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A handshake begins the game between  
two young players (Sahan Katipally (L) and Alice Li)  
at the 2023 Lakeside Fall Classic.  
Photo credit: Justin Johnson.

### On the back cover:

Jace Liu (older) and Kyle Liu (younger) watch  
Juan Larios in an intense queenless middlegame at the  
Lakeside Fall Classic. Photo credit: Justin Johnson.

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## A slightly different shot (within a second) of the front cover photo.



(L) Sahan Katipally vs Alice Li  
at the start of their game in round four.  
Photo credit: Justin Johnson.



# Plateau Youth Chess Club

Anna Jonson and Susanna Lim



*Participants in the Plateau Youth Chess Club listen to a lesson from coach Michelle Williamson. Photo credit: Susanna Lim.*



I was not a chess person. We were not chess people. Chess lived in my grandparents' home; hand-carved Dolomite and soapstone pieces tucked in quiet corners atop glass tables. Chess was silent and immovable—a fixture, not a function.

Chess remained a decades-long obscurity until 2019, when my then-four-year-old son Iver stumbled across an old box of board games in my in-laws' attic.

He was drawn immediately to the orange-and-brown checkered board and its various characters. "A castle, Grampa! And a horse!" My father-in-law configured the pieces on the board and asked Iver if he'd like to learn a game called chess. Iver responded with emphatic agreement and together they spent the next several days seated around the board, their eyes shining beneath a mop of mousy curls and under the knitted brow of an adoring grandfather. Rooks and bishops danced between generations, vessels of connection.

Iver competed in the 2021 Washington State Scholastic Chess Championship tournament, where we met Susanna Lim and her son Oliver. The boys became fast friends, and we realized we lived minutes away from one another on the Sammamish Plateau. Oliver and Iver went on to find each other at future tournaments and often pass the time between rounds with card games, chess, and a shared love of good books; Susanna and I swap our own books, too, and connect over coffee and long hours spent waiting for our boys' faces to emerge from behind tournament hall doors. I'll never forget my appreciation for little Oliver at one of our early tournaments together, as he bounced gleefully toward our table. Susanna inquired if he'd won.

"No, silly," Ollie said with his infectious smile. "I learned!"

The nuance with which chess forges friendships and fosters growth is nothing short of artistry; the game's intrinsic duality is a perfect microcosm for human experience. I hope we all can walk away from our daily lives' blunders and losses with Ollie's same enthusiasm, to be able to say we learned!

Susanna and I struggled to find local, consistent casual play opportunities for our boys. They enjoyed tournaments, but what they really wanted was time and space to play chess with other kids in a

non-competitive setting. After months of futile searching for a local youth chess club, we learned a few things: we learned that no such club existed in our area, and we learned that there was a great interest within the community! Susanna took this information and ran with it, researching other clubs and reaching out to potential venues. Her many hours of administrative fortitude paid off and a path forward materialized.

Sammamish Library hit everything on our wish list, and a wonderful partnership was formed—Plateau Youth Chess Club secured a weekly spot on the library calendar along with program funding, allowing us to team up with local instructors to offer chess education in conjunction with our casual play pursuits.

Chess is community, and Susanna and I witnessed this countless times as we met with involved parties and finalized plans. Washington Chess Federation generously donated 25 chess sets, clocks, and notation materials; talented young adults volunteered their time and expertise; local instructors jumped at the chance to help; librarians and library staff offered their assistance along with smiles and encouragement. It all paid off—our inaugural session, held September 19th, was graced by dozens of families eager

to engage in the connection, community, and camaraderie of chess!

We extend our sincerest gratitude to Josh Sinanan of Washington Chess Federation for his guidance and generosity—without his help, Plateau Youth Chess Club would not exist! We also thank the Sammamish Library team for their patience and continued support as we brought this project to fruition, and our fantastic instructor Michelle Williamson for sharing her knowledge with the community.

Perhaps more than anyone, thank you to Oliver and Iver. Without your curiosity, boys, we'd have spent our whole lives unaware just how much chess could move—how it travels across time, how it pulls people together, how gently it pushes us forward.

Join Plateau Youth Chess Club for casual chess play on Tuesdays from 6-8 PM at the Sammamish Library. We have intermittent instructional series running throughout the year, as well—check our Facebook page or email us at [plateauyouthchessclub@gmail.com](mailto:plateauyouthchessclub@gmail.com) for more information!

Cheers,

Anna Jonson and Susanna Lim  
Plateau Youth Chess Club



*The playing area at the Plateau Youth Chess Club. Photo credit: Susanna Lim.*

# A Tribute To Ignacio Perez

Josh Sinanan

Intro:

My dear chess friends, thank you for coming here this weekend to play in the Ignacio Memorial Open. We are here to pay tribute and honor the man, the myth, the legend — Ignacio Perez. I first met Ignacio in 2006 at, where else, a chess tournament. Even though Ignacio was a much stronger chess player than me at that time, we quickly became close friends and developed a special bond that lasted for nearly 20 years.

Ignacio was one of a kind and related well to people from all walks of life. Depending on who you asked, Ignacio meant something different to each person who knew him. Here are a few of the ways that Ignacio has related to me and others over the years:

- 1) Ignacio The Tactician – Ignacio was well-known for his tactical prowess, always in search of that Tal-like combination. I can't tell you how many times I saw Ignacio sac the h-pawn as White or sac his rook on b2 as Black to lure out the white king. Ignacio played a fearless brand of chess and always had a sizable crowd gathering around his board at any tournament that he played.
- 2) Ignacio The Blitz Player – Ignacio was a speed chess wizard and spent countless hours playing blitz at the old Redline Cafe in Capitol Hill and Crossroads Mall in Bellevue. Ignacio's fast hands and even faster mouth made him a daunting opponent, even for titled players. The only player who gave Ignacio trouble was a young Hikaru Nakamura, who used to visit Seattle frequently about 15 years ago on his way up to Vancouver.

- 3) Ignacio The Gambler – Ignacio enjoyed the thrill of risk on and off the chess board. When he wasn't hustling his opponents in chess, he could frequently be found at the poker table! Unfortunately, his bluffing skills in chess didn't translate so well to poker, and he often got called down light in the low stakes limit games that he enjoyed. Ignacio once told me that his affinity for gambling originated back in Cuba during his youth, when he used to play dice games with his friends.

- 4) Ignacio The Artist – Chess players are often classified into three categories: Scientists, Fighters, and Artists. Although Ignacio liked to win and was very competitive, he was actually an Artist at his core, always searching for that brilliant combination or Kasparovian sacrifice leading to mate. Much like Tal, his chess idol, Ignacio developed his own unique style and was most interested in playing exciting positions rich in tactical opportunities for both sides.

- 5) Ignacio The Ladies Man – Having accompanied Ignacio to many post-tournament restaurant outings, I witnessed him in several instances asking out the waitresses. Though most of his attempts were unsuccessful, Ignacio did on several occasions mysteriously vanish after we had settled our bill! Despite having never married and having no children of his own that I'm aware of, Ignacio was never shy around the ladies and would always try to get the attention of any woman that he found even remotely attractive.

- 6) Ignacio The Gentleman – An avid gamesman and fierce competitor

during competitive play, Ignacio was always a true gentleman on and off the chess board. As many of you know, Ignacio loved to analyze games and could frequently be seen in the skittles room reviewing games with anyone who wanted to learn. Ignacio never withdrew from tournaments even when he was playing poorly, and he often stayed late to help take out the trash and clean up after the tournament was complete.

- 7) Ignacio The Mentor – Ignacio has been a teacher and mentor for countless junior players, many of whom have gone on to become masters themselves! One of Ignacio's earliest students, NM Kyle Haining, still plays the Modern Defense that Ignacio taught him when he was young. No one has passed along their wisdom and love for the game to the younger generation of local players more than Ignacio.
- 8) Ignacio The Friend – Ignacio was, for me, a genuine and honest friend who unconditionally cared about the well-being of others. Ignacio considered the chess community his family and would graciously help anyone who asked him. Ignacio was humble and truly valued the relationships that he had built through chess.

So, in this tournament, I challenge you to channel Ignacio and play with your heart in each game. When in doubt, sacrifice some material and look for attacking chances, regardless of the position. Be tricky and resourceful, always keeping a positive attitude. Enjoy playing your chess games, and don't focus too much on the results. Ignacio would have wanted it that way.





*Josh Sinanan presents his tribute to Ignacio Perez at the opening ceremony of the PNWCC Ignacio Memorial Open.  
Photo credit: Haiyong Wang.*

# Do Brown Cows Make Chocolate Milk?

## Family Experiences Around Child-Led Learning

A new book written by a Pacific Northwest family shares the joys and benefits of playing chess.

Ken Lee

**W**hile chess has experienced an explosion in interest in the last few years, one Pacific Northwest family has been joyfully playing and exploring the educational benefits of chess for many years.

In their new book, *Do Brown Cows Make Chocolate Milk?*, the Sankrithi family (Siva/Dad), Aarti/Mom) and their two sons, Sarang (10) and Vivaan (5), share their personal thoughts about the three pillars of their educational world – 1) Chess, 2) Music, and 3) Travel

I had the pleasure of sitting down with the Sankrithi family to get their unique insights on child-led learning and why they selected the Game of Kings as a central component of their educational and social lives.

**Ken:** When your parents first discussed this potential book project with you, how did it make you feel?

**Vivaan:** It felt good because it would be my first time ever making a book and sharing my thoughts with everyone.

**Sarang:** It felt good because I love family projects, and I knew this one would take longer than most and be something I could share with my friends and family members.

**Ken:** What was the process of writing this book with your family members?

**Siva:** As a homeschooling family committed to child-led learning, we knew if we were going to go into this process, it would be a collective effort largely led by the kids. It began with them sharing stories and memorable moments in their lives that they felt taught them something. We then thought about what they learned and matched takeaways with stories. Then the writing began!

**Aarti:** It really started with a list of curious questions we'd been asked by the kids over the years. We started with a list of over fifty questions and whittled it down based on the stories we felt would best resonate with a broad audience.

**Ken:** What do you hope that parents and educators will learn by reading this book?

**Siva:** Different parents and educators will likely have a whole continuum of takeaways based on their own life experiences and that's exactly as it should be. If nothing else, hopefully all can gain an appreciation of the power of child-led learning and asking thoughtful questions that empower children to take the lead.

**Aarti:** I don't think I was formally introduced to the concept of child-led learning until I met Siva. While elements of it were always present in my own childhood, I don't think I ever approached it as intentionally as I do today. My hope for those reading is that this book inspires them to amplify their intentionality because most likely there's a high chance they're already doing a lot of this.

