxe5 is forced.

### 18.Nxe5 Nxe5 19.Qf4!

The critical move for White that I had missed. Every other move lets me remain

up a piece, which I had calculated when I played 16...Bxg3. 19.Qf4 escapes the pin on the d4-bishop while also pinning my knight to my queen, winning back the piece that he lost with 18.Nxe5.

### 19...Nf3+!



Position after 19...Nf3+

My only resource to maintain equality. White has to win back his piece, so

he has two options. He can either take the knight with his queen and allow a skewer, or he can take with the pawn and go into an endgame with tripled pawns after 20...Qxf4. While that endgame is technically winning for White, it is practically very difficult to play, and so my opponent went into the more dynamic exchange sacrifice line.

### 20.Qxf3

20.gxf3 Qxf4 21.gxf4

### 20...Bh5 21.Qd3 Bxe2 22.Qxe2

With an extra pawn and two powerful bishops, White has excellent compensation for the exchange.

### 22...Re8 23.Qf3 Ne4?

Not a good move. I wanted to avoid ideas of Bxf6 ruining my pawn structure, but I shouldn't have been worried, as my knight was much weaker than his bishop.



Tom Cornelius (L) plays the Caro-Kann Defense vs Finnegan during round 2.  
Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.

23...Ne4 gave my opponent too much of an attack, which ultimately cramped my position for the rest of the game. 23...Qc6 would have been better; it offers a queen trade and defends my knight.

### 24.Qg4 Ng5

The only reasonable way to defend against checkmate on g7.

### 25.f4 Ne6!



Position after 25...Ne6

The only move to maintain equality, though practically the position was very difficult for me to play. The other candidate move, 25...Re4, loses back the exchange and gives White a passed pawn. 25...Re4 26.Qf5 Rxd4 27.cxd4

### 26.Bxe6!

This prevented me from removing the powerful dark-squared bishop from d4, and gave me a weak isolated pawn on e6.

26...fxe6 27.Re1 Qf7 28.Re5 Rad8 29.Bxa7 Ra8 30.Bd4 Rxa4 31.f5

This move put a lot of pressure on my position, making it difficult for me to defend, though it is still equal with best play. I can't take the pawn, as it would lead to a nice removing-the-defender tactic for White.

### 31...Ra6

31...exf5 32.Rxe8+ Qxe8 33.Qxg7#

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- 🏆 Spokane City Champion 2022
- 🏆 2032 USCF Rating
- 🎓 UW Grad
- 🦅 Eagle Scout

**Ryan Ackerman**  
Online Chess Coach

### 32.b4

A waiting move with possible ideas of eventually forcing my rook off the sixth rank with Bc5 and b5.

### 32...Re7

I'm threatening to take on f5, as the rook now defends g7 and can no longer be captured with check.

### 33.Bc5??

This move leads to a losing position for White. Unfortunately, I missed the combination that would give me an edge. I didn't see a good response after 33...exf5 34.Rxf5 (which my opponent said after the game is what he would have played after ...exf5), missing ideas of ...Qa2+. Other options for White lead to a trade of rooks and a worse endgame.



Position after 33.Bc5

### 33...Rd7??

Missing the winning idea. 33...exf5 34.Rxf5 Ra1+ 35.Kf2 (35.Kh2 gets caught in a mating net after 35...Ree1) 35...Qa2+ 36.Kf3 Qe2+ 37.Kf4 Re4#.

### 34.Rxe6??

This gives me an opportunity to gain substantial counterplay. Best is the prophylactic move 34.Kh2, preventing Ra1 from coming with tempo.

### 34...Ra1+?

The tricky 34...h5 would have been a better resource here, as it forces a trade of both rooks and queens. Still, Ra1+ gives a modest advantage for Black. 34...h5 35.Qe4 The rook has to remain twice defended. 35...Rxe6 36.Qxe6 If 36.fxe6, White once again falls into a mating

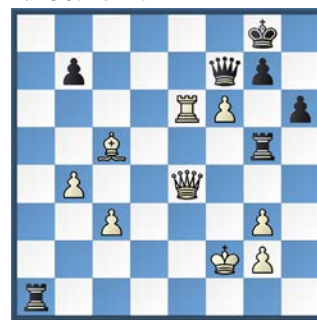
net after ...Ra1+ 37.Kh2 Qf1 36...Qxe6 37.fxe6 Rd3.

### 35.Kf2 Rd5 36.f6 Rg5??

Giving away the advantage. I missed White's next move here, as I thought the Qh3 was forced in order to defend the rook. Best was instead 36...Rd2+ 37.Ke3 Rdd1, giving me powerful defended rooks to attack White's king. 36...Rd2+ 37.Ke3 Rdd1 38.Kf3 g6 the only move to maintain my advantage in this line, and one that's very difficult to play, as it gives White a passed pawn and allows him to gain access to the seventh rank.

### 37.Qe4!

The only move. It maintains defense of the rook while also threatening the powerful 38.Re1+.



Position after 37.Qe4

### 37...Rg6??

Right idea, wrong execution. Better was 37...Qg6, offering a queen trade in addition to blocking access to h7. Fortunately, my opponent missed the critical 38.Bd4 to defend the pawn and keep a powerful grip on my position.

### 38.Ke2??

Unpinning the f-pawn, but giving away the potential for a sizeable advantage after 38.Bd4.

### 38...Ra2+ 39.Ke1!

Giving the king access to f2. Every other square allows too much counterplay with ideas of Rxd3 and Qa2+ if Re7 is played. With the king on e1, Ra1+ can be met with Kf2, attacking the rook on g3. An alternate line is given below showing the problems with moving the king elsewhere. 39.Kd1 Ra8 40.Bd4 Rxd3 41.Re7 Ra1+ 42.Kd2 Qa2+ 43.Qc2 Rxd3+

### 39...Qd7??

The losing move. I attempted to get counterplay by threatening checkmate, but I missed White's response.





Position after 39...Qd7

40.f7+!

Punishing my mistake.

40...Qxf7 41.Qxg6 Qxg6 42.Rxg6

White enters the endgame up a bishop, giving him a clear winning advantage.

42...Kf7

I played on to get some kind of chances, but I knew the position was lost.

43.Rb6 Rxg2 44.Rxb7+ Kf6 45.Bd4+ Kf5 46.Rxg7 Ke4 47.b5 Kd5 48.b6 h5 49.b7 Rb2 50.Ba7

Here I resigned, as White was going to promote.

1-0

**Peter June (1964) –  
Harrison Toppen-Ryan (1930) [B32]**  
Washington Open  
Redmond, WA (R4), May 31, 2023  
[Harrison Toppen-Ryan]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 e5

Sicilian Kalashnikov Variation

5.Nb5 d6 6.c4

A popular sideline among Maróczy Bind players. The mainline continues 6.N1c3 a6 7.Na3 b5.

6...Be7

Waiting to play ...a6 until White plays N1c3 so that the b5-knight will be forced to go back to a3.

7.N1c3 a6 8.Na3

Black has three choices here. The normal-looking 8...Nf6, the professional 8...Be6 or the chaotic evil 8...f5!? Guess which one I went with.

8...f5!? 9.exf5

Taking on f5 immediately is the correct move here. Many players will not take and instead go into 9.Bd3 f4 10.g3 Nf6!?

11.gxf4 exf4 12.Bxf4 0-0 13.Bg3 Ng4 14.Be2 Nxf2!! 15.Bxf2 Rxf2!! 16.Kxf2?? Bh4+ 17.Ke3 Qg5+ 18.Kd3 Nb4+ 19.Kd4! Bf2#

9...Bxf5 10.Bd3



Position after 10.Bd3

10...Be6

Black should not be trading light-square bishops here, as if White ever plays Nd5, then Black will have ...Bxd5 later on.

11.0-0 Nf6 12.Nc2 0-0 13.Bg5

Now I've reached the end of my prep. White most popular try is 13.b3 Kh8

13...Ne8 14.Qh5 Bf5?!

I considered g6 here of course, but I missed the ...Bf5 idea at the very end which saves Black. 14...g6 15.Bxg6? hxg6 16.Qxg6+ Ng7 17.Bh6 Rf7 18.Bxg7 Bf5!-+

15.Bxe7 Nxe7 16.Rad1 Nf6 17.Qe2 Qb6

Threatening ...Bg4 winning material.

18.Ne3 Be6 19.Ne4 Nc6



Position after 19...Nc6

20.Nd5?!

Here is where White begins to go wrong. With a white pawn on d5, Black no longer has a d6 weakness. 20.b3 Nd4

20...Bxd5 21.cxd5 Nd4 22.Nxf6+ Rxf6 23.Qe4 g6 24.g3?

White wants to stop ...Rf4 ideas but severely weakens the f3-square in the process. Computer gives 24.Qe3 Rf4

Northwest Chess



*Best dressed prize winner Gabriel Lee prepares for the start of his game. Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.*

25.Qd2 Raf8 26.Rc1.

**24...Raf8?!**

I thought that move was natural, but even stronger was 24...Nf3+ 25.Kg2 Qxb2 26.Qe2 Qxe2 27.Bxe2 Nd4.

