



\$3.95

November 2013



Ralph Anthony

**Run-Away Northwest Chess
Grand Prix Leader**

Northwest Chess

November 2013, Volume 67-11 Issue 790

ISSN Publication 0146-6941

Published monthly by the Northwest Chess Board.
Office of record: 17317 Woodcrest Drive NE,
Bothell, WA 98011-5443.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:
Northwest Chess, 2501 152nd Ave NE, Suite M16,
Redmond, WA 98052.
Periodicals Postage Paid at Seattle, WA
USPS periodicals postage permit number (0422-390)

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On the cover:

Ralph Anthony, Run-away Northwest Chess Grand Prix Leader, as taken at the 2013 Oregon Open. This is actually the same picture as is shown on page 11 but with some Photoshop work to remove the background. Photo is by Jeff Roland.

Chesstoons:

Chess cartoons drawn by local artist, Brian Berger.

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Submissions of games, stories, photos, art, and other **original** chess-related content are encouraged! Multiple submissions are acceptable; please indicate if material is non-exclusive. All submissions are subject to editing or revision. Send via U.S. Mail to:

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WASHINGTON CHESS FEDERATION



Washington Class Championships A NW Grand Prix Event Nov. 29-30 & Dec. 1, 2013

**Washington Class Championships
Entry Fees and Prize Fund
\$7,000 based on 170 players
Medal-only entry fees count as
half entries.**

**Entry fees listed as: Postmarked by
Oct 25 / By Nov 22 / At site**

Master (2200+) EF \$100/\$110/\$125
Prizes \$500, \$350, \$200, U2300 \$100, \$75

Expert (2000-2199) EF \$90/\$100/\$115
Prizes \$400, \$275, \$175, U2100 \$100, \$75

Class A (1800-1999) EF \$80/\$90/\$105
Prizes \$300, \$200, \$150, U1900 \$100, \$75

Class B (1600-1799) EF \$80/\$90/\$105
Prizes \$300, \$200, \$150, U1700 \$100, \$75

Class C (1400-1599) EF \$80/\$90/\$105
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Class D (1200-1399) EF \$80/\$90/\$105
Prizes \$300, \$200, \$150, U1300 \$100, \$75

Class E (1000-1199) EF \$80/\$90/\$105
Prizes \$300, \$200, \$150, U1100 \$100, \$75

Under 1000/Unrated EF \$70/\$80/\$95
Prizes \$200, \$150, \$125, U800 \$75, Unrated \$75

Advance entries must be received by Nov. 22. Reentry 1/2 of your entry fee. Rated players add \$25 to play up one class only (can't play up two classes). Free entry to GMs, IMs, and WGMs. Juniors (U21) may play for medals only for an advance EF of \$45. (Medals awarded for top two in each class.) Canadians may pay C\$ at par (no coins) for entry fee only.

**ALL PRIZES WILL BE MAILED
starting December 6, 2013.**

Entries/Information:

Send entries to: Eelco Van Ruth,
WCF Tournament Coordinator
415 Williams Avenue South, Unit 205
Renton, WA 98057-2747
Phone: (425) 761-0298
E-mail: eelco1972@hotmail.com
Make checks payable to
Washington Chess Federation.

**Embassy Suites Seattle North/Lynnwood
20610 44th Avenue West, Lynnwood, WA 98036-7701
Phone (425) 775-2500**

**Online Registration at www.nwchess.com/onlineregistration
Pay by credit/debit or PayPal.**

Format: Eight class sections as shown at left, six round Swiss system. Sections may be combined if less than 12 players in a section. Late registrations may receive half-point byes for first round.

Rating: USCF rated. Master/Expert sections also FIDE rated (except G/60 games if applicable). USCF November rating supplement will be used to determine class sections. Higher of USCF or foreign ratings used at TD discretion. Higher of USCF or FIDE rating used for pairings and prizes in Master and Expert sections. Foreign ratings used for players with no USCF rating. Unrated players may only win 1st, 2nd, 3rd prizes in Master section, or unrated prize in Under 1000/Unrated.

Registration: Friday 8:30-9:30 AM for 3-day schedule, or 3:00-3:30 PM if entering with one half-point bye. Saturday 8:00-8:30 AM for 2-day schedule, or 8:30-9:30 AM if entering 3-day schedule with two half-point byes. Two half-point byes available at registration or before end of round 2. Play any two days, if taking two half-point byes.

Rounds: 3-day schedule: Fri: 10:30 AM and 6:00 PM, Sat 10:30 AM and 6:00 PM, Sun 9:00 AM and 3:30 PM. 2-day schedule: Sat 9:00 AM, 11:45 AM, 2:30 PM, then join 3-day schedule with round 4 at 6:00 PM.

Time Controls: 3-day schedule: 30/90 and SD/1 with 5-second delay, except Master and Expert sections will use 40/2, SD/1, d/5 for FIDE compliance. 2-day schedule: G/60 with 5-second delay (rounds 1-3), rounds 4-6 same as 3-day schedule. Please bring tournament chess set, board, and digital clock.

Miscellaneous: Current USCF membership and WCF/OCF/ICA membership required in all sections. Other States Accepted. Memberships may be paid at time of registration. NW Grand Prix event. Trophies Plus Grand Prix Points: 10. Chess Magnet School JGP. No Smoking. No Computers. Wheelchair accessible.

Entries/Prizes/Info: See left column. Please use entry form (available on NWC website) for a list of all discounts and fees, and to indicate schedule, section, side events, and byes requested – or use online registration.

Hotel Info/Rates: \$124.00 king room, single or double occupancy. Call (425) 775-2500 and request the Washington Chess Federation block. The cut-off date for reservations at the discount is November 13, 2013 at 5:00 PM.

Side Event: Washington Class Blitz Championship: Friday 11/29 at 8:30 PM. Format: 5 round Double Swiss in one section. Registration: 7:30-8:15 PM. Rounds: 8:30, 9:00, 9:30, 10:00 and 10:30 PM. TC: G/5 (no delay). EF: \$25. Prize Fund: \$400 based on 20 entries. 1st \$130, 2nd \$90, 1st U2000 \$60, 1st U1700 \$60, 1st U1400 \$60. Miscellaneous: USCF Quick rated. WCF/OCF/ICA membership required.

Washington Class Scholastic (Nov 29): A separate flyer/entry form/online registration link will be published on the NWC website for this event, or contact: David Hendricks, WCF Scholastic Coordinator, 2439 220th Place NE, Sammamish, WA 98074-6418, phone: (425) 868-3881, e-mail: DavidCHendricks@comcast.net.

Rev. 9/13/2013

Spotlight on Ralph Anthony

Northwest Chess Grand Prix Leader

Ralph Anthony is a Class B player from Mukilteo, Washington and currently the overall leader in the Northwest Chess Grand Prix with 218 points as of the last tabulation done on October 5, 2013.

Ralph has competed in tournaments in all three Northwest states. We feature some of his recent games here.

— Editor

Ralph Anthony - H.G. Pitre [B01]
2013 ICA Summer Classic Boise (R5),
August 18, 2013
[Ralph Anthony]

This was a fifth round “Prize Money Game” for both players. Only one would win any prize.

1.e4 d5

Hanniegn “H.G.” Pitre and I also played and roomed together earlier this year at the Clark Harmon Memorial in Portland. We were paired together there as well, and Hanniegn also played the Center Counter Defense. So this was our second time playing this opening against each other. The first game was close and he won when I blundered in a likely drawn endgame. I aimed to keep this game sharp and make any endgame anticlimactic.

2.exd5 Nf6 3.d4

I have noticed this year that Hanniegn’s games often feature isolated doubled center pawns – and usually he owns them!

3...Bg4 4.Be2

I’m not a fan of this move. Either 4.f3 or perhaps 4.Bb5+ seems preferable to me. White doesn’t want to ease Black’s cramped position by exchanging the bishops, and hanging onto the d5-pawn for awhile can be a long-term distraction for Black. – Dubisch

4...Bxe2 5.Nxe2 Qxd5 6.0-0 Nc6 7.c4

Gambiting a pawn for quick development and open lines to attack Black’s queenside.

I call this losing a pawn, rather than gambiting one. Certainly it half-opens the c-file – any time a pawn leaves the board it opens a line – but it doesn’t do anything for White’s development and weakens the d-pawn, which is now isolated. A normal move is to develop with tempo, 7.Nbc3, with approximate equality. – Dubisch

7...Qxc4

I had expected Mr. Pitre to take this pawn.



L-R: Ralph Anthony, H.G. Pitre. Photo credit: Jeff Roland

8.Bf4 0-0-0

Black plays into White’s plan.

Sometimes that’s best, when the opponent’s plan is flawed. This triple-attacks the d-pawn and defends c7. If White ends up defending the pawn, at least three of his pieces will be passively placed. – Dubisch

9.Nd2 Qd3

This surprised me. I didn’t think it was a good move. Were I playing the black pieces I’d probably have been content to strategically retreat the queen, continue development and then pressure Whites isolated queen pawn, possibly win it and be perfectly content to take a one or two pawn advantage into the endgame.

10.Rc1

Lining up, with both barrels (the rook and bishop), directly on the black king.

10...Nd5

A classic move, blocking and fixing in place a weak center pawn with a knight, which also attacks White’s dark-squared bishop.

11.Rxc6

Here I played an exchange sacrifice. At this point White is “in for a penny - in for a pound,” and the position calls for this move. There is really nothing else, if White is playing for a win. The white knights will

now largely serve as “bait,” or as some might say “chum,” while the longer range pieces seek to close in on Black’s king position.

The exchange sacrifice is not sound, but White does stand worse anyway, and passive defense looks doomed. – Dubisch

11...bxc6 12.Qa4

Again a natural follow-on move that this position calls for. Black’s king position has been weakened and the white pieces must close in as quickly as possible.



12...Kb7

Preferring to hang on to the a-pawn rather than grab the knight on e2.

A highly suspect preference. Of course White has no compensation for the whole rook if Black simply captures on e2. Due to the threat to the f4-bishop (and soon, the d2-knight) White has no time to be

capturing either a7 or c6. If, however, White somehow manages to save all the rest of his pieces, the black king could live quite safely on d7, defended by a super-knight on d5. One queen is simply not a sufficient attacking force to justify this kind of material investment. – Dubisch

13.Nc4

13.Rc1 would have allowed Qb5. The “bait/chum” remains intact on e2. Will Black bite??

Though not as strong as it would have been last move, taking the knight on e2 is the best move, and it may be the only move that still wins for Black with correct play. – Dubisch

13...Nb6 14.Na5+ Ka6 15.Qxc6

Two white knights are being offered. What will Black do?

15...e5

Turns them both down cold to do this. A wise choice! Can you see why?

16.Nb7

White can now profit from his investment in attacking complications: 16.Nc1! Qg6 (16...Qb5? 17.Qb7+ Kxa5 18.Bd2+ Bb4 19.Nb3+ Ka4 20.Qxa7+; 16...Qxd4 17.Qb7+ Kb5 18.Nc6 Qxf4 19.Nxa7+ Kb4 20.Qxc7 Rd6? 21.Qc3+ Ka4 22.Qa3#) 17.Qb7+ Kxa5 18.Bd2+ Bb4 19.Nb3+ Kb5 20.Bxb4 Kxb4 21.Rc1 and despite the rook minus, White's threat of Qa6 is winning. – Dubisch

16...Rxd4

17. Nc5 forking the king and queen would have been nice – but no longer works since, thanks to 15...e5, Black's remaining bishop now covers c5.

17.Nxd4 Qxd4 18.Be3 Qd5 19.Nc5+ Bxc5 20.Qxc5 Qxc5 21.Bxc5 Rd8

This move had a huge impact on my assessment of the position. Had White been able to get a rook on the d-file first, the endgame would have been much more competitive.

22.Be3 Kb7

Ironically, the king does not need to retreat here. Earlier, for sure, but not now. The king is a fighting piece in the endgame.

23.h3

Making a luft for the king neutralizing the threat of a back rank mate and putting a pawn on “the right color” for the dark squared bishop.

23...f5

A good logical move.

24.g3

True not the right color square to move a pawn to for this bishop. But necessary to maintain space. White, behind material in the endgame seeks to trade pawns. While Black who is ahead seeks to trade pieces down into a simple won king and

pawn endgame with few chances for complications. Black does have some weaknesses; split pawns on the queenside, three pawn islands vs. White's two, and “knight vs. bishop with pawns on both sides of the board.” All those factors favor White, however Black is still winning here on the basis of 1) being a pawn up on the side where all the pawns are healthy, 2) his rook is much better/more active and 3) Black's king is closer to the center – although by moving his king backwards, perhaps Black doesn't appreciate the importance of that factor?

Optimistic logic. The king is just as close to the center, say the d5-square, on b7 as it would be up on b5, and on b7 it also guards the c-pawn against attack by Rc1. – Dubisch

24...h6

24...Nc4! 25.Bc1 Nd2! 26.Bxd2 Rxd2 27.Rb1 further emphasizes the superiority of the black rook. – Dubisch

25.h4 Rd3 26.Rc1

The white rook grabs the only open or half-open file it can and more importantly cuts the black king off from the center. At least temporarily.

26...Nd5

Normally, with the rooks off the board, this would be a classic bishop vs. knight with pawns all over the board ending. Usually much more favorable to the bishop. With the rooks still on it is much closer between the rook and the bishop and here Black does have a very fine knight.

27.Bc5 h5

A good move, fixing White's kingside pawns on the dark squares – not what White would prefer for his dark-squared bishop. In the endgame, bishops prefer “fluid pawns” while knights often work best when pawns are “fixed” and they can then find fixed permanent support squares and outposts.

28.Rc2

Keeping Black's rook off the second rank.

28...e4 29.Bf8

Am wondering when or if Black will activate his king – as a fighting piece.

29...g6 30.Bh6

Hoping this would hold – provided Black's king continues its nap.

30...Nb4 31.Rc4

The pawn is poison.

31...Rd1+

Black sees that and doesn't take it.

31...Rd1+ is probably the better move, but the a-pawn isn't really poisoned: 31...Nxa2 32.Ra4 Nc1 33.Bxc1 Rd1+ – Dubisch

32.Kg2

White must be very careful here.

32...Nd3 33.Be3 Ne1+ 34.Kh3 Nf3?! 35.Rc1?

During the game I thought this was forced – else Black checkmates White. It is close, but there is no checkmate. Instead I should have played 35.Rb4+ followed immediately by 36.Ra4 picking up Black's a-pawn for nothing and likely preserving at least a draw and perhaps, thanks to the napping black king – a win.

35...Rxc1 36.Bxc1 Ne1

Being down material White is not happy to see pieces traded off and now the white king is misplaced. Black will not be able to win without either activating his king or White blundering.

37.Be3 Nd3 38.Bd4 c5 39.Bc3

This blunder, a move before making time control with less than two minutes on the clock, is too much to overcome. I wonder had I not made this blunder – would the black king continue to nap?

39...Nxf2+ 40.Kg2 Nd3 41.Kf1 Kc6

Finally, two pawns up, the black king gets going.

42.a3 Kd5 43.Ke2 Kc4 44.a4 Kb3 45.a5 Nxb2 46.Be5 Nd3 47.Bb8 a6 48.Bc7 c4 49.Kd1 c3 50.Bf4 c2+ Resigns 0–1

Mark Ethen - Ralph Anthony [A57]

2013 Oregon Open, Reserve Section

Portland (R6), September 2, 2013

[Ralph Dubisch]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 b5 4.b3 d6 5.e3 bxc4 6.bxc4 Bf5 7.Qa4+ Qd7 8.Qxd7+?! 9...g5!?

Piece exchanges help the side with less space. With the queen on d7, Black has some difficulty finding a good spot for the b8-knight. 8.Qa3; 8.Qd1; or even 8.Qa5 is better than the exchange.

8...Nbx7 9.f3 Rb8

9...g5!? 10.e4 (10.Nc3 Bg7) 10...Bg6 11.Bxg5? Bg7 12.Nd2 Nxe4 wins material.

10.e4 Bg6 11.Nc3 a6 12.Bd2 e6 13.Kf2 Be7 14.Nh3 Rb2 15.Ke3 0–0 16.Be2?



16.Na4 is better.

16...Rfb8

16...Nxd5+!! 17.cxd5 Bf6! and Black will win back his piece with interest. The white king has to abandon defense of the otherwise unprotected bishops on d2 and e2. For example 18.Rhd1 Bd4+ 19.Kf4 (19.Kd3?? Ne5#) 19...e5+ (19...Bxc3? 20.Bxc3

Rxe2 21.dxe6 fxe6+ 22.Kg3 and Black can't defend the d-pawn.) 20.Kg3 Bxc3 (or 20...Rxd2 21.Rxd2 Bxc3 22.Rad1 Bxd2 23.Rxd2 though here the a-pawn is loose.) 21.Bxc3 Rxe2 and Black has a clear plus.

17.Rab1?!

Again 17.Na4 ejects the invading took with rough equality.

17...Bd8?!

17...Rxb1 18.Rxb1 Rxb1 19.Nxb1 exd5 20.cxd5 Nxd5+ =+

18.Rxb2 Rxb2 19.Rb1?

19.Bc1 =

19...Rxb1 20.Nxb1 exd5 21.cxd5



21...Nxd5+ 22.Kf2 a5 23.Na3 Nb4 24.Bc4 Ne5 25.Bb3 a4 26.Bxa4 Nxa2 27.Nf4 Nb4 28.Bb3 Bg5 29.g3?!

29.Nxg6! Bxd2 30.Nxe5 dxe5 31.Nc4 Bc3 32.Nd6 winning f7 with an equal ending.

29...Ned3+ 30.Ke2 Nxf4+



31.Bxf4?

In general, when behind material avoid piece exchanges.

Here, specifically, White needs the dark-square bishop to pressure d6 and defend d4. 31.gxf4 Bf6 32.Nb5 Nc6 33.Be3 pushes Black's dark-square bishop into a more passive position: 33...Be7 34.Bd5 Nb4 35.Bc4 and White has some compensation for the pawn.

31...Bxf4 32.gxf4 Kf8 33.f5 Bh5 34.Nc2 Nxc2 35.Bxc2 f6 36.Ke3 Bf7 37.Kd3 Ke7 38.Kc3 d5 39.exd5 Bxd5 40.Be4?