**Ken:** Chess is referenced throughout this book. What makes Chess such an interesting game for kids?

**Siva:** Chess education facilitates so many habits of mind that are helpful in all facets of life, including taking turns, patience, resilience, confidence, work-ethic, spatial reasoning, number sense, planning, and rational decision making under uncertainty.

**Ken:** Do you see Chess as a way of engaging your kids in a meaningful way that's different from other hobbies?



**Siva:** The educational value, particularly in STEAM education, is significant. I've been teaching math for over 20 years. Every chess player I've ever worked with showed confidence with problem solving, a willingness to lean into uncertainty and thoughtfully maneuver around roadblocks, as well as spatial reasoning, number sense, and planning skills beyond their years. Additionally, physical contact is a challenge for many kids and chess affords them a deep learning opportunity coupled with a competitive environment that many more conventional sports might not.

**Aarti:** Chess is unique in that it encourages reflection as part of the learning process. Moments of reflections are intentionally built in after every game. Players can go over games with their opponents, their coaches, and themselves. You don't necessarily see this type of reflection in other sports/activities until you reach a much higher level, when you're watching tape and really prepping for opponents. The fact that young kids can be exposed to this level of analysis and reflection is what makes chess such a powerful learning tool.

**Ken:** What are some common misconceptions about chess that you'd like parents to know?

**Siva:** I think there's a misconception out there that chess is only a game for the intellectually elite. I would argue that it's a game for everyone to learn and witness transformative personal growth, intellectually and otherwise. I think part of it is the fact that at the end of each game, there's a result, a win, loss, or draw, however it's much less about that result than the growth mindset of learning the game and developing those critical habits of mind to keep improving as a learner and person.

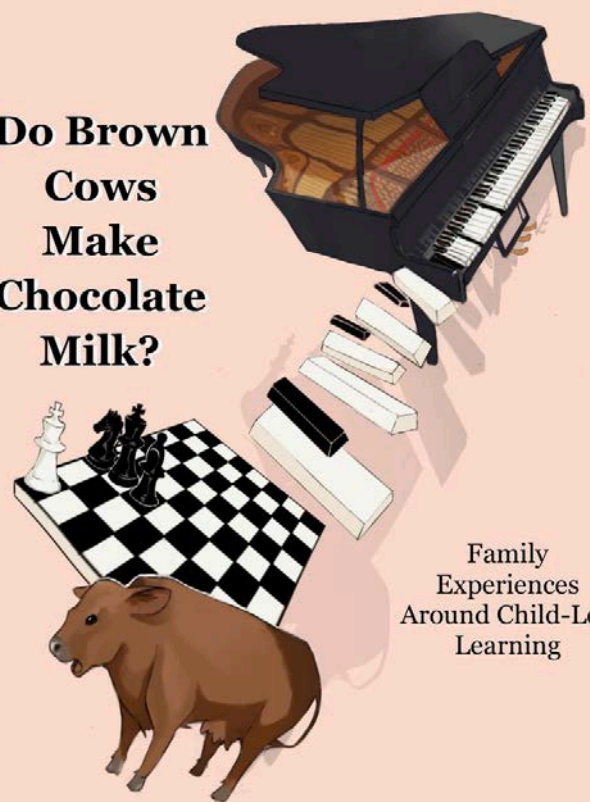
**Aarti:** Chess has historically been a male dominated sport but it's encouraging to see so many intentional opportunities for girls to thrive today.

**Ken:** Why do you think Chess parents/educators will enjoy this book?

**Siva:** I think they will see themselves and their kids in our experiences, particularly those around chess, and perhaps tweak their practices more toward a growth mindset in reading some of our stories. Hopefully they also see similar powerful takeaways in music, travel, and more and perhaps inspire them to give those a try too.

**Aarti:** There are many experiences we've highlighted in the book that likely extend to similar situations in the lives of chess parents and educators. We've had to tweak our approach for each of our children and acknowledging that each child has unique strengths and challenges and levels of readiness might

## Do Brown Cows Make Chocolate Milk?



Family  
Experiences  
Around Child-Led  
Learning

Siva, Aarti, Sarang, and Vivaan Sankrithi

Illustrated by Anya and Asha Wojciechowski

be a freeing concept for others to read and explore in their own lives.

**Ken:** When you are at a chess tournament or practicing chess with friends, how does it make you feel?

**Vivaan:** It feels really good. I can help other people get better while getting better myself. I also love making friends with all my opponents.

**Sarang:** Chess is super fun. I love making friends through chess and having fun with them and improve together. When I'm playing chess, I don't think about anything else. I focus. I plan. I think deeply. It brings out the best in me.

**Ken:** Do your hobbies like (Chess, Music, Language, Math, Tennis, Travel) connect in some way?

**Sarang:** All my hobbies are a lot of fun and allow me to make friends through something we love. They all also involve a lot of planning and playing with patterns, which I'm really good at and enjoy.

**Ken:** For example, what do you think about the connection between Music and Chess?

**Vivaan:** Both are really fun and make me take my time. In drumming, I have to focus on patterns like bass, hat, snare hat. In chess, I have to focus on patterns like developing my pieces and keeping my king safe.

**Ken:** Tell me about the sections in the book called, Cost.

How did these sections of the book come about and what ideas were you trying to share with this material?

**Siva:** We acknowledge we're fortunate. We have a roof over our heads, a loving family, time, and the means to engage in lots of learning experiences for our kids. We know that's not the case for many. In the spirit of catering to all our readers, our hope with this section in each chapter was to share what it takes, to achieve the desired takeaways, and hopefully highlight that for many things, even with significant fiscal or time constraints, rewarding learning is achievable.

**Aarti:** The purpose of this section is to really articulate that no matter where you are in life, you can meaningfully apply these concepts. While Siva and I have had many differences in how we were raised, we've both had the opportunity to experience facets of child-led learning in our own childhood.

**Ken:** If you had a goal for this book to change the trajectory of education or parenting styles, what would it be?

**Siva:** A goal would be to grow appreciation for unconventional learning modalities outside of the traditional classroom setting.

**Aarti:** A goal would be to approach parenting and educating with more intentionality. People are very busy balancing busy careers and lives, and we hope this book inspires people to grow and develop as parents given whatever constraints they may have.

**Ken:** When your friends or parents' friends read this book, what do you think will surprise them the most?

**Sarang:** I think the way that the book is structured will surprise many. I also think the Resilience chapter about my first asthma attack will surprise people because it's pretty different from the rest of the book.

**Vivaan:** I haven't read any books where five-year-olds like me share their thoughts. I think that's a fun surprise!

**Ken:** What did you learn about yourself during the process of writing this book?

**Vivaan:** I learned how much work it took to make a book. Sometimes it was tiring. I also learned that though I'm young, I have a lot to say and can really help my family.

**Sarang:** I learned through the process of writing this book that I am a good person who's done a lot of neat things and that I can help others by sharing my experiences.

**Ken:** In your wildest dreams, who do you hope has an opportunity to read your book?

**Siva:** My Dad's late father and my mom's late mother. Both were outstanding educators in their own way, and I think it'd be really cool to just see them again and talk shop, especially with how we've taken elements of their teaching approaches and adapted them to educating their great grand kids.

**Aarti:** Michelle Obama. She's such an inspirational person and I'd love to have coffee with her and talk about raising kids.

**Vivaan:** Anyone who is having a hard time and looking for ideas on how to make things better.

**Sarang:** All my friends and family and everyone who knows me. Really anyone can read it. I hope it's super helpful for parents with little kids looking for ideas.

**Ken:** In your book, the terms persistence, growth mindset and scaffolding are used a lot. What do those terms mean to you on a personal level?

**Sarang:** To me, persistence means working hard in chess, music, tennis, and more. Growth mindset to me is focusing more on the process of learning. The results don't matter. Actually they do but the process is more important and if you work hard you'll get better results. Scaffolding to me refers to how much direction and help you get. In my learning, I like to take the lead and don't like as much scaffolding. When I was younger, I needed more scaffolding to learn the fundamentals.

**Ken:** (Question for Sarang and Vivaan) In this book, the term child-led learning is referenced. What does that term mean to you?

**Sarang:** Child-led learning is learning led by me. For example, I really wanted to learn Japanese, so my parents provided the resources for me to do that. I wanted to code video games, so my



parents gave me the tools to do that. Even though they gave me the tools, I do the work and choose the direction I go in.

**Ken:** What new subjects fascinate you?

**Sarang:** Japanese, coding, chess, and music all fascinate me. Tennis has been a fun new thing to learn and master and I look forward to continuing to get better at it.

**Vivaan:** I'm excited to improve my writing, especially handwriting, and my chess and drumming.

**Ken:** What are you looking forward to happening as you begin to promote this book and your message about child-led learning?

**Siva:** As an educator, the thing that brings me the greatest joy is seeing those epiphanous “aha” moments in my students. I hope everyone who reads our book gets to experience at least one aha moment if not more for themselves and then empower aha moments for the kids in their lives.

**Sarang:** I'm looking forward to seeing how people engage with the book. It's really neat to see the reviews and ratings and feedback. I also look forward to chatting with family and friends about my experiences.

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Family Experiences Around Child-Led Learning***

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If you'd like to follow the adventures of the Sankrithi family, subscribe to their newsletter at [sankrithibooks.com](http://sankrithibooks.com)



L-R: Vivaan Sankrithi, Aarti Sankrithi, Sarang Sankrithi, Siva Sankrithi. Photo credit: Stewart Tilger.

# Open Window School Fall Tornado

Josh Sinanan

The 2023 Open Window School Fall Tornado took place on Saturday, October 7, at Open Window School in Bellevue! We had a brilliant turnout, with 148 scholastic chess players in grades K-8 competing across five sections parsed by grade level and rating: K-1 U800, 2-3 U800, K-3 Open, 4-8 Open, and K-8 Open.

For several courageous chess bobcats, it was their first-ever chess tournament! The convenient Cougar Mountain location made the tournament easily accessible to players from throughout the Pacific Northwest. The pace of play was expeditious between the younger competitors, and studious and deliberate among the older ones.

All players put forth their best effort and exhibited the finely tuned chess skills that many of have been developing during the summer months. Each round featured several daring attacks, wild gambits, brilliant sacrifices, horrific blunders, and ingenious defenses devised by the tricky cast of characters taking part in the proceedings!

As observed by tournament directors Ben Radin, Coach Sloan, and Coach Josh, all players were respectful and demonstrated genuine sportsmanship and integrity throughout the day. The event was hosted by Open Window School, paired by Chess Mates Foundation President Ben Radin, and directed by Coach Sloan Setiadikurnia (4-8 Open, K-8 Open) and Coach Josh Sinanan (K-1 U800, 2-3 U800, K-3 Open).