**25.b3 Rf3 26.Be2 Rc3 27.Bg4 Qc5 28.Be6+?!**

28.Kh1

**28...Kg7**



Position after 28...Kg7

**29.Rd3??**

Now the computer really likes ...Nf3+, but I thought the way I played was also alright.

**29...Rc2**

29...Nf3+ 30.Kg2 Rxd3 31.Qxd3 Ne1+!!

**30.Rxd4?! exd4 31.Qh4 Rf6 32.g4 h6 33.Re1 d3 34.Bf5 Rc1 35.Rxc1 Qxc1+ 36.Kg2 gxf5**

0-1

**Sridhar Seshadri (1700) –  
Harrison Toppen-Ryan (1930) [B30]**  
Washington Open  
Redmond, WA (R6), May 31, 2023  
[Harrison Toppen-Ryan]

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6**



Position after 3...Nf6

The fourth most-played move and a sideline that can confuse Sicilian Rossolimo players.



*Rishik De ponders what to do against the bishop skewer during his final round game. Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.*

**4.Bxc6 dxc6 5.d3 Bg4 6.Be3 Nd7 7.Nbd2 e5 8.h3 Bh5 9.g4 Bg6 10.Nc4 f6 11.Qd2 Qc7 12.a4 Bf7 13.Na3 Bd6 14.Nh4 Nf8 15.Nf5 Ne6**



Position after 15...Ne6

This is the set up I was going for. Black can castle on either side of the board while also improving his knight on d7 to e6.

**16.Nxd6+**

I was happy when this move was played, since White took off my bad dark-squared bishop for the good f5-knight.

**16...Qxd6 17.Nc4 Qd7 18.c3?!**

Here this weakens the d3-pawn, which could become a target by Black later onwards.

**18...Rd8 19.0-0-0?!**

Now Black can just start a queenside attack.

**19...b5 20.Na5?!**

I'm not too sure about this move. White's knight will most likely just get trapped on a5 later on, which is in fact what ended up happening.

**20...0-0 21.h4 Qc7 22.c4 bxa4 23.g5?!**

Here I can now actually switch my play from center-queenside focused to center-kingside focused.

**23...Bh5 24.Rdg1?! Bf3 25.gxf6 Rxf6 26.Bg5?!**

Here I just win material and White ends up with no counterplay.

**26...Nxc3 27.hxc3 Rfd6 28.g6 Bxh1 29.gxh7+ Kh8 30.Qg5 R6d7**

0-1





*WCF President Josh Sinanan, sporting one of his many chess ties, prepares the cash prizes for one of the many side events at the Washington Open. Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.*

# SEATTLE CHESS CLASSIC



FRI-SUN, AUGUST 18-20, 2023

ORLOV CHESS ACADEMY - SEATTLE

7212 WOODLAWN AVE NE, SEATTLE, WA 98115

**Format:** A 7-round Swiss in two sections: Open and Reserve U1600. Maximum of 30 players.

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

**Schedule:** Rd. 1 – Fri 6pm, Rd. 2 – Sat 9am, Rd. 3 – Sat 2pm, Rd. 4 – Sat 7pm, Rd. 5 – Sun 9am, Rd. 6 – Sun 2pm, Rd. 7 – Sun 7pm.

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

**Prize Fund:** \$2,000 (based on 30 paid entries)

**Open:** 1<sup>st</sup> \$300, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$220  
1<sup>st</sup> U2100/U1900/U1700: \$130

**Reserve:** 1<sup>st</sup> \$200, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$150  
1<sup>st</sup> U1500/U1300/U1100: \$130  
1<sup>st</sup> Unrated \$100.

**Special Prizes (per section):**

Biggest Upset win: \$10 per round  
Best Female Player (by TPR, provided at least 3 qualifying players): \$25.  
Best Dressed: \$10/day

**Entry Fees:** Must be paid by Aug 17<sup>th</sup>: **no late or on-site registrations or payments.** \$125 by Aug 11, \$150 after. \$50 play-up fee if rated U1600 and playing in Open section. Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs, WIMs, or US Chess 2400+.

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

**Rating:** Dual US Chess and NWSRS Rated. Open section also FIDE Rated. Highest of current NWSRS, or US Chess Regular August 2023 supplement rating will be used to determine section, pairings, and prizes.

**Registration:** Online at [nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration](https://nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration) **Registration + payment deadline: Thu, Aug 17 @ 5pm.**

Unpaid players will be removed from the roster after the deadline, and players from a waitlist will be offered a spot.

**Info:** Josh Sinanan, WCF President,  
206.769.3757,  
[washingtonchessfederation@gmail.com](mailto:washingtonchessfederation@gmail.com)

**Health/Safety Protocols:** Face masks optional for players and spectators. If interested, please bring your own mask.





# Coaching Corner

Endgames are hard... for everyone.

FM Ralph Dubisch



**Anish Giri (2768) –  
Magnus Carlsen (2853) [B40]**

11th Norway Blitz  
2023 Stavanger NOR  
(R1), May 29, 2023

In the first round, GM Anish Giri plays solidly against GM Magnus Carlsen, Magnus over-presses and loses material, and Giri reaches a relatively simple winning ending -- only to blow it, allowing his last pawn to be captured. Perhaps this set the tone for the blitz portion of the tournament, as Giri definitely did not do well at fast chess here.

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.c3 Nf6 4.e5 Nd5 5.Bc4 d6 6.d4 cxd4 7.cxd4 Nb6 8.Bd3 dxe5 9.dxe5 Bd7 10.0-0 Bc6 11.Nc3 N8d7 12.Be4 Bxe4 13.Nxe4 Nc5 14.Qe2 Qd3 15.Qxd3 Nxd3 16.Rd1 Nc5 17.Nc3 Be7 18.Kf1 Rc8 19.Be3 Nc4 20.Bxc5 Rxc5 21.Ne4 Rc8 22.Rac1 0-0 23.Ke2 Nb6

23...Nxb2 24.Rxc8 Rxc8 25.Rd7 Rc2+ 26.Nfd2

24.Ne1 h5 25.Nd3 Nd5 26.g3 Kh7 27.h3 Rfd8 28.Rxc8 Rxc8 29.Rc1 Rxc1 30.Nxc1 Kg6 31.Nd3 b6 32.f4 f5 33.exf6 gxf6 34.Kf3 Nb4 35.Nxb4 Bxb4 36.g4 hxg4+ 37.hxg4 f5 38.gxf5+ exf5 39.Ng3 Kf6 40.Nf1 Ke6 41.Ng3 b5 42.b3 Be1 43.Nf1 Bb4 44.Ng3 Bd6 45.Ne2 Bc5 46.Ng3 a5 47.a4 b4 48.Ke2 Bd4 49.Kf3 Bb2 50.Ke3 Bc1+ 51.Kf3 Bd2 52.Nf1 Be1 53.Ne3



Position after 53.Ne3

53...Bc3??

This has been dead equal for quite a long time, but Carlsen has made a living (and won the World Championship) by grinding out just such apparently dull positions. This time his sense of danger deserts him. 53...Bh4 54.Nc4 Bd8

54.Nc4 Kd5 55.Nxa5 Bd4



Position after 55...Bd4

56.Ke2?

Things start to wobble as time grows short. 56.Nc4 Ba7 57.a5 Kd4 58.a6 Kc3 (58...Kc5 59.Ne3) 59.Na5+-

56...Bc5

56...Ke4? 57.Nc6 Bc5 58.a5 was likely the reason for White's move 56.; 56...Bg1! suggests attacking the f-pawn from the rear and makes it hard for White to progress.

57.Nc4 Ke4 58.Nb2?

58.Ne5 Bd6 59.a5

58...Bd6 59.Nd3



Position after 59.Nd3

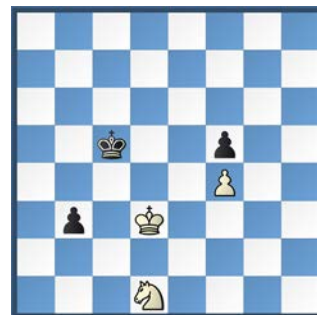
59...Kd4?

Surprisingly, 59...Bc7! holds the draw. 60.Nxb4 (60.Nc5+ Kd5 61.Na6 Bxf4 62.Nxb4+ Ke4; 60.Kd2 Ba5 61.Ne5 Bc7 62.Ke2 Bxe5 63.fxe5 Kxe5 64.Ke3 Kd5 65.Kf4 Ke6 66.a5 Kd5 67.Kxf5 Kc5 68.Ke5 Kb5 69.Kd5 Kxa5 70.Kc4 Ka6 71.Kxb4 Kb6) 60...Bxf4 61.a5 Bc7 62.Nc6 f4 63.a6 Bb6 64.a7 f3+ 65.Ke1 Bxa7 66.Nxa7 Kd4

60.a5 Kc3 61.a6 Bb8 62.Ne5 Ba7 63.Nc6 Bc5 64.a7 Bxa7 65.Nxa7 Kxb3 66.Kd3 Ka2 67.Nb5 b3 68.Nc3+ Kb2 69.Kd2 Ka3 70.Nd1 Kb4 71.Kd3

Direct and clear is 71.Ne3 Ka3 (71...b2 72.Kc2 b1Q+ 73.Kxb1 Kc3 74.Nxf5 Kd3 75.Ng3 Kd4 76.Kc2; 71...Kc5 72.Nxf5 Kd5 73.Ng3+-) 72.Kc3 Ka2 73.Nc4+-

71...Kc5



Position after 71...Kc5

72.Ne3??

