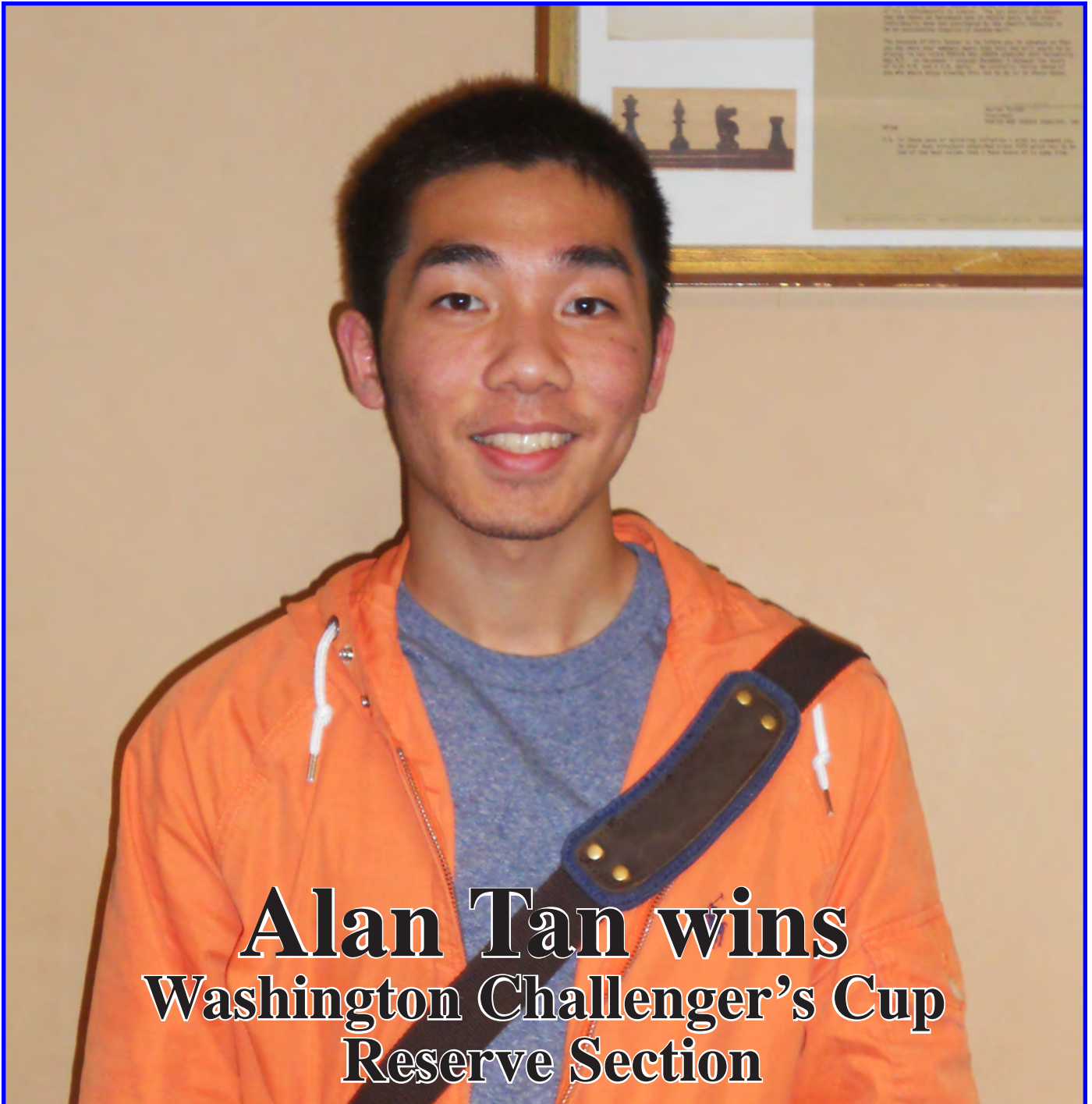




\$3.95

January 2015

Happy New Year!



**Alan Tan wins
Washington Challenger's Cup
Reserve Section**

Northwest Chess

January 2015, Volume 69-01 Issue 804

ISSN Publication 0146-6941

Published monthly by the Northwest Chess Board.
Office of record: c/o Orlov Chess Academy, 2501
152nd Ave NE STE M16, Redmond, WA 98052-5546.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:
Northwest Chess c/o Orlov Chess Academy, 2501
152nd Ave NE STE M16, Redmond, WA 98052-5546.

Periodicals Postage Paid at Seattle, WA
USPS periodicals postage permit number (0422-390)

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Selected Best State Magazine/Newsletter in 2014 by Chess Journalists of America!

On the front cover:

Alan Tan, winner of the Washington Challenger's Cup Reserve Section.
Photo credit: Duane Polich.

On the back cover:

Jim Berezow at the Boise Chess Club on December 1, 2014.
Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland

Chesstoons:

Chess cartoons drawn by local artist Brian Berger, of West Linn, Oregon.
Fish - Human cartoon on page 16 is from November 1971 *Northwest Chess* by Rob Hankinson of British Columbia Canada, who was NWC editor at the time.

Northwest Chess Knights

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Washington Chess News

Washington Challenger's Cup

by Josh Sinanan

Each year during the Fall season, the Washington Chess Federation hosts a popular two-section Swiss tournament called the Washington Challenger's Cup. The event attracts many of the Northwest's most ambitious players since it offers a FIDE-rated open section and a golden ticket into the adult Washington State Championship. This year's event took place October 25-26 at the Seattle Chess Club and attracted 67 players split evenly between two sections, open and reserve U1800. The field included five USCF National Masters: FM Curt Collyer, NM Roland Feng, NM Bryce Tiglon, NM Dereque Kelley, and LM Viktors Pupols. The legendary TD, Fred Kleist, once again directed the event.

FM Curt Collyer of Seattle defended his title and won the open section with a perfect 4/4. For his victory, Collyer earns the coveted seed into the 2015 WA State Championship, which is held each year in February. Curt first learned chess from his father, David Collyer, who was an Expert-rated player and tournament organizer in Spokane. Curt won multiple scholastic titles in the 1990s and became the Washington State High School Champion in 2002. His frequent lessons with GM Akobian helped him to secure the National Master title in 2004, and he went on to earn the FIDE Master title in 2010, and the Life Master title in 2013. Curt enjoys reading chess books, especially opening books and game collections of the world champions. He is most impressed by the book "The Test of Time" by Garry Kasparov. In his own chess games, Curt likes to play 1.d4 as White, and the French, Dutch, and Owen defenses as Black. His favorite historical players are Kasparov, Karpov, and Botvinnik, while his favorite modern players are Aronian and Kramnik. In his spare time, Curt also coaches chess and enjoys watching his students achieve their own successes. His goals for 2015 are to study the games of Alekhine and to play in an overseas tournament.

NM Bryce Tiglon of Redmond took clear second in the open section with 3.5/4 after taking a second-round bye and winning the rest of his games. Experts



FM Curt Collyer. Photo credit: Josh Sinanan

David Rupel, Kyle Haining, and Derek Zhang tied for first U2100 with three points apiece. Severo Caluza, Jason Yu, and Trevor Jung all scored two points and shared the first U1900 prize.