40.f4 extends the game and offers slightly better drawing hopes.

Avoid piece exchanges!

40...Bxe4 41.fxe4 Kd6 0-1



Ralph Anthony at the 2013 Oregon Open. Photo credit: Jeff Roland

Lon Brusselback - Ralph Anthony [B24]
2013 Oregon Open, Reserve Section
Portland (R5), September 2, 2013
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 d6 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.g3 c5 4.Bg2 Nc6 5.f4 Bg4 6.Nf3 Qb6 7.0-0 g6 8.d3 Bg7 9.h3 c4+ 10.Kh2 Bxf3 11.Qxf3 cxd3 12.Qxd3 Rc8 13.a3 a6 14.Rb1 Qd4?



14...0-0

15.Qe2

15.Qxd4 Nxd4 16.e5! dxe5 17.Bxb7 Rc7 18.Bxa6 snags a pawn.

15...Qb6 16.Be3 Qc7 17.Qd2?!

Black's half-open c-file suggests occupation of c4 with a knight, so there's no point in making this maneuver even stronger by creating a free fork of the queen and bishop. Better would be either 17.Rbd1; or 17.Qf2

17...0-0

17...Na5

18.Ne2?!

18.Qf2 +=

18...b5

18...Na5 =+

19.c3 Rfd8 20.Nd4 Na5 21.Qe2 Qc4 22.Qf2 e5 23.Nc2

23.b3 Qc7 (23...Qxc3 24.Rbc1 Qd3 25.Rfd1 Nxe4 26.Qf3 Qxd1 27.Qxd1 White is happy with the material imbalance.) 24.Ne2 Rb8 25.f5 +=

23...Nxe4?

23...Rd7 24.Bb6 Nb3 with mutual chances.

24.Bxe4 Qxe4 25.Bb6 exf4



26.Qxf4?!

An important improvement: 26.gxf4! Nc4 27.Bxd8 Rxd8 28.Rbe1 Qb7 29.Nd4 Black does not appear to have quite enough for the exchange.

26...Qxc2+ 27.Kh1

A not very meaningful improvement: 27.Kg1 Nc4 28.Qxf7+ Kh8 29.Bxd8 Rxd8 30.Rbe1 Ne5 and Black is still winning.

27...Nc4 28.Qxf7+ Kh8 29.Bxd8 Rxd8 30.Qe7

30.Rbe1 Ne5

30...Rg8 31.Rbe1 Qd3

31...Qxb2 is fine for Black, as long as he avoids 32.Qf7 Qxc3?? (32...Ne5! shuts down White's attacking lines and wins easily.) 33.Re8 and White soon forces checkmate.

32.Kh2 Ne5 33.Qb7 Qd2+ 34.Qg2 Nf3+

A nice ending shot. White Resigns 0-1

Allistair Yu - Ralph Anthony [B08]
 2013 Oregon Open, Reserve Section
 Portland (R1), August 31, 2013
[Ralph Dubisch]

**1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6 4.Nf3 Bg7
 5.Bc4 Nxe4 6.Nxe4 d5 7.Bxd5?!**

7.Bd3 dxe4 8.Bxe4 0-0 9.0-0 +=

7...Qxd5 8.Nc3 Qd8

8...Qc4!?

**9.h3 Nd7 10.0-0 0-0 11.Re1 Re8 12.Bf4
 Nf6 13.Bg3 Nd5?**

13...c6

**14.Nxd5 Qxd5 15.Bxc7 b6 16.Bg3 Bb7
 17.Re3**

17.c3

17...Rac8 18.c3 h5 19.Qe2 e6 20.Qd3 g5?!



21.Ne1

21.Be5! f6?! (21...g4 22.Bxg7 Kxg7 23.Re5)
 22.Bxf6! Bxf6 23.Qg6+ Bg7 24.Re5 with a
 big attack: 24...Qc6 25.Rae1 Kf8 26.Rxg5
 Rc7 27.d5! exd5? 28.Rf5+

21...f5 22.f4?!

22.Be5!

22...h4 23.Bh2

23.Bf2 gxf4 24.Re2 is roughly level.

23...g4 24.Kh1 gxh3

24...Kf7

25.Rxh3 Bf6 26.Qe2 Kf7 27.Nf3?!

27.Qh5+

27...Rh8?!

Faster is 27...Rg8 since 28.Nxh4? Bxh4
 and White can't recapture.

28.a3

28.Ng5+! Bxg5 29.fxg5 and White has the
 edge.

28...Rcg8 29.Rg1 Rg4 30.c4 Qc6

30...Qe4

31.b4?

31.Ng5+!? Bxg5 32.fxg5 Rxg5 33.Be5
 activates the buried bishop. The obvious
 33...Rhg8 (33...Rh7 =+) 34.Rxh4 Rxg2
 35.Rxg2 Qxg2+ (35...Rxg2? 36.Qh5+
 Rg6+ 37.d5 and suddenly Black's king is
 the one in big trouble.) 36.Qxg2 Bxg2+
 (36...Rxg2 37.d5! wins for White.) 37.Kg1
 Bd5+ 38.Kf2 Bxc4 39.Rh7+ is only good
 for equality.

31...Rhg8

31...Qe4

32.b5

32.Rxh4!? with complications.

32...Qe4 33.Qf2



33...Bxd4!? 34.Qd2?

34.Qxd4 Qxd4 35.Nxd4 Bxg2+ 36.Rxg2
 Rxg2 37.Rxh4 is a bit obscure, but White's
 king position does not inspire confidence

34...Bxg1 35.Ne5+

35.Qd7+ Kf6 36.Bxg1 Qb1! (36...Rxg2
 37.Bd4+) 37.Qd4+ Ke7

**35...Kf6 36.Rf3 Bxh2 37.Nxg4+ fxg4
 38.Qc3+ Kf7 0-1**

**Ralph Anthony (1697) -
 James Nelson [B06]**

2013 Seattle Fall Open, Reserve Section
 Seattle (R2), September 21, 2013
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.Nf3 d6 4.Bc4 Nd7??



5.0-0?

Missing the classic trap 5.Bxf7+! Kxf7
 (Only slightly better is 5...Kf8 6.Ng5 Ndf6
 7.Bb3 Nh6 8.Nc3 +-) 6.Ng5+ Kf6 (6...Ke8
 7.Ne6; 6...Kf8 7.Ne6+) 7.Qf3#

5...c6?

5...e5!? may even be playable here,
 depending on the evaluation of the position
 after the forcing sequence 6.Ng5 Nh6
 7.Bxf7+ Nxf7 8.Ne6 Qe7 9.Nxc7+ Kd8
 10.Nxa8 exd4

6.Ng5! Nh6

6...d5 may be the best try, but 7.exd5 Nb6
 8.Qf3! Nh6 9.dxc6! Nxc4 10.cxb7 seems
 to simply refute Black's attempt to block
 the attacking diagonal.; 6...e6 also runs
 into a combination: 7.Bxe6! fxe6 8.Nxe6
 Qb6 9.Nxg7+ Kf7 10.Nh5! gxh5 11.Qxh5+
 with material parity and a continuing attack
 against the exposed black king.

**7.Bxf7+ Nxf7 8.Ne6 Qa5 9.Nxg7+ Kf8
 10.Ne6+ Kg8 11.Bd2 Qb6 12.d5**

12.c4!?

12...Nde5

12...Nf6 13.Nc3 Bxe6 (13...Ne5) 14.dxe6
 Nd8 15.Be3 Qc7 16.f4 Nxe6 17.f5 with
 attack.

13.Kh1

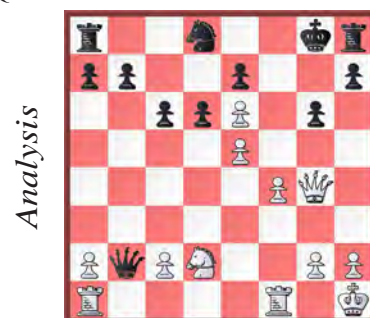
13.Be3! Qxb2 14.Bd4 Qb4 15.f4 Black is
 toast.

**13...Bxe6 14.dxe6 Nd8 15.f4 Nc4
 16.Qg4?!**

16.f5!?

16...Nxd2 17.Nxd2 Qd4

Since the point is to defend by bringing the
 queen back along the long diagonal, why
 not snag the b-pawn in the process? 17...
 Qxb2!? 18.e5!



(18.f5 Qg7) 18...dxe5? (After 18...Qxc2
 19.exd6 Qf5 20.dxe7 Nxe6 a plausible
 line might be 21.Qg3 Re8 22.Rae1 Rxe7?!
 23.Re5 Qf6 24.Ne4 and White is winning
 with ideas involving Qb3, Nd6 or Ng5,
 Rf1, and even f5 depending on Black's
 choice of queen retreat.) 19.f5 Kg7 20.Qh4
 Re8 21.f6+ with a crushing attack.

18.f5! Qg7

18...Qxd2 19.Qh4! g5 20.Qh5 Kg7 (20...
 Kf8 21.Qh6+ Kg8 22.f6 exf6 23.Qxf6 and
 there is no defense.) 21.Rad1 and White
 wins by pushing the queen off the c1-g5
 diagonal.

19.c3 gxf5 20.Qxf5 h5 21.Rf3



**21...Qf6 22.Qxf6 exf6 23.Rxf6 Kg7
 24.Raf1 Re8 25.e7**

25.Nc4 Rxe6 26.Nxd6 (26.Rxe6 Nxe6
 27.Nxd6 Rd8 28.e5 is also good.) 26...Rxf6
 27.Ne8+ and the two-pawn advantage in
 the ending should prove decisive.

**25...Rxe7 26.Rxd6 Nf7 27.Rd4 Rae8
 28.Kg1 Ng5 29.Re1 Ne6 30.Rd6 Nf4**

31.e5?

31.Rf1

31...Rxe5 32.Rxe5 Rxe5 33.Rd7+ Kg6
34.Nf3?!

34.g3

34...Rb5

34...Re2 35.Rd2

35.Rd2 Ra5 36.b3 Rf5?? 37.Nh4+ Black
resigned 1-0

**Ralph Anthony (1697) -
Nathaniel Yee (1680) [B38]**

2013 Seattle Fall Open, Reserve Section
Seattle (R3), September 21, 2013
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 g6
5.Be3 Bg7 6.c4 Nf6 7.f3 0-0 8.Nc3 d6
9.Be2 Bd7 10.Qd2 a6 11.0-0 Rc8 12.Rfd1
Ne5 13.b3 Re8 14.Rac1 Qa5



15.Nd5 Qxd2 16.Rxd2 Nxd5 17.exd5 b5
18.Rdc2 bxc4 19.bxc4 Rc7 20.c5 dxc5
21.Rxc5 Rxc5 22.Rxc5 Rc8 23.Nb3 Ra8
24.Ra5 Bc8 25.Nc5 e6?

25...Rb8 offers some tactical chances:



26.Bxa6? (26.Nb3 +=) 26...Bxa6 27.Rxa6
(27.Nxa6?? Rb1+ 28.Kf2 Nc4 29.Rc5
Rb2+ 30.Kg3 Nxe3 -+) 27...Nc4 28.Bf4
Rb1+ 29.Kf2 Bd4+ 30.Ke2 Bxc5 31.Rc6
Rb5 32.a4 Ra5 33.Bc7 with equality, for
example.

26.dxe6

26.f4! Bh6 (26...Nd7 27.dxe6 Nxc5? 28.e7)
27.dxe6 fxe6 28.Ra3 Nd7 (28...Nf7 29.Rb3
dominates the queenside.) 29.Nxe6 with a
clear advantage.

26...fxe6 27.Kf2

? 27.Nxa6 was better. – Anthony

Walking into the pin with 27.Nxa6 is a little
awkward for White.

27...Kf7 28.Nxa6 Nc6



29.Rc5?

Instead 29.Ra4 is winning. – Anthony

29...Bxa6 30.Rxc6 Bxe2 31.Rc7+ Kf6
32.Kxe2 Rxa2+ 33.Bd2 Bh6 34.Rd7
Bxd2 35.Rxd2 Ra7 36.Rd8 Ra2+ 37.Rd2
Rxd2+ 38.Kxd2 Kf5 39.Ke3 g5 40.h3 h5
41.g3 h4 42.gxh4 gxh4 43.f4 Draw Agreed
1/2-1/2

**Ralph Anthony (1697) -
Murlin Varner (1639) [C16]**

2013 Seattle Fall Open, Reserve Section
Seattle (R5), September 22, 2013
[Ralph Anthony]

1.e4 e6

This was the second time Murlin and I
have played. Earlier this year, in Tacoma,
Murlin also played the French against me.
That game was drawn. In that one I offered
a bishop sacrifice – but Murlin was having
none of it.

This game was the money game for both
of us. The situation was, in the under 1700
section, Murlin had 3 out of 4, I had 3.5 out
of 4 and Naomi Bashkansky had byed out
in the final (fifth round) with 4.5 points. I
won this game to tie for first and second
place with 4.5 out of 5 with Naomi. We
each received \$142.50.

This game is a good example of taking an
advantage out of the opening and making
much more out of it. Murlin really only
made one small misstep in the opening that
lead to a whole lot of trouble. We've all
done it.

2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e5 Nd7 5.a3 Ba5?

I was shocked. This is not recommended,
even for players who strongly prefer
bishops over knights. The book move is
Bxc3, followed by Black attacking either
the base, (usually with ...c5), or head of
White's center pawn chain, (usually with
...f6) – or both. A gritty, tense battle for the
center often ensues.

6.b4 Bb6

This severe cramping of Black's queenside
results from not trading off the bishop for
the knight, and thereby doubling White's
c-pawns and destroying White's queenside
pawn structure. Now the white queenside
pawns and virtually all of White's pieces
are ready to roll. While for Black the exact
opposite case exists. One of the biggest
problems I had in this game was trying not
to use all my clock trying to choose among

all the very many good moves at White's
disposal on almost every turn.

7.Na4

Wasting no time going after the bishop,
while unblocking the c-pawn.

7...f6

Attacking the head of White's pawn center.

8.c4!

There were many moves to choose from
here. This was chosen for two reasons: 1)
It hurts Black the most, and 2) It is "now
or never" for this move. If it can even be
played later, it will never be as strong as it
is now. At the moment, if not acted strongly
upon by White, White's advantages could
be fleeting and therefore White must act
quickly to make his advantage permanent.
A collateral benefit of this move is that,
should it be expedient, the knight can now
come back to c3 without blocking the
c-pawn.

8...dxc4 9.Bxc4

Developing with a gain of tempo. In the
French, Black seeks to undermine White's
pawn center. Here White gets a head
start on crumbling Black's center pawns.
The d-pawn has already disappeared; the
greatly weakened e-pawn presents a juicy
target ripe for attacking.

9...fxe5

Blacks remaining center pawns are now
doubled and isolated sitting ducks actually
blocking in the black pieces. They are a
liability rather than an asset.

10.Nc5

This move has multiple purposes. It brings
the knight in off the edge of the board
towards the center, blocks out Black's dark
square bishop, attacks the greatly weakened
e6-pawn, sets the stage to reunite White's
isolani (isolated queen pawn) with the
white queenside pawn chain should black
capture the knight on c5, makes room for
the threat of Qa4, and finally threatens to
block the doubled isolated e-pawns and
also radiate influence in all directions from
the center of the board by going to e4.

10...Bxc5

After all this the bishop still winds up
getting traded for the knight. It would
have been far less costly for Black had this
capture taken place several moves earlier
on c3.

11.dxc5

Repairing the white pawn structure by
Reuniting whites Isolani with the other
queenside pawns. Also taking away blacks
last real chance to undouble his isolated
center pawns.

11...Qe7

Guarding a flimsy pawn from an aggressive
bishop – sad duty for the mighty queen.

12.Ne2

This knight must come out, White must castle, bring up the rooks and hit Black as quickly and as hard as possible so that Black, who has been staggered, has no chance to regroup or recover. Nf3 would have allowed ...e4, harassing the white knight with a gain of tempo while making space for a knight on e5 and generally throwing off White's plans.

From this square (e2) the white knight can tour through g3 or c3 on its way to e4, blocking Black's isolanis, and points beyond.

12...Ngf6 13.Ng3

Pivoting through g3 on the way to e4 and points beyond.

13...g6?

I did not and still do not understand why this was played here.

14.Bh6!

Knifing into Black's kingside, preventing castling.

14...c6

Intending to free his game, at least somewhat, with ...Nd5, ...N7f6, ...Bd7 and finally ...0-0-0. But it all takes too long and is too little too late.

15.0-0

Mobilizing White's heavy pieces and removing the king from the center.

15...Nd5

Step one of Black's plan to free himself.

16.Ne4

White's plan will be quicker and much harsher.

16...Qh4

Attacking three undefended white minor pieces at the same time. Can they all be saved?

17.Nd6+

Yes they can.

17...Ke7

17...Kd8 would have allowed 18.Bg5+ (NOT 18.Nf7+ which merely wins a rook.) 18...Qxg5 19.Nf7+ forking Black's king and queen and winning the queen for a bishop.

18.Qd2

Threatening to win the queen with Bg5+ forking king and queen.

18...Nf4 19.Bxf4

The bishop had served its purpose and the black knight was becoming a nuisance. Black's only active piece is the queen.

19...Qxf4 20.Nxc8+

The start of another combination.

20...Raxc8 21.Qd6+ Kd8

21...Ke8 22.Bxe6 wins.

22.Bxe6

Threatening mate in one.

22...Qd4

Desperation, hoping for 23.Qxd4, when the knight would escape, but not the e-pawn.

23.Rad1

Piling on with heavy pieces.

23...Qxd6 24.Rxd6

Threatening again to win the knight.

24...Rc7 25.Rfd1

Piling on a weakness. The knight can't be saved.

25...Ke7 26.Bxd7 Rf8

Too little too late.

27.Be6 Rf4 28.Bb3

The start of another combination.

28...b6 29.Re6+

Winning the remaining e-pawn. With no remaining black pieces being blocked in by these pawns it was time for White to sweep them off the board.

29...Kf8 30.Rxe5 bxc5 31.Rxc5 Re4 32.Kf1

Gaining complete control over e1, moving the king towards the center for the endgame, and taking away any remaining threats of a back rank mate.