Watching live, I was rather shocked to see a strong Grandmaster fail to win this position with White. One straightforward plan: 72.Nb2 Kd5 (72...Kb4 73.Kd4 Ka3 74.Nd3) 73.Na4 Kc6 74.Kd4 Kd6 (74...Kb5 75.Nc3+ Kb4 76.Nd1+-) 75.Nb2 Ke6 76.Nc4 Kf6 77.Kd5+-

72...b2 73.Kc2 Kd4 74.Nxf5+ Ke4 75.Kxb2

Perhaps this one we can chalk up to the magic power of the Magnus.

1/2-1/2

**Fabiano Caruana (2764) –  
Anish Giri (2768) [D00]**  
11th Norway Blitz 2023  
Stavanger NOR  
(R9), May 29, 2023

Here we are in the last round. The blitz portion of the tournament has not been particularly kind to Giri, but he has a chance to set the mood for the coming classical tournament.

There are some twists and turns in this game, such as White's decisions around move 26 and 34, and Black's preference for ...d4 over ...h4 on move 39, but I wanted to focus mainly on the king and pawn endgame starting before White's move 77. That world-class super-Grandmasters can fail in these so-called trivial endings shows just how difficult our game can be.

1.d4 d5 2.Bf4 Nf6 3.e3 c5 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.Nbd2 Nh5 6.dxc5 Nxf4 7.exf4 g6 8.Be2 Bg7 9.c3 0-0 10.Nb3 Bg4 11.Nfd4 Bxe2 12.Qxe2 e5 13.fxe5 Bxe5 14.0-0 Re8 15.Qd3 Bg7 16.Nf3 Qd7 17.Rad1 Rad8 18.Nbd4 a6 19.h3 Bf6 20.Rfe1 Kg7 21.b4 Nxd4 22.Nxd4 Be5 23.Re2 Bf6 24.Rde1 Rxe2 25.Rxe2 h5 26.c6? bxc6 27.Qxa6 Rc8 28.Re3 c5 29.bxc5 Rxc5 30.Qe2 Qa4 31.Rd3 Qc4 32.g3 Ra5 33.Nb3 Rxa2 34.Qxa2?!

34.Nd2∞

34...Qxd3 35.Nc5 Qf3 36.Qa7 Qxc3 37.Ne6+ Kg8 38.Nf4 Qe1+ 39.Kh2



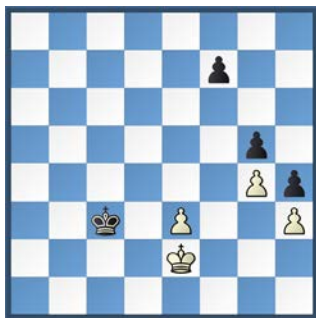
*Position after 39.Kh2*

39...d4?

39...h4?

40.Qa8+ Kg7 41.Qf3 Qe5 42.Nd3 Qe6 43.Kg2 h4 44.g4 g5 45.Nc5 Qe5 46.Nd3 Qe6 47.Nc5 Qd6 48.Ne4 Qe5 49.Nd2 Be7 50.Qd3 Qd5+ 51.Nf3 Bf6 52.Kg1 Qd6 53.Nd2 Qd5 54.Nf3 Qd6 55.Nd2 Qd5 56.Ne4 Be7 57.Nc3 Qe5 58.Ne4 Bd6 59.Kf1 Be7 60.Nd2 Qd5 61.Nf3 Bf6 62.Kg2 Kg8 63.Kg1 Kg7 64.Ne1 Qe5 65.Nf3 Qd5 66.Nd2 Be7 67.Nc4 Bd6

68.Ne3 Bh2+ 69.Kxh2 Qe5+ 70.Kg2 dxe3 71.Qxe3 Qxe3 72.fxe3 Kf6 73.Kf2 Ke5 74.Kf3 Kd5 75.Kf2 Kc4 76.Ke2 Kc3



*Position after 76...Kc3*

77.Kf2??

Also 77.Kf3?? Kd3 78.e4 f6 79.Kf2 Kd2! 80.Kf3 Ke1!+; The saving line for White is far from obvious, at least in a blitz game, even for the top players in the world. 77.e4!! Kd4 78.Kf3! (78.e5 Ke4!! 79.Kf2 Kf4!-+) 78...Kd3 79.e5! Kd4 80.Kf2! Ke4 81.Ke2 Kf4 82.Kf2 Kxe5 83.Ke3

77...Kd2 78.Kf3 Ke1 79.e4



*Position after 79.e4*

79...Kd2??

Now, having infiltrated White's position, Black can and should take the opposition and win this king and pawn ending. The most elegant win here is 79...f6! 80.Ke3 (80.e5 fxe5 81.Ke4 Kf2-+) 80...Kf1 81.Kf3 Kg1 82.e5 fxe5 83.Ke4 Kh2 84.Kxe5 (84.Kf5 e4 85.Kxe4 Kxh3 86.Kf3 Kh2 87.Kf2 h3-+) 84...Kxh3 85.Kf5 Kg3 86.Kxg5 h3-+; The line I would have chosen here (yes, even in a blitz game) also wins, coming around the back side to capture h3: 79...Kf1 80.e5 Kg1 81.Ke4 Kg2 82.Kf5 Kxh3 83.Kf6 (83.Kxg5 Kg3 84.Kf6 h3 85.Kxf7 h2 86.e6 h1Q 87.e7 Qf3+ and wins.) 83...Kxg4 84.Kxf7 h3 85.e6 h2 86.e7 h1Q 87.e8Q Qh5+ 88.Ke7 Qxe8+ 89.Kxe8 Kf3-+

Instead, Giri goes for the win of the

e-pawn, unaware that the positions he will reach with an extra pawn—but giving the defense the opposition—cannot be won by Black.

80.e5 Kd3

Now there's no time to return to attack the h-pawn, as the white king gets to the black pawns too quickly. 80...Ke1 81.Ke4 Kf2 82.Kf5 Kg2 83.Kxg5 Kxh3 84.Kf4 Kg2 85.e6 fxe6 86.g5 h3 87.g6 h2 88.g7 h1Q 89.g8Q+ Kf1 90.Qxe6

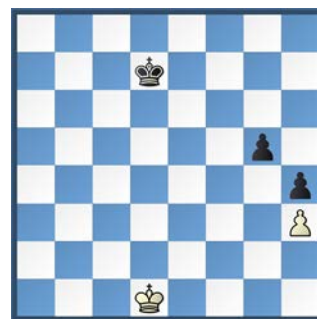
81.Kf2 Ke4 82.Ke2 Kxe5 83.Ke3 Kd5

The key concept for the defense here is that 83...f6, apparently forcing the white king to give ground, is met by 84.Kf3! Kd4 85.Kf2! with the diagonal opposition, when Black cannot make progress. This appears in the game on move 87.

84.Kd3 Ke5 85.Ke3 f6 86.Kf3 Kd4 87.Kf2 Ke4 88.Ke2 Kd4 89.Kd2 Ke4 90.Ke2 Kf4 91.Kf2 f5 92.gxf5 Kxf5 93.Kf3 Kf6 94.Kf2

Even 94.Kg4 Kg6 95.Kf3 Kf5 96.Ke3 is still a draw.

94...Ke6 95.Ke2 Ke7 96.Ke1 Kd6 97.Kd2 Kd7 98.Kd1



*Position after 98.Kd1*

98...Ke6

Here the commentators were going crazy, saying Anish had missed 98...g4, "winning" with the breakthrough!

Only problem is, no, it isn't winning: 99.Ke2! g3 100.Kf1. There's no way for the black king to get at that h3-pawn without first delivering stalemate.

99.Ke2 Kf7 100.Kf1 Kg7 101.Kg2 Kg6 102.Kf2 Kf6 103.Kf3 Kf5 104.Ke3 Ke5

1/2-1/2

Studying endgame technique may not be as sexy as learning the attacking possibilities for Black in the Kalashnikov, but even top Grandmasters show us that just a little extra study can lead to extra points.





# Washington Players Excel at Elementary Nationals

Josh Sinanan

The 2023 National Elementary (K-6) Championship was held May 12-14 in Baltimore, Maryland. Over 2,100 players from 38 states competed in the three-day, seven-round Swiss Tournament across 13 sections separated by grade level and rating. Thirty-seven Washington players braved the cross-country journey to represent Washington State and the greater Pacific Northwest on the national stage. WCF President Josh Sinanan and GM Emil Anka were in attendance as well supporting and coaching several Washington players. Due to a shortage of available team rooms, Team Washington joined forces with Coach

Jay Stallings from Southern California and the Laurence School team to share a spacious team room, which worked out quite nicely! The team room greatly enhances the nationals experience and provides players and parents with an opportunity to hang out, analyze games, and regroup between rounds of the intense competition. Team rooms are also a great place to meet players, parents, and coaches from other schools, which sometimes include Grand Masters. On the way back from visiting the Girls Chess Room, several of the players spotted GM Daniel Naroditsky on his way back to the Charlotte Chess Center Team room, which brought a sizeable contingent to

the event. The starstruck Washington players returned to the Washington Team Room and organized a team trip to get autographs from one of their favorite Grandmasters!