OWS Chess Club parent chair Sha Sha Zhong-Metzmaker organized the event, ran the concessions, and took many wonderful photos throughout the day! Coach Bill Schill was on-site reviewing games with kids all day and sharing his vast chess knowledge and experience! Students were treated to a special visit

from OWS Head of School Elaine Christensen, who shared some words of encouragement before play commenced in the first round.

We'd also like to thank the team of amazing parent volunteers, judges, and scorekeepers that made this fantastic event possible. We were pleasantly surprised to have nice weather for the tournament this year, after a snowy experience in early December last year.

Congratulations to the section winners!



Section	Champion
K-1 U800	Skyler Qin
2-3 U800	Riaan Babbar
K-3 Open	Vayu Kakkad
4-8 Open	Keeran Balayoghan
K-8 Open	Krishang Gupta



(L) Joshua Shagas vs Micah Xiong during their second round game.

Photo credit: Sha Sha Zhong-Metzmaker.



The playing hall for grades K-3 of the Open Window School Fall Tornado.

Photo credit: Sha Sha Zhong-Metzmaker.





*Jonathan Lan (W) vs Ethan Sun during their second round game of the OWS Fall Tornado. Photo credit: Sha Sha Zhong-Metzmaker.*



# Southern Idaho Open Veterans Day Tournament

Barry Eacker

Expert Eric Hon of Boise smothered the field at the 2023 Southern Idaho Open Veterans Day Tournament to claim the top prize with a perfect 4.0/4 score. Hon methodically waded through his opponents, leading to the only undefeated result of the event.

The logjam of players behind Hon finishing with 3.0/4 included Cody Gorman (Boise), James Brooks (Boise), Chris Pentico (Mountain Home), Olivia Ding (Idaho Falls), Nobel Ang (Pocatello),

and Mamoun Birema (Twin Falls). Eight junior players took part in the event and played well against diverse competition. The juniors of note were Ding and Nate Rodenburg (2.5/4, Boise).

The most intense games of the party featured Cody Gorman, Nobel Ang and Olivia Ding. Gorman finished both of those games on the five second delay only, defeating Ding in round two and falling to Ang in round three. Perhaps Cody is a shirttail relative of one GM Walter Browne (deceased) who seemed

to play half his games like that. Twenty-eight participants pushed wood.

Class Prizes: Class C and second place: all 3.0/4 (see above) Class B: Barry Eacker; Class D: Nate Rodenburg; Class E: tie: Corey Cook and Ivan Lawler; Unrated: Tie: Eric Lawler and Ryan Reboiro.

The tournament featured veterans Jay Simonson (Idaho Falls) and Hans Morrow (Farmington, Utah). Many times, veterans are overlooked for their amazing contribution to the freedom we as Americans have to participate in many aspects of life including, fortunately, chess tournaments. Remember to express appreciation for all they have done for us.

Many thanks to the staff at The Hampton Inn in Twin Falls for being gracious and extremely helpful hosts. The ICA has played many events there and they have gone out of their way to accommodate us. Lastly, I need to thank Jay Simonson for his help as Assistant TD.

## Games

Chase Jablonski (1434) –  
Hans M. Morrow (1901) [C44]

2023 Southern Idaho Open  
Twin Falls, ID (R2), November 10, 2023  
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 Bb4+?!

This only helps White secure the center. Black may have thought that encouraging c2–c3 would take away c3 as the natural development square for the b1–knight — which is true — but supporting the center is also reasonable, and Black can ill afford to lose the tempo involved in the check and retreat. 3...exd4 4.Nxd4 is the main line Scotch Opening.

4.c3 Bd6 5.Be3 f6?!±

## 2023 Southern Idaho Open Veterans Day Results

No.	Name	Rating	Rnd1	Rnd2	Rnd3	Rnd4	Points	Prize	\$\$\$
1	Eric Hon	2059	W4	W13	W6	W3	4	1st Overall	100.00
2	Cody Austin Gorman	1859	W12	W7	L3	W8	3	2nd Overall/Class C	20.00
3	Nobel Ang	1457	W27	W5	W2	L1	3	2nd Overall/Class C	20.00
4	Mamoun Birema	1408	L1	W9	W22	W13	3	2nd Overall/Class C	20.00
5	James Patrick Brooks	1589	W16	L3	W20	W11	3	2nd Overall/Class C	20.00
6	Christopher Pentico	1511	W24	W15	L1	W14	3	2nd Overall/Class C	20.00
7	Olivia Ding	1458	W25	L2	W23	W12	3	2nd Overall/Class C	20.00
8	John Glenn	1804	W17	D11	W14	L2	2.5		
9	Nate Rodenburg	1376	D10	L4	W26	W21	2.5	Class D	50.00
10	Hans M. Morrow	1901	D9	L14	W24	W16	2.5		
11	DeWayne Derryberry	1508	W28	D8	W21	L5	2.5		
12	David Allen Zaklan	1321	L2	W19	W18	L7	2		
13	Tom R. Booth	1509	W26	L1	W17	L4	2		
14	Chase Jablonski	1434	W22	W10	L8	L6	2		
15	Adam J. Buchholz	1418	W19	L6	L16	W20	2		
16	Ivan Lawler	843	L5	W28	W15	L10	2	Class E (tie)	25.00
17	Corey Allen Cook	1157	L8	W27	L13	W22	2	Class E (tie)	25.00
18	Ryan Lee Reboiro	Unr.	L20	W24	L12	W23	2	Unrated (tie)	25.00
19	Eric Lawler	Unr.	L15	L12	W27	W25	2	Unrated (tie)	25.00
20	Daniel Looney	1446	W18	D21	L5	L15	1.5		
21	Barry D. Eacker	1600	W23	D20	L11	L9	1.5	Class B	50.00
22	Enzo Lawler	Unr.	L14	W26	L4	L17	1		
23	Alexandra Henninger	1039	L21	W25	L7	L18	1		
24	Sophie Ma	803	L6	L18	L10	W28	1		
25	Caleb Wray	156	L7	L23	W28	L19	1		
26	Jay L. Simonson	732	L13	L22	L9	W27	1		
27	Tristan Mardis	149	L3	L17	L19	L26	0		
28	Jax Campbell	295	L11	L16	L25	L24	0		



In an attempt to strengthen e5, Black seriously weakens the a2–g8 diagonal. 5...Nf6± looks like the most consistent continuation.; 5...exd4 6.cxd4 Bb4+ 7.Nc3 d5± also seems possible.

**6.Bc4 Na5??**



*Position after 6...Na5*

LPDO — Loose Pieces Drop Off. Maybe we need to have a contest to come up with a better acronym. Underprotected Points Encourage Tactics?

**7.Bxg8! Rxc8 8.dxe5! Nc4**

Black realizes he's losing a piece or more here regardless of his defense, so tries to bring his knight back into the game. 8...fxe5 9.Qd5 Fork! 9...Rf8 10.Qxa5+- It's pretty much over now.

9.exd6 Nxd6 10.Qd5 Nf7 11.0-0 c6 12.Qh5 h6 13.Na3 d6 14.Rad1 Kf8 15.Nc4 g5 16.e5 fxe5 17.Nfxe5 Nxe5 18.Qxh6+ Ke8 19.Nxe5 Qe7 20.Qxd6 Qxd6 21.Rxd6 Ke7 22.Bc5 a5 23.Rg6+ 1-0

**Nobel Ang (1457) –**

**Cody Austin Gorman (1859) [D90]**

2023 Southern Idaho Open

Twin Falls, ID (R3), November 10, 2023

[Ralph Dubisch]

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.c4 c6 4.Nc3 d5 5.cxd5 cxd5 6.Bf4 Bg7 7.e3 0-0 8.Be2 Nc6 9.Ne5



*Position after 9.Ne5*

9.h3±

**9...Be6?!**

We've reached a position that is very hard for Black to play for a win. 9...Nxe5 10.Bxe5 (10.dxe5 Ne4 11.Qxd5 (11.Nxd5 Be6 12.Nc3 Nxc3 13.bxc3 Rc8±; 11.Nxe4 dxe4 12.0-0) 11...Nxc3 12.Qxd8 Rxd8 13.bxc3) 10...Ne4

**10.Nxc6 bxc6**

White has created a permanent target on c6.

**11.0-0 Qb6?! 12.Na4 Qa5 13.Rc1 Rac8? 14.Rc5! Qb4**

14...Qd8 15.Ba6 Ne4 16.Rc1 Ra8 17.Bb7 g5 18.Bxa8±

**15.a3±**

15.Ba6±

**15...Qb7**



*Position after 15...Qb7*

**16.Bf3?!**

Wrong direction. 16.Ra5 planning Ba6. For example, 16...Rce8 17.Ba6 Qa8 18.Nc5± Bc8? 19.Bxc8 Rxc8 20.Qa4+-

**16...Bf5 17.Qd2**

17.g4 Be4 18.Be2 Nd7 19.Ra5 e5 20.dxe5 Nxe5 21.f3

**17...Nd7 18.Ra5 e5 19.dxe5 Bxe5**

19...Nxe5 20.Be2±

**20.Be2**

20.Bxe5 Nxe5 21.Be2±

**20...Qc7**

20...Bxf4 21.exf4 Qc7 22.b4

**21.Bxe5 Nxe5 22.Rc1 Qe7**

22...Nc4 23.Bxc4 dxc4 24.Rxc4 Rfd8 25.Rd4 Rxd4 26.exd4 Rd8 27.b4±

**23.Qd4 Rc7 24.Rac5 Qd6 25.Nc3**

25.b4

**25...Qe6?? 26.Nxd5! Rd7**

[Diagram top of next column]



*Position after 26...Rd7*

**27.e4**

Black lost on time. Here White could have won significant material with 27.Nf4 Rxd4 (27...Qe7 28.Qxe5) 28.Nxe6 Rd2 (28...Bxe6 29.exd4) 29.Nxf8 Rxe2 (29...f6 30.Nxh7 Kxh7 (30...Rxe2 31.Nxf6+ Kf7 32.Rxe5 Kxf6 33.Rec5) 31.Bf1 Rxb2 32.Ra5) 30.Rxe5 Kxf8 31.b4+-

The game might continue after 27.e4, 27...Bxe4 28.Qxe4 cxd5 29.Qe3± White's strategy of frustrating the higher-rated player with solid symmetry worked to perfection.

1-0



Top two boards from round two.  
Front (L-R): Tom Booth, Eric Hon;  
Back (L-R): Cody Gorman, Olivia Ding.  
Photo credit: Barry Eacker.