32...Kg7 33.Rdc1

Piling on a weakness. The c-pawn will fall and the defending rook will have to run or be traded off. Black Resigns. 1-0

Ralph Anthony - Dave Prideaux [C02]

Portland Game in Sixty Minutes Portland Chess Club (R1), August 24, 2013
[Ralph Anthony]

In this game White sacrifices a bishop for a pawn, gambits the pawn back and then sacrifices the white queen for two black knights. Aside from some double rook sacrifices, decades ago, I can't remember ever sacrificing this much material in one game.

1.e4 e6 2.d4 c5

Looked at first as a French Defense, now as an old Benoni or Sicilian. I decide to make it an Alapin or c3-Sicilian.

3.c3 cxd4 4.cxd4 d5 5.e5

Now looks as a French Defense again - without the c-pawns.

An early exchange of c-pawns in the advance French should slightly favor White, allowing development of the b1-knight to c3. - Dubisch

5...Bb4+ 6.Nc3 Ne7 7.Bd3 Qb6 8.Nge2

Here the d-pawn does not need to be immediately defended. Since as in the French, if the black queen should capture on d4, White picks up the black queen with

a bishop check on either b5 or h7 followed by just capturing the queen on d4.

True, but that doesn't really explain the development of this knight to e2. It is more aggressively posted on f3, and White also now has the option of forcing a capture on c3 with 8.a3. - Dubisch

8...0-0

Now the check that would uncover a discovered attack on d4 moves from b5 to h7.

9.0-0 Bxc3 10.Nxc3

The trap is now set. Will Black chomp down on the d4 bait/chum?

10...Nbc6

No! Dang! Well I can move on now knowing that I at least tried without compromising my position in any way.

That's a debatable conclusion. White was so focused on the hope of a blunder, the capture on d4 by the queen, that he missed the far superior recapture on c3: 10.bxc3!



That move shifts the base of the pawn chain to c3, which is actually quite difficult for Black to attack effectively. So Black would have surrendered his good bishop for a knight and solidified White's center, while also giving White a half-open b-file and potential development of the bishop to the a3-f8 diagonal, leading to a significant advantage for White. - Dubisch

11.Nb5

Another side-effect of the obsession with offering the d-pawn is that now it's actually hanging. The best defense is the developing move 11.Be3 since capturing the b-pawn offers White quite a lot of compensation: 11...Qxb2 12.Nb5 a6 13.Rb1 Qxa2 14.Ra1 Qb2 15.Qh5 g6 16.Qg5 when White's threats of Rfb1 as well as Qf6 and Bh6 force some serious material concessions from Black. - Dubisch

11...a6

Chasing the knight to where it wants to go (d6).

And winning material. - Dubisch

12.Bxh7+

But first, before moving the knight to d6, an intermezzo! In my only other encounter with Mr. Prideaux, also in Portland earlier this year, I also sacrificed a bishop to expose the king. Here the white pawns, bishops and queen all point/aim towards

the black kingside and the white rooks are ready to roll, hot on the heels of the other attacking white pieces. While all of Black's pieces are either undeveloped behind a wall of pawns or are too far away and on the wrong side of the board to be of much help. Besides one walled off rook and a timid knight, the black king doesn't have many close friends. I'm willing to invest a piece to clear lines, expose the black king and gain at least two tempi. Looks like a bargain.

?? We see quite a lot of optimism in Mr. Anthony's positional evaluations. While a little optimism occasionally is probably not a bad thing, being able to evaluate objectively is a critical chess skill. Here, for example, it could be important to figure out concretely whether Black can bring up defensive force more quickly than White can bring to bear all those pawns, bishops (actually bishop, since he just gave away one), queen, and rooks ready to roll. Also, though the gain of tempo can be worth material, the usual guideline in the opening has three tempo for a pawn, not two tempo for a piece.

Even more to the point, just where are these gained tempo? In the starting position, prior to White's move 12, White has a bishop developed on d3 and a knight on b5 (under attack), and it is White's move. At the end of the sequence 12.Bxh7+ Kxh7 13.Qh5+ Kg8, White has a queen developed on h5 and a knight, still under attack, on b5, and it's again White to move. Basically, that gained absolutely no tempo. It's possible that the improvement in the position of the queen is worth something – more than the original placement of the bishop – but that has yet to be proven. – Dubisch

12...Kxh7

That was the first tempo.

13.Qh5+

There's the second.

13...Kg8 14.Nd6

That knight is going to be awesome on d6. Beside contributing to the attack it will help seal off and block out any defensive "linebackers" that might want to flow towards the kingside to attempt "tackling" the attacking white pieces.

14...Nxd4

Gambiting a pawn back. At this point it is relatively insignificant. In fact White may likely gain time attacking this knight later. In the meantime it blocks the black queen.

While the knight capture is certainly not bad, 14...Qxd4! instead puts a serious crimp in White's attacking plans. It eliminates both of White's center pawns, brings the queen over to the kingside to aid in the defense, strongly suggests a queen exchange, once it lands on e5, and eventually forces the exchange of that advanced knight on d6 for the very bad bishop on c8. – Dubisch

15.Rd1 Ndf5 16.Rd3 g6



Possibly stronger is 16...Nxd6 17.Rh3 f6 showing the big downside of giving up the light-squared bishop; White simply does not have enough white-square control to corral the black king. – Dubisch

17.Nxf5

Intuitively this just felt right.

17...gxh5

There goes the queen - hopefully she won't be missed - too much!

18.Nxe7+ Kh8

This move is a blunder. A few moves ago I saw that the dark-squared bishop should come to f6 and along with the knight on e7 form a wall of squares on the g-file that the black king can not touch or cross. By moving the king to h8 the white bishop will, later, be able to do this with a gain of one tempo (it will give check as it moves to f6). That is huge.

Well, it's clear this isn't the most accurate move, but I think the bigger mistakes are on move 21 and 25. – Dubisch

19.Bg5 Qxb2

Am not concerned with pawns – when the opponent's king is on the ropes. The rook, however, is another matter. First the bishop must go to f6 with a gain of tempo. It will not cost White a move since the black king will be forced to move.

Interesting is 19...f6 showing a willingness to part with a little of the extra material to reduce the attacking force. 20.Bxf6+? (or 20.exf6 Qxb2) 20...Rxf6 21.exf6 Qxb2 and, when White saves the a1-rook, 22.– Qxf6 leaves Black with a safe king and a huge material plus. – Dubisch

20.Bf6+ Kh7

Now all White needs is a rook or two on the h-file to mate.

21.Rf1



21...Bd7

? Better is 21...Re8 to have the option of giving back the exchange to lift the mating net. – Dubisch

22.Rh3

Threatening mate in one.

22...Qe2

Meeting the first mate threat.

23.f3

Blocking out the queen and renewing the mate threat.

23...Qe3+ 24.Kh1 Qh6 25.g4 hxg4

Giving back a lot of the sacrificed material.

? This definitely should cost Black the win, as we'll see shortly. Black retains at least some winning chances with other moves, though there are significant technical problems ahead. Interesting are, for example, 25...h4!? 26.Rxh4 Qxh4 27.Bxh4 Rfe8; and 25...Bb5!? 26.Rg1 Bd3 (26...Bc4 27.g5 Qg6 28.Nxg6 fxg6 may be an even better version, since the bishop is not as vulnerable to a tempo gain as it is on d3, it attacks a2, and it also blocks the c-file for a slow Black build-up.) 27.g5 Qg6 28.Nxg6 fxg6 when the question is whether Black can overcome the drawing factor of opposite bishops in this ending, though it looks quite favorable. – Dubisch

26.Rxh6+ Kxh6 27.fxg4 Bc6



28.Rf4

28. Rf3 would have been met by ...d4 pinning the rook.

Actually, White can force a draw here with the unusual perpetual check 28.Rf3! d4 29.Nxc6 bxc6 30.Rh3+ Kg6 31.Rh5! and there's no way to escape the Rg5+/Rh5+ repetition. – Dubisch

28...d4+ 29.Nxc6

This is now an endgame. The White mating threats have largely evaporated. After making this move white had just two minutes and four seconds left for the entire game, as this was a game in sixty minutes, with five seconds delay per move, event. Black had ten and a half minutes left.

29...bxc6 30.Rxd4

Here White still has time for 30.Rf3! followed by Rh3, Rh5, and the same draw as in the note to White's move 28. – Dubisch

30...c5

Since neither player saw the drawing pattern, it is not surprising (especially in time pressure) that Black didn't play 30... Rfb8 31.Rd3 Rb4 trying to break up the pattern by undermining support of the rook when it reaches h5



32.Rh3+ Kg6 33.Rh4 c5 34.h3 Rf4! 35.Rh5 Rf5!! (though of course the simple 35... Rxf6 36.exf6 Rc8 is also easily winning for Black.) 36.gxf5+ Kxh5 Since the drawing idea was rather mechanical, it makes sense that Black needed to throw a wrench into the works. – Dubisch

31.Rd7

I had seen all this a few moves before so was able to move fairly quickly here.

? And even here, you guessed it, 31.Rd3! leads to the same draw. – Dubisch

31...Rac8 32.Be7 Rg8 33.h3 c4 34.Ba3 Rg7 35.Kg2 c3 36.Ra7 c2 37.Bc1+



37...Rg5

A very serious error. At this point Black had three minutes left and White a minute and five seconds.

?? Simply 37...Kg6 leaves practically no chance for White to hold. – Dubisch

38.h4 Rc4 39.Bxg5+

? Stronger is 39.hxg5+ Kg6 40.Kf3 winning. – Dubisch

39...Kg6 40.Bc1 Rxc4+ 41.Kf3

To save the bishop, 41.Kf2 Rxh4 42.Ke3 works, but there are definitely technical difficulties converting the ending as more pawns come off the board. – Dubisch

41...Rg1 42.Be3 c1Q 43.Bxc1 Rxc1 44.Rxa6

White won in a quick-play finish. When it was over. White had twelve seconds left and Black nine.



Ralph Anthony at the 2013 Oregon Open. Photo credit: Jeff Roland

This ending is theoretically drawn, but anything can happen in a quick-play finish! – Dubisch
1-0

August Piper (1607) -
Ralph Anthony (1697) [B50]
Seattle Fall Championship Seattle Chess
Club (R1), September 20, 2013
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.Nc3 Nf6 2.b3 c5 3.e4 Nc6 4.Nf3 d6
5.Bb2 g6 6.g3?! Bg7 7.Bg2?

7.Qc1 =+

7...Nxe4 8.Qe2 Nxc3 9.dxc3 Qa5 10.Qd2
0-0 11.0-0 Rb8 12.a3 Qc7 13.Rfe1 b5
14.Rad1 Bb7 15.Bc1 Rfe8 16.Ng5 Rbd8

16...h6

17.Bd5

17.Qf4!?

17...Ne5?

17...Rf8



18.Bxf7+?

18.Rxe5! dxe5 (18...Bxe5 19.Bxf7+ Kh8
20.Bxe8 Rxe8 21.Nf7+ Kg7 22.Nxe5 dxe5
23.Qd7) 19.Bxf7+ Kh8 20.Be6 (20.Bxe8!
Rxd2 21.Rxd2! is an interesting material
imbalance. White threatens Rd8. 21...h6
22.Ne6 Qb6 23.Rd8 Kh7 24.Bf7 Qc6 Now

White must force the draw: 25.Bg8+ Kh8
26.Bf7+) 20...Rxd2 21.Nf7+ Kg8 22.Ng5+
with perpetual check (Not 24...g5? 25.Rg8
Bf6 26.Nf8#).

18...Nxf7 19.Ne6 Qc6 20.f3 Qxf3 21.Nxd8
Qh1+ 22.Kf2 Qg2+ 23.Ke3 Qf3# 0-1

The following game is another game that Ralph Anthony played while at the ICA Summer Classic. In the final position, Ralph offered me a draw. I was directing the tournament, taking all the pictures, and playing too, so I accepted. I actually believe Ralph had a better position. —Editor.

Ralph Anthony (1510) –
Jeffrey Roland (1731) [C80]
2013 ICA Summer Classic Boise (R3),
August 17, 2013

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6
5.0-0 Nxe4 6.Re1 Nc5 7.Bxc6 dxc6
8.Rxe5+ Be7 9.Nc3 0-0 10.d4 Ne6 11.Re1
Re8 12.Be3 Bd7 13.Ne5 f6 14.Nxd7
Qxd7 15.Ne2 Rad8 16.c3 Bd6 17.Qb3
b6 18.Rad1 Kh8 19.Ng3 Nf4 20.Qc2 g6
21.f3 Nd5 22.Bf2 f5 23.Nf1 f4 24.Nd2 Nf6
25.Ne4 Nxe4 26.Rxe4 Rxe4 27.Qxe4 Re8
28.Qd3 ½-½



Ralph Anthony in round three at the 2013 ICA Summer Classic in Boise.
Photo credit: Jeff Roland

Washington Chess News

Seattle Sluggers

by Joshua Sinanan

Week 4: 9-17-2013



The Sluggers lost a tough match against the Philadelphia Inventors, whom we defeated last season in the championship match in our only other encounter. The story of the match was the power of the King's Indian Defense, which yielded the Inventors two victories with the black pieces in the only two decisive games.

The match was hosted by the Orlov Chess Academy in Redmond under the supervision of our TD, Bert Rutgers. As usual, all games were played on chess.com.

On board one, Emil Anka faced off against the strong up-and-coming FM Tom Bartell, who opted for the King's Indian Defense against Emil's Queen's Gambit. Emil had prepared the Makagonov system starting with 6.h3, and the game followed well-trodden theory until move 12, where Emil improved with 12.a3 instead of the more often seen 12.0-0. A complicated middle-game ensued, and Emil had a big opportunity to secure a long-lasting advantage had he found 18.g3!, when Black has to respond with either ...Ne6, dropping his d6 pawn, or ...Nh3, which leaves the knight trapped and out of play. Instead, 18.exf5 was played, which allowed Bartell to activate his dormant light-square bishop and seize the initiative. Given the match situation, Emil felt that he had to press

| 2013 Schedule | | | | |
|---------------|------------|-------|-------------------------|---------------|
| Week | Date | Color | Opponent | Result |
| 1 | 8/27/2013 | W | Arizona Scorpions | tie, 2-2 |
| 2 | 9/4/2013 | B | Los Angeles Vibe | lost, 1.5-2.5 |
| 3 | 9/10/2013 | B | St. Louis Arch Bishops | lost, 1.5-2.5 |
| 4 | 9/17/2013 | W | Philadelphia Inventors | lost, 1-3 |
| 5 | 9/24/2013 | W | San Francisco Mechanics | won, 3-1 |
| 6 | 10/2/2013 | W | Dallas Destiny | won, 2.5-1.5 |
| 7 | 10/8/2013 | B | Baltimore Kingfishers | tie, 2-2 |
| 8 | 10/16/2013 | W | Los Angeles Vibe | lost, 0.5-3.5 |
| 9 | 10/22/2013 | B | Arizona Scorpions | lost, 1-3 |
| 10 | 10/30/2013 | B | San Francisco Mechanics | |

for the win and chose the risky plan of going after the weak d6-pawn. Fireworks ensued with Black getting the better of the complications, which Bartell converted in fine style. He was awarded the *game of the week* prize for his efforts.

Curt Collyer played his first-ever match on board two against the strong FM Dov Gorman, who was the top performer on board 3 last season. Curt continued where he left off last year and opted for his favorite Owen's Defense with 1...b6, which Gorman apparently had expected given the speed at he played the opening moves. A typical Hippo structure was reached, with White opting for the aggressive set-up of castling queenside and launching the h-pawn up the board. After the somewhat inaccurate 11.g3?!, Curt obtained a pleasant position with ...Nf6-g4, trading off Gorman's dark-square bishop, which is a very important piece in the Hippo. A dynamically equal middle game resulted, with White's pressure down the open g-file and Black's somewhat vulnerable king compensated by Black's central pawn duo, semi-open c-file, and double-fianchettoed bishops. A long

sequence of trades occurred starting on move 23, and a level bishop ending was reached, with Black having slightly better chances due to his more active bishop and White's pawn targets on e4 and h5. Curt could have obtained strong winning chances had he played 34...c4 before ...Be8, so as to prevent any break-

throughs on the queenside before collecting the h5 pawn. Gorman soon won Curt's a-pawn and missed a clear win with 45.e5! instead of Kxf6, which is only slightly better for White. Eventually, a queen ending was reached with Gorman having two extra connected pawns. In mutual time trouble, Gorman missed several tricky wins and a stalemate was finally reached on move 115, which coincidentally was the same number of moves as the other three games combined!

I was paired against Senior Master Peter Minear on board three. In an attempt to channel long-time Slugger veteran GM Gregory Serper, I chose the Hungarian system against the King's Indian, starting with 5.Nge2-g3. Perhaps expecting me to play the fianchetto system, Minear was forced to improvise and came up with the rare continuation 7...h5, where ...c6 or ...a5 are much more common. I missed a big opportunity to win a clean pawn on move 12 with 12.dxc6 followed by Qxd6, when 13...Rd8 can be met by Qa3!, and Black has little compensation for the pawn. Instead, I castled long and soon found my queenside under heavy pressure from Black's minority attack. In a difficult position, I made a fatal error with 19.Be7, completely missing the strong reply b5!, after which Black's attack crashes through. Minear converted nicely with ...f5 followed by ...f4 and bringing his light-squared bishop in along the b1-h7 diagonal, to which there was no adequate defense. Despite only being one pawn down, I got mated by two rooks, a bishop, and a pawn on the a-file. This match certainly was a good advertisement for the attacking potential of the King's Indian Defense!

In a rematch from last season's final,

Joshua C. Sinanan

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President, Washington Chess Federation

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Roland Feng duelled IM Richard Costigan, who is more than four-times his senior! The IM went for a solid Torre Attack, to which Roland responded with a Queen's Indian-style set-up. The pawn structure soon changed to a Stonewall when Roland played 11.f5, which our Stonewall expert, Tian was happy to see while watching the games online. The dark-square bishops were soon swapped, and a dead level middle game was reached, which Costigan tried to complicate by breaking with c4. Roland defended well and soon gave White an isolated pawn on d4, which he may have been able to exploit had he found the maneuver 19...Nb8-c6. Instead, White was able to trade the light-square bishops and Black ended up with an uncomfortable position, facing strong pressure on his backwards e-pawn. Costigan was close to having Roland in complete zugzwang with ideal placement of all of his pieces, and Roland was forced to sacrifice his e-pawn in order to activate his queen and obtain counter-play. In a mutual time scramble, White missed several sneaky wins and Roland sacrificed his knight to force a perpetual.