UW undergraduate student Alan Tan won the reserve section with 4.5/5, conceding his only draw to WCF tournament coordinator Dan Mathews. Alan learned chess in third grade but didn't start playing in tournaments until his junior year at Franklin High School. He was bitten by the chess bug while taking a summer pre-calculus class at Lakeside School under the instruction of math teacher Siva Sankrithi, who is also the Chess Program Head. Ever since then, Tan insists he has never gone a day without doing something chess-related. With his tremendous tournament result, Alan increased his rating by over 100 points and has reached the 1700 level for the very first time in his short career as a tournament player. Needless to say, the chess community is lucky to have discovered Alan Tan and this young man has a very bright future ahead of him!

Rounding out the reserve section winners were Frank Hou, Catherine Smith, and Addison Lee, who split second place overall honors with four points each from five games. Oscar Petrov and Joshua Lewis-Sandy both scored 3.5 points and

tied for first U1400.

**Curt D Collyer (2302) –
Mark Bustillo Saarenas (1899) [D35]**
WA Challenger's Cup Seattle, WA
(R1), October 25, 2014
[Curt Collyer]

1.d4 e6 2.c4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.cxd5 exd5
5.Bg5 Be7 6.e3 0-0 7.Bd3 h6 8.Bh4
Nbd7 9.Nge2 c6 10.Bc2 Re8 11.Qd3 Nf8
12.f3 Nh5 13.Bf2 Bd6 14.g4 Nf6 15.0-0-0
b5 16.Kb1 a5 17.Rc1 Ba6 18.Qd1 Bb4
19.h4 N6d7 20.e4 Nb6 21.e5 Nc4 22.Bd3
Rb8 23.f4 Qe7 24.Ka1



Position after 24.Ka1

24...Nxb2?!

This aggressive sacrifice is probably unsound, but Black wanted to look for attacking chances while White was low on time.

25.Kxb2 Ba3+ 26.Ka1 Bxc1 27.Nxc1

Qa3 28.Qb3 Qe7 29.f5 a4 30.Qc2 Red8
31.Be2 Nd7 32.Nd3 b4!



Position after 32...b4

Black needs to act before White has time for Nb1 and Nc5, blockading the pawns.

33.Nd1?

Too passive, but if 33.Nxa4? then 33...b3! 34.axb3 Qa3+ 35.Qa2 Rxb3 looked active for Black. Instead, the tactical shot 33.Nxb4 would have been better, when White would retain the advantage.

33...Bc4!? 34.N3b2 b3

34...Bxa2!?

35.Qd2 Bxe2 36.Qxe2 Qa3 37.Nc3 Rb4 38.Rb1 Rdb8 39.e6 Nf6 40.exf7+ Kf8



Position after 40...Kf8

Now the time scramble is over, and White has time to find a strong move. What should White play?

41.Bg3!

This is a fun position to set up on a real board and analyze without a computer. There are many entertaining ideas available for both sides. You can see for yourself. But in the game, Black went wrong immediately.

41...bxa2? 42.Bd6+ 1-0

Cameron D Leslie (2088) – Gabriel Tafalla (1890) [D55]
WA Challenger's Cup Seattle, WA
(R2), October 25, 2014
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.cxd5 exd5 5.Bg5 Be7 6.e3 0-0 7.Bd3 Nbd7 8.Nf3 b6 9.0-0 Bb7 10.Rc1 c5 11.Bb1 c4 12.Qc2 a6 13.Ne5 g6 14.Bh6 Re8 15.Qe2 Nxe5 16.dxe5 Nd7 17.f4

[Diagram top of next column]



Position after 17.f4

17...Bc5?

17...Bb4 18.Rcd1 Bxc3 19.bxc3

18.Rcd1 Qh4 19.Bg5 Qh5 20.Qxh5 Bxe3+ 21.Kh1 gxh5 22.Rf3 Bc5 23.Rg3

23.Nxd5 is also strong.

23...d4?

23...Bf2 24.Rf3



Position after 23...d4

24.Bf6+ Kf8 25.Bxh7 Nxf6 26.exf6 1-0

Toshihiro Nagase (1983) – Curt D Collyer(2302) [A85]
WA Challenger's Cup Seattle, WA
(R2), October 25, 2014
[Curt Collyer]

1.d4 e6 2.c4 f5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.g3 Bb4 5.Bg2 Qe7 6.Nf3 Bxc3+ 7.bxc3 d6 8.Ba3 c5 9.Nd2 0-0 10.0-0 e5 11.dxc5 dxc5 12.Bd5+ Kh8 13.Nb3

It's ironic that White is laying siege to Black's healthy c-pawn while his own are double-isolated.

13...Na6 14.Qc2 Rb8 15.Rad1 b6



Position after 15...b6

After this move, White's queenside pieces look ridiculous.

16.Bc1 Nc7 17.Bg5 h6 18.Bxf6 Rxf6 19.Rd2 f4 20.Rfd1 Bf5 21.Be4 Be6 22.Bd5 Nxd5 23.cxd5 Bf5 24.Qb2 Qd6+ 25.Qa3 fxg3 26.hxg3



Position after 26.hxg3



L-R: Kyle Haining and Eric Zhang. Photo credit: Josh Sinanan



Challenger's Cup reserve section. Photo credit: Josh Sinanan

26...e4!?

Threatening to play e3, so White is forced to weaken his light squares.

27.e3 Rb7 28.Qa4 Re7 29.Na1!?

This move is designed to guard the kingside.

29...Bg4 30.Rb1



Position after 30.Rb1

30...Bf3?!

30...Qe5! was the critical move, bringing the queen into the attack.

31.Nc2 Rf5 32.Ne1 Bh5 33.c4 Kh7 34.Qc2 Qd7 35.a4 Bg6 36.Ng2 Bh5 37.Kh2? Bf3 38.Rh1 Rh5+ 0-1

Curt D Collyer(2302) –
Cameron D Leslie (2088) [E27]
WA Challenger's Cup Seattle, WA
(R3), October 26, 2014
[Curt Collyer]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.f3 0-0!
5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.bxc3 Ne8 7.e4 b6 8.Bd3
Ba6 9.Nh3 Qh4+!? 10.Nf2 Qd8 11.0-0
Nc6 12.c5!?

Activating the misplaced knight on f2.

12...Bxd3 13.Nxd3 d6 14.Qa4 Ne7
15.Rd1 f5?



Position after 15...f5

Now what should White play?

16.Nf4! Qc8 17.Qb3 fxe4

17...Rf6 18.exf5 Nxf5 19.Re1 Kf7 20.Ra2

g6 21.Rae2 Neg7 also looked unpleasant for Black.