Here are the complete results:

## K-6 Championship:

Sanjay Urali  
(1033 → 1057, 2.5) – 94th Place

## K-6 U1400:

Arjun Krishna Gundimeda  
(1117 → 1287, 5.0) – 13th Place

## K-6 U1000:

Parth Sharma  
(unrated → 1022, 5.5) – 11th Place

Jai Budhraj  
(921 → 916, 5.0) – 28th Place

Alexander Lebedinsky  
(509 → 774, 4.5) – 54th Place

## K-6 Unrated:

Sanay Jain  
(148 → 343, 3.5) – 46th Place

## K-5 Championship:

Vihaan Jammalamadaka  
(1926 → 1939, 5.0) – 15th Place

Nehanraj Ramesh  
(1467 → 1544, 4.0) – 58th Place

Benjamin Frederick  
(968 → 1093, 3.0) – 122nd Place

Bei Shih  
(936 → 1014, 2.5) – 137th Place



Washington players and WCF President Josh Sinanan at the National Elementary K-6 Championship in Baltimore, MD: (L-R) Michael Lin, Sanjay Urali, Josh Sinanan, Vijay Urali, Emmett Bates-Callaghan, William Zhao, Ted Wang, and Aaron Ren.  
Photo credit: Cindy Huang.

## K-5 U1200:

Veronique Joseph  
(975 → 1059, 4.5) – 36th Place

Arihant Chaudhuri  
(773 → 988, 4.0) – 63rd Place

Ian Gagnier  
(679 → 798, 3.5) – 92nd Place

Dylan Kim  
(688 → 785, 3.0) – 110th Place

Edwin Huang  
(339 → 546, 3.0) – 113th Place

Elijah Edwin  
(700 → 731, 2.5) – 128th Place

## K-5 U900:

Harry Wu  
(697 → 1026, 6.0) – 3rd Place

Ron Li  
(753 → 876, 6.0) – 13th Place

Emil Matyas Anka  
(862 → 795, 4.0) – 97th Place

Andy Deng  
(710 → 713, 3.5) – 168th Place

Samuel Xu  
(613 → 638, 3.0) – 200th Place

## K-3 Championship:

Ted Wang – National Champion!  
(1939 → 1959, 6.5) – First Place

Michael Lin  
(1492 → 1485, 5.0) – 21st Place

Aaron Ren  
(1506 → 1514, 4.0) – 37th Place

Neevan Reddy Saddi  
(1161 → 1193, 4.0) – 54th Place

Sarang Athreya Sankrithi  
(806 → 898, 3.5) – 82nd Place

Bright Weng  
(775 → 874, 3.5) – 83rd Place

## K-3 U1000:

Emmett Bates-Callaghan – Co-Champion!  
(686 → 1085, 6.5) – =First/Second Place

Rafael Palathingal  
(612 → 843, 5.0) – 22nd Place

Caden Chang  
(650 → 824, 4.5) – 30th Place

Agnivesh Chaudhuri  
(569 → 787, 4.0) – 52nd Place

William Zhao  
(514 → 705, 4.0) – 57th Place

## K-1 Championship:

Kshitij Narkhede  
(716 → 878, 4.5) – 40th Place

## K-1 U500/Unrated:

Connor Winsnes  
(295 → 590, 6.0) – Tenth Place

Vivaan Krishna Sankrithi  
(135 → 337, 5.0) – 43rd Place

Vijay Urali  
(unrated → 251, 3.0) – 137th Place

Saira Jain  
(unrated → 122, 2.5) – 176th Place

# Washington Annual Chess960 (Fischer Random) Championship



**Sunday, July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

**Lakeside Upper School**

14050 1<sup>st</sup> Ave NE, Seattle, WA 98125

**Format:** A 5-Round Swiss in two sections: Championship and Premier (U1500). Sections may be combined depending on the number of registered players.

**Time Control:** G/30; +5 sec. increment.

**Entry Fee:** \$40 if postmarked or online by 7/9, \$50 by 7/15, \$60 at site. \$20 play-up fee for players rated below 1500 and playing in the Championship section. Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs, WIMs.

**Schedule:** At-site registration: Sun. 8:15-8:45am. Rounds: Sun. 9 AM, 10:30 AM, lunch break, 12:30 PM, 2 PM, 3:30 PM.

**Prize Fund:** \$750 (based on 30 paid entries)  
Per section prizes: 1<sup>st</sup>: \$135, 2<sup>nd</sup>: \$110, 3<sup>rd</sup>: \$80  
Overall prizes: Best Female player (by TPR): \$50; Best upset win: \$50.

*Highest finishing Washington resident in Championship Section receives the title "WA State Chess960 Champion."*

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

**Memberships:** Current WCF membership/Northwest Chess subscription required. Membership must be paid at time of registration. No US Chess Membership necessary.

**Rating:** Unrated. Section eligibility and pairings based on the highest of current NWSRS, US Chess Online, or US Chess Regular rating (July 2023 supplement).

### Useful Chess960 links:

- <https://chess960.net/how-to-play/>
- <https://www.chess.com/article/view/chess960-fischer-random-explained>
- <https://www.chess.com/terms/chess960>

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

**Registration:** Online at  
[nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration](http://nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration).  
Online registration and payment  
**deadline 5pm on Saturday, July 15**, or else register at site.

**Health/Safety Protocols:** Face masks optional for players and spectators. If interested, please bring your own mask.



## Highlights:

- Vihaan Jammalamadaka (1852 → 1864, 11.0) of Redmond was crowned the National K-6 Blitz Champion!
- Nehanraj Ramesh (unrated → 1677, 10.0) of Bothell finished in second place in the K-6 Blitz Championship!
- Neevan Reddy Saddi (1093 → 1298, 9.0) of Issaquah finished in Fourth Place in the K-3 Blitz Championship.
- Ted Wang of Medina was crowned the National K-3 Champion!
- Emmett Bates-Callaghan of Duvall was crowned the K-3 U1000 Co-Champion!
- The team of Sarang Sankrithi of Lake Forest Park and Neevan Reddy Saddi of Issaquah tied for Third Place in the K-6 National Bughouse Championship!

Congratulations to the Team Washington players on a successful showing at Elementary Nationals!



**Ted Wang (1900) –  
Linxi Zhu (2004) [B06]**  
National Elem School Championship  
K-3 Baltimore (R7), May 15, 2023  
[IM Sandeep Sethuraman]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.c3 Nf6 4.Be2

A “quiet” Sicilian, but it comes with a nasty trap if Black gets too greedy.

**4...g6**

4...Nxe4?? 5.Qa4+ would be quite embarrassing.

**5.0-0 Bg7 6.Bb5+**

Wang has done his homework! White loses a tempo with the bishop, but claims that he has enticed Black into fianchettoing and will now play d2–d4 to create a strong center.

**6...Nc6!**

Zhu has also done his homework! This is the least natural blocking move, but it is where the knight wants to be, and it doesn't allow a bishop trade. 6...Bd7 7.Bxd7+ Nbx d7 8.Qe2 was a much more common continuation.

**7.d4 0-0 8.d5 Nb8?!**

The first slip-up. It seems like the most natural square, but the only place this knight can go now is to d7, where it will block in the c8–bishop and hinder Black's development. 8...Na5 is actually more accurate, when Black is threatening ...a7–a6 and ...b7–b5. If White plays 9.Bd3

# WA Summer Bughouse Championship



**Sunday, July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

**Lakeside Upper School**

**14050 1<sup>st</sup> Ave NE, Seattle, WA 98125**

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

**Registration:** Online at  
[nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration](http://nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration).  
Online registration and payment  
**deadline 5pm on Saturday, July 15**, or else register at site.

**Health/Safety Protocols:** Face  
masks optional for players and  
spectators. If interested, please bring  
your own mask.

**Format:** A 6-Round double Swiss in two  
sections, K-6 & Open.

**Time Control:** G/5; +0.

**Entry Fee:** \$40 if postmarked or online by  
7/9, \$50 by 7/15, \$60 at-site. Free entry for  
GMs, IMs, WGMs, WIMs.

**Schedule:** At-site registration: Sun. 5-5:45pm.

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

**Prize Fund:** \$1000 (based on 25 paid teams).  
Team Prizes (per section):  
1<sup>st</sup> \$220, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$160, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$120

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

**Memberships:** No memberships  
required.

**Rating:** Unrated. Highest of current  
US Chess or NWSRS rating will be used  
to determine average team rating and  
pairings.

**Rules:** The tournament will follow current  
US Chess published bughouse rules,  
linked [here](#).

then Black plays 9...a6 anyways and Black is fine.

### 9.Bd3?!

Moving a piece three times in the first nine moves is usually a red flag. Here the consequences are minimal with such a closed position, but still it's not ideal. 9.Re1 is better and much more natural, so it's difficult to explain the move in the game. 9...e6 Black has to create a square for the light-squared bishop. 10.dxe6 Bxe6 11.Bf4 d5!? gets rid of a weakness, but opens the position when you're behind in development. 12.exd5 Nxd5 13.Bg3 and White has the lead in development.

### 9...a6 10.a4!

A strong prophylactic move, and now it's difficult for Black to make moves with such little space.