Final score of the match: Philadelphia 3.0 - Seattle 1.0

**GM Emil Anka-SEA –
FM Tom Bartell-PHI [E90]**
USCL-Week 4, September 17, 2013
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Nf3 0-0 6.h3 e5 7.d5 Nh5 8.Nh2 Qe8 9.Be2 Nf4 10.Bf3 f5 11.Be3 Na6 12.a3 h5

12...Nc5!? 13.Bxc5 (13.0-0?! Nxe4 14.Nxe4 fxe4 15.Bxe4 Bf5) 13...dxc5 =

13.h4 Qe7 14.Qc2 c6 15.dxc6

15.0-0-0!? with fewer open lines on the queenside seems safer.

15...bxc6 16.0-0-0?



16...Bd7

16...Ne6! This should be played now, before the white queen doubles on the d-file. Black is nearly winning in the following complications: 17.exf5 (17.Qa4 Nd4) 17...Nd4! 18.Bxd4 (18.Nd5 cxd5 19.Bxd5+ Kh8) 18...exd4

[Analysis Diagram top of next column]

19.Bxc6 (19.Nd5 cxd5 20.Bxd5+ Kh8 21.Rhe1 (21.Bxa8 Bxf5 22.Qd2 Nc5) 21...d3 22.Rxe7 dxc2) 19...Bxf5 20.Ne4 Rac8

Analysis



21.Bd5+ Kh8 Black appears to have more than enough compensation for the pawn. White's position is extremely precarious.

17.Qd2 Rf6 18.exf5?

18.g3! Ne6 19.Qxd6 (Not so good is 19.exf5 Nd4 20.Bxd4 exd4 21.Nd5 Qf7 22.Nxf6+ Qxf6 when, with an exchange sacrifice that seems typical of this game, if not the opening variation as a whole, Black has good compensation.

Analysis



23.Qg5 (White must do something about the huge attack coming along all the open lines leading to his king. Bad, for example, is 23.Rhe1 or any other pass that doesn't directly deal with the coming threats: 23...Nc5 24.Kb1 Rb8 25.Ka2 d3 26.Rb1 Nb3 27.Qxd3? Nc1+) 23...Qf8! 24.Qxg6 Bxf5 25.Qxh5 (25.Qg5 Nc5 26.Rd2 Everything else is worse. 26...Nb3+ 27.Kd1 Nxd2 28.Qxd2 Black's bishop-pair and the poor position of the white pieces offer plenty of compensation for a pawn.) 25...Bh6+ 26.Rd2 when the computer sees a draw coming: 26...Rb8! 27.Bxc6 Bxd2+ 28.Kxd2 Rxb2+ 29.Kc1 Rb1+ 30.Kd2 Rb2+ 31.Ke1 Qe7+ 32.Kd1 (32.Kf1? Bh3+ 33.Kg1 (33.Bg2 Rb1+) 33...Qe1+) 32...Rxf2 33.Qg5+ Qxg5 34.hxg5 Nc5 and Black dominates.) 19...Qxd6 20.Rxd6 Advantage White, for a change.

18...Bxf5 19.Ne4 Re6 20.Bxf4

20.Qa5 d5 (Or 20...Qb7!?) 21.Ng5 d4 with massive complications that appear to favor Black.

Analysis



22.Nxe6 (The plan of using a couple moves to run the queen offside and snag a free knight seems typically dangerous for White in almost all of these positions. 22.Qxa6 dxe3 23.Nxe6 Qxe6 24.fxe3 e4!! 25.exf4 Rb8! 26.Rd2 (26.Rhe1 Qf6) 26...exf3 27.Nxf3 Bxb2+! 28.Rxb2 Qe3+ mates soon.) 22...Nxe6 23.b4 (23.Bg5 Nec5! 24.Rxd4 (24.Bxe7 Nb3#) 24...Bf6 25.Bxf6 Qxf6 and Black wins.) 23...dxe3 24.Qxa6 e4 25.Qxc6 (25.Be2 Qf6 looks like mate.) 25...Rf8 26.fxe3 Qf6 27.Kd2 (27.Rd4 Bh6 -+) 27...Qc3+ 28.Ke2 Qc2+ 29.Rd2 exf3+ 30.Nxf3 Bd3+ 31.Kf2 Qxd2+

20...exf4 21.Nxd6 Bxb2+!

Or 21...Rb8! 22.Nxf5 gxf5 23.Qc2 (23.b4 Qf6) 23...Bxb2+ 24.Qxb2 Rxb2 25.Kxb2 Nc5

22.Kxb2 Rd8 23.Qa5?

This just doesn't seem like a good idea, though Black is clearly better in any case. 23.Bd5 cxd5 24.Nxf5 gxf5 25.Qxf4 Rb8+ 26.Kc2 Re4! 27.Qg5+ Qxg5 28.hxg5 Rxc4+ and Black's active rooks guarantee a strong attack even after the exchange of queens.

23...Qf6+?

23...Rexd6 24.Ka2 (24.Rxd6 Rb8+ 25.Ka2 Qxd6) 24...Rxd1 25.Bxd1 (25.Rxd1 Rxd1 26.Bxd1 Qe4) 25...Rb8 26.Qc3 (26.Qxa6 Bb1+ 27.Ka1 Qe5#) 26...Nc5 White is reeling.

24.Ka2?

24.Qc3 Rxd6 25.Qxf6 Rb8+ 26.Ka2 Rxf6 27.Rd2 Black's edge seems tiny compared to some of the other opportunities we've seen.

24...Rb8



24...Rexd6 25.Rxd6 Rxd6 26.Rd1 Rxd1 27.Bxd1 Qxh4

25.Nb5?!

25.Nb7!? Rxb7 26.Qd8+ reduces the risk of immediate checkmate, but that's the best you can say for it.

25...cxb5 26.Bd5 bxc4 27.Rd2?

27.Rb1 looks forced, but certainly not good, for White: 27...Rxb1 28.Rxb1 Bxb1+ 29.Kxb1

[Analysis Diagram top of next page]

27...Kg7

27...c3! 28.Re2 c2 29.Bb3 Rxb3 30.Kxb3 Rxe2



29...Qf5+! 30.Kc1 Kg7 is an unusual way to break (and counter) a pin.

28.Bxe6 Bxe6 29.Re2

29.Rc2 holds out a bit longer.

29...c3+ 30.Ka1 c2+ 31.Qe5 Bf5 32.Qxf6+ Kxf6 33.Reel Nc5 34.Nf3

The knight finally escapes from the h2-prison, but much too late to do any good.

34...Nd3 35.Ref1 Rb3

35...Rb3 36.Ka2 Rb2+ 37.Ka1 Be6 and 38.— Ra2#

0-1

FM Dov Gorman-PHI –

FM Curt Collyer-SEA [B00]

USCL-Week 4, September 17, 2013

[Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 b6 2.d4 Bb7 3.Nc3 e6 4.a3 g6 5.Nf3 Bg7 6.Bg5 Ne7 7.Qd2 h6 8.Be3 d6 9.0-0 a6 10.h4 Nd7 11.g3 Nf6 12.Bd3 Ng4 13.h5 Nxe3 14.Qxe3 g5 15.d5 Qd7 16.Nd4 c5 17.dxc6 Nxc6 18.Nxc6 Qxc6 19.Nd5 b5 20.f4 gxf4 21.gxf4 Kf8 22.Rhg1 Qc5 23.Qxc5 dxc5 24.Nb6 Bd4 25.Nxa8 Be3+ 26.Kb1 Bxg1 27.Rxg1 Bxa8 28.c3 Rg8 29.Rxg8+ Kxg8 30.a4 Bc6 31.a5 f6 32.Kc1 e5 33.Kd2 exf4 34.Ke2 Be8 35.Kf3 Bxh5+ 36.Kxf4



36...c4?!

36...Bf7! 37.e5 (37.Kf5 Kg7) 37...Bc4!= for example 38.Bxc4+ bxc4 39.exf6 Kf7 40.Kf5 h5 41.Kg5 h4 42.Kxh4 Kxf6 43.Kg4 Kg6 (but not 43...Ke5?? 44.Kg5 grabbing the lateral opposition for the win.)

37.Bf1 Kf7 38.Bh3 Ke7 39.Bc8 Kd6 40.Bxa6 Kc6 41.Bc8 Be2 42.a6 Kb6 43.Kf5 Bf3 44.Bb7 h5 45.Kxf6 h4 46.e5 Bxb7 47.axb7 Kxb7 48.e6 h3 49.e7 h2 50.e8Q h1Q 51.Qxb5+ Ka7 52.Qc5+ Ka8 53.Qxc4 Qh8+ 54.Ke7 Qh7+ 55.Kd6 Qh2+ 56.Kc6 Qh6+ 57.Kb5 Kb7 58.Qd5+ Kb8 59.Qd8+ Kb7 60.Qd7+ Kb8 61.c4 Qc1 62.b4 Qc3 63.Qd6+ Ka8 64.c5 Qe1

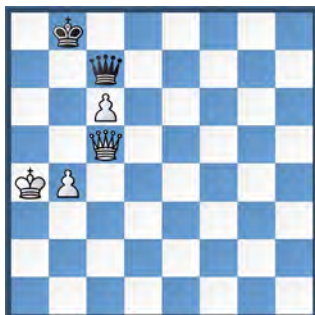
65.Qd5+ Ka7



66.c6

A quick win for White: 66.Qd7+ Kb8 67.Ka6 with mate threats, and the checks don't help, i.e. 67...Qa1+ 68.Kb6 Qf6+ 69.Qd6+

66...Qe2+ 67.Qc4 Qe8 68.Qd4+ Ka8 69.Qa1+ Kb8 70.Qd4 Ka8 71.Kb6 Qb8+ 72.Ka5 Qc7+ 73.Kb5 Qb8+ 74.Qb6 Qe5+ 75.Qc5 Qc7 76.Ka4 Kb8



77.b5?

Here's an opportunity to transition to a winning K+P vs K ending: 77.Qb5+ Kc8 78.Qb7+ Qxb7 79.cxb7+ Kxb7 (79...Kc7 80.Ka5 Kb8 (80...Kxb7 81.Kb5) 81.Ka6) 80.Kb5

77...Qf4+ 78.Ka5 Qd2+ 79.Kb6 Qf4 80.Ka5 Qd2+ 81.Qb4 Qa2+ 82.Qa4 Qd2+ 83.Qb4 Qa2+ 84.Qa4 Qd2+ 85.Ka6 Qf2 86.c7+ Kxc7 87.Qc4+ Kb8 88.Qg8+ Kc7 89.Qg7+ Kd8 90.Qh8+ Kd7 91.Qh7+ Kd8 92.Qd3+ Kc8 93.Qc4+ Kb8 94.b6 Qg3 95.Kb5 Qe5+ 96.Ka4 Qa1+ 97.Kb4 Qb2+ 98.Ka5 Qa1+ 99.Kb5 Qe5+ 100.Kc6 Qf6+ 101.Kc5 Qe5+ 102.Qd5 Qxd5+ 103.Kxd5 Kb7 104.Kc5 Kb8 105.Kc6 Kc8 106.Kb5 Kb7 107.Kc5 Kb8 108.Kc6 Kc8 109.Kd6 Kb7 110.Kc5 Kb8 111.Kb5 Kb7 112.Ka5 Kb8 113.Ka6 Ka8 114.b7+ Kb8 115.Kb6 1/2-1/2

NM Joshua Sinanan-SEA –

NM Peter Minear-PHI [E70]

USCL-Week 4, September 17, 2013

[Ralph Dubisch]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Nge2 0-0 6.Ng3 e5 7.d5 h5 8.Bg5 Qe8 9.h4 Na6 10.Be2 Bd7 11.Qd2 c6 12.0-0-0 cxd5 13.Nxd5 Nxd5 14.Qxd5 Be6 15.Qa5 Qc6 16.b3 Nc5 17.f3 Rfc8 18.Kb1 a6 19.Be7?

[Diagram top of next column]

19.Qd2!?

19...b5! 20.Rc1



20.Rxd6? Qe8 21.Bg5 bxc4 with the threat of ...Nb7 in reserve.; 20.Bxd6? Nb7 21.Qa3 bxc4 and Black is winning.

20...Qd7 21.Bg5 Rab8 22.cxb5 axb5 23.Qb4 Qa7 24.Be3 Ra8 25.Rc2 f5 26.exf5 gxf5 27.Nxh5? f4 28.Nxg7 Kxg7 29.Bxc5 Rxc5 30.Rd2 Bf5+ 31.Ka1 Bc2

Even better is 31...Qc7!

32.a3 Qxa3+ 33.Qxa3 Rxa3+ 34.Kb2 Rxb3+ 35.Ka2 Re3 36.Rc1 b4 37.Bd1 Ra3+ 38.Kb2 Rb3+ 39.Ka2 Ra5# 0-1

IM Richard Costigan-PHI –

NM Roland Feng-SEA [D03]

USCL-Week 4, September 17, 2013

[Ralph Dubisch]

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.Bg5 Be7 4.Nbd2 d5 5.e3 0-0 6.Bd3 Nbd7 7.0-0 c5 8.c3 b6 9.h3 Bb7 10.Qe2 Ne4 11.Bf4 f5 12.Bh2 Bd6 13.Bxd6 Nxd6 14.c4 Qf6 15.Rac1 Rac8 16.cxd5 Bxd5 17.Nc4 Nf7 18.Ncd2 cxd4 19.exd4 Ng5 20.Bb5 Nxf3+ 21.Nxf3 Qe7 22.Bc4 Nf6 23.Bxd5 Nxd5 24.Rfe1 Rxc1 25.Rxc1 h6 26.Rc6 Rf6 27.Qe5 Qe8 28.Qd6 Kh7 29.Ne5 a5 30.a3 f4 31.Qd7 Qh5 32.Rxe6 Rxe6 33.Qxe6 Qd1+ 34.Kh2 Qxd4



35.Qg6+

White misses the winning finesse here: 35.Qf5+! Kg8 (35...Kh8 36.Ng6+ Kg8 37.Qxd5+) 36.Nc6! and the difference is clear, since 36...Qxf2 37.Qxd5+ and otherwise White threatens both the queen and the fork trick Qxd5+ and Ne7+.

35...Kg8 36.Qe8+

36.Qe6+ Kh8 37.Qc8+ Kh7 38.Qf5+ transposes to the previous note.

36...Kh7 37.Nd7

37.Qg6+ can still get back to the winning tactical idea.

37...Qxf2 38.Qe4+ Kh8 39.Qxd5 Qg3+ 40.Kg1 Qe1+ 41.Kh2 Qg3+ 1/2-1/2



The Seattle Sluggers before the start of the match . L-R: Manager Eddie Chang, WIM Megan Lee, FM Curt Collyer, GM Timur Gareev, NM Joshua Sinanan, FM Tian Sang, and GM Emil Anka. Photo by Bert Rutgers.

Week 5: 9-24-13



The Sluggers scored a tremendous victory on Tuesday evening against the division-leading San Francisco Mechanics! This marks our first win of the season, as well as the debut of our new superstar, GM Timur Gareev, who traveled all the way from Southern California to attend the match. Emil Anka and Tian Sang celebrated their

first victories as Sluggers team members, while Megan Lee played a crazy game on board four that demonstrated her strong fighting spirit and had the fans on the edge of their seats for the entire match.

The match was held at the Orlov Chess Academy in Redmond under the supervision of our TD, Bert Rutgers. As usual, all games were played on chess.com.

GM Timur Gareev, originally from Uzbekistan and now living in Southern California, made his first ever Sluggers appearance of board one against GM Vinay Bhat, a veteran of the US Chess League and a former tenant of the famous "GM house" in San Francisco. In preparation for the match, Timur's pregame ritual included exploring the Kirkland waterfront by foot

with Josh and Eddie, a trip to Emerald City Smoothie, and a Japanese herbal foot massage. An abundant supply of fresh berries and fruit from a local market was provided at Timur's request and may have been the secret ingredient to the match victory!

Timur Gareev opened with his usual

Queen's Gambit, to which Bhat responded with the semi-slav pawn triangle (d5, e6, c6), inviting the complications that can arise out of the Marshall Gambit if White plays 4.e4. Timur instead chose to go for more positional waters with 5.Qd3, and White soon had a small but pleasant advantage with his fianchettoed bishop controlling the h1-a8 diagonal. Though he was unable to achieve his freeing pawn-break ...c5, Bhat seemed to be holding the position well despite his circuitous queen maneuver Qd8-a7-b6. Timur chose a solid space-gaining plan often seen in the Catalan with 15. Bf4, allowing his bishop to be captured in exchange for greater central control. A level middle-game resulted with White trying to make progress on the light squares and Black patiently waiting to try and activate his dormant bishop pair. Complications in Bhat's time pressure netted Gareev a clean pawn after 25.Nxb5!, though it was unclear how White should convert the extra material given his doubled f-pawns and the presence of opposite colored bishops. Timur avoided a trade of rooks on move 28 by interposing with Bd5+, which allowed Bhat to gain sufficient counterplay along the c-file and somewhat weakened dark squares to make a draw.

Emil Anka got the ball rolling on board two with a huge win with the black pieces against IM Daniel Naroditsky. Out of a main line in the Accelerated Dragon, White gave up the bishop-pair for a strong pawn

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duo in the center and some pressure on the dark-squares. Emil responded with the well-timed pawn sacrifice 13...Bg4, which has been played a few times by such elite players as Azmaiparashvili, Filippov, and Kotronias. Naroditsky was familiar with the position and played the somewhat dubious queen sacrifice 17. Qxd4?!, first played by Bronstein against Schinzel in the Vitrobud Open in 1976, which ended in a draw. For the queen, White got a strong passed d-pawn as well as two powerfully out-posted knights in the center of the board. Emil defended the position well with the centralizing queen maneuver Qf6-d8-a5-d5, followed by sacrificing the queen back to enter a slightly-better ending with a rook vs. a bishop and two pawns. Naroditsky seemed uncomfortable in this new position, and Emil converted his advantage nicely by penetrating to the first rank with his rook to force weaknesses in the white pawn structure. White was soon forced to part with his extra pawns and Emil entered a winning ending up the exchange. Congrats to Emil on his first win as a Slugger!