# Washington Winter Classic



DECEMBER 16-17<sup>TH</sup>, 2023

LAKE SIDE UPPER SCHOOL

14050 1<sup>ST</sup> AVE NE, SEATTLE, WA 98125

*Highest finishing player in the Open and Reserve sections seeded into the Premier and Challengers sections, respectively, of the 2024 WA State Championship.*

## Format

A five-round, G/90; +30 Swiss in two sections:

### Open & Reserve U1600.

Dual NWSRS and US Chess Rated. Open section also FIDE Rated. In case of a tie for 1<sup>st</sup> place, follow-up playoff games will determine the seed for the Premier or Challengers section of the 2024 Washington State Championship.

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

**Schedule:** Sat @ 9 AM, 2 PM, 6 PM. Sun @ 10 AM, 3 PM.

Closing Ceremony: Sun ~ 7 PM or asap.

Games that go long may request a late start for the next round.

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

**Prize Fund:** \$4,000 (based on 80 paid entries)

**Open:** 1<sup>st</sup>–3<sup>rd</sup>: \$600, \$450, \$350. 1<sup>st</sup> U2100/U1900/U1700: \$225

**Reserve:** 1<sup>st</sup>–3<sup>rd</sup>: \$300, \$250, \$200. 1<sup>st</sup> U1500/U1300/U1100: \$150; 1<sup>st</sup> Unrated: \$150.

**Special Prizes** (per section): Biggest Upset Win: \$80, Highest (USCF) Rating Gain: \$80, Best Female Player (by TPR): \$80, Best Dressed: \$25/day.

**Entry Fee:** \$100 by 12/9, \$125 after. Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs, and WIMs. Players rated 1400-1599 may play up into Open section for an additional \$50 fee. Maximum of 80 players – please register early to guarantee your spot.

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

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

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

Registration and payment **deadline: Fri. 12/15 @ 5pm**. No registrations accepted or refunds offered after the deadline. Payment via Zelle/PayPal (ID: WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com) or Venmo (ID: @WChess) also available.

**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

**Email:** WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com

**Procedure/Protocols:** Pairings and standings will be posted near the playing area before each round. Face masks optional for players and spectators. If interested, please bring your own mask.



# Washington Junior Invitational

## CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

December 16-17<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Lakeside Upper School

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

### Tri-Format:

An invitation-only junior chess tournament in three sections:

Closed: A FIDE-rated, 6-player Round Robin. TC: G/90; +30.

Invitational: A FIDE-rated, 5-round, G/90; +30 Swiss.

Rising: A 5-round, G/45; +15 Double Swiss. Play 2 games – 1 as White and 1 as Black – against each opponent.

### Entry Fee:

\$90 by 12/9, \$100 after

### Rounds:

Rd 1 – Sat. 9am

Rd 2 – Sat. 2pm

Rd 3 – Sat. 6pm

Rd 4 – Sun. 10am

Rd 5 – Sun. 3pm

Awards ~ Sun. 7pm or asap  
Late start available for games that go long. If needed to break ties for 1<sup>st</sup> place in the Closed and Invitational sections, pairs of G/5; +2 blitz playoff games will be conducted on Sunday immediately after the last round.

### Eligibility:

Open to all WA Junior players under age 21 as of December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023. We will take the top 66 WA juniors based on the higher of December US Chess, FIDE, or current NWSRS rating who register and pay by the **deadline of Wed, December 13<sup>th</sup>**. Of those 66, the top 5 by rating, plus the previously seeded winner of the 2023 WA Junior Open, will qualify for the Closed section. The next 30 will qualify for the Invitational section, and the next 30 will qualify for the Rising section.

### Prizes:

Closed (Guaranteed by WCF)

1<sup>st</sup> \$350 + seed into Championship section of 2024 WA State Championship. 2<sup>nd</sup> \$300, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$250

Invitational (Based on 30 paid entries)

1<sup>st</sup> \$200 + seed into Challengers section of 2024 WA State Championship.

2<sup>nd</sup>–7<sup>th</sup>: \$180, \$160, \$140, \$130, \$120, \$110.

Rising (Based on 30 paid entries)

1<sup>st</sup>–7<sup>th</sup>: \$170, \$160, \$150, \$140, \$130, \$120, \$110.

Special Prizes: (per section) Biggest Upset Win: \$25, Best Dressed: \$15/day, Best Female Player (by TPR): \$25

### Rating/Membership:

Dual NWSRS + US Chess rated, Closed and Invitational sections also FIDE rated. US Chess & WCF membership required in all sections.

### Byes:

No byes allowed in Closed. Up to 2 half-point byes available in Invitational and Rising sections if requested before end of Rd 2.



### THE DETAILS

#### Procedure/Protocols:

Pairings and standings posted near the playing area before each round. Face masks optional for players and spectators. If interested, please bring your own mask.

#### Online Registration:

[nwchess.com/onlineregistration](http://nwchess.com/onlineregistration)  
Pay by Credit/Debit/PayPal.

**Registration and payment deadline: Wednesday, Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> @ 5:00pm.** No

registrations accepted or refunds offered after the deadline. Payment via PayPal (PayPal.me/WAChess) or Venmo (ID: @WAChess) available.

**Questions?** Contact Rekha Sagar, WCF Vice President, [rekha4chess@gmail.com](mailto:rekha4chess@gmail.com)



# 2023 National Chess Day Scholastic

Josh Sinanan

The 2023 Seattle National Chess Day Scholastic took place on National Chess Day, Saturday October 14, at Lakeside Upper School in Seattle. The 142-player event kicked off the National Chess Day festivities hosted by WCF, which included three more tournaments later in the weekend at the same venue – the Seattle National Chess Day Blitz Championship, Washington G/60 Championship, and Washington Bullet Championship. President Gerald Ford, an avid chess fan, declared the second Saturday of October to be “National Chess Day” back in 1976. National Chess Day is now an annual celebration in which beginners and experts alike celebrate chess as a national pastime.

Participants in the National Chess Day Scholastic ranged from grades K-12 and competed across five sections parsed by grade level and rating: K-1 U800, K-3 U900, K-6 U1000, K-12 U1200, and K-12 Open. For eight young chess ninjas, it was their first ever chess tournament! The convenient north Seattle location made the tournament easily accessible to players from throughout the Pacific Northwest, including the cities of Woodinville, Redmond, Seattle, Bellevue, Bothell, Mill Creek, Portland, Sammamish, Kenmore, Lake Forest Park, Lakewood, Kirkland, Everett, Freeland, Spanaway, Issaquah, Shoreline, Monroe, Kingston, Lynnwood, Medina, Clyde Hill, Vancouver (BC), Duvall, Yarrow Point, University Place, Marysville, Mercer Island, Snoqualmie, Milton, and Shoreline!

The cadence of play was lickety-split between the younger competitors, and leisurely amongst the older ones. The players really brought out their A-games for National Chess Day, with many showing significant progress and steady improvement. Each round featured several daring attacks, wild sacrifices, and

sneaky defenses concocted by the young minds taking part in the proceedings! As observed by tournament directors Rekha Sagar, Suresh Balaji, and Ani Barua, players were generally respectful and demonstrated good sportsmanship and integrity throughout the day. The event was hosted by the Washington Chess Federation and directed by WCF co-Vice President Rekha Sagar with assistance

from WCF Member-at-Large Ani Barua, WCF Community Outreach Liaison Suresh Balaji, and WCF Women’s and Girls’ Director Chouchan Airapetian. Wonderful photos and videos were taken throughout the day by photographers extraordinaire Meiling Cheng, Ani Barua, and Rekha Sagar! Congratulations to the winners:

## Seattle National Chess Day Scholastic Prizes

Individual Prizes - Amazon Gift cards awarded in each section.

1st \$70, 2nd \$60, 3rd \$50, 4th \$40, 5th \$30.

Section	1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place	4th Place	5th Place
K-1 U800	Dhruv Bangard	Vidyuth Lalithmani Kyle Liu		William Wright	Akshay Gupta Connor Liu Siana Razmov Janani Ranjith Ethan Li Grayson Lee
K-3 U900		Andrew Xing Abigail Lew Roger Yao		Jace Liu Aryan Reddysheetty	
K-6 U1000	Evan Liu	Bowen Zhang		Braden Confer Felix Y Chen Clora Huang James Thorington Alexander Rogovoy	
K-12 U1200	Menang Palod		Leonid Zandanov Kunal Jayadevan Nathan Jiang Riot Hessel		
K-12 Open	Dann Merriman	Evan Cen Rafael Palathingal		Erik Kato Rishi Ramaswamy Aditya Karri Joshua Pantea	

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

Section	Best Female Player	Biggest Upset Win
K-1 U800	Kristina Velichko	Leo Gu
K-3 U900	Alice Li	Sahan Katipally
K-6 U1000	Ameya George	Leo Stiepleman
K-12 U1200	Skandha Raj	Isaac Friedenson
K-12 Open	Deeksha Shankaranand	Vivaan Vikram Wani





# Washington National Chess Day Blitz Championship

Josh Sinanan

The 2023 Washington National Chess Day Blitz Championship took place at Lakeside School in Seattle on the evening of National Chess Day Saturday, October 14. The Blitz Championship occurred shortly after the conclusion of the Seattle National Chess Day Scholastic held earlier in the day at the same venue. Twenty-seven players hailing from multiple municipalities throughout Washington State were represented in the one-section, nine-round Single Swiss tournament, from cities including Bellevue, Kirkland, Seattle, Des Moines, Redmond, Shoreline, Clyde Hill, Mountlake Terrace, Bothell, Renton, Issaquah, Lake Forest Park, and Everett! The event was directed by the WCF Dream Team of Rekha Sagar, Suresh Balaji, and Ani Barua.

A motley mix of players of all ages and ratings ranging from unrated to Senior

Master were represented in the 27-player field. The tournament lasted just over three hours and started a bit late due to several last-minute at-site entries. Since the event was dual US Chess and FIDE Blitz rated, some extra work was needed to check the player info and assure compliance with FIDE rules. The chess action was fun and friendly as the players celebrated National Chess Day with some speed chess. There were numerous exciting back-and-forth battles throughout the evening, with the “luxurious” time control of G/5;+3 allowing for more complete games than the typical shorter time controls often used for blitz.