### 10...e5?

And Zhu immediately goes astray. This is what happens when you make it uncomfortable for your opponent to make moves. 10...e6! was necessary to alleviate Black's lack of space. 11.Qb3 exd5 12.exd5 Nbd7 and the trade of the e7-pawn for the e4-pawn has made the

d5-pawn a bit loose and created some squares for the black pieces, so Black isn't too much worse here.

### 11.Ne1

11.Na3!± a common motif with the knight headed to c4 and a pawn on a4 that will eventually fix the black queenside with a4-a5.

### 11...c4!?

Giving White a chance to misstep, but Wang is too strong for that.

### 12.Bc2!

Keeping the more important e4-pawn.

### 12...Bg4

Provokes a move that improves White's position, but Black just had no alternatives. 12...Nbd7 13.Be3± taking away the only good square for the knight.

### 13.f3 Bd7 14.Qe2 Qc8 15.Be3 Nh5 16.Nd2 b5!

If Black is going to get back into this game he needs to change the nature of the position, because White has controlled the whole game so far and is easily better.

### 17.axb5 Bxb5 18.Ba4?!

And when you create counterplay you get results; Wang makes his first real error of the game. The bishop on b5 looks like it holds the position together, but Black's queenside was frozen so White should have played on the kingside. 18.g3! slow improvement and Black has nothing. 18...Nd7 19.Ng2

### 18...Nd7 19.Nc2 Nf4!



Position after 19...Nf4

Every KID player knows this idea to rejuvenate the KID bishop which turns into a monster.

### 20.Bxf4 exf4

The doubled pawns are worth it.

### 21.Nb4 Ne5 22.Qd1?



# Vancouver Open

July 22 - 23, 2023

**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, 206-769-3757  
WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com

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

**Health/Safety Protocols:** Face masks optional for players and spectators. If interested, please bring your own mask.

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

**HR:** \$169 Standard King/Double Queen Room. Cut-off date Friday, July 14. Book online [here](#).

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

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

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

**Open:** 1st \$400, 2nd \$300, 3rd \$225  
1st U2100/U1900: \$125

**Reserve:** 1st \$300, 2nd \$200, 3rd \$150  
1st U1600/U1400/U1200: \$125, 1<sup>st</sup> Unrated: \$100

**Special Prizes (per section):** Biggest Upset win: \$50,  
Best Female Player (by TPR): \$50

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

**Entry Fee:** \$75 if postmarked or online by 7/15, \$85 after 7/15 or at site. \$35 play-up fee if rated U1700 and playing in Open. Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs, WIMs.

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

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

**Rating:** US Chess Rated. US Chess July 2023 rating supplement will be used to determine pairings and prizes. Foreign ratings used for players with no US Chess rating. Higher of US Chess or foreign ratings used at TD discretion.

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



White is rattled and he starts retreating, not a great sign. 22.Rfd1 There was nothing terribly wrong with the normal moves, but Black's position is already favorable with the new outpost on e5. 22...Qb7 23.Kf1 Rfc8

**22...Qc5+ 23.Kh1 a5!**

Highlighting the miscoordination in the white camp.

**24.Nc2**

24.Nc6 was no better: 24...Nxc6 25.dxc6 Qxc6 and Black is simply up a pawn.

**24...Bxa4?**

The wrong trade; Black should have kept the bishops, because White's a4-bishop was out of play and it would take some moves to bring it back. 24...Ba6! now it's hard to bring the bishop back. 25.Nd4 Nd3+ and too many things are hanging.

**25.Rxa4 Nd3 26.Nxc4!**

The best chance to create some counterplay. Against a dark-squared bishop, placing pieces on light squares is very effective.

**26...Nf2+ 27.Rxf2 Qxf2 28.Nxd6**

The best practical chance for counterplay with passed pawns.



*Position after 28.Nxd6*

**28...Ra6??**

And now White is suddenly better. Two pawns for the exchange and a coming avalanche of pawns. 28...Rab8! would have created threats for White to take care of. 29.Nc4 Rfc8 and ...Rc8xc4 is a real threat. 30.h3 Rxc4! and the white position crumbles after 31.Rxc4 Rxb2 32.d6 Bf6!+ and the d-pawn is going nowhere.

**29.Nc4 Rd8 30.Nb4??!**

Based on mutual blindness, but a good move in spirit.

**30...Rf6**

30...axb4!! The last equalizer. 31.Rxa6 bxc3 32.bxc3 Bxc3 Black is down a



*Ted Wang, on his way to winning the National K-3 Championship title with a last-round upset win. Photo credit: Caroline King, courtesy of US Chess.*

pawn and has a "bad" bishop against a good knight but is somehow fine. That's why nobody can blame either player for missing this. The reason this is so good is the threat of ...Bc3-e1, when Ra6-a1 is impossible, so White is the one that has to be careful. 33.h3 Be1 34.Qd3 White is on thin ice. 34...Rb8 35.Kh2 Qg3+ 36.Kh1 Qf2 with perpetual.

**31.Nd3**

Now once White consolidates, the pawns

will crush the rooks.

**31...Qh4 32.Qe1!**

The queen trade would effectively end the game, so Black must waste another tempo.

**32...Qh5 33.Rxa5 g5 34.h3 Rh6 35.Kg1!**

Not the top engine move but a good example of how prophylactic moves in completely winning positions can be useful practically, especially with low

time.

**35...Qg6 36.Qa1 g4 37.hxg4 Qg5 38.Qe1 38.Ra8!** was even simpler.

**38...Rc8 39.b3 Qd8 40.Ra2 Ra8 41.Rc2?!**

Now some passive play has let Black back into the game, but from here White's technique is flawless.

**41...Qb8 42.b4 Qb5 43.Ncb2 Bf8?**

The final error. **43...Ra2!** was the last shot at counterplay. **44.Nc1 Ra1 45.Nbd3** and White was still winning, but there's work to be done.

**44.c4 Qb6+ 45.c5 Qf6 46.e5**

White's position is overwhelming. The rest is easy.

**46...Qg5 47.c6 Rh4 48.c7 Qh6 49.Nf2 Rc8 50.Qd1 Bd6 51.exd6 Qxd6 52.Rc6 Qd7 53.Ne4 Kh8 54.Qd4+ f6 55.Qxf6+ Qg7 56.Qxg7+ Kxg7 57.d6 Rh6 58.d7 Rxc6 59.dxc8Q Rc1+ 60.Kh2 Kf7 61.Qd7+ Kg6 62.Qd6+ Kg7 63.Qe5+ Kg8 64.c8R+ Rxc8 65.Qe6+ Kg7 66.Qxc8 h5 67.Qd7+ Kg6 68.Qf5+ Kh6 69.Qg5+ Kh7 70.Nf6+ Kh8 71.Qh6#**

**1-0**

**Vihan Jammalamadaka (1871) – Krishna Rallabandi (2095) [D85]**

National Elem School Championship  
K-5 Baltimore (R6), May 15, 2023  
*[IM Sandeep Sethuraman]*

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5**

The Grunfeld Defense. Black's plan is to capture on c3 to give a target for the g7-bishop that can be exploited with ...c7-c5 and ...Nb8-c6 to pressure the d4-pawn and the white center as a whole.

**4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.e4 Nxc3 6.bxc3 Bg7 7.Bb5+!?**

Not completely out of the blue by any means, but still definitely a surprise. Usually, players develop their knight first as in almost all cases it belongs on f3, while with the bishop you don't know if it should go to b5, d3, or even sometimes c4. However, this provokes a ...c7-c6 move by Black that is basically a throwaway since he will always go c5. **7.Nf3 c5 8.Be3** (8.Rb1 is another line with a lot of history, and this move in particular is very common in the Grunfeld as it gets the rook off of the dangerous long diagonal while preventing Black from developing his bishop for the time being.) **8...Qa5**

**9.Qd2 Nc6** shows Black's usual method of applying pressure and White's typical attempts to maintain his space advantage.

**7...c6 8.Ba4 0-0 9.Ne2**

The point of an early **Bf1-b5+**. White prefers to keep an eye on the c3-pawn and maybe allow for an eventual f2-f4.

**9...b5!**

Not a random expansion, it's actually a useful move that fixes the White pawns and opens up the b7-square for the c8-bishop. **9...c5** is the alternative, but Rallabandi didn't fancy losing a tempo, and instead makes use of the pawn's provoked placement on c6. **10.0-0 Nc6**

**10.Bb3 a5 11.0-0 Ba6**

**11...Nd7** is the more common continuation where usual developments include **12.Bg5 a4 13.Bc2 Nb6** and with his bind on the queenside and the light squares, Black can never be worse.

**12.Bb2?**

The bishop doesn't belong here. For one, its staring into its own pawns, but it also becomes target to a4-a3 ideas from Black, and **Be3 Qd2 Bh6** ideas are out of the window.

**12...Nd7 13.Re1 Nb6**

**13...a4 14.Bc2 e5!** would have taken advantage of White's misplaced pieces. **15.Qd2 Qc7.** and it's not clear how either of the white bishops will re-enter the game, while Black's bishops seem to be on the perfect squares.

**14.Ba3**



*Position after 14.Ba3*

Impressive. It's not easy to move a bishop you just placed on b2 two moves ago, but Jammalamadaka finds one of the top moves.