Tian Sang played the cleanest game of the match on board three against FM Cameron Wheeler, one of Roland's biggest rivals. The game began as a Classical French, and Tian went for the popular Alekhine-Chatard Attack with 6. h4, which Wheeler wisely declined. Instead, he played the rare 6...Nc6, the 7th most common move in the position favored by Morozevich and Zvjaginsev among others. Though this took Tian out of his preparation, he improved his position nicely with the king-side rook-lift Rh3-g3, followed by transferring his queen's knight to h5 to pressure the g7 pawn. Wheeler's play was somewhat passive, and he soon ended up with split pawns on d5 and f5 with little chance of counterplay given his weak pawn structure. Tian's knights became even more dominant when he maneuvered them to f4 and c5, where they blockaded the black pawns and controlled many key squares in Black's position. White soon opened the c-file and traded off a set of knights to reach a strategically winning position with absolute control of the dark squares. Tian carried his positional trumps all the way into a better knight vs. bishop minor-piece ending up two pawns, which he converted flawlessly. Way to go, Tian!

Megan Lee faced off on board four against NM Kesav Viswanadha, one of Vishy's distant relatives, in what was easily the most complicated game of the match. True to her uncompromising style, Megan brought out the Archangelsk Variation against the Ruy, which is known for producing sharp positions with chances for both sides. Theory continued until move 17, where Megan opted for an early queen trade with ...Qxf4 instead of ...exf4, which has been played before by GMs Anand and Friedel. Viswanadha entered a

slightly better queenless middle game and marched his king to f3, where it appeared to be quite useful as a blockader and an extra defender of the e-pawn. Megan responded well by opening the f-file and transferring her rook the the kingside via Rd6-h6 to pressure the isolated white pawn on h5. A highly imbalanced battle ensued in which White created three connected passed pawns on the queenside to Black's two on the kingside. As time pressure approached, Megan played extremely well and found the most forcing continuations such as 42...g5+! and 52...g3!!, which forces mate in nine according to Houdini. Viswanadha wisely used his extra time to find many "only" moves and got extremely lucky to escape from Megan's mating net. Eventually, a drawn position was reached in which Megan could have sacrificed her bishop back to stop white's passed queenside pawns, but instead she erred with 66...Rd8?!, allowing a pawn break-through and unstoppable promotion. Despite this setback, Megan did not give an inch and tenaciously defended the R vs. Q ending for nearly 50 moves until Viswanadha had to finally concede a draw!

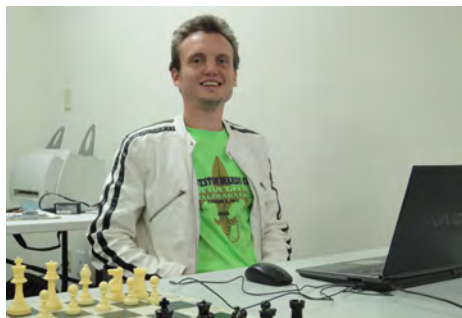
Final score of the match: Seattle 3.0 - San Francisco 1.0

**GM Timur Gareev-SEA -
GM Vinay Bhat-SF [D43]
USCL-Week 5, 24.09.2013**

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 c6 4.Nf3 Nf6 5.Qd3 dxc4 6.Qxc4 b5 7.Qd3 Nbd7 8.g3 Bb7 9.Bg2 a6 10.Ng5 Be7 11.0-0 Nd5 12.Nge4 0-0 13.Rd1 h6 14.a3 a5 15.Bf4 Nxf4 16.gxf4 Qb8 17.e3 Rd8 18.Qc2 Qa7 19.Ng3 Qb6 20.f5 e5 21.dxe5 Nxe5 22.Qe4 f6 23.Rxd8+ Qxd8 24.Rd1 Qc7



25.Nxb5 cxb5 26.Qxb7 Qxb7 27.Bxb7 Rd8 28.Bd5+ Kh7 29.e4 Rc8 30.f4 Ng4 31.Re1 Bd6 32.e5 fxe5 33.Ne4 1/2-1/2



*GM Timur Gareev.
Photo by Joshua Sinanan.*

**GM Daniel Naroditsky-SF -
GM Emil Anka-SEA [B31]
USCL-Week 5, 24.09.2013
[Ralph Dubisch]**

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 g6 4.0-0 Bg7 5.c3 Nf6 6.e5 Nd5 7.d4 cxd4 8.cxd4 0-0 9.Nc3 Nc7 10.Bf4 Nxb5 11.Nxb5 a6 12.Nc3 d6 13.exd6 Bg4 14.dxe7 Qxe7 15.d5 Nd4 16.d6 Qd7



17.Qxd4?!

Highly speculative.

17...Bxd4 18.Nxd4 f6 19.f3 Be6 20.Rfe1 Rfe8 21.Ne4 Qf7 22.Rac1 Bd7 23.Rc7 Rad8 24.Rxd7 Rxd7 25.Nxf6+ Qxf6 26.Rxe8+ Kf7 27.Re4 Qd8 28.h3 Qa5 29.a3 Qd5 30.Ne6 Qxe6 31.Rxe6 Kxe6 32.Kf2 Rf7 33.Ke3 Rf5 34.Ke4 Rc5 35.Kd3 g5 36.Bh2 Rc1 37.Kd2 Rh1 38.Be5 Rg1 39.g3 Rh1 40.f4 gxf4 41.Bxf4 Rxb3 42.b4 Rh2+ 43.Kc3 Ra2 44.Kb3 Rf2 45.b5 axb5 46.Kb4 h5 47.Kxb5 h4 48.Kb6 h3 49.Kc7 Rc2+ 0-1



*GM Emil Anka.
Photo by Joshua Sinanan.*

**FM Tian Sang-SEA -
FM Cameron Wheeler-SF [C14]
USCL-Week 5, 24.09.2013**

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 Be7 5.e5 Nfd7 6.h4 Nc6 7.Nf3 a6 8.Qd2 h6 9.Bxe7 Qxe7 10.0-0-0 Nb6 11.Rh3 Bd7 12.Rg3 Qf8 13.Ne2 0-0-0 14.Nf4 Ne7 15.Nh5 Nf5 16.Rh3 Kb8 17.Bd3 Nc4 18.Qc3 b5 19.Bxf5 exf5 20.Rg3 b4 21.Qe1 Rg8 22.Nf4 Be6 23.b5 a5 24.Nd2 c6 25.Nb3 Bc8 26.Nc5 Qe7





FM Tian Sang.
Photo by Joshua Sinanan.

27.b3 Nb6 28.c3 bxc3 29.Qxc3 Qa7
30.Re1 Nd7 31.Na4 Nb6 32.Nc5 Nd7
33.Nxd7+ Bxd7 34.e6 fxe6 35.Nxe6 Rde8
36.Nc5 Rxe1+ 37.Qxe1 Re8 38.Qd2 Re7
39.Qf4+ Kc8 40.Qd6 Be8 41.Re3 Rxe3
42.fxe3 Qf7 43.Na6 Kb7 44.Nc5+ Kc8
45.Ne6 Qd7



46.Qe5 Bxh5 47.Qxf5 Bf7 48.Nxg7
Qxf5 49.Nxf5 Be6 50.Nxh6 Kd7 51.g4
Ke7 52.Nf5+ Kf6 53.Nd6 Bxg4 54.Nb7
Ke7 55.Nxa5 Kd7 56.Nb7 Kc7 57.Nc5
Kb6 58.Kb2 Ka5 59.Kc3 Be2 60.Ne6
Bg4 61.Nc5 Be2 62.Kd2 Bg4 63.a3
Kb5 64.Ke1 Kb6 65.Kf2 Kc7 66.Kg3
Be2 67.Kf4 Kd6 68.Kf5 Bf1 69.Kf6
Be2 70.Kf7 Bh5+ 71.Kf8 Bg6 72.a4
Bh5 73.b4 Bg4 74.Ke8 Kc7 75.Ke7 Be2
76.Ne6+ Kb6 77.Kd6 Bd1 78.Nc5 Be2
79.Nd7+ Kb7 80.Ne5 Bd1 81.Nxc6 Bxa4
82.Na5+ Kb6 83.Kxd5 Kb5 84.Nc6 Bd1
85.e4 Bf3 86.Ne5 Be2 87.Ke6 Kxb4 88.d5
Kc5 89.d6 Bf1 90.d7 Bh3+ 91.Ke7 Bxd7
92.Nxd7+ Kd4 93.e5 1-0

NM Kesav Viswanadha-SF –
WIM Megan Lee-SEA [C78]
USCL-Week 5, 24.09.2013
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6
5.0-0 b5 6.Bb3 Bc5 7.a4 Rb8 8.axb5 axb5
9.c3 d6 10.d4 Bb6 11.Na3 Bg4 12.Nxb5
0-0 13.Bc2 Bxf3 14.gxf3 Nh5 15.f4 Qh4



16.Qf3 Nxf4 17.Bxf4 Qxf4 18.Qxf4 exf4
19.Kg2 Ne7 20.h4 Rbd8 21.Kf3 f5 22.h5
fxe4+ 23.Bxe4 d5 24.Bd3 c6 25.Ra6 Nc8
26.Na3 Rd6 27.Re1 Rh6 28.Re5 Bc7
29.Rg5 Ne7 30.Nc2 Bd6 31.b3 Rb8 32.b4
Kf7 33.Na1 g6 34.b5 Kf6 35.Kg4 Rc8
36.bxc6 Rc7 37.Nc2



37...gxh5+ 38.Kh4 Ng6+ 39.Bxg6 hxc6
40.Rxd5 Ke6 41.c4 Rh8 42.Rb5 g5+
43.Kh3 g4+ 44.Kg2 h4 45.c5 f3+ 46.Kg1
Bf4 47.Ne1 Kd5 48.Nd3 Kc4 49.Rb7
Kxd3 50.d5 Re8 51.Ra3+ Ke2 52.Rxc7?
g3 53.Ra2+



53...Bd2

53...Kd1! 54.fxc3 hxc3 55.Ra1+ Bc1
56.Rxc1+ Kxc1 57.Kf1 Kd2 and 58.-- Re1#

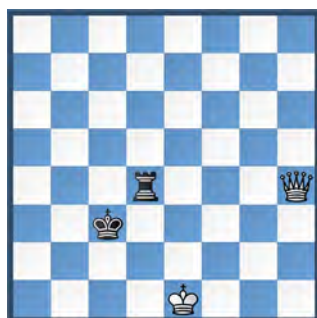
54.Ra1 gxf2+ 55.Kh1 Be1

55...Kd3 56.Kh2 Re1 57.Ra3+ Bc3 wins
for Black.

56.Ra2+ Bd2 57.Ra1 Be1 58.Ra2+ Kd1
59.Ra1+ Kc2 60.Ra2+ Kb1 61.Rxf2 Bxf2
62.Rb7+ Kc2 63.Rf7 Bxc5 64.Rxf3 Bd6
65.Rf6 Rd8??

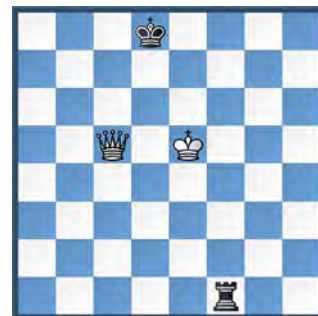
65...Bg3 =

66.Rxd6 Rxd6 67.c7 Rxd5 68.c8Q+ Kd2
69.Qg4 Kc3 70.Qxh4 Rd1+ 71.Kg2 Rd2+
72.Kf3 Rd3+ 73.Ke2 Rd2+ 74.Ke1 Rd4



75.Qf6 Kc4 76.Ke2 Kd5 77.Ke3 Rc4
78.Kd3 Rc6 79.Qf5+ Kd6 80.Kd4 Ke7
81.Kd5 Rf6 82.Qh7+ Rf7 83.Qh4+ Kd7
84.Qg4+ Kc7 85.Qe6 Rd7+ 86.Kc5 Kd8

87.Qe5 Re7 88.Qb8+ Kd7 89.Kd5 Rf7
90.Qb7+ Ke8 91.Qc8+ Ke7 92.Ke5 Rf1
93.Qc5+ Kd8



94.Qd6+

One way to win: 94.Qa5+ Ke7 95.Qb4+
Kd8 96.Qh4+ Ke8 (96...Kd7 97.Qh3+;
96...Kc7 97.Qc4+) 97.Ke6!

94...Ke8 95.Qg6+ Ke7 96.Qg5+ Ke8
97.Qh5+ Kf8 98.Qh4 Rf7 99.Ke6 Kg8
100.Qh5 Rf1 101.Qg4+ Kf8 102.Qb4+
Kg7 103.Qb7+ Kh6 104.Qg2

104.Qe4 looks like the last chance to get it
done inside the 50-move limit.

104...Rf8 105.Qg4 Kh7 106.Qh5+ Kg7
107.Qg5+ Kh7 108.Ke7 Rg8 109.Qh5+
Kg7 110.Qh4 Kg6 111.Qg4+ Kh7 112.
Qf5+ Kh6 113.Qf3 Kh7 114.Qd3+ Kg7
115.Qf1 Kh7 116.Qf7+ Rg7 1/2-1/2



WIM Megan Lee.
Photo by Joshua Sinanan.



NM Joshua Sinanan.
Photo by Bert Rutgers.

Week 6: 10-2-2013



The Sluggers won a second big match in a row, this time against the Dallas Destiny, the only remaining undefeated team in the league. After a slow start, we are back on track to defend our title and now stand tied for 2nd in the Pacific Division along with the Los Angeles Vibe.

The match was held at the Orlov Chess Academy in Greenlake under the supervision of our TD Bert Rutgers. As usual, all games were played on chess.com.

On board one, Georgi knocked out Cristian Chirila, his 3rd GM in a row, and now stands in 5th place on the MVP leaderboard with 14 points. Out of a Torre Attack, Georgi chose the somewhat rare continuation 8. Qb3, which has been played before by GM Lobron, instead of the much more common 8. Be2, as played by Kamsky amongst others. Chirila responded classically by breaking in the center with e5, after which a reversed French structure was reached. White went for a somewhat risky queenside invasion with 19. Bc7, when simply Rc3 to hold the backwards e-pawn was to be preferred. The complications began a few moves later in which White obtained a rook plus two pawns for Black's two minors. A level ending was soon reached in which Georgi's rook, bishop, and five pawns were easier to coordinate than Cristian's knight, two bishops, and three pawns. A possible repetition occurred on move 38 in mutual time pressure, but Chirila foolishly declined the draw offer perhaps still hoping his team could go 10-0 on the season. A few moments later, the Dallas GM blundered badly and lost a piece to a rook fork, at which point he duly resigned before Orlov could deal the killer blow.

Emil got to face his fourth strong up-and-coming player on board two, FM Jeffery Xiong, who was the US U12 Champion a few years ago. After seeing what happened to Naroditsky last week, Jeffrey wisely avoided Emil's favorite Accelerated Dragon and went for the Rossolimo instead. White employed a typical opening strategy by closing the center and trading off both of his bishops to obtain a slightly better pawn structure with more space. The game followed Bojkov-Lukov from the 2001 Bulgarian Championships until move 14, which eventually ended in a draw. Emil deviated with 14...Ne6, with the idea of Nd4 followed by queenside castling and advancing his pawn to c4, which would

soften up White's king position. However, Xiong's play on the kingside was faster and Emil never got to execute his plan. In a difficult position, Black blundered a pawn with 19...Qf7, after which White was able to obtain two strong passed e- and f-pawns. Xiong soon won another pawn and reached a winning queen+minor piece ending. Emil played on a few more moves for the team but the result was never in doubt.

Roland got his first win of the season on board three against NM Ruifeng Li, himself a young chess prodigy. Roland's lifetime record against Ruifeng is now 3-0, having defeated him twice before in national scholastic championships. His victory could not have come at a better time, and was viewed by many as the smoothest game of the match. The game began as an Owen's Defense, transposed to a Classical Dutch, and eventually reached a structure commonly seen in the Nimzo-Indian. A critical position was reached on move 13, where Ruifeng opted for 13...e5, when perhaps Rae8, Rf6, c5, or Ng5 were better alternatives. Roland soon obtained a strategic advantage with 20. e4, shutting out Black's fianchettoed light-square bishop, after which his rival from Dallas had a tough time finding counterplay. White proceeded to build up a strong attack down the semi-open a-file, and Black was left trying to reorganize his pieces to defend all of his pawn weaknesses. As Tian pointed out during the match, redeploying the dark-square bishop to c1 instead of a3 may have been stronger, but Roland silenced all the critics by decimating Black's queenside in less than 10 moves. After a few more simplifying moves, Roland was up three whole pawns in a rook ending and Ruifeng was forced to tap out.

Michael Omori made his 2013 Sluggers debut on board four against NM Ryan Moon, a strong young master still in high school who has won several national titles. Michael, the former number one player from Lakeside School now attending UW, was familiar with Moon from HS Nationals but had never faced him before. The players entered the Panno Variation of the King's Indian Fianchetto, and Moon chose the safe and solid line 8.b3, favored by strong positional players like Aronian and Karpov. Michael chose the somewhat obscure 18...Rxb5, as played before by Arizona's GM Barcenilla, instead of the more common recapture 18...axb5, which scores only slightly better for White. Ryan went for typical play down the half-open c-file, to which Michael replied with a counter-attack of his own down the b-file by advancing his isolated a-pawn. A tactical sequence began on move 16 when Moon lumbered forward with the temporary pawn sacrifice b4, and both players accurately navigated the complications until move 22, when a critical position was reached. Michael went for simplification by swapping rooks on c3 and then going for a queen trade,

when instead it may have been better to repeat with 23...Na5, chasing away the invading white queen and relieving some of the pressure on the queenside. After the somewhat mysterious 25.Kg7?!, which gained a strong advantage with 26.Nd5! and soon had paralyzed most of Michael's pieces. Despite these difficulties, Michael never gave up and fought on for his team in heroic Sluggers style despite having to cough up a knight to stop White's passed a-pawn. His efforts were finally rewarded on move 42 when Moon erred with 42.Rd8, after which Michael uncorked 42...Ra2! and had somehow managed to coordinate an attack on White's pawns with only his king and rook! A match-clinching drawn position was reached a few moves later when the players traded rooks and Michael forced the classic wrong bishop ending.