18.Nxe6 1-0

Kyle Haining (2061) –
Curt D Collyer (2302) [B00]
WA Challenger's Cup Seattle, WA
(R4), October 26, 2014
[Curt Collyer]

1.e4 b6 2.d4 Bb7 3.Bd3 Nf6 4.Qe2 Nc6
5.Nf3 Nb4 6.Bc4 Nxe4 7.a3



Position after 7.a3

7...d5! 8.Bb5+ c6 9.Ba4 Na6 10.Ne5

10.Qxa6 would recover the pawn, but then Black would obtain the bishop pair.

10...Nb8 11.c4 e6 12.f3? Qh4+



Position after 12...Qh4+

A critical moment: What should White play?

13.g3?

This allows too much simplification. White is already losing and should seek practical chances with complications. 13.Kd1!? would have been more interesting. Now 13...Nf2+ 14.Kc2 Nxh1 15.cxd5 would have led to complications. This is a good position for analysis. White has many tactics on the light squares, but the truth of the position must be on Black's side, right? What is your assessment?

13...Nxc3 14.Qf2 Nf5 15.Qxh4 Nxh4
16.cxd5 exd5 17.Kf2 f6 18.Nd3 Nf5
19.Re1+ Kf7 20.Be3 Bd6 21.f4 Nd7
22.Nd2 Nf8 23.Rac1 Re8 24.Bc2 Nxe3
25.Kxe3 Re8+ 26.Kf3 Rxe1 27.Rxe1
Ne6 28.Ke3 Re8 29.f5 Nf4+ 30.Kf3
Nxd3 31.Rxe8 Kxe8 32.Bxd3 Bxh2
33.Kg4 Bg1 34.Nf3 Be3 35.b3 Ke7
36.Kg3 Bc8 37.Kg2 Bd7 38.Kf1 Be8
39.Ke2 Bc1 40.a4 Bh5 41.Kf2 a5 42.Ke2

g5 43.Kf2 Bg4 44.Kg3 h5 45.Bc2 Kd6
46.Bd3 Be3 47.Bc2 e5 48.dxc5+ Kxc5
49.Ne1 Kb4 50.Ng2 Bd2 0-1

**Robert J Allen (1796) –
Alan Tan (1607) [E30]**

WA Challenger's Cup (Reserve)
Seattle, WA (R5), October 26, 2014
[Ralph Dubisch = RD]
[Alan Tan = AT]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.a3

(!?) Usually in the Nimzo, Black is content with trading off the DS bishop for the c3 knight, so a3 isn't necessary. Although, it isn't a bad move at all!—AT

4...Bxc3+ 5.bxc3 c5 6.Bg5 Nc6 7.Nf3 d6
8.Bd2?

(?) Very strange to play the Bishop back from the better g5 square to the inferior d2 square, where it really just looks like a tall pawn. (8.Qc2 e5 9.d5 Na5 10.e4 Looks very fine for White.—AT

8.Qc2 Qa5 9.d5; or 8.Bxf6 offer equal chances.—RD

8...e5

Placing pawns on the dark-squares to compensate for the lack of a dark-square bishop.—AT

9.d5 Na5!?



Position after 9...Na5

9...Ne7+ —RD

10.e3?

Black has succeeded in closing the center, and the bishop-pair has no extra value here. The main target is going to be c4, so White is justified in using the dark-square bishop to remove the f6-knight, which is quite capable of adding to the attack on the forward doubled pawn. 10.Bg5! 0-0 11.e4 is tending toward equality, despite White's bad bishop. Lacking the power to overwhelm c4, that a5-knight could turn out to be simply off-sides.

However, psychologically it could be quite difficult for White to return to g5 with that bishop, admitting the retreat to d2 was wrong in the first place, and apparently losing two moves.—RD

10...e4!?

(!) Black has a clear edge by not allowing



Robert Allen. Photo credit: Josh Sinanan

White to play the thematic e4 in the near future, kicking the knight around, and asking White where the compensation is for the doubled c-pawns.—AT

11.Ng5 h6 12.Nh3 b6 13.Be2 Ba6
14.Qc2 Qe7

The immediate capture 14...B/Nxc4 loses the piece due to 15. Qa4+. (14... Qd7! Throughout the game, there was the idea of playing ...Qd7-a4, where the black queen stands very strong on the weakened light-squares of White's queenside.) 15. Qa2 O-O-O. Castling kingside is fine as well, since White really has no play on either side of the board.—AT

15.Qa2 0-0-0

Black's king is quite safe on either side of the board. 15...0-0+ seems simpler than the text, intending ...Nd7-e5.—RD

16.0-0-0



Position after 16.0-0-0

This loses material, but White's fixed weaknesses (especially the c4-pawn) will fall pretty soon in any case. With 16.Rb1 White may find an opportunity to complicate by offering the exchange (on b5, for example) instead of center pawns, though the long-term prognosis is still poor.—RD

16...Nxd5



WFM Chouchan Airapetian.
Photo credit: Josh Sinanan

(!?) Played instantly. I previously saw that if White castles, the e2-bishop would be unprotected...however...—AT

Black takes advantage of the pinned c-pawn, but much stronger is 16...Qd7! first. Black threatens ...Qa4 followed by ...Bxc4, and will meet 17.a4 with the tactic 17...Nxd5!, denying White the check on g4.—RD

17.Bg4+

And this in-between move seriously made me consider resigning.—AT

17...Kb8 18.cxd5

At first glance, a simple piece down for a pawn.—AT

18...Bc4 19.Qb2

It turns out that 16...Nxd5 was actually a fine move, even after 17. Bg4+ because of the following tactic (which I did not see before I played 16... Nxd5)—AT

19.Qc2 h5 20.Bf5 Bd3 keeps the f5-bishop contained.—RD

19...h5

(!) Winning the piece back, as the bishop is still trapped! Bf5 is answered by ...g6.—AT

20.Bxh5 Rxh5 21.Nf4 Rhh8

I was very lucky that ...h5 was there. I am reminded that when castling queenside, it is very often a good idea to slide the king one square over to b1/b8, to avoid any potential tactics (like the Bg4+).-AT

22.Be1 g5 23.Ne2 Qe5

23...Qd7 again, this idea of ...Qd7 to a4 is very strong, and definitely something I should have considered.—AT

24.Ng3 Bb3 25.Rd2

25.c4 Qxb2+ 26.Kxb2 Bxd1 27.Bxa5 bxa5 28.Rxd1 Rxh2 doesn't leave White much happier.—RD

25...Bxd5

The point of inserting ..Bb3 before chopping on d5 was to make ...Nc4 a bigger threat. But before ...Nc4 could have been played, White's next move is a big blunder.—AT



NM Bryce Tiglon Photo credit: Josh Sinanan

26.Qb1

(??)—AT

26...Qxc3+ 27.Rc2 Nb3+ 28.Kd1 Qd3+
29.Bd2 Nxd2 30.Rxd2 Qxb1+ 0-1

Ethan Kessler Scores Big in King's Clash

By James Stripes

November 8, 2014 — Cataldo Catholic School, Spokane, WA.