Senior Master Siddarth M. Sundaram (8.0, 2324 → 2306) of Bellevue emerged the winner with an impressive eight points from nine games, dropping only one point to the young Edward Cheng (1677) along the way. Siddarth began the tournament

with seven straight wins, including victories against his nearest rivals WIM Megan Lee (2156), Nehanraj Ramesh (1780), and Damarcus Thomas (1646). Two-time Washington State Champion WIM Megan Lee (7.5, 2156 → 2148) of Bellevue finished in second place a half-point back, losing only to Sundaram and allowing a second-round draw against young whippersnapper Gabriel Razmov (1620). Edward Cheng (7.0, 1677 → 1737) of Seattle finished in third place a half-point behind Lee, finishing the tournament with six straight wins after a rough start. Everett Chess King Damarcus Thomas (6.0, 1646 → 1657) captured the first U2000 prize with six points and bought a Shinai, a bamboo Kendo sword, with his winnings! Two chess studs, Benjamin Frederick (5.0, 1282 → 1433) of Seattle and Walter Guity (5.0, unrated → 1393) of Shoreline, shared the first U1800/U1600 prizes for their efforts with five points apiece. Lake Forest Park phenom Sarang Sankrithi (5.0, 917 → 1070) won the first U1400 prize with an impressive five points and concluded his tournament with on three-game winning streak!

Bothell chess prince Maxwell Sun (4.0, 1411 → 1333) was indeed glowing as he took home the first U1200 prize for his shining efforts. Vishal Suram (3.0, unrated → 1143) of Bothell earned the first unrated prize with three points. Reigning Washington Women’s Co-Champion Te Wei (4.5, 1403 → 1387) of Seattle won the Best Female Player prize with a tournament performance rating of 1611. Sujith S. Arram (3.5, unrated → 813) of Bellevue scored the biggest upset win (746 pts.) of the tournament. Many thanks to the players who came out and competed to celebrate National Chess Day!



The WCF Dream Team: (L-R) Ani Barua, Suresh Balaji, Rekha Sagar.  
Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.



(L) Vishal Suram and Siddarth M. Sundaram exchange pleasantries before the start their first round game. Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.

### Washington National Chess Day Blitz Championship

#	Name	Highest Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	Rd 8	Rd 9	Total pts	Prize
1	<b>NM</b> Siddarth M. Sundaram	2462	W24	W6	W4	W10	W2	W15	W12	L3	W8	8	1st
2	<b>WIM</b> Megan Lee	2326	W21	D15	W3	W23	L1	W8	W10	W6	W7	7.5	2nd
3	Edward Cheng	1841	W20	L10	L2	W18	W24	W11	W4	W1	W6	7	3rd
4	Damarcus T Thomas	1923	W9	W16	L1	L6	W13	W23	L3	W17	W10	6	1st U2000
5	<b>CM</b> Timothy Moroney	2158	L10	W8	W24	L12	W16	D14	L7	W19	W15	5.5	
6	Nehanraj Ramesh	1925	X28	L1	W9	W4	W10	D12	W15	L2	L3	5.5	
7	Valentin Razmov	1899	W18	D19	L10	L8	W25	W20	W5	W12	L2	5.5	
8	Benjamin Frederick	1571	D12	L5	W21	W7	W20	L2	W14	W15	L1	5.5	=1st 1800/U1600
9	Walter Guity	1557	L4	W27	L6	W17	L11	W24	W16	W14	D12	5.5	=1st 1800/U1600
10	Dave Juchau	1644	W5	W3	W7	L1	L6	W19	L2	W11	L4	5	
11	Selina Cheng	1738	W13	W17	L23	L15	W9	L3	W20	L10	W18	5	
12	Rafael Palathingal	1484	D8	D25	W22	W5	W23	D6	L1	L7	D9	5	
13	Sarang Sankrithi	1376	L11	W18	L14	W27	L4	L16	W26	W22	W17	5	1st U1400
14	Te Wei	1790	W26	L23	W13	W16	L15	D5	L8	L9	W19	4.5	Best Female Player
15	Gabriel Razmov	1704	W22	D2	W19	W11	W14	L1	L6	L8	L5	4.5	
16	Gavin Shi	1548	W25	L4	W17	L14	L5	W13	L9	D18	W20	4.5	
17	Maxwell Sun	1165	X29	L11	L16	L9	W26	W22	W23	L4	L13	4	1st U1200
18	Rishi Ramaswamy	1515	L7	L13	B---	L3	L22	W27	W21	D16	L11	3.5	
19	Siva Sankrithi	1472	X30	D7	L15	L20	W27	L10	W24	L5	L14	3.5	
20	Rian Raja	1307	L3	D21	W25	W19	L8	L7	L11	W24	L16	3.5	
21	Matthew Durane	922	L2	D20	L8	L25	H---	B---	L18	D26	W27	3.5	
22	Sujith Srivardhan Arram	769	L15	B---	L12	L24	W18*	L17	W27	L13	D26	3.5	Biggest Upset Win*
23	Samuel Cha	1617	W27	W14	W11	L2	L12	L4	L17	U---	U---	3	
24	Vishal Suram	unr.	L1	W26	L5	W22	L3	L9	L19	L20	B---	3	1st Unrated
25	Saiya Karamali	1662	L16	D12	L20	W21	L7	W26	U---	U---	U---	2.5	
26	Xavier Palathingal	979	L14	L24	L27	B---	L17	L25	L13	D21	D22	2	
27	Eric Edmond	unr.	L23	L9	W26	L13	L19	L18	L22	B---	L21	2	
28	Neevan Reddy Saddi	1645	F6	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	0	
29	Joshua Pantea	1349	F17	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	0	
30	Leonid Zandanov	1220	F19	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	0	



# Washington G/60 Championship

By Josh Sinanan

The Washington G/60 Championship was held on Sunday, October 15 as part of the National Chess Day Weekend Festival hosted at Lakeside School in Seattle by WCF. An impressive turnout of 63 chess warriors competed in the four-round Dual US Chess & NWSRS Rated tournament, from cities including Redmond, Seattle, Olympia, Sammamish, Bellevue, Tacoma, Kirkland, Enumclaw, Brier, Ridgefield, Sammamish, Diamond Barr (CA), Bothell, Mountlake Terrace, Zillah, Issaquah, Milton, Snohomish, Fall City, Medina, Bellingham, and Shoreline. The format consisted of a single Championship section featuring a diverse roster of players ranging in level from unrated to Expert.

Two Northwest Chess Titans, Leonid Gavrysh (4.0, 1995 → 2003) of Brier and Bertran Wan (4.0, 2024 → 2027) of Bellevue were crowned champions, each with a perfect four points from four games. Given the large size of the section, the two leaders didn't get the chance to play against each other, with Gavrysh vanquishing Chad Boey (1768) and Wan taking down Aaron Ren (1507) in the final round. Three chess supernovas – CM Tim Moroney (3.5, 2027 → 2018) of Mountlake Terrace, Michelle Zhang (3.5, 1732 → 1765) of Medina, and Abhinav Mishra (3.5, 1607 → 1638) of Redmond – shared third/U2000/U1800 honors a half-point back, with Moroney and Mishra drawing against each other in the final round and Zhang winning her last three games after taking a first-round half-point bye.

Two eastside chess princes, Rhadean Rubaiyat (3.0, 1277 → 1357) of Redmond and Rishi Ramaswamy (3.0, 1381 → 1420) of Bellevue, shared the first U1600 prize with three wins apiece. Young Andy Chen (3.0, 1163 → 1269) of Bellevue was the sole winner of the U1400 prize with an impressive three-point score. Chess Dad Weidong Cui (2.5, 954 → 1079) of Redmond captured the U1200 prize with a solid “plus one” score. Canadian newcomer Vicky Yin (1.0, unrated → 507) of Vancouver (BC) won the unrated prize with a clutch last round victory.

Congratulations to the winners!

Washington G/60 Championship										
#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Total pts	Prize	
1	1-2	Leonid Gavrysh	2026	W33	W18	W17	W6	4	=1st/2nd	
2		Bertrand Wan	2013	W49	W19	W11	W8	4	=1st/2nd	
3	3-5	CM Timothy Moroney	2164	W23	W26	W9	D5	3.5	=3rd/1st U2000/1st U1800	
4		Michelle Zhang	1761	H---	W58	W27	W16	3.5	=3rd/1st U2000/1st U1800	
5		Abhinav Mishra	1727	W42	W20	W12	D3	3.5	=3rd/1st U2000/1st U1800	
6	6-14	Chad Boey	1701	W36	W13	W28	L1	3		
7		Leonardo Wang	1698	W43	L28	W34	W29	3		
8		Aaron Ren	1691	W48	W29	W14	L2	3		
9		Iris Zhang	1685	W37	W31	L3	W28	3		
10		William Dann	1678	W38	L14	W50	W30	3		
11		Neevan Reddy Saddi	1632	W44	W32	L2	W31	3		
12		Rhadean Rubaiyat	1558	W53	W15	L5	W40	3	=1st U1600	
13		Rishi Ramaswamy	1467	W55	L6	W38	W25	3	=1st U1600	
14		Andy Chen	1389	W62	W10	L8	W16	3	1st U1400	
15	15-24	Akshaya Anilkumar	2014	W34	L12	W45	D19	2.5		
16		Odbayar Yondon	1819	W50	D27	W21	L4	2.5		
17		Ujwal Garine	1672	W39	W40	L1	D22	2.5		
18		Benjamin Frederick	1570	W52	L1	W35	D23	2.5		
19		Sankeerth Bhimisetty	1539	W47	L2	W43	D15	2.5		
20		Bichen Liu	1503	W24	L5	H---	W45	2.5		
21		Yuchen Zhou	1470	W60	D25	L16	W46	2.5		
22		Rafael Palathingal	1406	H---	W46	D25	D17	2.5		
23		Vilmos Foltenyi	1381	L3	W53	W57	D18	2.5		
24		Weidong Cui	947	L20	W60	W47	D33	2.5	1st U1200	
25	25-41	Saiya Karamali	1702	W35	D21	D22	L13	2		
26		Nikita Chopra	1577	W51	L3	W36	L14	2		
27		Balbir Singh	1538	W41	D16	L4	H---	2		
28		Haituka Anandkumar	1448	W56	W7	L6	L9	2		
29		Satish Kumar Ramachandran	1439	W61	L8	W51	L7	2		
30		Stephen Belgau	1435	L40	W39	W37	L10	2		
31		Alan Cheng	1401	W59	L9	W55	L11	2		
32		Aashi Mathur	1382	W63	L11	L40	W51	2		
33		Dheeran Koripella	1369	L1	D52	W58	D24	2		
34		Steve Shuman	1357	L15	W41	L7	W53	2		
35		Rian Raja	1316	L25	W56	L18	W57	2		
36		Mike Tie	1316	L6	W61	L26	W55	2		
37		Imai Maharaja	1282	L9	W59	L30	W58	2		
38		Chen Yuan	1280	L10	W63	L13	W49	2		
39		Vihaan Pai	1276	L17	L30	W61	W48	2		
40		Neil Kossuri	1174	W30	L17	W32	L12	2		
41		Aaron Zhang	955	L27	L34	X63	W50	2		
42	42-46	Bright Weng	1324	L5	L55	W56	D44	1.5		
43		Taber Wilmot	1287	L7	W62	L19	H---	1.5		
44		Atharv Rao	1266	L11	L47	W62	D42	1.5		
45		Calliste Herve-Mignucci	1121	H---	W54	L15	L20	1.5		
46		Aditi Sembium	1115	H---	L22	W52	L21	1.5		
47	47-59	Samarth Bharadwaj	1406	L19	W44	L24	U---	1		
48		Daniel Meyerzon	1388	L8	L51	W54	L39	1		
49		Max Cui	1343	L2	L50	W60	L38	1		
50		Veronique Joseph	1329	L16	W49	L10	L41	1		
51		Ishan Nair	1265	L26	W48	L29	L32	1		
52		Michael M Zhang	1238	L18	D33	L46	D54	1		
53		Alexander Blue-Day	1134	L12	L23	W59	L34	1		
54		Xavier Palathingal	988	H---	L45	L48	D52	1		
55		Aakash Mishra	905	L13	W42	L31	L36	1		
56		Miao Zhang	874	L28	L35	L42	W62	1		
57		Amanda Panell	694	F58	B---	L23	L35	1		
58		Ivan Velichko	652	X57	L4	L33	L37	1		
59		Vicky Yin	unr.	L31	L37	L53	W60	1	1st Unrated	
60	60-63	Sai Navaneeth Satish Kumar	910	L21	L24	L49	L59	0		
61		Nicolas Pushckor	849	L29	L36	L39	U---	0		
62		Chien Hua Lee	unr.	L14	L43	L44	L56	0		
63		Sharvil Khosla	unr.	L32	L38	F41	U---	0		