Final score of the match: Seattle 2.5 - Dallas 1.5

**IM Georgi Orlov-SEA –
GM Cristian Chirila-DAL [D03]
USCL-Week 6, October 2, 2013**

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.Bg5 Bg7 4.Nbd2 d5 5.e3 0-0 6.c3 Nbd7 7.b4 Re8 8.Qb3 c6 9.Be2 e5 10.0-0 e4 11.Ne1 h6 12.Bh4 Nf8 13.c4 g5 14.Bg3 Ng6 15.cxd5 cxd5 16.Rc1 h5 17.f3 exf3 18.Nexf3 Ng4 19.Bc7 Qe7 20.e4 dxe4 21.Nxg5 Qxg5 22.Qxf7+ Kh7 23.Qxe8 Qxd2 24.Bxg4 Bxg4 25.Qxe4 Rf8 26.Be5 Rxf1+ 27.Rxf1 Be2 28.Ra1 Qc3 29.Rb1 Bd3 30.Qe1 Qxe1+ 31.Rxe1 Bh6 32.Bg3 Bc4 33.a3 h4 34.Bb8 Bd2 35.Re8 Bb5 36.Re6 Bc4 37.Re8 Bb5 38.Re6 = 38...Kg7? 39.d5 Bc4 40.Bxa7 Bxd5? 41.Rd6 Nf4? 42.g3 Nh3+ 43.Kf1 1-0

**FM Jeffery Xiong-DAL –
GM Emil Anka-SEA [B31]
USCL-Week 6, October 2, 2013**

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 g6 4.Bxc6 dxc6 5.d3 Bg7 6.h3 e5 7.Be3 Qe7 8.Nc3 Nf6 9.Qd2 Nd7 10.Bh6 f6 11.Bxg7 Qxg7 12.Nh2 g5 13.Nf1 Nf8 14.Ne3 Ne6 15.h4 Nd4 16.hxg5 fxg5 17.0-0-0 Be6 18.g4 0-0-0 19.Nf5 Qf7 20.Qxg5 Bxa2 21.f4 exf4 22.Qxf4 Nxf5 23.gxf5 Be6 24.Qe5 Bd7 25.Qxc5 Kb8 26.Rh6 Qg7 27.Rdh1 Qg5+ 28.Kb1 Qd2 29.Rxh7 Rxh7 30.Rxh7 Bc8 31.Qe5+ Ka8 32.Rh8 Qe1+ 33.Ka2 Rxh8 34.Qxh8 Kb8 35.Qe5+ Ka8 36.Qc7 1-0

**NM Roland Feng-SEA –
NM Ruifeng Li-DAL [A40]
USCL-Week 6, October 2, 2013**

1.d4 b6 2.c4 Bb7 3.Nc3 e6 4.e3 Bb4 5.Qc2 f5 6.Nf3 Nf6 7.Bd3 0-0 8.a3 Bxc3+ 9.Qxc3 Ne4 10.Qc2 d6 11.b3 Nd7 12.Bb2 Qe7 13.0-0 e5 14.b4 c5 15.d5 b5 16.Bxe4 fxe4 17.Qxe4 bxc4 18.Rfd1 Qf7 19.Qh4 h6 20.e4 cxb4 21.axb4 Qg6 22.Nd2 Nb6 23.Qg3 Qxg3 24.hxg3 a6 25.Nb1 Bc8 26.Nc3 Bd7 27.Ra5 Rfb8 28.Rda1 Bc8 29.Ba3 Nd7 30.b5 axb5 31.Bxd6 Rxa5



L-R (back row): John Donaldson, Eric Tangborn, John Braley, Phil McCready, David Rupel, Janis Berzins, L-R (front row): Bob Ferguson with daughter, Katie, Viesturs Seglins, Elmars Zemgalis, Viktors Pupols, Gene Rupel.
Photo by Deborah Petzal

32.Rxa5 Rb6 33.Ra8 Rxd6 34.Rxc8+ Kf7 35.Nxb5 Rb6 36.Na3 Nf6 37.f3 Ra6 38.Nxc4 Nd7 39.Rc6 Ra1+ 40.Kh2 Ra4 41.Rc7 Ke8 42.Rxd7 Rxc4 43.Rxg7 1-0

NM Ryan Moon-DAL –
Michael Omori-SEA [E63]
USCL-Week 6, October 2, 2013

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nf3 Bg7 4.g3 0-0 5.Bg2 d6 6.0-0 Nc6 7.Nc3 a6 8.b3 Rb8 9.Nd5 b5 10.Nxf6+ Bxf6 11.cxb5 Rxb5 12.Bb2 Bd7 13.Rc1 a5 14.e3 a4 15.Nd2 Na5 16.b4 Rxb4 17.Bc3 Rb5 18.Qxa4 c5 19.Ne4 Bg7 20.dxc5 Rxc5 21.Qb4 Bxc3 22.Rxc3 Nc6 23.Qb7 Rxc3 24.Nxc3 Qc8 25.Rb1 Kg7 26.Nd5 Qxb7 27.Rxb7 Rd8 28.Rc7 e6 29.Nb6 Nb8 30.Bb7 Kf6 31.a4 d5 32.Nxd7+ Nxd7 33.a5 Ke5 34.a6 Nb6 35.a7 f6 36.Rc6 Na8 37.Rc8 Rd7 38.Bxa8 Rxa7 39.Bc6 Ke4 40.Re8 Kf3 41.Bb5 e5 42.Rd8 Ra2 43.Rxd5 Rxf2 44.Bc6 e4 45.Rd1 Rg2+ 46.Kh1 f5 47.Rf1+ Rf2 48.Kg1 Rxf1+ 49.Kxf1 Kxe3 50.Bd5

Kf3 51.Bg8 f4 52.gxf4 Kxf4 53.Bxh7 g5 54.Kg2 g4 55.Bg6 e3 56.Bd3 Kg5 57.Kg3 Kh6 58.Kxg4 Kg7 59.h4 Kh8 60.Kg5 Kg7 61.h5 Kh8 62.Kh6 Kg8 63.Be2 Kh8 64.Kg6 Kg8 65.Kf6 Kh7 66.Kf7 Kh8 67.Kf8 Kh7 68.Kf7 Kh8 1/2-1/2

Elmar Zemgalis 90th Birthday

by Viktors Pupols

On September 8 six former Washington State Champions gathered in a West Seattle assisted living home for Elmar Zemgalis' 90th birthday. They were Viesturs Seglins, Vik Pupols, John Braley, Eric Tangborn, John Donaldson, and Bob Ferguson. Ten years earlier, Mike Franett had also been in the group. He has since reached the eighth rank and been promoted. John Donaldson flew in from San Francisco and led a question and answer session. Bob Ferguson is now State Attorney General, but made time on his schedule.

Between 1945 and 1950 Elmar Zemgalis was as good and as successful as any player in Western Europe. In 1952 he immigrated into the U.S. under the auspices of then

sports editor Royal Brougham of the Seattle Post-Intelligencer. In those days you needed a sponsor to immigrate, and Mr. Brougham brought over an entire basketball team, some long-distance runners, and a chess master. A match was arranged between the local star, Olaf Ulvestad, who had played on the U.S. team and beaten David Bronstein. The match was held in the P-I auditorium and was well attended. It ended +2 =2 in Zemgalis' favor.

Zemgalis was in his late twenties when he came to the U.S. His youth was wasted by World War II. He continued playing chess only as a community social obligation, went to evening school, got a math degree, and eventually became the head of the math department of Highline Community College. He last played at the Seattle U.S. Open in 1966. I remember that after 15 moves in his game against Ed Formanek, he had positional and development advantage. He offered a draw; he knew how long it would take to convert the advantage.

In 2001 John Donaldson, a phenomenal archivist, published a book of games from Zemgalis' short career titled "Grandmaster without the title"; but John did not stop there. He contacted the surviving players of that time and petitioned FIDE on the basis of their testimony. In 2003 FIDE awarded Zemgalis the title of Honorary Grandmaster.

At the birthday party's Q-and-A, Zemgalis was lucid and remembered well. Youngsters: note and play chess!

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There was an annotation from Elmar's book, 'Chess Behind Barbed Wire', written during his time in an internment camp in Zedeghem, Belgium. John Donaldson included that material in a Mechanics Club newsletter. Here is that game annotated by today's standards by Viktors Pupols with an occasional note by Ralph Dubisch—Editor.

Once upon a time, gentlemen accepted gambit Pawns and held on to them. Later it seemed that Qf3, attacking a8 (and sometimes also f7) won. In this game White is booked and trusts his intuition (and contemporary theory) that his Queenside advantage will prevail. Black is not booked and makes natural moves but not always the strongest ones. The game was played in a POW camp in Zedelghem, Belgium, in the winter of 1944. The main barracks were crowded and noisy; the game was played in unheated barracks, and after each move the players would jump up and try to warm their fingers. White went on to win strong tournaments in the next five years. Black was apparently a rank amateur; no other chess games by him are known.

Zemgalis - Nurme [D10]

Regimental Championship 1944–1945
Zedeghem, Belgium, 1944
[Viktors Pupols]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 dxc4 4.e3 b5 5.Nxb5

Theory has progressed because of games

similar to this. The only current choice now is 5.a4, and on 5...b4, 6.Ne4 or 6.Nce2.

5...cxb5 6.Qf3 Qc7!

...and/or ...Nc6, giving back the piece rather than the Rook.

7.Qxa8 Bb7 8.Qxa7 e6 9.Bxc4 bxc4 10.Bd2?

After 10. Qa4+ Black may have an edge, but now the Queen stays trapped...

10...Na6! 11.Nf3 Bd6

...and would stay trapped if Black inverted moves and played ...Ne7 and ...Nc6 first.

12.0-0 Ne7 13.Ba5

Again, the threat was ...Nc6.

13...Qc8 14.Ne5?

Quickly: this is the last chance to get the Queen out: 14.Qb6 Bc7 15.Qb5+ Bc6 16.Qh5 barely holds.

But 14...Bc6 keeps the queen bottled. – Dubisch

14...Nd5

The threat is ...Bb8.

15.Nxc4 Bb8 16.e4! Qd7

If 16...Bxa7 17.Nd6+

17.Ne5 Qb5

Looks good, but Black has overlooked 18.a4! Then if 18...Qb3 19.Ra3 Qxb2

20.Nc4! Correct was 17...Qe7, winning.

18.a4 Qxf1+ 19.Kxf1 Bxa7 20.exd5



20...Bxd5

An automatic recapture. 20...Bxd4 was stronger.

21.Rc1! 0-0 22.Nc6 Bxc6 23.Rxc6 Nb8 24.Rc4 Na6?

Black could not find a better move, but 24...Nd7 25.Rc7 Bb6 would lead to the same endgame he is forced into a couple of moves later. Even better is – again – 24...Bxd4!

25.b4 Nb8 26.b5 Nd7 27.Bb4 Ra8 28.a5

White is winning, but acts too fast.

28...g6 29.Rc7 Nf6 30.b6 Bxb6 31.axb6 Nd5 32.Ra7! Nxb6 33.Rxa8+ Nxa8 34.Ba5 Kf8 35.Ke2 Ke7 36.Kd3 Kd7 37.Ke4 f6 38.d5! e5?

Tri-Cities Open

November 9-10, 2013

Site: Red Lion Richland Hanford House, 802 George Washington Way, Richland, WA 99352. (509) 946-7611.

HR: \$89.95 until 11/9. 1-800-RED-LION, mention Chess Tournament.

5 Round Swiss, One Section.

Time Control: Saturday 40/90, SD/30, D/5; Sunday 30/90, SD/1, D/5.

Foreign ratings used for players with no USCF rating.

Prize Fund: \$450 (based on 30 paid entries).

1st \$125, 2nd \$100, U2000 \$75, U1700 \$75, U1400 \$75

Entry Fee: \$30 if postmarked or online by 11/6, \$40 after 11/6 or at site.

Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs.

Registration: Saturday 8:00 - 9:30 AM.

Rounds: Saturday 10:00 AM, 2:30 PM, 7:00 PM; Sunday 10:00 AM, 3:00 PM.

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

USCF and WCF/OCF/ICA memberships required, other states accepted.

Northwest Chess Grand Prix event. Chess Magnet School JGP. NS. NC. W.

Entries: Make checks payable to Washington Chess Federation.

Mail To: Eelco Van Ruth, 415 Williams Avenue South, Unit 205, Renton, WA 98057-2747.

Phone: (425) 761-0298. **E-mail:** eelco1972@hotmail.com.

Online Registration: www.nwchess.com/online-registration.

38...Nc7 gives up the pawn temporarily, but holds the draw.

39.g4 h6 40.h4 Nc7



41.Bxc7

White can exchange B for N now or later. The longest variation is 41. g5 fg 42. hg h5 43. Bc3 Nb5 44. Bxe5 Nd6+ and you have to exchange the Bishop: if you allow ...Nf5, you cannot break the blockade. But 45.Bxd6 Kxd6 is a draw.

However, 41.h5! appears to win. – Dubisch

41...Kxc7 42.g5

42.h5 gxh5 43.gxh5 Kd6 44.Kf5 Kxd5 after 45.Kg6 as suggested in the original annotations, 45...Ke6 will hold. Was 45.Kg6 a misprint? Did the annotator mean 45.Kxf6? After 45...Ke4 there is no win there either!

42...fxg5 43.hxg5 h5 44.Kxe5 Kd7 45.f4 h4 46.Ke4

The last trap would be 46.f5; if 46...gxf5 47.Kf4 wins! White's split pawns are farther apart than Black's, therefore the black king cannot cover them both. But if 46...h3, both sides queen with Black on the

move, and there is a perpetual.

46...Kd6

But if 46...h3 47.Kf3! transposes to the previous note. 1/2-1/2



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NORTHWEST CHESS OPEN December 14-15, 2013

A Northwest Chess fundraising event.

USCF-rated, NWC Grand Prix.

State membership optional.

Format: 5 Round Swiss; TC 40/90, SD/30, no delay.

Playing site: Seattle Chess Club, 2150 N 107th St, Seattle, WA. Registration 8:30-9:15 a.m.

Entry: Entry Fee \$25.00 in advance, \$30.00 at door. Make checks payable to Duane Polich and send to 17317 Woodcrest Drive NE, Bothell, WA 98011, or enter online at www.nwchess.com/online/registration.

Prizes: Prize fund \$550 based on 25 entries; 1st \$125, 2nd \$75, under 2000, \$75, under 1800 \$75, under 1600 \$75, under 1400 \$75, under 1200 \$50. Additional books and Northwest Chess magazine subscription prizes as entries permit.

For more information and details:

Go to: <http://www.nwchess.com/>

MATCH & SIMUL December 13-15, 2013

Featuring ...

FM Ignacio Perez and NM Roland Feng

Playing site: Seattle Chess Club, 2150 N 107th St, Seattle, WA.

Friday, December 13:

Opening Ceremony at 6:00 p.m. followed by a special simultaneous exhibition for fans and spectators! Free online registration for simul, maximum of 25 players.

Saturday, December 14:

Classical Games at 11:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 15:

Rapid Games: 2 games at 11:00 a.m. and ASAP.

Blitz Games: 10 games starting at 5:00 p.m.

Interviews and Closing Ceremony at 8:30 p.m.

For more information and details:

Go to: <http://www.nwchess.com/>

Oregon Chess News

Klamath Falls

by Tai Pruce-Zimmerman

In June of 2013, the Klamath Falls Chess Club was just me: a lone Class D player, with the idea that “If you build it, they will come.” Three months later, on September 29, the club, now a reality, held its first USCF-rated tournament.

Robyn Wilde, 1851, drew his game in the final round against Paul Romero, 2094, and the two shared first place. Three players made the two and a half hour drive from Redding, California to participate. Half of the eight-player field was rated over 1800. The first phase of my effort to start a chess club from scratch had unequivocally succeeded.

The time controls were only G/45, and the time pressure was evident in the game scores. Several games saw surprising blunders, yet were no less exciting for it. The most interesting game of the event came in round two, and by the end had the entire tournament field crowded around watching the time scramble as clocks ticked under a minute:

**Robyn Wilde (1851) –
Matthew Rudd (1833) [C63]**
Klamath G/45 Klamath Falls (R2),
September 29, 2013

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 f5 4.Nc3 fxe4 5.Nxe4 Nf6 6.d3 d5 7.Nc3 Bd6 8.Bg5 Be6 9.Qe2 0-0 10.Bxc6 bxc6 11.Nxe5 Qe8 12.f4 Bc5 13.Na4 Bd4 14.c3 Bxe5 15.Qxe5 Ng4 16.Qe2 Qg6 17.0-0-0 Rae8 18.h3 Bf5 19.Qd2 Ne3 20.Rde1 d4 21.cxd4 Nd5 22.Nc5 h6 23.g4 Bc8 24.Bh4 Rxe1+ 25.Rxe1 Rxf4 26.Bg3 Rf3 27.Qg2 Qf7 28.Re8+ Kh7 29.Kd2 Rxd3 30.Qe4+ g6 31.Rxc8 Qf2+ 32.Qe2 Qf4+ 33.Kc2 Rf3 34.Qe8 Ne3+ 35.Kb3 Qf7+ And white won on time a few moves later 1-0

Due to the lack of “clean” games, the organizers faced a challenge in awarding an advertised brilliancy prize. Ultimately, the award was given not to a full game, but to half of one. In round two, Melissa Jump showed that even a dropped piece out of the opening and a 400-point rating disadvantage shouldn't prevent one from playing on, and moves 11 through 18 earned her the brilliancy prize:

**Tai Pruce-Zimmerman (1423) –
Melissa Jump (1018) [C58]**
Klamath G/45 Klamath Falls (F2),
September 29, 2013
[Tai Pruce-Zimmerman]



*The Redding contingent. L-R: Matt Rudd, Melissa Jump, and Eric Isberg.
Photo credit: Tai Pruce-Zimmerman*

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.Ng5 d5 5.exd5 Na5 6.Bb5+ Bd7?!