Ethan Kessler came into the King's Clash with a respectable 961 NWSRS rating after three events. His last local event was spring's Dragonslayer, where he lost his last two games, pushing his rating down below 1000. It fell further after his performance at state. In Saturday's King's Clash, Ethan started a string of upsets against the three highest rated players in K-6. He beat Ethan Wu, a 171 point upset in that round. In the next round, he beat Suhang Liu, a 242 point upset. Then he beat Garrett Casey, the tournament's top rated player and winner of the Queen's Crown tournament two weeks ago. It is clear that Ethan has been training well.

Ethan finished with a perfect 5.0. Suhang (4.0) finished in second overall with better tiebreaks than Ethan Naresh (4.0). Garrett (3.5) and Ethan Wu (3.5) went home with the top prizes in fifth grade. Also winning prizes were Meghna Pream Dutta, Gavin Consiglio, and Noah Brody, all with 3.0. Zack Kapelac (2.0) also took home a medal.

In K-3, top rated Aditya Badyopadhyay scored a perfect 5.0 to win the younger section. Sam Morris, who gave up a draw in the first round finished in second place with 4.5. Andrew Naresh led a pack of 4.0 scorers to place third overall. Kara Chiang, Mythreya Dharani, and Tristan Henry, each at 4.0, took home trophies. At 3.5, Ryan Waters and Sarah Gunn earned medals. Ben Barrett (2.0) won a medal for second place in grade one. Amelie Hilton won the trophy for first place in Kindergarten.

In the team scoring, Saint George's School won their second team trophy for the year with the top four players scoring 15.5. Northwest Christian was second with 14.5. Pioneer School, which brought a large number of players, led the way after three rounds and finished third with 13.0.

The small middle school/high school section was won by Alex Herron (5.0). Logan Faulkner, who lost only to Alex, placed second with 4.0. In third place was Shohom Bandyopadhyay (3.0), who lost to Alex and Logan.

Those players scoring 3.0 at the tournament two weeks ago were awarded state championship qualified medals at the King's Clash. New qualifiers will receive their medals at the next event. With 77 participants, the King's Clash was the largest area scholastic tournament since the 2009 Washington State Elementary Chess Championship and our local events 2008-2009. It is expected that our Saturday tournaments will soon reach the 100-plus numbers that were the norm until 2008.

US Chess League

By Josh Sinanan

Hi Sluggers Fans,

Here are the games and recaps from weeks nine and ten of the Sluggers matches.



Week 9: 10-21-2014

Recap: New Jersey Knockouts vs. Seattle Sluggers

The Sluggers continued our momentum with a crushing victory over the Eastern Division leading New Jersey Knockouts led by wins from Orlov, Koons, and Golub. With this important match victory, we get back to an even score and have excellent post-season prospects heading into the final week of play.

Board 1: IM Georgi Orlov faced GM Alex Stripunsky, who formerly played for the New York Knights and Manhattan Applesauce. The game began with a Ruy Lopez opening but soon resembled a Four Knights game when White opted for the somewhat rare 6.Nc3, which has been played before by a few strong players including GMs Vallejo Pons and Fressinet. The players left theory early when Stripunsky played the novelty 7.Bxc6, doubling Black's c-pawns and playing for a long-term structural edge. Georgi responded well with the knight tour Nf6-h7-g5-e6-d4, creating a bishop vs. knight superior minor piece imbalance and establishing a strong pawn on d4 to restrict White's play. In a roughly equal position, White went for an ambitious space-grab with f2-f4-f5 but left his king in the center, a risky decision when playing Georgi. Black struck back with a counter-break of his own, 20.d5!, which decentralized White's knight and dynamically opened the center in which both kings were still residing. In typical Orlov style, Georgi sacrificed the exchange for a strong passed e-pawn and some attacking chances against White's king, but he found his own king to be unstable as well. After the smoke had settled, both kings had found some shelter, White's on b2 and Black's on c7. White now seemed to have a slight advantage thanks to his safer king and extra exchange, but his rooks lacked any

open files on which to operate. To open some lines, Stripunsky found the strong sequence 31.f6!-Rhfl-Rf5xa5, activating his rook along the 5th rank and seemed to be making some inroads into Black's position. He unexpectedly got his rook trapped a few moves later with 36.Ra7??, missing the more accurate 36.Qb4 first, which would have kept some advantage. Now a clear pawn ahead, Georgi confidently improved his position while thwarting White's attempts to penetrate on the kingside. Just as it seemed that Stripunsky had everything under control, Georgi struck with 56...c4!, prying open the white king and forcing his opponent to find good defensive moves in severe time pressure. 57...Qe3 to pick up a tempo on the queen followed by ...Qe6 next seems to win for Black, but Georgi played 57...Qe6 first, which allows White to escape with best play. However, as so often happens in US chess league play, the attacker has a psychological advantage in time pressure situations with the 30 second increment. Stripunsky soon cracked under the enormous pressure and blundered into mate a few moves later.



Back row: L-R: Georgi Orlov, Nat Koons, Marcel Milat, Curt Collyer, Tian Sang, David Golub, Manager Josh Sinanan.
Front Row: TD Bert Rutgers, David Golub, Manager Josh Sinanan.
Photo credit: Duane Polich

GM Alex Stripunsky (2656) – IM Georgi Orlov (2528) [C77]
USCL Week 09 ICC, 21.10.2014

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.d3 Bc5 6.Nc3 d6 7.Bxc6+ bxc6 8.h3 h6 9.Qe2 Rb8 10.Nd1 Qe7 11.b3



Position after 11.b3

11...Nh7 12.Be3 Bxe3 13.Nxe3 Ng5 14.h4 Ne6 15.h5 Nd4 16.Nxd4 exd4 17.Nc4 Qg5 18.Qd2 Rb5 19.f4 Qg4 20.f5



Position after 20.f5

20...d5 21.Na3 dxe4 22.Nxb5 e3 23.Nxc7+ Kd7 24.Qb4 Qg3+ 25.Kd1

Kxc7 26.Kc1 Qe5 27.g4 Rd8 28.Kb2 Rd5 29.Qf8 Rd7 30.Rac1 a5 31.f6 Qxf6 32.Rhf1 Qg5 33.Rf5 Qxg4 34.Rxa5 Bb7 35.a4 Qg3



Position after 35...Qg3

36.Ra7 Kb6 37.Rxb7+ Kxb7 38.Qb4+ Kc8 39.a5 Qd6 40.Qc4 Kb8 41.Rf1 f6 42.Rg1 Ka7 43.Qg8 Qe7 44.Qc8 Rc7 45.Qg8 Qf7 46.Qd8 Qd7 47.Qg8 Qd5 48.Qf8 Qe5 49.Qd8 c5 50.Rf1 Rb7 51.a6 Rc7 52.Ra1 e2 53.Re1 Re7 54.Qc8 f5 55.Qc6 f4 56.Qf3