# Washington Bullet Championship

Josh Sinanan

The inaugural Washington Bullet Championship was held during the evening on Sunday, October 15 to conclude WCF's National Chess Day Weekend Festival hosted at Lakeside School in Seattle. This was WCF's first time ever hosting an in-person bullet chess tournament. Bullet Chess is a variant of chess featuring a time control that is faster than three minutes per player. A solid turnout of 22 intrepid speed chess warriors competed in the seven-round Double Swiss tournament, which featured a time control of game in two minutes with a one-second increment per move. Even though the games were too fast to be rated, US Chess Blitz rules were still

in effect. Players from cities including Bellevue, Shoreline, Seattle, Bellingham, Sammamish, Mountlake Terrace, Everett, and Seatac took part in the ultrasonic proceedings. The format consisted of a single Championship section featuring a diverse group of players ranging in level from unrated to master.

Sammamish Chess Prince and newly crowned National Master Stephen Willy (12.5, 2169) dominated the field with an impressive 12.5 points from 14 games, allowing only one draw against Silas Lainson (1731) and one loss to Erin Bian (2155) along the way. Willy's wild aggression and unorthodox style no doubt confused his opponents and gave him the

upper hand on the clock in several of his games. Two players shared second place honors two-and-a-half points back: Vahe Muselimyan (10.0, 2207) of Everett and Erin Bian (10.0, 2155) of Shoreline. A trio of chess speedsters – Owen Xuan (8.0, 1933) of Seattle, Silas Lainson (8.0, 1731) of Bellingham, and Gavin Shi (8.0, 1618) of Seattle – split the U2000/U1800 prize with eight points apiece. Bothell chess phenom Maxwell Sun (6.0, 1165) rose above his rivals to clinch the first U1600 prize with an impressive six points. Seattle chess dude Vahe Gul (5.5, 1343) flew above the field and captured the first U1400 prize. Bellevue speed chess aficionado Sujith S. Arram (5.0,

## Washington Bullet Championship

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	Total pts	Prize
1	1	CM Stephen Willy	2169	WW12	WW14	WD7	WW4	WW2	WL3	WW10	12.5	1st
2	2-3	Vahe Muselimyan	2207	WW9	WL6	WL3	WW14	LL1	WW7	WW11	10	=2nd/3rd
3		WFM Erin Bian	2155	WW16	WL10	WL2	WW11	WW6	WL1	WL4	10	=2nd/3rd
4	4	Austin Liu	2077	WW17	DL7	WW10	LL1	WW5	WW6	WL3	9.5	
5	5	CM Timothy Moroney	2164	WL8	WW18	WL6	WL7	LL4	WD9	WW16	8.5	
6	6-8	CM Owen Xuan	1933	WW22	WL2	WL5	WW9	LL3	LL4	WW18	8	=1st U2000/U1800
7		Silas Lainson	1731	WW21	WD4	DL1	WL5	WW17	LL2	WL8	8	=1st U2000/U1800
8		Gavin Shi	1618	WL5	WL11	LL9	WW18	WL10	WW14	WL7	8	=1st U2000/U1800
9	9	Saiya Karamali	1702	LL2	WW22	WW8	LL6	WL14	DL5	WW19	7.5	Best Female Player
10	10-12	Charles Smith	1817	WW20	WL3	LL4	WL17	WL8	WW12	LL1	7	
11		Gabriel Razmov	1704	WL19	WL8	WW16	LL3	WL12	WW17	LL2	7	
12		Chad Boey	1701	LL1	WW15	LL17	WW13	WL11	LL10	WW20	7	
13	13-14	Valentin Razmov	1899	DL18	WW19	LL14	LL12	WL20	WL16	WW21	6.5	
14		Edward Cheng	1841	WW15	LL1	WW13	LL2	WL9	LL8	WD17	6.5	
15	15	Maxwell Sun	1165	LL14	LL12	WW21	WL20	WL16	WL19	WL22	6	1st U1600
16	16-19	Kai Marcelais	1563	LL3	WW20	LL11	WD19	WL15	WL13	LL5	5.5	
17		Luke Yu	1542	LL4	WW21	WW12	WL10	LL7	LL11	DL14	5.5	
18		Vahe Gul	1343	WD13	LL5	WL19	LL8	WL21	WW22	LL6	5.5	1st U1400
19		Austin Deng	unr.	WL11	LL13	WL18	DL16	WW22	WL15	LL9	5.5	1st Unrated
20	20	Sujith Srivardhan Arram	769	LL10	LL16	WW22	WL15	WL13	WL21	LL12	5	1st U1200
21	21	Vishal Suram	unr.	LL7	LL17	LL15	WW22	WL18	WL20	LL13	4	
22	22	Clay Lainson	1373	LL6	LL9	LL20	LL21	LL19	LL18	WL15	1	



769) earned the first U1200 prize a half-point back. Newcomer Austin Deng (5.5, unrated) of Bellevue won the first Unrated prize with an impressive 5.5 points. Seattle

Chess Queen Saiya Karamali (7.5, 1702) earned the Best Female Player prize with a tournament performance rating of 1855.

Congratulations to the winners, and many thanks to all who came out to honor National Chess Day!



(L) Owen Xuang vs. Vahe Muselimyan during the second round of the Washington Bullet Championship.  
Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.

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# CM Nikash Vemparala Clock Simul



Josh Sinanan



Every once in a while, a chess event just doesn't turn out as planned. Such was the case for the Nikash Vemparala Clock Simul, which took place on Wednesday, October 18 at the Issaquah Highlands Chess Club. The Issaquah Highlands Chess Club (IHCC) and Washington Chess Federation (WCF) once again teamed up to co-host a simul

with a young chess master, but this time with the added dimension of a chess clock on every board – a so called “Clock Simul.” As estimated by the organizers, the starting time of 45 minutes for Nikash and 30 minutes for the simul participants would be sufficient for the eighth grade chess whiz to handle 20 tricky opponents, especially when factoring in the 10-second

increment added after each move. However, things did not run as smoothly as predicted.

The evening opened as usual with a brief introduction by WCF President Josh Sinanan followed by some opening remarks and warm wishes from Nikash to the 20+ simul attendees. As has become customary at IHCC simul events, complimentary Flying Pie pizza and soft drinks were provided for the participants and their families over the course of the evening. The 21-board simul kicked off around 6:15pm, with a few last-minute stragglers sneaking in to fill any empty boards that remained.

(unrated – 1900) participated in the clock simul, which lasted just over two hours. Beside each board starting with a clock, clock simul are structurally different from regular simul, in which one has to wait for the simul giver to return to their before making their move. In a clock simul, the simul players can move whenever they want, and need not wait for the simul giver to return to their board. It became apparent from early in the simul that time pressure would be a major factor in the games, with Nikash averaging around two-three minutes per orbit and most of his opponents responding immediately after he left their board!

Indeed, as the games began to conclude about an hour into the simul, it was clear that Nikash was struggling against his crafty opponents. As Nikash remarked after the simul, “The kids were playing well enough to hang on and run down my clock despite being down material.” Some even resorted to the so-called “King-in-chetto,” in which ones hides the king between three pawns on g7 or b7 (or g2/b2 as White), with the intent of running Nikash out of time before he could finish them off. This led to a rather lopsided final score in favor of the simul players.

## Final Score:

**Nikash Vemparala=6  
Simul Players=15**

## Here are the full results:

1. **Valentin Razmov** (1899, Seattle) - draw
2. **Nikhil Ramkumar** (1823, Bothell) – won by position



*Nikash Vemparala introduces himself to the players before the start of his clock simul as WCF President Josh Sinanan looks on.  
Photo credit: Srikanth Vemparala.*

Players of all ages and ratings



3. **Odbayar Yondon** (1819, Redmond) – draw
4. **Gabriel Razmov** (1704, Seattle) – won on time and position
5. **William Dann** (1678, Kirkland) – lost
6. **Atharv Rastogi** (1420, Issaquah) – won on time
7. **Rafael Palathingal** (1406, Bothell) – won on time and position
8. **Christian Jordan** (1350, Des Moines) – won on time
9. **Luke Dale** (1325, Snoqualmie) – won on time
10. **Yash Sayal** (1305, Sammamish) – won on time
11. **Vihaan Pai** (1276, Sammamish) – won on time
12. **Atharv Kale** (1288, Sammamish) – won by time
13. **Sambuddha Sekhar Das** (1166, Sammamish) – won on time
14. **Sahaan Chadha** (448, Sammamish) – won by time
15. **Brett Boyle** (unrated, Issaquah) – lost
16. **Dhawal Ogale** (unrated, Issaquah) – won on time
17. **Sachin Rastogi** (unrated, Issaquah) – lost
18. **Belet My** (unrated, Lynnwood) – lost
19. **Nieka My** (unrated, Lynnwood) – won on time
20. **Royce Chan** (unrated, Sammamish) – won on time
21. **Aarush Sonawone** (unrated, Issaquah) – lost

Congratulations to the above players who scored a win or a draw against National Master Nikash Vemparala! Nikash took the results well and graciously signed autographs and posed for photographs with the participants at the end of the simul. Needless to say, the organizers will rethink the format of the clock simul and be sure to give adequate time to the simul giver in the future.