Better is 6...c6 7.dxc6 bxc6 generating excellent activity and attacking chances in exchange for the sacrificed pawn.

7.Qe2 Bd6 8.d4 Qe7 9.Bd2 Nxd5?

Drops a piece.

10.Bxd7+ Kd8?!

10...Kxd7 11.Qb5+ doesn't save the piece, but may give Black better chances.

11.Bxa5?

Simply 11.Ba4 or 11.Bh3 leave White up a clean piece, whereas this unnecessary exchange gives Black the chance to counter-attack with strong pressure on the white king.

11...Qxg5 12.Bh3 Nf4!

Down material, Black needs to play actively and aggressively and give White opportunities to go wrong. This and subsequent moves generate significant pressure.

13.Bd2 Re8 14.Qg4 exd4+ 15.Kf1?

And White slips. 15.Kd1 is still fine, Black is running out of attacking ideas, and the piece is still decisive. After this blunder, though, Black has one decisive winning move.

[Diagram next column]

15...Qb5+!!

A move that requires whole board vision, and that not many Class E players would spot... and in this particular game at least one Class C player also missed it.

16.Kg1 Ne2+ 17.Kf1

White can stave off immediate mate by sacrificing the queen on e2, but not with a

position worth playing on in, and so White chose to “resign” by playing into the mate.



17...Ng3+ 18.Kg1 Qf1# 0-1

Getting the club to a point where we are able to pull off an event like this has been a wonderful experience. It is also only the beginning. By the time this edition of Northwest Chess hits your hands, we will have completed our second tournament, and have our third right around the corner. I have been amazed at how many strong players have come out of the woodwork once we started searching for them.

There truly is a demand for chess here in our community. And I suspect that a similar unmet demand exists in many other spots around the Northwest. If you've ever looked around and thought “I wish there were more local tournaments to play in” then I would strongly recommend stepping up and making it happen. It's definitely doable, and incredibly satisfying.

Author's note: Anyone who has questions or comments about our club, or about this article, or who is looking for advice on starting a club of their own, is welcome to email me at KlamathChess@gmail.com and I will be happy to respond.

PCC Sept 2013 Game 60 Report

By Brian Berger

September 28, 2013

It was a dark and stormy day, but 20 intrepid souls, braving downed power lines and flooded streets, met to put their ratings on the line at the Portland Chess Club's monthly Game 60.



L-R: Gregori Alpernas, Kornelij Dale at the PCC Sept 2013 Game 60.
Photo credit: Brian Berger

Under the able leadership of TDs Kornelij Dale and Gregori Alpernas, wars were won and battles lost, and in the end, as was expected, Master Nick Raptis finished with a perfect score of 4.0. On his heels were five scrappy fighters, all sharing 3.0 second place honors: Expert Lennart Bjorksten, Michael P. Goffe, Valentin Igorevich Molchanov, Kian Patel, and Adam Culbreth. And it should be noted that Molchanov's aggressive performance netted him a near 70-point rating increase, advancing from 1563 to 1630. Nice going Molchanov!

Seventh-place honor, at 2.5, fell to Won Joon Ki Choi, sharing none of his hard won glory. All others put up gallant efforts, and are to be congratulated for "weathering" the storm, so to speak.



Lennart Bjorksten (left) and Nick Raptis (right) at PCC Sept 2013 Game 60.
Photo credit: Brian Berger

Portland Fall Open

By Brian Berger

October 12-13, 2013

A cool but sunny Fall day greeted 47 eager players meeting for the Portland Chess Club's Fall Open. Anticipating a large playing field, match officials brought in a Honey Bucket, to supplement the venue's single restroom--a welcome *relief* for those in *time trouble*.

Among the many hard fought battles, two are worthy of mention. One stood out as an anomaly, while the other involved a seasoned opponent, and both were first and fifth round losses by the nearly invincible Nick Raptis. In the first game, Sarah R May (1966) managed to grab an *en prise* rook while Raptis was deep in calculation. Then in the fifth game, Lennart Bjorksten (2149) gave the Master his second loss, and in the process, secured 1st place in the Open section with a 4.5 out of 5.

Close on the heels of Bjorksten were Steven Deeth (2073) and Vljako Lakic (1984), who both managed 4.0, good enough to take home \$125 each.

In the Reserve section, Venkat Doddapaneni (1596) secured an uncontested 1st place with a perfect 5.0. against a field of 26 players, four of whom were higher rated. David Murray and Christopher Burris shared 2nd-3rd place with 4.0 each, splitting the prize and netting \$50 each.

In the under 1600, 1400, and unrated categories, E Stern-Rodriguez (3.5), Mu Lin (3.0), and Sugianto Saputra (2.5) each walked away with \$75.

The word was that most everyone enjoyed the weather and the tournament (one perhaps more than the other), conducted under the able leadership of TD Grisha Alpernas, assisted by Mike Morris and Jonathan and Barbara Fortune.



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Various spectators watch Adam Culbreth (left) vs. Tony Midson (right). Photo credit: Brian Berger



*L-R: Aaron Probst, Adam Culbreth.
Photo credit: Brian Berger*



*L-R: Mu Lin, Christopher Burris.
Photo credit: Brian Berger*



*L-R: Micah Smith, Nick Raptis.
Photo credit: Brian Berger*



*L-R: Jerry Sherrar, Dennis Hoefler.
Photo credit: Brian Berger*

Carl Haessler
Chess Master



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Idaho Chess News

Two ICA Board Members Resign

Patrick Abernathy resigned his position as Secretary/Treasurer of the Idaho Chess Association on September 23, 2013. Five days later, on September 28, 2013, George W. Lundy resigned his position as Trustee for Tournament Organization. These resignations were accepted by the ICA President, Jeff Roland, on the same day they were tendered.

Both of these gentlemen are thanked for their voluntary service in the ICA. They will be missed.

This leaves the ICA Board currently at five members. It is likely that replacements will be made before the Annual Business Meeting which is held in February during the Idaho Closed.

Barnes & Noble October Blitz Tournament

Eleven players participated in a Blitz (5-minute) tournament on the evening of October 8, 2013 at the Barnes & Noble site for the Magic Valley Chess Club in Twin Falls, Idaho.

Barry Eacker (Twin Falls) won 1st place with 9 points followed by a tie for 2nd-3rd place between Fred Bartell (Twin Falls) and Adam Porth (Bellevue, Idaho) each having 8 points. Jared Arp (7 points), Gary Dugger (6 points), Tyler Avila (4 points), Wesley Brimstein (4 points), Andre Murphy (4 points), Quentin Van Law (3 points), Aleksandr Vereshchagin (2 points), and Darwin Porth (0 points) were the other players in the round-robin tournament.

This event was rated by Rocky Mountain Chess Ratings and was co-sponsored by the Idaho Chess Union (ICU) and the Magic Valley Chess Club. The Chief Tournament Director was Barry Eacker.

3rd Annual ICA Players Memorial

The 3rd Annual ICA Players Memorial took place September 21-22, 2013 at the Boise State University Student Union Building in Boise, Idaho. The time control was Game/120 with a 5-second delay. Jeffrey T. Roland was the Chief Tournament Director



L-R: Jamie Lang, Isaac Blake. Photo credit: Jeff Roland

and George Lundy III was the Assistant Tournament Director.

The result of the Open Section was a tie for 1st-2nd place between Cameron Leslie of Moscow and Jeffrey T. Roland of Boise with 4 points each. Charles Hughes of Boise and Paul Edvalson of Eagle tied for 3rd-4th place with 3.5 points each.

In the Reserve (Under 1400) Section Desmond Porth of Bellevue, Idaho was clear 1st place with 4.5 points. Jamie Lang of Meridian was 2nd place with 4 points and there was a tie for 3rd-4th place between Zane A. Roberts of Boise and Isaac Blake of Boise.

There were 24 players in the tournament plus one house player plus one visitor, a high school student from Eagle named Taylor Brooks, who came by to watch and ended up playing an unrated unofficial game with our house player in the last round.

It was noteworthy that this is the first time ever that all four chess players in the Porth family played in the same USCF-rated tournament — and even the same section. It was also noteworthy that Jeff Roland failed to bring enough score sheets for the final round but was able to make some make-shift score sheets. Two of the players were not used to their MonRoi devices, and forgot to actually save most of their games. Chalk it up to experience and getting used to something new. But the good news is that all the moves to all the games are preserved

and are available online on the Idaho Chess Association website.

Jamie Lang (1380) – Isaac Blake (871) [B13]
ICA Players Memorial (Reserve)
Boise, ID (R1), September 21, 2013
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5



4.Bb5+?!

Strategically wrong on several counts.

First, the exchanging sequence leaves Black slightly ahead in development: it was White to move with nothing developed for either side, and after the exchange on d7, it will be White to move, but Black will have a piece on d7.

Second, the pawns in the center are fixed, so we can start talking about good and bad bishops. White is suggesting the exchange of his own good bishop for Black's bad bishop.

There are two popular plans starting on the fourth move of the exchange Caro-Kan.



L-R: James Patrick Brooks, Paul Edvalson. Photo credit: Jeff Roland

One is the Panov-Botvinnik attack, though actually a reversed Tarrasch Queen's Gambit, 4.c4, which leads either to an isolated d-pawn or advancing a three against two pawn majority on the queenside. The other is to play the position for a quieter colors-reversed Queen's Gambit Exchange variation. The best beginning for that plan is 4.Bd3, hoping (among other things) to restrict the development of the c8-bishop until Black feels compelled to play ...e6, which traps in the bad bishop more severely.

4...Bd7 5.Bxd7+ Nxd7 6.Nc3 Ngf6 7.Nf3 e6 8.0-0 Bb4 9.Bd2 Bxc3 10.Bxc3 0-0 11.Qd3 Re8 12.Ne5 Ne4 13.Bb4?!

13.Nxd7 Qxd7 14.Bb4 is about even after the coming f2-f3. 14...Rec8 15.f3 Nd6 16.Bxd6 Qxd6 is perhaps a small edge for Black, as his minority attack should be marginally easier to prosecute. Half-open files, minority attacks, major pieces... sounds like fun!

13...Nxe5 14.dxe5 a5 15.Ba3 Qc7 16.f3??



16.Qd4 Rac8 17.f3 Nc5 18.Rac1 Nd7 19.f4 Black is still a little better.

16...Nc5??

16...Qb6+ 17.Kh1 Nf2+ 18.Rxf2 Qxf2 White has no appreciable compensation for the exchange.

17.Bxc5 Qxc5+ 18.Kh1 Rad8 19.Rad1 d4

20.f4 g6 21.Rf3 Qb4?!

21...Rd5 better anchors the rook to prepare a slow attack by advancing on the queenside. It is not clear what that white rook is actually doing on f3.

22.Qb3 Qxb3 23.Rxb3 Re7 24.Rbd3



24...Rc7?

Right idea; wrong rook. The way to maintain the balance is to counter-attack a white pawn weakness. It was essential, however, to unpin the d-pawn at the same time. The move chosen allows White to work the pin while simultaneously getting rid of his own weak c-pawn. Much better was 24...Rc8 with complete equality: 25.R1d2 Rec7 26.Rxd4 Rxc2

25.c3 b5 26.Rxd4 Rxd4 27.Rxd4 Rc4?

The general rule: when behind material, exchange pawns, not pieces. Therefore the pawn-reduction strategy 27...g5 28.g3 gxf4 29.gxf4 f6 30.exf6 Kf7 offers better chances to hold the ending. White is still up a pawn, but has work to do to prove the win. After the exchange of rooks, White's win is simple.

28.Rxc4 bxc4 29.Kg1 Kf8 30.Kf2 Ke7 31.Ke3 f6 32.exf6+ Kxf6 33.Kd4 g5 34.fxg5+ Kxg5 35.Ke5 h5 36.Kxe6 h4 1-0

James Patrick Brooks –
Paul Edvalson (1556) [A31]

ICA Players Memorial (Open)
Boise, ID (R3), September 21, 2013
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.Nf3 g6 4.Nc3 cxd4 5.Nxd4 d5 6.e3 Bg7



7.Be2

7.cxd5! a) 7...Nxd5? 8.Bb5+ Kf8 (8...Bd7 9.Nxd5) 9.Nde2 e6 10.e4 White wins.; b) 7...Nbd7 8.e4; c) 7...0-0 8.Bc4 with a serious plus to White.

7...a6?!

7...0-0

8.Qb3?!

8.Qa4+ Bd7 (8...Nbd7 9.cxd5) 9.Qb3 Nc6 10.cxd5 Nxd4 11.exd4 with a White edge.

8...dxc4 9.Bxc4 0-0 10.0-0 b5 11.Be2 Bb7

11...e5!? 12.Nf3 Be6 Black gains space and time.

12.Bf3

12.a4!

12...Bxf3 13.Nxf3 Nbd7 14.Rd1 Qb6 15.Nd5?!

15.e4!?

15...Nxd5 16.Qxd5

White also has trouble completing development after 16.Rxd5

16...Rfd8 17.Bd2 Nc5 18.Qg5 Ne4?!

18...Bxb2 19.Rab1 Bf6

19.Qxe7 Nxd2 20.Nxd2 Ra7



20...Bxb2 21.Rab1 Bf6 with an edge to Black.

21.Qg5?

21.Nc4! Rxd1+ 22.Rxd1 Rxe7 23.Nxb6 Bxb2 is roughly even.

21...Rad7 22.e4 Qa5 23.Rac1 Rxd2 24.Rxd2 Qxd2 25.Qxd2 Rxd2 26.Rc8+ Bf8 0-1



Page 27



*Cameron Leslie during his round 5 game with Caleb Kircher.
Photo credit: Jeff Roland*

17.Nxg6 instead of 17.Re1 which would have led to equal play. Move 40. Qxd5 Qxd5 41. Ne7+ would have led to very interesting endgame that may or may not have led to a win or draw for me. Move 53.Nc2 I looked at 53.Nxd5 but instantly rejected it on account of 53.Qa2+ thinking it won my knight, overlooking the fact that after I played 54.Ke3 I have decent chances again to get a draw although my king is still very exposed in that position. 0-1

**Tom Booth (1602) –
Kenneth Sanderson (1700) [C02]**
ICA Players Memorial (Open) Boise, ID
(R5), September 22, 2013
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.d4 e6 2.e4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.c3 Nc6 5.Nf3
Qb6 6.a3 c4 7.Be2 f6 8.exf6

8.0-0 =

8...Nxf6 9.0-0 Bd7 10.Ne5



10...g6?

10...Nxe5 11.dxe5 Ne4 12.Nd2 Nc5 and Black is better, working the light-square holes.

11.Nd2 Nxe5 12.dxe5 Ng8

You can see the big difference made by delaying the e5-capture for just one move. The knight can no longer use the e4-square to transfer to the queenside. Black would have done better to avoid the exchange.

13.Nf3 0-0-0?! 14.Ng5

14.a4! a5 (14...h6 15.a5) 15.Bg5 Re8 16.b3! cxb3 17.Be3 Bc5 18.Bxc5 Qxc5 19.Qxb3 White has the good bishop, slightly better development, more space, the d4 outpost for his knight, and open lines on the queenside; that adds up to a significant advantage.



L-R: Tom Booth, Kenneth Sanderson. Photo credit: Jeff Roland

14...Nh6 15.Rb1 Bxa3



16.Nxe6! Qxe6

16...Bxe6 17.Bxh6 Be7 (17...Bc5 18.b4)
18.b3 is also a plus for White.

17.Bxh6 Bc5 18.Bg7 Rhg8 19.Bf6 Be7

19...Rdf8? 20.Bf3 Bc6?? 21.Bg4

20.Bxe7 Qxe7 21.Qd4

21.Qxd5!? Bc6 22.Qxc4 Qxe5 23.Bf3

21...Be6?

21...Rge8 22.f4 Bf5 23.Ra1 b6 may be a little better.

22.Qxa7 Qc7 23.Qd4 Kd7 24.Ra1 Ra8 25.h3

25.b3! Rxa1 26.Rxa1 cxb3? 27.Bb5+ Ke7 28.Qb4+ Kd8 29.Ra8+ Bc8 30.e6 threatening Bd7.

25...Ra5? 26.Rxa5 Qxa5 27.Bxc4 Kc6 28.Be2 Qa2 29.Qb4 1-0



Alise Pemsler was the "house player". She played a rated game in round 2 in the Reserve Section, and also an unofficial unrated game with an interested spectator/ high school student who came by to check things out. Photo credit: Jeff Roland

The 2013 Elena Donaldson Akhmylovskaja Memorial Northwest Chess Grand Prix

Murlin Varner, wer zählt die Zahlen

This month we see the effect of the upwardly mobile, at least as it pertains to ratings. Maxwell Sun, for example, was first Class A in Oregon last month. This month, Sun is first Expert instead. Masakazu Shimida, also of Oregon, moved from Class C to Class B, still out of the money, but closer now as the Oregon Class B leaders have fewer points.

In Washington, David He leapt from 4th Expert to 2nd Master. Filling a void, Kyle Haining jumped from 4th Class A to 2nd Expert. Anthony He got out from behind the big three in Class B (Ralph Anthony, Stephen Buck and August Piper) by ascending to Class A, where he took over the top spot. Suddenly, there is a race again for the top spot in Class D because Jerrold Richards moved to the top spot in Class C. His hold on that top spot is much more tenuous, however, as his 43 point Class D lead translated into only a two-point Class C lead. And, in a good news, bad news sort of way, Neil Chowdhury climbed from the 2nd spot in Class C to the 4th spot in Class B vacated by Anthony He. A nice move in the ratings category, but way too far behind the money in Class B for the short time we have left this year. Neil, you need to quickly move to Class A, where your chances at GP money are much better. Either that or hope that two of those big three I mentioned above are destined for Class A in one of the last two months remaining this year.

Idaho, I'm afraid I don't have any big rating moves to mention for you, but there are three players who took over money spots this month, with Paul Edvalson, Jamie Lang and Kyle Schwab all moving into second place in their respective classes.

The standings below are current through October 5th and use the year's peak official rating through October.