Position after 56.Qf3

56...c4 57.bxc4 Qe6 58.Qxf4 Qb6+

59.Kc1 Qc5 60.Qf2 Qa3+ 61.Kb1 Kxa6 0-1

Board 2: FM Marcel Milat played against former US Champion GM Joel Benjamin, one of the strongest second boards in the league, in what was easily the Sluggers toughest pairing of the match. White began the game cautiously with the Catalan Opening and opted for 5.Bg2, long considered to be the main line until Boris Avrukh recommended 5.Nf3 in his pioneering work *1.d4 Volumes 1&2*, with which Marcel is well acquainted. Benjamin played the so called Zurich Variation 5...Nc6, after which Black has several known ways to equalize after 6.Nf3, so Marcel instead played the sideline 6.d5!?, which concedes control of the important e5-square and leads to an equal position that is quite pleasant for Black. Black's 13...Bh3! prevented White from castling, and so Marcel sent in his queen to try and get rid of the pesky intruder! His plan was not fast enough, however, and Benjamin found the 15...Ng4! to pose problems for White's uncastled king on the f2-square. Marcel missed his best defense with 16.Bxg4 and instead played 16.e3, which allowed the strong sacrifice 16.Nxe3, which Marcel chose not to accept. A critical position soon occurred in which Black sacrificed his bishop for an enduring initiative and left his knight "hanging" on e3 for five moves in order to prevent White from castling and establishing communication between his pieces. Marcel's queen had to scurry back to the center to try and hold things together, which gave Benjamin time to

win a second pawn for his bishop and double his rooks on the open e-file. Had Black played 25...Qb4 instead of ...Nb4, White would most likely have had to give back the piece in order to castle and reach a worse pawn-down rook ending. Benjamin instead played the less accurate 25...Nb4, which allowed Marcel to finally castle and enter a slightly worse ending with two minor pieces vs. a rook and two pawns. Soon a set of rooks was traded and a dynamically balanced position resulted in which White's bishop, knight, and queen covered all the entry points along his first rank. With time running short and no clear way for either side to make progress, a three-move repetition was the logical outcome and the players shared the point.

**FM Marcel Milat (2357) –
GM Joel Benjamin (2634) [E00]**
USCL Week 09 ICC, 21.10.2014

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.g3 Bb4+ 4.Bd2 Qe7
5.Bg2 Nc6 6.d5 exd5 7.cxd5 Ne5 8.Bxb4
Qxb4+ 9.Qd2 Qb6 10.b3 d6 11.Nc3 0-0
12.Nf3 Nxf3+ 13.Bxf3 Bh3 14.Qf4 h5
15.Qh4



Position after 15.Qh4

15...Ng4 16.e3 Nxe3 17.Qxh3 Rae8
18.Be2 Qb4 19.Rc1 Qa3 20.Rb1 Qb4
21.Rc1 Nxd5 22.Qh4 Qa3 23.Qg5 Re5
24.Qd2 Rfe8 25.Rc2



Position after 25.Rc2

25...Nb4 26.0-0 Nxc2 27.Qxc2 c6 28.Bf3
d5 29.Kg2 g6 30.h4 Re1 31.Ne2 Rxf1
32.Kxf1 Qd6 33.Kg2 Qf6 34.Nf4 Re1
35.Nd3 Re8 36.Nf4 Re1 37.Nd3 Re8
38.Nf4 1/2-1/2

Board 3: NM Nat Koons played his second match of the season against IM Alexander Katz, who picked his team to win in the latest installment of his weekly

match predictions. Boy was he wrong! Channeling former World Champion Vishy Anand, Nat played the Caro-Kann Defense and Katz entered the Advance Variation. White went for the provocative 5.Bg5 and sacrificed a pawn for a lead in development and some initiative, which has been played before by such fiery players as Shirov and Nepomniachtchi. Both players were familiar with the theory and play was relatively balanced, with Nat catching up in development and nicely consolidating his extra pawn. Despite his aggressive intentions, Katz was not able to get his attack going and soon it became clear that Nat's 4 vs. 2 queenside pawn majority was a lot more threatening than White's 4 vs. 3 on the kingside since the pawns advanced with tempo in the center. In a better but still unclear position, Nat found the forcing simplifying variation 27...Rxe5 28.Rxe5 Nxe5 29.Qxe5 Qxe5 30.Rxe5 f6!, simplifying down to a clearly better single rook ending. He finished Katz off in style with the pawn breakthroughs 37...b4! and 38...c3!, which created an unstoppable passed pawn on the queenside and collected the full point.

**IM Alexander Katz (2380) –
NM Nat Koons (2293) [B12]**
USCL Week 09 ICC, 21.10.2014

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 Bf5 4.h4 h5 5.Bg5
Qb6 6.Bd3 Qxd4 7.Nf3 Qg4 8.0-0 e6
9.Bxf5 Qxf5 10.c4 Ne7 11.cxd5 Nxd5
12.Nc3 Bc5 13.Qb3 b6



Position after 13...b6

14.Nxd5 exd5 15.Qc3 a5 16.a3 a4
17.Nd4 Qg4 18.Rad1 0-0 19.Rfe1 Ra7
20.Rd3 Bxd4 21.Rxd4 Qe6 22.Rd3
Nd7 23.Rg3 Re8 24.Rge3 c5 25.Qc2
d4 26.Re4 Qf5 27.Qe2 Rxe5 28.Rxe5
Nxe5 29.Qxe5 Qxe5 30.Rxe5 f6 31.Re6
fxg5 32.hxg5 b5 33.Kf1 Kf7 34.Rc6 c4
35.g6+ Ke7 36.Rc5 Rb7 37.Rxh5

[Diagram top of next column]

37...b4 38.Rh4 c3 39.Re4+ Kf6 40.bxc3
b3 41.Rf4+ Kxg6 42.Rg4+ Kf5 43.Rxd4
b2 44.g4+ Kg6 45.Rd6+ Kf7 46.Rd7+
Rxd7 0-1

Board 4: NM David Golub extended his winning streak to six games with a smooth victory over expert Ethan Klein,



Position after 37.Rxh5

a young up-and-coming player. Out of a Reti Opening, Klein chose the somewhat risky plan of surrendering control of the light-squares with an early dxc4, and soon a type of reverse Sicilian position was reached in which White has a slight edge thanks to his extra center-pawn and lead in development. Black was already in trouble by move seven when he played the dubious 6...Bg4?!, allowing 7.Qb3!, forking the black pawns on b7 and f7. David found the best way to continue with 8.Bxf7! followed by Qxb7, winning two pawns and leaving Black with three isolated pawns. The good news for Klein was that he got the bishop-pair and now had a lead in development, since White had to take a few moves to regroup. Perhaps a bit overconfident given the situation, David started to play too quickly and missed 16.Nd2, simply retreating his knight and leaving Black's light-square bishop without any targets. Instead, after the less accurate 16.h3, Black was able to win back one of his pawns and had some chances to hold the ending. Klein's main problem in the position was his useless bishop on d6, which he tried to redeploy to b6 in order to win White's f2-pawn, but at the cost of his own e5-pawn. After a



Nat Koons was presented at this time with his 2014 Washington State Championship plaque. Photo credit: Josh Sinanan.

few more exchanges, the rooks flew off the board and David reached a technically winning knight vs. bishop ending with an extra center-pawn. Klein failed to put up the best resistance with 37...g6, keeping the white king out temporarily and instead played 37...Kb5, which allows the white king to penetrate decisively on the kingside. David converted his advantage masterfully!