## About Nikash Vemparala

Nikash Vemparala is a FIDE Candidate Master and US Chess National Master! He attends the Overlake School in Bellevue, where he's currently in 8th grade. This past summer, Nikash traveled extensively throughout Europe to play in FIDE-rated tournaments. He is on track to become a FIDE Master soon and hopes to one day obtain the IM or GM



*The IHCC playing hall during the Nikash Vemparala clock simul.  
Photo credit: Srikant Vemparala.*



title. Some of Nikash's impressive chess accomplishments include joint 10th Place in World Youth Chess Championships 2022 (U12), tying for second in various US Chess Nationals, Winner of Washington State Championship, Premier Section (2022), and Third Place in North American Youth Chess Championships (U10 Section). Nikash is a two-time Washington State Elementary Chess Champion and is currently ranked #15 in the US for age 13. His current ratings are 2202 US Chess and 2257 FIDE. Away from the chess board, Nikash is an avid dancer!

**Nikash Vemparala (2232) –  
Valentin Razmov (1899) [C45]**  
CM Nikash Vemparala Simul  
Issaquah, WA, October 18, 2023  
[Valentin Razmov]

This game was played in a special context that must be considered in order to appreciate the driving factors behind some moves. Due to the clock simul format with a relatively rapid pace (G/45;+10 for White, and G/30;+10 for Black), time was always a factor in the decisions of the players. Also, the two players had played several games between themselves in recent years at various time controls, so they knew what to expect.

**1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6**  
4...Bc5 is the start of the other main variation for Black in the Scotch Opening.  
**5.Nxc6 bxc6 6.e5 Qe7 7.Qe2 Nd5 8.c4 Nb6**

This is all known theory. At this point, White's clock was draining at a rate of 1–1.5 minutes per move, due to going around the room physically and playing on 20 more boards. 8...Ba6 is the other alternative that Black often chooses here.

From here the game usually progresses with White doing a double fianchetto, whereas Black fianchettoes the king-side bishop. Either side can castle in either direction, which brings interesting potential for variety and surprises. 9.b3 (9.g3 g6 10.b3 Bg7 11.Bb2 0-0 12.Bg2 Rfe8) 9...g6 10.g3 Bg7 11.Bb2 0-0 12.Bg2 Rae8

### 9.b3 g6

9...a5!? is considered more ambitious for Black here, leading to imbalanced play: 10.Ba3 Qe6 11.Bxf8 Rxf8 12.Nc3 a4

### 10.Bb2 Bg7 11.Nd2?!

A common idea, usually associated with preparation for a long castle, but here it delays the king-side development for White, which gives Black valuable time. 11.g3 d6 12.Bg2 Bd7 13.0-0 0-0

### 11...d6 12.f4?!

Once again delaying king-side development.

### 12...Nd7?N

A novelty move, and not a good one. Black gets greedy, attempting to as quickly as possible solve their structural problems. Instead they should finish development first: 12...0-0 13.g3 Bf5 14.Bg2 dxe5 15.0-0 Qc5+

### 13.Nf3?

It's easy to play in "response mode" when you're giving a clock simul and need to make quick decisions on each board. White's move is understandable, attempting to bolster the central e5–pawn. However, it's inconsistent with the ideas of the opening line, namely the need to fianchetto the light-squared bishop, which will now have a much harder time developing. 13.g3 dxe5 14.Bg2 0-0 15.0-0 a5 16.Rfe1

### 13...c5?

Black also continues to "innovate" and capture control of key squares, based on White's unconventional play away from the main diagonal (h1–a8). However, completing development should be higher priority still. 13...0-0

### 14.0-0-0?!

White makes that major decision on the direction of their castle. A courageous decision, under the circumstances! The game will become sharper as a result, relative to the alternative of g3+Bg2+O-O.

### 14...dxe5

14...0-0 was a decent alternative Black considered but decided against: 15.exd6 Bxb2+ (15...Qxe2? 16.Bxe2 cxd6 17.Rxd6±) 16.Qxb2 (16.Kxb2?! Qf6+ 17.Kb1 cxd6) 16...cxd6

### 15.fxe5?!

Another quick, reactive, and almost automatic, but suboptimal move. 15.g3!? 0-0 16.Nxe5 Nxe5 17.Bxe5 Bxe5 18.Qxe5 Qxe5 19.fxe5

### 15...0-0! 16.Qe4?

To quickly finish development, freeing up the light-squared bishop, White chooses a tempting tempo move, but inadvertently saws the seeds of powerful black counterplay. Black's necessary response is, it turns out, their best move, so White accidentally encouraged Black to play what they most needed to do. 16.g3

### 16...Rb8?

Establishing control over the semi-open b-file and preparing to fianchetto the light-squared bishop, with a tempo nonetheless.

### 17.Bd3 Bb7

Black now wins the weakened e5–pawn.

### 18.Qe2?!

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Not the best retreat square for the queen, but a natural quick response. 18.Qe1 is relatively better, as White gets some activity in the resulting heavy-piece endgame, in exchange for the e-pawn that they are about to lose: 18...Bxf3 19.gxf3 Bxe5 20.Bxe5 Nxe5 21.f4 Nxd3+ 22.Rxd3 Qf6 23.Qe5 Qc6 24.Qd5 Qb6

18...Bxf3 19.gxf3 Nxe5 20.Be4?



Position after 20.Be4

Naturally seeking to establish control over the long diagonal as well as to protect the weak f3-pawn. The problem is of a tactical nature — this move self-pins White's bishop, as the queen on e2 is unprotected. 20.Bc2 Rfe8

20...Nc6!

The start of a crucial and beneficial regrouping — utilizing that pin on the e-file in order to land the knight on its most desired outpost on d4 — after which Black's advantage grows even more.

21.Qc2 Bxb2+

Following the established plan for the knight, but missing an interesting and potentially even stronger idea along the way. 21...Nb4!? 22.Bxg7 Nxc2 23.Bxf8 Kxf8 24.Kxc2 is objectively even more advantageous for Black, according to the engines, but the resulting endgame does not look like an easy conversion. Even if I had seen this idea, I am not sure I would



Valentin Razmov, the highest rated player in the clock simul, begins his game with Nikash. Photo credit: Josh Sinanan.

choose to play it.

22.Qxb2 Nd4 23.Rhe1 Qd7?!

With under five minutes left on the clock, it is Black's turn to make a reactive move that escapes a looming threat (discovered attack), instead of continuing to apply pressure themselves, while also improving their pieces: 23...Rfe8!

24.Kb1 Rfd8?!

Not the best place for that rook. 24...Rfe8

25.h4 h5

To avoid trouble around the black king, White's h-pawn must be halted. There is more than one approach for this, however, and Black picks the more predictable defensive option, for practical reasons, rather than the sharper counterattacking

option: 25...a5 26.Qa3 a4 27.Qxc5 axb3 28.a3 Rb6

26.f4!?



Position after 26.f4

White has to "do something," or else their position will slowly but surely crumble.

26...Kh7??

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Here, while calculating the consequences of the correct move candidate (26...Qg4!), I glanced at my clock and saw that I only had seconds left, so quickly made a “less difficult” move. As often happens, such a hurried choice spills Black’s advantage. 26...Qg4! 27.Qf2 (27.Rg1 Qxf4 28.Bxg6? fxc6 29.Rxg6+ Kh7 30.Rg2 Qf5+-+) 27...Rd6

## 27.Qg2?

White misses their best (and only) chance, likely due to the extreme clock pressure on several other boards around. The correct idea instead was what White had hoped for — and even just prepared for: 27.f5! gxf5 (27...Rb6? 28.fxc6+ fxc6 29.Qg2=) 28.Bd3 Re8.

## 27...Qg4!

Given a second chance, Black corrects their earlier mistake and re-establishes the (temporarily) lost prior advantage.

## 28.Qxg4 hxg4 29.h5 f5 30.hxg6+?!

A simplification that isn’t in White’s favor. At this point, however, White had three minutes left on the clock, with several other complicated games on nearby boards, all with clock pressure too. 30.Bd5 instead would aim for White counterplay along the e-file and potentially along the seventh rank too. 30...gxh5 31.Re7+ Kg6 32.Rde1 h4 33.Rxc7 Objectively, Black should be winning this position, but with low time for both players anything can happen here.

## 30...Kxg6 31.Bd3 Re8 32.Rg1 Kf6 33.Rh1 Rh8 34.Kb2 a5 35.Kc3 Rbe8—

The last few moves have been easy and natural to play. At this point, White timed out on my board, and while the position is objectively winning for Black, I decided to offer a draw in gratitude for the interesting game and in recognition of the immense challenge of White playing a clock simul against so many of us. For future clock simuls, based on this experience and discussions with other participants, I recommend time controls of at least G/60;+10 for White and G/45;+10 for Black.

1/2–1/2

**Nikash Vemparala (2232) –  
Luke Dale [A22]**

CM Nikash Vemparala Simul  
Issaquah, WA, October 18, 2023  
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.c4 e5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.g3 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5

Page 28

## 5.Bg2 Nxc3

5...Nb6 is about 100 times more common, generally continuing 6.Nf3 Nc6 7.0-0 Be7, and now 8.a3, 8.d3, and 8.Rb1 are all branches supported by theory and practice.

Traditional advice in similar positions is that the capture on c3 allows White to recapture toward the center, thus improving White’s central control. The concrete structure on the board does not support such certitude, and Stockfish evaluates the resulting position as equivalent to the retreat to b6.

## 6.bxc3 Nc6



Position after 6...Nc6

## 7.e3

This represents a potentially serious weakening of the light squares. White

hopes to achieve a quick central advance, of course. All of these positions must be considered in relation to color-reversed Sicilian structures, which suggest 7.Nf3 leads to roughly equal, normal Dragon-style play.

## 7...Qd3

An annoying intrusion. White could attempt to play around this queen on d3, but that feels complex and uncertain. So, the simul choice is clear:

## 8.Qe2 Qxe2+ 9.Nxe2

9.Kxe2!?

## 9...Bg4 10.h3 Bh5

This development of the light-square bishop gives White some extra possibilities for kingside pawn advance with tempo. 10...Be6 11.d4

## 11.g4 Bg6 12.d4

12.f4!/? gives the game an independent character. Due to the threat to trap the g6-bishop, Black must choose whether to support the e5-pawn (...f7–f6) or to occupy d3 and allow White to remove e5 for the f-pawn. The risk of the latter is that White can capture and/or eject whatever occupies d3, followed by central expansion. For example, 12...Bd3 13.fxe5 Nxe5 14.Nf4 0-0-0 15.Nxd3 Nxd3+ 16.Ke2 Be7 17.Be4 Nxc1+ 18.Raxc1.