Northwest Chess Grand Prix Standings

| Idaho | | | Oregon | | | Washington | | | | | |
|-------------|-------------|-----------|---------|-----------|-------------|------------|-------|---------|----------|-------------|------|
| last | first | pts. | last | first | pts. | last | first | pts. | | | |
| | | | Masters | | | | | | | | |
| | | | 1 | Raptis | Nick | 124 | 1 | Pupols | Viktors | 155.5 | |
| | | | 2 | Haessler | Carl A | 55 | 2 | He | Daniel M | 100 | |
| | | | 3 | Russell | Corey J | 42 | 3 | Bragg | David R | 76 | |
| | | | 4 | Gay | Daniel Z | 34 | 4 | Feng | Roland | 73 | |
| | | | 5 | Prochaska | Peter | 18 | 5 | Sinanan | Joshua C | 55.5 | |
| M/X/Class A | | | Experts | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | Leslie | Cameron D | 57.5 | 1 | Sun | Maxwell S | 78 | 1 | Nagase | Masayuki | 105 |
| 2 | Kircher | Caleb P | 35.5 | 2 | Cigan | Jason | 74 | 2 | Haining | Kyle | 99.5 |
| 3 | Havrilla | Mark A | 29.5 | 3 | Tezcan | Yaman | 72.5 | 3 | Bartron | Paul R | 98.5 |
| 4 | Parsons | Larry R | 7 | 4 | Sherrard | Jerry | 62.5 | 4 | Lampman | Becca | 95 |
| | | | 5 | Botez | Alexandra V | 59.5 | 5 | He | Samuel F | 88 | |
| Class B | | | Class A | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | Roland | Jeffrey T | 111.5 | 1 | Goffe | Michael P | 52 | 1 | He | Anthony B | 92 |
| 2 | Gorman | Cody A | 31.5 | 2 | Yoshinaga | David K | 50 | 2 | Nagase | Toshihiro | 90 |
| 3 | Machin | Alex J | 25 | 3 | Trattner | Andrew L | 45.5 | 3 | Smith | Micah | 82 |
| 4 | Lundy, III | George W | 19 | 4 | Eagles | Roland | 42.5 | 4 | Davis | Frederick A | 81.5 |
| 5 | Two tied at | | 17.5 | 5 | Bannon | David T | 36 | 5 | Fields | Noah D | 76 |

| Idaho | | | | Oregon | | | Washington | | | | |
|---------------------------|------------|-----------|-------|-------------------|-----------|---------------|------------|----|------------|-----------|-------|
| Class C | | | | Class B | | | | | | | |
| 1 | Weyland | Ronald M | 20 | 1 | Berger | Brian F | 71.5 | 1 | Anthony | Ralph J | 218 |
| 2 | Edvalson | Paul | 16 | 2 | Burris | Christopher E | 64 | 2 | Buck | Stephen J | 151 |
| 3 | Harris | Hank | 14.5 | 3 | Culbreth | Adam | 58.5 | 3 | Piper | August | 116 |
| 4 | Gallivan | Ryan O | 13 | 4 | Shimada | Masakazu | 56 | 4 | Chowdhury | Neil | 83 |
| 5 | Imamovic | Nedzad | 6 | 5 | Patel | Kian | 53.5 | 5 | Gulamali | Faris | 73.5 |
| Class D | | | | Class C | | | | | | | |
| 1 | Porth | Adam | 28.5 | 1 | Hasuike | Mike L | 87.5 | 1 | Richards | Jerrold | 104.5 |
| 2 | Lang | Jamie | 21 | 2 | Sharan | Praveer | 62 | 2 | Zhang | Eric M | 102 |
| 3 | Roberts | Zane A | 18.5 | 3 | Samillano | Jazon | 54 | 3 | Sehgal | Rahul | 84.5 |
| 4 | Naccarato | Savanna | 18 | 4 | Wu | Ethan | 52 | 4 | Haining | Breck | 76.5 |
| 5 | Buus | Jarod N | 13 | 5 | Botez | Andrea C C | 48.5 | 5 | Chalasani | Sujatha D | 60.5 |
| Class E and Below | | | | Class D and Below | | | | | | | |
| 1 | Porth | Desmond | 28 | 1 | Buerer | Harry F | 61.5 | 1 | Gulamali | Freya | 74 |
| 2 | Blake | Isaac R | 20 | 2 | Jacobsen | Jason | 50 | 2 | Chen | Brian | 58 |
| 3 | Schwab | Kyle J | 18 | 3 | Prideaux | Dave | 40 | 3 | Dixon | Max L | 49 |
| 4 | Wetmur | Harold R | 17 | 4 | Hunter | Roger J | 23 | 3 | Pothukuchi | Revanth V | 49 |
| 5 | Pemsler | Alise B | 15 | 5 | Winkler | Jake | 22 | 5 | Ruan | Evan | 48.5 |
| Overall Leaders, by State | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | Roland | Jeffrey T | 111.5 | 1 | Raptis | Nick | 124 | 1 | Anthony | Ralph J | 218 |
| 2 | Leslie | Cameron D | 57.5 | 2 | Hasuike | Mike L | 87.5 | 2 | Pupols | Viktors | 155.5 |
| 3 | Kircher | Caleb P | 35.5 | 3 | Sun | Maxwell S | 78 | 3 | Buck | Stephen J | 151 |
| 4 | Gorman | Cody A | 31.5 | 4 | Cigan | Jason | 74 | 4 | Piper | August | 116 |
| 5 | Havrilla | Mark A | 29.5 | 5 | Tezcan | Yaman | 72.5 | 5 | Nagase | Masayuki | 105 |
| 6 | Porth | Adam | 28.5 | 6 | Berger | Brian F | 71.5 | 6 | Richards | Jerrold | 104.5 |
| 7 | Porth | Desmond | 28 | 7 | Burris | Christopher E | 64 | 7 | Zhang | Eric M | 102 |
| 8 | Machin | Alex J | 25 | 8 | Sherrard | Jerry | 62.5 | 7 | He | Daniel M | 100 |
| 9 | Lang | Jamie | 21 | 9 | Sharan | Praveer | 62 | 9 | Haining | Kyle | 99.5 |
| 10 | Weyland | Ronald M | 20 | 10 | Buerer | Harry F | 61.5 | 10 | Bartron | Paul R | 98.5 |
| 10 | Blake | Isaac R | 20 | 11 | Botez | Alexandra V | 59.5 | 11 | Lampman | Becca | 95 |
| 12 | Lundy, III | George W | 19 | 12 | Culbreth | Adam | 58.5 | 12 | He | Anthony B | 92 |

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Also, check out nwchess.com/blog/

Seattle Chess Club Tournaments

 Address 
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kleistcf@aol.com
Address for Entries
SCC Tnmt Dir
2420 S 137 St
Seattle WA 98168

How to Find the SCC

Look for the Northway Square East Building, just across I-5 from Northgate Mall, with large signs proclaiming "Northwest Kidney Centers" and "City University." The main entrance is reached by turning east on N. 107th Street from Meridian Ave. N. The club is on the lower level.

Nov. 2, Dec. 7

Saturday Quads

Format: 3-RR, 4-plyr sections by rating. **TC:** G/120; d5. **EF:** \$9 (+\$7 for non-SCC). **Prizes:** Free entry for future quad. **Reg:** 9:00-9:45 a.m. **Rds:** 10:00-2:15-ASAP. **Misc:** USCF, WCF/OCF memb. req'd, OSA. NS, NC.

Nov. 10, Dec. 8

Sunday Tornado

Format: 4-SS. **TC:** G/60; d5 (or G/64; d0). **EF:** \$18 (+\$7 fee for non-SCC). **Prizes:** 1st 35%, 2nd 27%, Bottom Half 1st 22%, 2nd 16% (\$10 from each EF goes to prize fund). **Reg:** 10:30-11:15 a.m. **Rds:** 11:30-1:50-4:10-6:30. **Misc:** USCF, WCF/OCF memb. req'd, OSA. NS, NC.

SCC Fridays

Typical Friday fare is one round of an ongoing tournament (free to SCC members, no prizes) played at a rate of 40/90 followed by 30/60. Drop in for any round!

November Rains: Nov. 1, 8, 15, 22.

Closed (Go to WA Class): Nov. 29.

C.B. Bagley Memorial: Dec. 6, 13, 20.

Patzers' Challenge: Dec. 27.

Attendance at 2013's events

G/15 Ch. (3/1)-12; *Novice* (1/19)-2, (4/7)-6, (7/13)-6; *Quads* (1/26)-11, (2/23)-26, (3/16)-20, (4/13)-16, (5/11)-25, (6/8)-16, (7/6)-16, (8/10)-19, (9/14)-20, (10/5)-24; *Tornados* (1/6)-25, (2/3)-10, (3/3)-32, (4/14)-19, (5/5)-21, (6/2)-18, (6/30)-29, (8/11)-30; **Seattle City Championship** (1/11-13)-30; **Seattle Spring Open** (3/22-24)-60; **Adult Swiss** (4/21-22)-13; **Emerald City Open** (6/14-16)-44; **SeaFair Open** (7/19-21)-81; **Seattle Fall Open** (9/20-22)-74.

Attendance at 2012's events

3-Day Wknd Tnmts (6)-ave. 44.3; *Tornados* (13)-ave. 19.2; *Quads* (10)-ave. 16.6; *2-Day Wknd Tnmts* (2)--11.5; *Octagonals* (1)-9; *Novice* (4)-ave. 7.

7th SCC Extravaganza!!

November 15-17, 2012

A two-section, seven-round Swiss with a time control of **G/90** (Two-day option – rounds 1 & 2 @ G/45). The prize fund of **\$1000** is based on 54.

Open: \$200-140, U2200 100, U2000 100

Reserve (U1800): First \$140-100, U1600 70, U1400 70, U1200 60, UNR 20

Entry Fee: \$40 by 11/13 (\$30 for SCC members, \$35 for members of other dues-required CCs in WA, OR, & BC), \$48 at site (\$36 for SCC members, \$42 for members of other dues-required CCs in WA, OR, & BC).

Registration: Friday 7-7:45 p.m. Saturday 9-9:45 a.m. Rounds: Friday 8 p.m., Saturday 11-2:30-6, Sunday 11-2:30-6.

Two-Day Option: Rounds 1 & 2 Saturday 10-12. Byes: 3 available; 1 for rounds 5-7, must commit before round 3.

Miscellaneous: USCF & ICA/OCF/WCF membership required. OSA. NC, NS.

Ent/Info: SCC Tnmt Dir, 2420 S 137 St, Seattle WA 98168. 206-417-5405 (recorded message); kleistcf@aol.com.

Upcoming Events

♣ denotes 2013 Northwest Grand Prix event; for Seattle Chess Club events see page 31

♣ **Nov 2-3 Oregon Class Championships, Portland, OR.** See full-page ad on page 16 of the October issue of *Northwest Chess* or <http://www.nwchess.com/calendar/TA.htm>

♣ **Nov 2 Southern Idaho Open, Twin Falls, ID.** USCF membership required. 4SS, G/60;d5. In two sections Open/U1400. HUB (formerly Obenchain) Insurance Building, Community Room – rear entrance, 260 South Main, Twin Falls, ID. EF: \$30; (\$25 if Under 18 or 60+ years old) by 10/27. \$5 more for EVERYONE at site. Reg.: 8 am-8:30 am. Rds.: 9 am, 11 am, 3 pm, 5 pm. Prizes (based on 30): Open: \$150, \$125, \$100, \$75. U 1400: \$100, \$75, \$50. (1) half point bye for rounds 1-3 only. First round byes must notify TD before round is paired; all others, before round 2 is paired. Info: Barry Eacker, 208 733-6186 mol@q.com, or www.idahochessassociation.org. NC. NS. W.

♣ **Nov 7, 14, 21 Turkey Quads, Spokane, WA.** Gonzaga University (Herak Rm 121), Registration: 6:30-7:15 p.m. on Nov 7. One round per week. E.F. \$16. Time Control: G/120 (with 5 second delay).

♣ **Nov. 9-10 Tri-Cities Open Richland, WA.** See half-page ad on page 20

♣ **Nov 9 Washington G/60 Championship, Tacoma, WA.** Site: Tacoma Chess Club, 409 Puyallup Ave E., Tacoma, which is located in the DTI Soccer Store Building across the street from Alfred's Café and four blocks down from the Tacoma Dome. Format: Four Round Swiss. Time Control: G60 +5 second delay. Rounds: 10:00, 12:30, 3:00, and 5:30 or ASAP. Entry Fee: \$30.00, Prize Fund: \$290.00 B16, 1st \$75 + Plaque, 2nd \$65, and 1st U 1800, 1600, 1400 \$50 each. One half-point bye will be available. NS NW NC. Entries / Information: Gary J. Dorfner, 8423 E B St., Tacoma, WA 98445, (253) 535-2536, ggarychess@aol.com. Make checks payable to Gary J. Dorfner. USCF/WCF (or other state) membership required.

♣ **Nov 29-Dec 1 Washington Class Championship, Lynnwood, WA.** See full-page ad on page 3

♣ **Nov 30/Dec 28 Portland CC Game in 60, Portland, OR.** 4SS, G/60. TD may switch to 5SS and G/45 if more than 25 entries. Portland Chess Club, 8205 SW 24th Ave., Portland, OR. EF: \$20, \$5 discount for PCC Members. OCF/WCF and USCF memb req'd, OSA. No advance entries. Reg: 9-9:30. Byes: 1/2 point bye if requested at reg. Prizes: (\$200/b20) \$60-\$40-\$30 U1800, U1500 \$35 each. Info: e-mail portlandchessclub@gmail.com, phone 503-246-2978, website www.pdxchess.com.

♣ **Dec 14-15 Western Idaho Open, Boise, ID.** 5SS, Time Control: G/120;d5. 2 Sections: Open and Reserve (U1400). Site: Boise State University, Student Union Bldg., 1910 University Dr., Boise, ID. USCF mem req., ICA Mem req. OSA. EF by 12/9 \$30 (U18 & 60+ \$25), Special family rate \$60. \$5 more for all if after 12/9. BSU Chess Club Students enter for free even if not pre-registered. Email entries OK to lock in lower rate. Register & check in: 8-8:45am 12/14. Rd times: Sat 9am, 1:30pm, 6pm; Sun 9am, 1:30pm. 1/2 pt bye avail: Max 1, any round. Must commit before Rd 2 pairing. Players arriving for round 2 may take a retroactive R1 1/2 pt bye. Prize \$\$ (Based on 30 non-BSU entries) Open: \$200-100-75. Reserve: \$100-75-50. ENT/INFO: ICA, Contact: Jeff Roland, 1514 S. Longmont Ave., Boise, ID 83706, jroland@cableone.net, www.idahochessassociation.org. NC, NS, W.

♣ **Dec 14-15 Northwest Chess Open, Seattle Chess Club, 2150 N 107th St, Seattle, WA.** 5 Rd Swiss: TC = 40/90 SD 30 No Delay. Registration 8:30-9:15 A.M. 12/14 or preregistered. Rounds Saturday: 9:30, 2:00, 6:30, Sunday 10:00 and 3:00. Entry Fee: \$25.00 in advance, \$30.00 at door. Prize fund \$550 based on 25 entries; 1st 125, 2nd 75, under 2000, \$75.00, under 1800 \$75.00 under 1600 \$75.00 under 1400 \$75.00. Under 1200 \$50.00. Additional books and Northwest Chess magazine subscription prizes as entries permit. Current USCF Membership is required, available at site or online at www.uschess.org. State membership not required, but of course we want to sign you up. This is a fund raising event for Northwest Chess magazine. 1/2 point bye available in advance and by end of Rd1. TD - Duane Polich, Publisher NWC. Make checks payable to Duane Polich and send to 17317 Woodcrest Drive NE, Bothell, WA 98011, or enter online at www.nwchess.com/online/registration. (See also half-page ad on page 21.)

♣ **Dec 14-15 Portland Winter Open, Portland, OR.** (Details tentative based on Spring Open.) Site: Portland Chess Club, 8205 SW 24th Ave, Portland, OR. This USCF-rated, two-day tournament is played in two sections (Open and U1800), has five rounds, and offers long time controls and lots of cash prizes: Time Control: 40/90 SD/30, 5 second delay if clock allows. Two half point byes available for Rounds 1-4 if requested at registration. Entry Fee: \$35; members of the Club get \$10 discount. Memberships: USCF and OCF/WCF required and can be purchased/renewed at registration (other state memberships OK for out-of-area players). Registration: 9:00-9:45am on Saturday. Rounds at 10, 2 and ASAP on Saturday, 10 and ASAP on Sunday. Prizes: based on 40 entries and adjusted proportionally if different number of players, total prize fund is \$650 (each section's prize fund \$325). Open section: 1st place - \$150, 2nd place - \$100, best result for rated under 2000 - \$75. Reserve section: 1st place - \$100, 2nd place - \$75, best results for rated under 1600, under 1400, and under 1200 or unrated - \$50 each. No tiebreakers used, prizes split between players with the same results.

♣ **Dec 21 Christmas Congress, Tacoma, WA.** Site: Tacoma Chess Club in the DTI Soccer Store Building on the second floor at 409 Puyallup Ave across the street from Alfred's Café. Registration: 9 – 9:45. Format: 4 round Swiss in 1 section. Time Control: G/60; d5. Entry Fee: \$25.00, Prize Fund: 60% of entry fees, 1st 25%; 2nd \$15%; U2000, U1700, U1400 20% each. Rounds: 10:00, 12:30, 2:30, 4:30 or A.S.A.P. Byes: one half-point bye available. USCF and state membership required. NS NC NW. Entries/Info: Gary J. Dorfner, 8423 E. B St., Tacoma, WA 98445, (253) 535-2536, ggarychess@aol.com.

♣ **Dec 28 Tacoma CC Mini After Christmas Swiss, Tacoma, WA.** Site: Tacoma Chess Club, 409 Puyallup Ave E., Tacoma, located in the DTI Soccer Store Building across the street from Alfred's Café and four blocks down from the Tacoma Dome. Format: 3 round Swiss. Time Control: G90 (5 second delay). Entry Fee: \$25, Prize Fund: B16 Top Half: 1st \$50 2nd \$25, Bottom half: 1st \$50, 2nd \$25. Registration: 9:00 – 9:45. Entries/Information: Gary Dorfner, 8423 E B ST, Tacoma, WA, (253) 535-2536, email ggarychess@aol.com or see Gary at the club.