**NM David Golub (2270) –
Ethan Klein (2022) [A09]**
USCL Week 09 ICC, 21.10.2014

1.Nf3 d5 2.c4 dxc4 3.e3 Nc6 4.Bxc4 e5
5.Nc3 Bd6 6.Qc2 Bg4 7.Qb3 Qd7



Position after 7...Qd7

8.Bxf7+ Qxf7 9.Qxb7 Rb8 10.Qxc6+
Bd7 11.Qd5 Qxd5 12.Nxd5 Nf6 13.Nc3
0-0 14.d3 Bf5 15.e4 Bg4



Position after 15...Bg4

16.h3 Bxf3 17.gxf3 Nh5 18.Ke2 Rf7
19.b3 Rbf8 20.Be3 Nf4+ 21.Bxf4 Rxf4
22.Rac1 Rxf3 23.Nd1 R3f7 24.Rc6 Bb4
25.Rg1 Ba5 26.Re6 Bb6 27.Rxe5 Bxf2
28.Rf1 Bd4 29.Rxf7 Bxe5 30.Rxf8+
Kxf8 31.Ne3 Kf7 32.Kf3 Ke6 33.Nc2 c5
34.b4 cxb4 35.Nxb4 Kd6 36.Nc2 Kc5
37.Kg4



Position after 37.Kg4

37...Kb5 38.Kf5 Be7 39.Nd4+ Kb4

40.Nc6+ Kc3 41.Nxa7 Kxd3 42.e5
Kc4 43.e6 Bd8 44.Nc6 Bf6 45.e7 Bxe7
46.Nxe7 Kb4 47.Kg5 Ka3 48.Nf5 g6
49.Ne7 Kxa2 50.Nxg6 Kb3 51.h4 Kc4
52.h5 Kd5 53.Kf5 Kd6 54.Kf6 h6
55.Nh8 Kd7 56.Nf7 Ke8 57.Kg7 Ke7
58.Nxh6 1-0

**Final score of the match: Seattle 3.5 -
New Jersey 0.5**



Week 10: 10-29-2014

**Recap: Seattle Sluggers vs. Dallas
Destiny**

The Sluggers lost a close match against the division-leading Dallas Destiny in which our allstar Board 4, NM David Golub, produced the only victory. Luckily for us, Rio Grande beat Arizona to help the Sluggers progress to the playoffs as the 10th seeded wildcard, which was awarded to the Western Division's fourth place team by virtue of scoring the most points in interdivision play.

Board 1: IM Georgi Orlov played GM Conrad "Thunder" Holt for the first time since the 2012 playoffs, in which he won a dramatic game that ended up deciding the match. Out of a Reti Opening, which Georgi chose to avoid Holt's favorite Slav Defense, an early skirmish occurred in which White won the bishop-pair and obtained a slight lead in development. The game followed Bejtovic-Semcesen 2012, which ended in a draw, until Holt deviated with the improvement 9...Bd6 instead of the more passive 9...Be7 as played by Semcesen. Soon both sides completed their development and an isolated queen's pawn position was reached in which White had the better chances thanks to his control of the semi-open e- and c-files in addition to an active bishop-pair. Holt wisely exchanged off a knight for the dark-square bishop to ease some of the pressure, but soon slipped with 21...c5?, opening the h1-a8 diagonal for White's bishop

and severely weakening his queenside. White accurately swapped queens and won an important queenside pawn, after which it became clear that he would be playing for only two results. After some maneuvering, Georgi switched his attention to Holt's relatively undefended kingside and sacrificed his b-pawn for Black's f-pawn, setting up a mating net in the process. Black was forced to bring his rook back to help defend his king and by move 52, a critical position was reached. Had Georgi found the surprising 52.d6! followed by Be4 to attack the g6-pawn, he would likely have crashed through in decisive fashion. Instead, he went for 52.Rf8 to keep the rooks on, but after 52...Kg7, Holt was able to setup a solid defense. Soon the rooks and a set of minors pieces were traded, and White had reached a clearly better pawn up N vs. B ending. Unfortunately for Georgi and the Sluggers, a sudden powercord issue caused Georgi to lose his focus in an easily winning position, and he pushed the wrong pawn in his time pressure. This allowed the black king to approach the queenside pawns just in the nick of time and secure a lucky draw for the Dallas GM.

**IM Georgi Orlov(2528) –
GM Conrad Holt (2664) [A09]**
USCL Week 10 ICC, October 29, 2014

1.Nf3 d5 2.c4 dxc4 3.e3 Be6 4.Ng5 Bd5
5.e4 e6 6.exd5 Qxg5 7.dxe6 Qe5+ 8.Be2
Qxe6 9.0-0



Position after 9.0-0

9...Bd6 10.Bf3 Qc8 11.Qa4+ c6 12.Qxc4
Ne7 13.Nc3 0-0 14.d4 Nd7 15.Re1 Nb6
16.Qd3 Qc7 17.g3 Rad8 18.Be3 Nbd5

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19.Rac1 Nxe3 20.fxe3 Qa5 21.a3



Position after 21.a3

21...c5 22.Qb5 Qxb5 23.Nxb5 cxd4
 24.exd4 Nf5 25.Bxb7 Bb8 26.d5 h5
 27.Rc4 g6 28.Bc6 Nd6 29.Rb4 a5 30.Rb3
 Nc4 31.Kg2 Be5 32.Re2 Bg7 33.a4 Rb8
 34.Rc2 Nd6 35.Rd3 Rfd8 36.b3 Bf8
 37.Nd4 Bg7 38.Nf3 Rb4 39.Rc5 Rdb8
 40.Nd2 Rd4 41.Rxd4 Bxd4 42.Rc2 Nf5
 43.Ra2 Bc3 44.Nc4 Nd4 45.Rf2 Kg7
 46.Nd6 Rxb3 47.Rxf7+ Kh6 48.Ne4
 Bb4 49.h4 Rb2+ 50.Kh3 Re2 51.Ng5
 Re7



Position after 51...Re7

52.Rf8 Kg7 53.Rf4 Nf5 54.Ne6+ Kh6
 55.Rf3 Bd6 56.Bb5 Rb7 57.Bd3 Rb3
 58.Ng5 Kg7 59.Bxf5 Rxf3 60.Nxf3
 gxf5 61.Nd4 Kf6 62.Nc6 f4 63.Nxa5 f3
 64.Nc4 f2 65.Kg2 Bxg3

[Diagram top of next column]

66.d6 Ke6 67.a5 Kd7 68.Ne3 Bxd6
 69.Kxf2 Kc6 70.a6 Be7 71.Kg3 Bxh4+
 72.Kxh4 Kb6 73.Kxh5 Kxa6 1/2-1/2

Board 2: FM Costin Cozianu was originally scheduled to play 2500-rated IM Jeffrey Xiong but ended up playing