Luke Dale begins his game with Nikash in the English Opening.  
Photo credit: Josh Sinanan.



Evaluate that, and all the reasonable alternate branches, and you start to see why chess is hard.

**12...exd4 13.exd4 Bd6 14.0-0 0-0 15.Be3 Rfe8**



*Position after 15...Rfe8*

### 16.Bxc6

The creation of this imbalance has been hanging over the game since move six. White can keep things normal with something like 16.Rfe1 instead, but Black is well-placed to reposition that c6-knight to c4 via a5 soon. When things like that happen, winning ideas for White become scarce.

**16...bxc6 17.Nf4 Be4 18.Ne2?!**

White now succumbs rather quickly under pressure from the bishop-pair. Stockfish suggests 18.f3, with White hanging on by his fingernails, but still awards a small advantage to Black.

**18...f5! 19.gxf5 Bxf5 20.Kg2**

20.c4 Bxh3 hardly seems an improvement.

**20...Be4+ 21.f3?**

21.Kg1 Re6 22.Nf4 Rh6 23.f3 Bf5+ Black's advantage is clear.

**21...Bd3 22.Kf2 Bxe2 23.Kxe2 Bf4**

**0-1**

**Nikash Vemparala –  
Odbayar Yondon [B11]  
CM Nikash Vemparala Simul  
Issaquah, WA, October 18, 2023  
[Ralph Dubisch]**

**1.e4 c6 2.Nf3 d5 3.Nc3 Bg4 4.h3 Bxf3 5.Qxf3 dxe4**

5...e6 is solid and popular. In general, Black should be wary of opening lines for White's bishop pair.

**6.Nxe4 Nf6 7.Nxf6+ exf6 8.c3 Nd7 9.d4 Bd6 10.Bd3 0-0 11.0-0±**

White could consider aiming for 0-0-0

with 11.Be3± here.

**11...Re8**



*Position after 11...Re8*

**12.Bf4?!**

White has the bishop pair and more central space. Neither of those favorable imbalances is improved by this exchange.

**12.Bd2**

**12...Qc7**

12...Bxf4 13.Qxf4 Nb6, heading to d5, is close to equality. If White tries c3-c4 to kick the knight the d4-pawn is weakened.

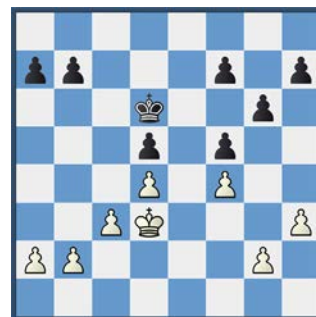
**13.Bxd6**

**13.Bd2!?**

**13...Qxd6 14.Rfe1 Re7 15.Rxe7 Qxe7 16.Qe4 Qxe4 17.Bxe4 g6 18.Bc2 Re8 19.Kf1 Kf8 20.Re1 Rxe1+ 21.Kxe1 Nb6 22.Bb3 Ke7 23.Kd2 Nd5?!**

23...f5 and ...Nb6-d7-f6. The knight can provide a useful distraction dancing around the kingside.

**24.Bxd5! cxd5 25.Kd3 Kd6 26.f4 f5**



*Position after 26...f5*

**27.b4?**

Allows Black to hold White's queenside four-pawn majority with his three, as White is doing with three against the crippled kingside. The way to play for victory is to create a passed pawn, so why not immediately 27.c4±. 27...dxc4+ 28.Kxc4 leaves White with what amounts to an extra passed d-pawn. On the kingside, he'll play h4, g3, and never take on g5.

**27...b5 28.Ke3 Ke6 29.a3 h6 30.g3 f6 31.Kf3 a6 32.Ke3 g5 33.Kf3 Kf7 34.h4 Kg6 35.Kg2 Kh5 36.Kh3 Kg6**

**1/2-1/2**



*Odbayar Yondon, a regular simul participant, plays the Caro-Kann in his clock simul game.  
Photo credit: Josh Sinanan.*

# 2023 Lakeside Fall Classic

Josh Sinanan

The Lakeside Fall Classic chess tournament took place on Saturday, October 21 at Lakeside Upper School in Seattle. A solid turnout of 72 scholastic chess players in grades K-12 competed across four sections parsed by grade level and rating: K-2 U800, K-5 U900, K-12 U1200, and K-12 Open. For fourteen courageous chess gladiators, it was their first ever chess tournament!

The convenient north Seattle location made the tournament accessible to players from throughout the area, including the cities of Bellevue, Sammamish, Bothell, Seattle, Mercer Island, Redmond, Kirkland, Issaquah, Edmonds, Mountlake Terrace, Freeland, Poulsbo, Snohomish, Shoreline, Marysville, Olympia, and Kenmore. The pace of play was ambitious amongst the younger competitors and deliberate amongst the older ones. Many players pulled out their best chess tricks and used the finely tuned strategies and tactics that many of have been developing so far this chess season. Each round featured fearless attacks, interesting sacrifices, and surprising defenses!

For the tournament director Rekha Sagar, the event was a milestone as her pre-school aged daughter Rhea played in her very first chess tournament after attending many that her mom has TD'd. Chess dad and former Head of Lakeside Chess Siva Sankrithi was on-site with fellow chess dad Ken Lee to promote and discuss his family's new book titled *Do Brown Cows Make Chocolate Milk?* The book is beautifully written and details the Sankrithi family's experiences around child-led learning. (See pages 8-11 of this issue for relevant interview by Ken Lee—Editor).

The event was co-hosted by Lakeside Chess and Washington Chess Federation, organized by WCF President Josh Sinanan, and directed by WCF co-Vice President Rekha Sagar with assistance from Lakeside Co-Captain Sophie Szeto. Wonderful photos were taken throughout



(L) Vivienne Luo vs. Krishang Benita-Nagdeep during their second round game.  
Photo credit: Justin Johnson.

the day by photographers Valentin Razmov and Rekha Sagar! Lakeside senior Sophie Szeto and her family ran the concessions, which was adjacent to the spacious parent waiting area in the refectory room of the Wright Community Center. We'd also like to thank Coach

Justin Johnson and the North Kitsap High School Chess Team for all their great help running the tournament. We hope to establish the Lakeside Fall Classic as an annual tradition and make it even bigger and better in the years to come!

Congratulations to the winners:

Lakeside Fall Classic Prizes			
Individual Prizes - Amazon Gift Card Prizes awarded in each section.			
1st \$70, 2nd \$60, 3rd \$50			
Section	1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place
K-2 U800	Sahan Katipally	Krishang Benita-Nagdeep	Alice Li Liam Zhen Kyle Liu Arjun Dasari
K-5 U900	Clora Huang	Jace Liu	Weiai Fang Aryash Singhal Ameya George
K-12 U1200	Anay Agrawal	Ziliang Ma Aaron Zhang	
K-12 Open	Shashank Seela	Oliver Wakeman	Liam Chang Imai Maharaja Tayshu Konde Yang Xu

# 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

**Jan. 27-28**

**SCC Adult Swiss**

**Format:** 4-SS, open to those born before 1/29/2006.  
**TC:** G120; +30. **EF:** Free for SCC members. \$12 for non-members. **Prize Fund:** \$320 gtd. **Prizes:** \$100-70, U1800 50, U1600 45, U1400 40, U1200 & Unrated 15. **Reg:** Sat. 10-10:45 a.m. **Rds:** Sat. 11-4:30, Sun. 11-4:30. **Byes:** 1 available. Rounds 3 or 4 must commit at registration. **Misc:** US Chess memb. req'd. NS, NC. *Sponsored by Henry Yan.*

**Dec 2 & 30**

**Saturday Quads**

**Format:** 3-RR, 4-plyr sec. by rtg. **TC:** G/100;+15. **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.

**Dec 3, Jan 20**

**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.

**Dec 9 *New Date***

**G/20 Hexes**

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

**Dec 10, Jan 7**

**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.

**Jan. 13-14**

**Seattle City Championship**

**Format:** 5-SS. **TC:** G75; +30. **EF:** \$45 (\$34 for SCC mem.) by 1/5, \$57 (\$46 for SCC mem.) thereafter; GMs, IMs, WGMs free. **Unrateds** free w/purch. 1-yr US Chess & WCF. **Prize Fund:** \$620 (b/26 paid, 3/prz gp). **Prizes:** \$150-100, A 90, B 80, C 70, D 60, E & under 50, Unr. 20. **Reg:** Fri. 7-7:45 p.m. or Sat. 9-9:45 a.m. **Rds:** Sat. 10-2-6, Sun. 11-3. **Byes:** 2 available. Rounds 4 or 5 must commit at registration. **Misc:** US Chess memb. req'd. NS, NC.

*Wednesdays are for casual play*

## 5<sup>th</sup> SCC Insanity

**December 31 - January 1**

Five linked events: **Regressive Swiss** {4-SS, Rd 1—G/85;+30 @10:04, Rd 2—G/50;+15 @2:07, Rd 3—G/20;+8 @4:31, G/4;+2 @5:38}, **Chess 960 Quads** [not rated] {3-RR, G/40;+15, Rounds: 6:19-8:38-10:56}, **Midnight Blitz** {5-dbl SS, G/4;+2, Rd 1@ 1:38 am}, **G/15 Quads** {3-RR, G/15;+12, Rds: 2:59-4:06-5:13 am}, **Your First Classical Chess Game of 2023** (1 close-rated game, G/75;+15 @ 6:28)

**Entry Fees:** *Insanity* (all 5 events): \$42.55 for SCC members, \$56.31 all others. *Regressive:* \$25/\$32. *Chess 960:* \$15/\$20. *Blitz:* \$6/\$9. *G/15:* \$9/\$13. *First:* \$0/\$2.

**Prizes:** *Regressive* (b/16) 1st-\$150, 2nd-\$80; Bottom Half 60-40. *Chess 960:* 1st-\$40. *Blitz:* (b/10) 1st-\$30, 2nd-\$15. *G/15:* 1st-\$24

**Registration:** *Insanity & Regressive:* 9-9:41 a.m. For other separate events: up to 17 minutes before the first round. **Misc.:** US Chess memb. req'd for all events except the unrated Chess 960.

All **Insanity** players who are still awake after the final round are invited to breakfast at a restaurant yet to be determined (free or reduced cost, depending on remaining funds & number of diners).