**14...Qc7 15.Ng3 Rfd8**

**15...b4!?** An interesting variation **16.cxb4 a4** and Black's idea becomes clear. It's a common motif, sacrificing a pawn to close

down one of the opponent's pieces **17.Bc2 Nc4 18.Bc1 Qb6.** and the difference in the quality of pieces is as clear as day.

**16.Qf3 e5?!**

It would have been better to take care of f7 instead of having the queen babysit. **16...e6?** Now White's pieces are all developed, but they're on the wrong squares. The knight is very restricted and the bishops point at nothing.

**17.Bc5 exd4 18.e5!**

Taking advantage of the slight airiness around the black king. **18.cxd4?!** wasn't as strong. **18...Bxd4 19.Bxd4 Rxd4 20.Qf6 Rad8 21.Nf5!?** The only way to justify the sacrifice. **21...gxf5 22.exf5** White looks like he's gone crazy, but it's zeros! **22...Qd7 23.Qg5+ Kh8 24.Qf6+ Kg8** with perpetual.

**18...Nd5**

**18...d3!** the best defense. **19.e6** the point of getting the pawn to e5! **19...Nc4!** shutting down an important piece for White's attack. **20.e7!** creating this passer ties down the black pieces allowing White to start operations elsewhere: **20...Re8 21.Qxd3±**

**19.cxd4 a4 20.Bc2**

**20.Bxd5** was another path and it's up to personal preference here. **20...Rxd5 21.Rac1±** Black has the two bishops, but the one on a6 is nothing to brag about, and White has full control of the dark squares.

**20...Bf8 21.Bxf8 Rxf8 22.Ne4**

**22.Rac1!** was a huge chance to exert maximum pressure on Black. **Bc2-e4** is a huge threat. **22...Qe7 23.Bb1 b4 24.Ne4** and White's pieces are finding great squares while Black's bishop is still staring into space.

**22...Rad8 23.Rad1 Bc8 24.Nd6 f6**

**24...Rxd6!** eliminating the knight and pawn was definitely worth one of Black's rooks. Now either a knight or bishop on d5 would anchor Black's position and make it very difficult for White to make progress. **25.exd6 Qxd6 26.a3 Be6** and Black is completely fine.

**25.Qg3 fxe5 26.dxe5 Be6 27.Bxg6!**

Jammalamadaka is always on the lookout for tactics. Black's last move loosened the bishop, and this is the perfect way to take advantage. **27.h4!** was an equally good option. Black will have huge problems stopping the initiative.



## 27...Kh8?

Just because White won a pawn doesn't mean the attack is over. It was time to bail out into an endgame, but Rallabandi wanted pieces on the board. 27...Qg7 was the lesser evil. 28.Bh5 Qxg3 29.hxg3 Nc3 and at least Black has some counterplay. 30.Rc1 Nxa2 31.Rxc6 Nb4 32.Rc3 a3! and White is better, but has to be careful not to let the connected passers through.

## 28.Qh4

A bit fancy, as moving the bishop back was perfectly fine. 28.Be4 Qe7 29.Rd2 and White is just up a pawn for nothing.

## 28...Qg7



Position after 28...Qg7

## 29.Bf5??

Now this is definitely too much. White was too engrossed in tactics. And this one falls prey to one. 29.Be4! was natural and good. The e5-pawn is poisoned, and White is again just up a pawn.

## 29...Rxd6!

Removing the defender, and now Black is just completely winning. 29...Bxf5?? 30.Nxf5 Rxf5 31.Qxd8+ was undoubtedly what White was hoping for.

## 30.Bxh7?

It was time to cut losses. 30.exd6 Bxf5 31.h3 and White is lost but the d6-pawn gives some realistic chances to create counterplay.

## 30...Rf4 31.Qg3 Rg4 32.Qf3 Rd7 33.Bf5 Bxf5 34.Qxf5 Rf7

34...Rxc2+ first was more forcing.

## 35.Qc8+?

35.Qh5+ was the last chance. 35...Kg8 36.g3 and White is down a piece and dead lost but at least he's not mated.

## 35...Rf8 36.Qxc6 Rxc2+ 37.Kh1 Rxc2+!

Now it's forced mate.

## 38.Kxh2 Rxf2+ 39.Kh3 Nf4+ 40.Kh4

## Rh2#

0-1

**Kyle Wang (1972) –  
Vihan Jammalamadaka (1871) [B29]**  
National Elem School Championship  
K-5 Baltimore (R5), 14.05.2023  
[IM Sandeep Sethuraman]

## 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nf6!?

Not the most common reply, but it does create an imbalanced game with winning chances for both sides. The plus is that it's an immediate attack on the center, but the obvious drawback is that it allows an attack with tempo. 2...d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 would have led to a position reached hundreds of thousands of times at the master level.

## 3.e5!

White doesn't wait around, taking advantage of Black's early development. 3.Nc3?! would be too complacent and allow 3...d6 with a transposition. 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nxd4

## 3...Nd5 4.Nc3 e6!

Black isn't afraid of doubling his pawns. On the contrary, he welcomes more central control.

## 5.Ne4

5.Nxd5!/? Taking the bull by the horns would lead to some interesting lines here: 5...exd5 6.d4! You can't allow full central control by your opponent, so White uses his own pawns to blockade his opponents'. 6...Nc6 7.dxc5 Bxc5 8.Qxd5 Now White has won a pawn, and it seems like Black hasn't anything much to show for it, but he does gain some tempi. 8...d6 9.exd6 Qb6 10.Qe4+ Be6 11.Qh4!/? A creative way of defending the f2-pawn, and White will maintain his pawn edge. This is actually still theory, having been played by big names such as former World Champion Anand and current World Champion Ding Liren. 11...Bxd6 12.Be2

## 5...f5!

A great move, Black strikes in the center, provoking an en passant which would liberate his pieces, but White doesn't have to oblige.

## 6.Nc3!

Both of these players are closing in on being experts, and it's clear why. Resisting an en passant is never easy, and

making a backwards knight move is even more difficult.

## 6...Nb4

6...Nxc3?! would double White's pawns, but in a way that would open up his pieces. 7.dxc3 Nc6 8.Bf4! White has a bind on the dark squares, and this makes it very tough for Black to free his pieces.

## 7.d3 Be7 8.Be2 0-0

Now after some logical development, the battle is set. White will try to make use of his central space to suffocate Black's, and maybe start a kingside initiative with an h2-h4 push at some point. Black, on the other hand, will try to break with ...d5-d6 and expand on the queenside, and might even harbor kingside pawn storm ideas of his own.

## 9.0-0 b6 10.Re1 Bb7 11.a3 Nd5 12.Nxd5 Bxd5 13.Bd2

13.c4!/? would have been a nice way to spice things up. 13...Bxf3! Parting with the bishop pair isn't ideal, but this allows a stronger hold on the d4-square. (13...Bb7 14.d4! is a clear improvement for White as his pieces suddenly come back to life. 14...cxd4 15.Nxd4 Nc6 16.Bf3 And it's clear that the pressure makes things slightly uncomfortable for Black here.) 14.Bxf3 Nc6 and Black is fine.

## 13...Bb7 14.c3 d6?

This does somewhat improve Black's pieces, but it also creates a gaping hole on e5, and it makes the e6-pawn a huge liability. 14...g5!/? would have put the ball back in White's court. 15.d4 Nc6 16.h3 Kh8 and Black's kingside initiative is already starting to look quite dangerous.

## 15.exd6 Bxd6 16.d4!

Fixing the weakness on e6 and highlighting Black's lack of queenside development.

## 16...Bd5 17.Bd3??

Maybe harsh, but allowing the closure of the center with tempo gave away all of White's huge advantage and then some. 17.Ng5! would have poked some more holes after 17...h6 18.c4! meeting a threat with a threat, and Black's position is falling apart. After 18...hxg5 19.cxd5 exd5 20.dxc5 Bxc5 21.Bxg5!+/-, the queen is overloaded.

## 17...c4!

Recognizing that the closed center will give better prospects in the long run, and now the d5-bishop becomes very hard to

remove and acts as the centerpiece of the position.

### 18.Bf1 Nd7



*Position after 18...Nd7*

### 19.Ne5?

This allowed an unfavorable transformation of the pawn structure. 19.b3!? would have asked some questions. 19...b5 (19...cxb3 20.c4 b2 21.Rb1 Be4 22.Rxb2 and at least now White has some activity in his hanging pawns and central control. 22...Bxa3 23.Ra2 Be7 24.Bc3 The strong center compensates for the pawn, and the position is dynamically equal.) 20.a4 a6 and Black holds for the time being, but White is by no means out of it.

### 19...b5?!

Missing his chance. 19...Bxe5 20.dxe5 Nc5! and White's dark-squared bishop is helpless against Black's bind on the light squares.

### 20.a4 Bxe5 21.dxe5 Qb6 22.Be3 Qb7 23.Bd4

23.axb5 Qxb5 24.Qa4 Qxa4 25.Rxa4 was a great alternative for White, leading to a bishop pair endgame, but Black had 25...a5 26.Bxc4 Bxc4 27.Rxc4 Nxe5 which would have given him equality.