Position after 65...Bxg3

FM Ruifeng Li instead since Xiong had a last-minute conflict. Due to this lineup change, the Sluggers began the match with 18 extra minutes on Boards 2-4, as is the league policy. Shortly before the game began, Costin flirted with the idea of playing the Najdorf Sicilian against his young opponent despite Li's expertise of both sides of the variation. Thanks to the advice from his teammates, Costin sidestepped the sharp waters of the Spanish in an attempted to outfox the youngster in a positional struggle. Li deviated from the main line with 6.Nc3 and the players followed a game Li had played against former Slugger NM Peter Lessler from earlier this year until Costin deviated with 12...Rb8 instead of 12...0-0. White soon opened up the center with 13.d4, and a balanced middle-game ensued in which Black's dynamic play on the queenside compensated for his pawn weaknesses. A few moves later, Li went pawn-hunting on the queenside and allowed Costin to double his f-pawns, slightly exposing his king. In an attempt to attack the weakened monarch, Costin repositioned his bishop in the center with Bf6-e5-d4-c5, apparently forgetting that it could move more than one square at a time! Li tidied up his kingside with the maneuver 24.Kg2, f3, Be1-g3, so Costin decided to switch back to attacking on the queenside. He achieved this with 26...b3 to open both the a- and b-files Benko style. Unfortunately, his bishop was now out of play on c5 and could not help with the counterattack. Li consolidated his extra pawn and managed to trade queens,

leading to a better 3 vs. 2 pawn ending with rooks and same colored bishops, which should be theoretically winning due to the outside passed a pawn. Costin defended as best he could, but soon had to sacrifice his bishop to stop the passer, after which Li converted the R+B+P vs. R+P ending without too much difficulty.

FM Ruifeng Li (2398) –
 FM Costin Cozianu (2466) [C84]
 USCL Week 10 ICC, October 29, 2014

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6
 5.0-0 Be7 6.Nc3 b5 7.Bb3 d6 8.a4 b4
 9.Nd5 Na5 10.Ba2 Nxd5 11.Bxd5 c6
 12.Ba2



Position after 12.Ba2

12...Rb8 13.d4 exd4 14.Qxd4 0-0
 15.Bd2 Bg4 16.Qd3 Bf6 17.Rab1 Qc7
 18.Qxa6 Bxf3 19.gxf3 Rfe8 20.Rfd1 Be5
 21.f4 Bd4 22.Qd3 Qb6 23.Be1 Bc5



Position after 23...Bc5

24.Kg2 Rb7 25.f3 Qd8 26.Bg3 b3
 27.Bxb3 Nxb3 28.cxb3 Qb8 29.Qc2
 Rxb3 30.Rd3 Rxd3 31.Qxd3 Qb4 32.b3
 Rb8 33.f5 g6 34.fxg6 hxg6 35.Be1 Qd4
 36.Qxd4 Bxd4 37.Bg3 Bc5 38.Kf1 Kf8
 39.Ke2 Ke7 40.Kd3 Ke6 41.Be1 f5



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42.b4 fxe4+ 43.fxe4 d5 44.Bc3 dxe4+ 45.Kxe4 Bd6



Position after 45...Bd6

46.Rb2 Rb7 47.a5 Rh7 48.a6 Rh4+ 49.Kd3 Rh3+ 50.Kc4 Bb8 51.Rg2 Kf7 52.Rf2+ Ke7 53.Bd4 Ra3 54.Bc5+ Ke6 55.Rf8 Be5 56.b5 Ra4+ 57.Kb3 cxb5 58.a7 Bd6 59.Bxd6 Rxa7 60.Bg3 Ra1 61.Rb8 Rb1+ 62.Kc2 Rb4 63.Kc3 Rb1 64.Kd4 Kf5 65.Kc5 Rc1+ 66.Kxb5 g5 67.Rb7 Kg4 68.Rc7 Rd1 69.Rc2 Rd3 70.Bc7 Kh5 71.Kc6 Kh4 72.Bd6 Kh3 73.Kd7 Re3 74.Rc8 g4 75.Re8 Rc3 76.Rh8+ Kg2 77.Ke6 Rc6 78.Kd5 Ra6 79.Be5 Ra4 80.Ke6 Ra3 81.Kf5 Ra4 82.Rb8 Ra5 83.Rb2+ Kh3 84.Rb3+ Kh4 85.Rg3 Ra4 86.Re3 Kh5 87.Rb3 1-0

Board 3: FM Tian Sang faced NM Francisco Guadalupe II, who has been key to Dallas's success this season with a tremendous undefeated plus-5 record on the third board. Despite only needed a draw in the match to clinch a playoff berth, Tian went into his game with a win at all costs mentality and played the risky King's Gambit against his higher-rated opponent. Tian had prepared the first twelve moves of the game at home with the help of his computer, who evaluated the position as favorable for White. However, things were not so simple and Tian soon found himself on the ropes immediately after his preparation had ended. Guadalupe chose the solid Falkbeer Counter Gambit and developed his pieces quickly and aggressively, unphased by White's early attempts to weaken his pawn structure. By move 11, a critical position occurred in which White has just captured on e6 and c6, leaving Black with two weak pawns, but a lead in development since he has already castled and brought out both minor pieces. Tian's only developed pieces were his knight and queen, with his king still uncastled and all queenside pawns on their starting squares. Given these circumstances, the correct choice for White would be to castle and complete his queenside development, leaving the weak pawns to attack later. Much to the dismay of the spectators watching the match, Tian decided to leave his king in the middle and go pawn hunting with 12.Qxe6+. Even the cleaning lady would not have taken this pawn since it opens

a file directly to White's king and allows Black to launch a dangerous attack. Tian failed to find the accurate defense 15.Qh3 in order to prevent Black's reply in the game, and instead played 15.Qc4. Guadalupe uncorked the strong 15...Ng4, bringing the knight into attacking position, after which White is quite helpless to defend against the numerous threats. On move 16, Guadalupe spent nearly all of his remaining time calculating his many winning options, ultimately settling on 16...Nxh2, which gives Black a decisive 6-pawn advantage. Now facing an attack by a knight, bishop, two rooks, queen, and pawn, there was little Tian could do but sit back and watch the fireworks. The game ended with a decisive rook invasion resulting in checkmate on move 22.