### 23...b4!?

With no need for building the initiative, Black surges forward. 23...a6 might have been more prudent, for instance after 24.Qd2 h6, Black always has a nagging edge.

### 24.a5 bxc3 25.bxc3 Qc7 26.Qa4

26.Ra4! would have asked some unpleasant questions, namely how are you going to defend the c4-pawn? 26...Rfd8 27.Rb4 Qxa5 28.Bxc4 Bxc4 29.Rxc4 and White is at least fine.

### 26...Nc5 27.Bxc5 Qxc5 28.Rab1?!

Activating the wrong rook. 28.Red1 h6 29.Rd4 was an important maneuver to

solidify White's position and hinder the scope of the black queen.

### 28...Rab8 29.Rec1?

Way too passive: you can't allow Black to invade like this. 29.a6!? would have created some discomfort around attacks on the a7-pawn, as 29...Rb3 now would be met with 30.Rxb3 cxb3 31.c4 and White would win a pawn.

### 29...Rb3 30.Rxb3??

Based on a misconception. 30.Ra1 was ugly but necessary to maintain the integrity of the position, however, after 30...h6 31.Be2 Qc7 Black would still be much, much better.

### 30...cxb3 31.c4

Now, this isn't effective because the pawn is pinned.

### 31...Rb8

Now Black's passer survives and quickly becomes a huge headache for White.

### 32.Rb1 Bc6 33.Qa1

33.Rxb3 is the computer's suggestion sacrificing the queen, which shows just how bad White's position is, but no human is ever playing this. 33...Bxa4 34.Rxb8+ Kf7 35.Rb7+ Kg6 and Black is completely winning.

### 33...Be4 34.Rb2 Qxe5 35.Qa3 Be2!

Completely paralyzing White's forces: the rook is stuck preventing the b-pawn from queening, and the queen is stuck defending the rook. There's only so much you can do with a light-squared bishop.

### 36.h3 Rd8?!

Black is still completely winning, but this allows unnecessary counterplay. 36...h6 would have been enough to eventually lead to zugzwang.

### 37.Qe7?!

Missing the "chance," not that it was a game-changer, but it would at least give White some trumps. 37.Rxb3 Bxb3 38.Qxb3 Qxa5 Calling this an improvement again highlights the extent of White's misery

### 37...Qxb2??

Why? there was no need to give White so much counterplay. 37...Rf8 was obvious and would have forced 38.Qa3 h6 when White is again in zugzwang territory.

### 38.Qxd8+ Kf7 39.Qd7+

Now Black's king will be endlessly

checked, or so it seems...

### 39...Kg6!?

Setting up a trap, which Wang falls into.



*Position after 39...Kg6*

### 40.Qxe6+?

This looks automatic, but if you stop and think for a second, you realize that White has a passer of his own. 40.c5! and Black had better be careful. 40...Qe5 41.c6 b2 42.c7 Qxc7 43.Qxc7 b1Q would lead to equality, but there is still one more mine: 44.Qg3+ (44.Qxa7?? would be too greedy: 44...Bd3 wins a piece.) 44...Kf7 45.Qc7+ with perpetual.

### 40...Qf6 41.Qe8+ Kh6

And Black will escape the checks, but

### 42.Qe3+??

42.Qa4 was necessary 42...Qd4 and White is hanging on by a thread 43.Qc6+ g6 44.Qe8.

### 42...f4 43.Qc1 g5

Not necessary, but not bad either. 43...Bg6 would have made ...b3-b2 unstoppable, winning immediately.

### 44.Be2 Qe5 45.Kf1 Qxa5?

Again greed overtakes rationality. Black is still winning, but it's so much harder now. 45...Bg6! was an obvious win yet again.

### 46.Qb2!

Now White simultaneously blockades the b-pawn and creates threats toward the black king.

### 46...Kg6?!

This is why 45...Qxa5 was so bad. It creates opportunities for missteps like this! 46...Qb6! and the a-pawn running down the board. This would have decided the game.

### 47.Qd4 Qb6 48.Bd3+!

An intermediate move that looks like it steers the game towards peace, but there



are still some turns to this story.

**48...Kh6**

48...Bxd3+ 49.Qxd3+ Kf6 50.c5! would win the b3-pawn, entering a drawn endgame.

**49.c5 Bxd3+ 50.Qxd3 Qe6**

Now White should be able to hold easily by combining threats to Black's king with

the c-pawn's advance.

**51.c6 a5 52.Qc3 b2 53.Qxb2 Qxc6**

Now we enter a drawn endgame, but not all is as easy as it seems here.

**54.Ke2??**

And immediately White blunders. 54.h4 would have further opened Black's king while keeping White's safe and sound

behind the pawns: 54...gxh4 55.Qe5 and a draw is soon to come.

**54...Qc4+ 55.Kd2 Kh5??**

A terrible oversight, and very difficult to explain. 55...Qb4+ was so natural that I can't explain how it was missed. 56.Qxb4 axb4 57.Kc2 Kh5 58.Kb3 Kh4 59.Kxb4 f3! might have been what was missed, but I somehow don't believe that. White is dead lost.

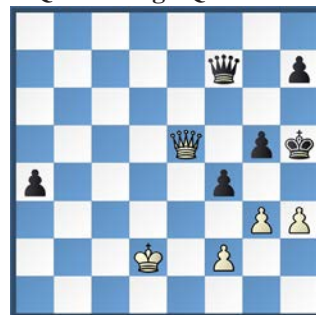
**56.Qg7 Qa2+ 57.Kc1??**

The wrong way. The king needed to stay with the pawns. 57.Ke1 Qb1+ 58.Kd2 Qb4+ 59.Ke2 and the game would soon have fizzled out. 59...Qb2+

**57...Qc4+??**

Again missing a golden opportunity! 57...h6! was completely winning.

**58.Kd2 Qd5+ 59.Ke1 Qe6+ 60.Kd2 Qg6 61.Qe5 a4 62.g3 Qf7**



Position after 62...Qf7

**63.g4+??**

Letting the black king into the safest square on the board, and basically handing over the kingside pawns. 63.Qe2+ f3 64.Qd3 would have maintained equality.

**63...Kh4 64.Qe1 Kxh3 65.Qf1+ Kxg4 66.f3+ Kh5**

The rest is technical, and Black doesn't falter.

**67.Qh1+ Kg6 68.Qb1+ Qf5 69.Qb6+ Kh5 70.Qg1 Qd5+ 71.Ke2 Qa2+ 72.Kd3 Qb3+ 73.Ke4 Qe3+**

**0-1**



*Vihaan Jammalamadaka, who was the clear leader after five rounds of the K-5 Championship, plays the rare Nimzowitsch variation of the Sicilian Defense.*

*Photo credit: Caroline King, courtesy of US Chess.*

# 73<sup>rd</sup> Oregon Open: September 2-4, 2023

## \$13,000 prize fund based on 150 players

Sponsored by the Oregon Chess Federation and Portland Chess Club

**FORMAT:** 6-round US Chess rated Swiss in five sections, 2000+, U2000, U1700, U1400 and U1200. Players may play up a maximum of one section for a \$25 fee. The official September US Chess OTB regular ratings are generally used for section eligibility, pairings, and prize eligibility. Unofficial US Chess OTB regular ratings or alternate ratings (with adjustment if necessary) are generally used for players with no official US Chess OTB regular rating. Up to two half point byes are available if requested before round one.

**TIME CONTROL:** G/100; inc30 (one-hour forty minutes per player with a thirty second increment added for each move). **Please bring an increment capable digital clock, (sets and boards are supplied).**

**SCHEDULE:** A players' meeting is at 9:45am on Saturday. The rounds are at 10am and 3:30pm each day.

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

**ENTRY FEE:** \$130 if you pre-register by the end of the day on Friday, August 11, \$140 from August 12 to Friday, September 1st at noon. Free entry for GM's and IM's if pre-registered by September 2 (\$130 is deducted from any prize won). US Chess membership is required for all players. Oregon Chess Federation membership is required for Oregon residents.

**REGISTRATION: Online only (no mailed or on-site registrations are allowed).** Register online at <https://onlineregistration.cc>; search for "oregon chess federation". Email [support@oregonchessfed.org](mailto:support@oregonchessfed.org) if you encounter any issues trying to register online.

### 2000+ SECTION PRIZES:

1<sup>ST</sup>, 2<sup>ND</sup>, 3<sup>RD</sup>: \$1550-1250-900; **U2150:** \$400-300-200

### U2000 SECTION PRIZES:

1<sup>ST</sup>, 2<sup>ND</sup>, 3<sup>RD</sup>: \$500-400-300; **U1850:** \$400-300-200

### U1700 SECTION PRIZES:

1<sup>ST</sup>, 2<sup>ND</sup>, 3<sup>RD</sup>: \$500-400-300; **U1550:** \$400-300-200

### U1400 SECTION PRIZES:

1<sup>ST</sup>, 2<sup>ND</sup>, 3<sup>RD</sup>: \$500-400-300; **U1250:** \$400-300-200

### U1100 SECTION PRIZES:

1<sup>ST</sup>, 2<sup>ND</sup>, 3<sup>RD</sup>: \$500-400-300; **U950:** \$400-300-200

Unrated players are eligible for all the prizes in their section except the U950 prizes in the U1100 section. Prizes are combined and/or split if there is a tie. Players winning \$600 or more must complete an IRS form with SSN before payment. Foreign players may be subject to withholding taxes. Prizes are paid via check or PayPal.

**OTHER:** The tournament is a qualifier for the Championship and Challengers sections of the Oregon Closed and a qualifier for the OSCF State Championship. Send an email to [support@oregonchessfed.org](mailto:support@oregonchessfed.org) if you have any questions or need to withdraw during the event.

**SIDE EVENTS:** **Rapid**-starts at 8:30pm on Saturday, September 2. G/6;inc6, US Chess rapid rated, 4-round single Swiss in two sections, Open and U1550 **Blitz**-starts at 8:30pm on Sunday, September 3. G/3;inc3, US Chess blitz rated, 8-round single Swiss in two sections, Open and U1550. Both events: \$25 entry fee, prize fund: \$435 based on 30 players. **Open section:** 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, \$85, \$65 U2050-\$50, U1800-\$40; **U1550 section:** 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>-\$70, \$55, U1300-\$40, U1050-\$30. Unrated players are eligible for all the prizes in the section they play in. Onsite registration until 8:15pm on the day of each event.

**LOCATION:** Lloyd Center DoubleTree Hotel, 1000 NE Multnomah St, Portland, OR 97232. There is free parking in the hotel parking garage. A limited number of hotel rooms are available at a special chess rate of \$149 plus tax for either a room with one queen bed or two queen beds. **The rate lasts until the block of rooms sell out or until August 3, whichever comes first.** Call 1-800-996-0510 to reserve a room.

**TOURNAMENT RULES:** The FIDE rules are used in the 2000+ and U2000 sections while the US Chess rules are used in the U1700, U1400, and U1100 sections. The following applies to all sections: 1) Players are not allowed to have a phone or other electronic device capable of chess analysis or communication on their person during their games. 2) You must let the tournament staff know at least thirty minutes prior to the start time of the next round if you decide to withdraw from the tournament or skip that round. 3) As a courtesy to your opponents, please show up on time for the rounds.



# 40th! Annual Reno Western States Open

## Oct 6-8 or Oct 7-8, 2023, 3 Day or 2 Day Schedule

US Chess  
150 GPP (Enhanced)

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

**\$17,000!!** (Guaranteed)

F.I.D.E. Rated  
OPEN Section

## NEW LOCATION: CIRCUS CIRCUS RENO

500 N. Sierra Street, Reno, NV 89503 (2 blocks east of the Sands)

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

**Open Section (2200 & above)** EF: \$189, (2000-2199) \$250, (1999/below) \$300; GMs and IMs free but must enter by 9/8 or pay late fee at door. Guaranteed Prizes; (1-7 in Open Section plus 1/2 of all other prizes).

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

<b>Section Expert</b>	(2000-2199)	EF: \$189 (2-day EF: \$185)	\$2,000-1,000-500-300-300
<b>Section "A"</b>	(1800-1999)	EF: \$188 (2-day EF: \$185)	\$1,800-900-500-300-300
<b>Section "B"</b>	(1600-1799)	EF: \$187 (2-day EF: \$185)	\$1,700-800-400-300-300
<b>Section "C"</b>	(1400-1599)	EF: \$186 (2-day EF: \$185)	\$1,500-700-400-300-300
<b>Section "D/Under"</b>	(1399-below)	EF: \$175 (2-day EF: \$185)	\$1,000-500-300-200, (1199/below) \$300

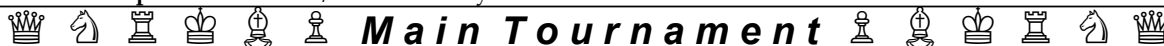
**Top Senior (65+) - \$200; Club Championship - \$600 - 300.**

**Wed. 10/4: 7:00 pm** - GM Sergey Kudrin Clock Simul w/ complete analysis of YOUR Game (Only \$30!-bring clock)

**Thursday 10/5: 6 - 7:15 pm** - Lecture by GM Nick de Firmian (FREE)

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

**Saturday 10/7: 3 - 4:30 pm** - FREE Game/Position Analysis - GM Nick de Firmian



**Registration: Thursday (10/5) 5 - 8 pm. - Friday (10/6) 9 - 10 am. - Saturday (10/7) 9 - 10 am.**

**Round Times: (3-day Schedule) Friday - 12 Noon - 7 pm; Saturday - 10 am - 6 pm; Sunday - 9 am - 4 pm**

**2-day Schedule: Sat.- Rd 1 - 10:30 am, Rd 2 - 12:45 pm, Rd 3 - 3 pm, Rd 4 merge with regular schedule - 6 pm**

**For more information: Call, Write or E-mail Organizer and Chief TD, N.T.D. Jerome (Jerry) Weikel,**

**(H) 775-747-1405 OR (Cell) 775-354-8728 • 6578 Valley Wood Dr., Reno, NV 89523 • wackyyl@aol.com**

**Room Reservation: Call Circus Circus Reno, 1-800-648-5010, Group Reservation Code: SRWC23**

**\$98.34 Sun-Thu / \$200.49 Fri-Sat • Reserve by 9/20 • Hotel link: <https://book.passkey.com/go/SRWC23>**

**For TLA and to confirm receipt of entry see player list at: [www.renochess.org](http://www.renochess.org)**

**ENTRY FORM - 40th Annual Western States Open - Reno, Nevada - Oct 6-8 OR Oct 7-8, 2023**

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

PRINT Name \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime Phone \_\_\_\_\_ USCF/FIDE Rating \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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

**ENTRY FEE ENCLOSED: (CIRCLE SECTION AND FEE BELOW) BYE(S) REQUESTED FOR ROUND(S): (circle) 1 2 3 4 5 6**

----- OPEN SECTION -----

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

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

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

3-Day EF	Free	•	\$189	•	\$250	•	\$300		\$189	\$188	\$187	\$186	\$175	USCF Dues
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2-Day EF	\$185	\$185	\$185	\$185	\$185	USCF Dues
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### FEES ALSO ENCLOSED FOR:

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

### POSTMARK BY September 8, 2023. Add \$11 after 9/8. Add \$22 on site.

Do not mail after 9/29 or email after 10/3. Make check / m.o. payable to WEIKEL CHESS or provide credit card info and signature. \$5 service

charge on credit card entries. ☐ Visa ☐ Master Card ☐ Am.Ex

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_ CVV Code \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card# \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ Check Enclosed
- ☐ Charge My Card

**TOTAL**  
**FEES:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

# Seattle Chess Club Tournaments

→ Address ↖  
 → 7212 Woodlawn Ave NE ↖  
 ↗ Seattle WA 98115 ↖  
 ↗ Info ↖

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

Addresses for Entries

SCC Tnmt Dir

2420 S 137 St

Seattle WA 98168

—or—

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

## SCC Fridays

One US Chess-rated round per night (free to SCC members, \$5 per night for others) normally played at a rate of 40/90 followed by 30/60. Drop in for any round!

**Hot as Hades:** 7/7, 14, 21, 28.

**Dog Days:** 8/4, 11, 25, 9/2.

**July 1, 29**

**Format:** 3-RR, 4-plyr sec. by rtg. **TC:** G/100;+10. **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 memb. req'd. NS, NC.

**July 2, Aug 12**

**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:** \$554 b/6. **Prizes:** \$36-18. **Reg:** 12-12:45 p.m. **Time Frame:** 1 to ~6:30 p.m. **Byes:** 0. **Misc:** US Chess memb. req'd. NS, NC.

**July 9, Aug 6**

**Sunday Tornado**  
**Format:** 4-SS. **TC:** G/50;+10. **EF:** \$18 (+\$7 fee for non-SCC). **Prizes:** 1st 35%, 2nd 27%, Bottom Half 1st 22%, 2nd 16% (\$10 per EF to prize fund). **Reg:** 10:30-11:15 a.m. **Rds:** 11:30-1:50-4:10-6:30. **Byes:** 1 (Rd 3/4—commit at reg.). **Misc:** US Chess memb. req'd. NS, NC.

**July 16**

**SCC Novice**  
**Format:** 4-SS. Open to U1200 and UNR. **TC:** G/60;+15. **EF:** \$20 (-\$2 SCC members). **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.

*Mondays are for  
casual play*

## Seafair Open

**July 22-23, 2023**

A one section, 4-round Swiss with time controls of G/100; +30. The prize fund of \$630 is based on 25 paid entries, 5 per prize group. Limit, 25 players.

First	\$200	Class B	\$55
Second	\$100	Class C	\$50
Third	\$70	Class D & Under	\$45
Class A	\$60	Unrated	\$20
Best Upset (Rds 1-3)		\$10/rd	

**Entry Fees:** \$48 if received by 7/17, \$63 thereafter. **GMs, IMs, WGMs & WIMs**—FREE. **Unrated**—Free with purchase of 1-yr US Chess & 1-yr WCF. **SCC Members**—subtract \$12. You can register online at **www.seattlechess.club**.

**Reg.:** Sat. 9:30-10:15 a.m. **Rds:** Sat. 10:30-3:30, Sun. 10:30-3:30.

**Byes:** 1 (Sunday rounds, commit at reg.). **Misc:** US Chess memb. req'd. No smoking. No computers.