**FM Tian Sang (2325) –
NM Francisco Guadalupe II (2351)**
[C36] USCL Week 10 ICC,
October 29, 2014

1.e4 e5 2.f4 exf4 3.Nf3 d5 4.exd5 Nf6 5.Bb5+ c6 6.dxc6 Nxc6 7.Nc3 Bd6 8.Qe2+ Be6 9.Nd4 0-0 10.Nxe6 fxe6 11.Bxc6 bxc6



Position after 11...bxc6

12.Qxe6+ Kh8 13.0-0 Qb6+ 14.Kh1 Rae8 15.Qc4 Ng4 16.Nd1 Nxh2 17.Kxh2 f3+ 18.g3 Re2+ 19.Kh1 Rf5 20.Qg4 Qc5 21.Ne3 Rh5+ 22.Kg1 Rg2# 0-1

Board 4: NM David Golub played against his strongest opponent of the season, NM Karthik Ramachandran rated 2257, and secured himself a place in Sluggers history with yet another victory. This makes it 7/7 for David this season, the first Slugger event to achieve such an amazing streak! Ramachandran, who usually plays the Queen's Gambit or English, opened with 1.e4 against David. Sensing some kind of preparation against his Najdorf, David threw a change-up and played the stodgy Berlin Defense instead, which mostly likely came as a surprise to Ramachandran. White deviated from the main lines with 10.Re1, which may be inaccurate since it enables Black to pin the knight on c3 and exchange it for the dark-square bishop, setting up a blockade on the light squares. In typical Berlin fashion, David soon achieved his optimal formation with Be6, Nf5, and

pawn on h4 to restrict the mobility of White's kingside pawn-majority. In a systematic manner, David traded off a set of rooks in order to transfer his king to the queenside while keeping Black's rook off the seventh rank by stepping his king around his lattice of pawns. He then maneuvered his knight to d4 in order to win White's c2-pawn and inserted the zwischenzug 28...Rd8 to pin the bishop on d4. The prophylactic 29...g6 was the nail in White's coffin, guaranteeing Black a winning king and pawn ending due to his healthy queenside majority and White's inability to create a passed pawn on the kingside. David soon promoted one of his queenside passers and converted his advantage flawlessly. This was one of those mysterious games in which White makes no obvious mistakes but somehow gets crushed anyway.

**NM Karthik Ramachandran (2257) –
NM David Golub (2270) [C67]**
USCL Week 10 ICC, October 29, 2014

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.0-0 Nxe4 5.d4 Nd6 6.Bxc6 dxc6 7.dxe5 Nf5 8.Qxd8+ Kxd8 9.Nc3 Ke8



Position after 9...Ke8

10.Re1 Bb4 11.Bd2 Bxc3 12.Bxc3 h6 13.h3 Be6 14.Rad1 c5 15.Nd2 b6 16.f4 h5 17.Ne4 h4 18.Kf2 Rd8 19.Rxd8+ Kxd8 20.Rd1+ Kc8 21.a3 a5 22.Ng5 Kb7 23.Nxe6 fxe6 24.Kf3 Kc6 25.Be1 Nd4+ 26.Ke4 Nxc2 27.Bf2 Nd4 28.Bxd4



Position after 28.Bxd4

28...Rd8 29.a4 g6 30.Rd3 Rxd4+ 31.Rxd4 cxd4 32.Kxd4 b5 33.axb5+ Kxb5 34.Ke3 c5 35.Kf3 a4 36.Kg4 c4 37.Kxh4 a3 38.bxa3 c3 39.Kg5 c2 40.Kxg6 c1Q 41.Kg5 Qxa3 42.Kf6 Qf8+ 43.Kxe6 Qxf4 44.Kd5 Qd2+ 0-1

Final score of the match: Dallas 2.5 - Seattle 1.5



GM Emil Anka.
Photo credit: Josh Sinanan

2015 Washington State Championship

Set to take place February 7-8 and 14-16 at the Seattle Chess Club.

Format: Three invitation-only 10-player Round Robins by rating: Championship, Premier, and Invitational. The field of each section will be determined by seeding and by the highest rated players to respond to this invitation based on the January 2015 USCF rating list. All sections will be dual USCF and FIDE rated. Fred Kleist will be the TD for all three sections.

Time control: 40/2, SD/1 with a 5-second delay.

Entry Fee: Free!

Prizes: The initial prize fund for each section is guaranteed by the WCF, and will be increased based on donations.

Championship: \$1500, **Premier:** \$1000, **Invitational:** \$500 (based on donations)

Prize distribution (each section): 1st 45%, 2nd 25%, 3rd 15%, 4th 10%, 5th 5%

Brilliance Prizes: \$300 (\$100 for best game in each section)

The winner of the Championship section receives the title of Washington State Champion.

Seeds:

Championship: NM Nat Koons (State Champion), NM Roland Feng (Open Champion), FM Curt Collyer (Challenger's Cup Champion), FM Bill Schill (Premier Champion), NM Daniel He (Championship Runner-up), TBD (Junior Closed Champion)

Premier: NM Michael MacGregor (Premier Runner-up), NM Samuel He (President's Cup Champion), TBD (Junior Open Champion)

Invitational: LM Viktors Pupols (Senior Champion), Becca Lampman (Girl's Champion)

Washington President's Cup

February 14-15, 2015

Open Winner seeded into the 2016 Washington Premier Championship

Site: Seattle Chess Club, 2150 North 107th Street, Seattle, WA 98133. (206) 417-5405.

Two Sections: Open and Reserve (under 1600).

Open: 4 Round Swiss. Time Control: 40/120, SD/60, d5.

Reserve: 5 Round Swiss. Time Control: Saturday 30/90, SD/30, d5; Sunday 40/120, SD/60, d5.

Foreign ratings used for players with no USCF rating. Higher of USCF or foreign ratings used at TD discretion.

Prize Fund: \$1,500 (based on 50 paid entries).

Open: FIDE rated 1st \$300, 2nd \$175, 1st U1900 \$150, 1st U1700 \$150

Reserve: 1st \$250, 2nd \$175, 1st U1400 \$150, 1st U1200/Unrated \$150

Entry Fee: \$60 if postmarked or online by 02/11, \$70 after 02/11 or at site. Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs.

Registration: Saturday 9:00 - 9:45 AM.

Rounds: Open: Saturday 10:00 AM, 5:00 PM; Sunday 11:00 AM, 5:00 PM.

Reserve: Saturday 10:00 AM, 2:30 PM, 7:00 PM; Sunday 11:00 AM, 5:00 PM.

Byes: One half-point byes available (Open Section), two half-point byes available (Reserve Section). 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.

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Phone: (425) 218-7529. **E-mail:** danomathews01@gmail.com.

Online Registration: www.nwchess.com/onlineregistration.

Elmars Zemgalis Dies at 91

By John Donaldson

Elmars Zemgalis (b. September 9, 1923 in Riga, Latvia — December 8, 2014 in Seattle, Washington) died yesterday. He was the second oldest Grandmaster in the world (age 91) behind only Yury Averbakh (92). Elmars was Washington State Champion in 1953 and 1959. His best result was = 1st with Bogoljubov at Oldenburg 1949 ahead of Rossolimo, Unzicker, O'Kelly, Saemisch and 12 other participants.

**Elmars Zemgalis –
Ludwig Rellstab Sr [D46]**
Oldenburg (4), 1949
[John Donaldson]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.e3 e6 5.Bd3 Nbd7 6.0–0 dxc4 7.Bxc4 Bd6 8.Nc3 0–0 9.e4 e5

By transposition Black has arrived at one of the main positions of the Semi-Slav, which was a great favorite of Chigorin. He was the first to appreciate the solidity of the Black position and that White's threat of d5 wasn't so terrible. That it could simply be ignored and when White exchanged on c6 Black could recapture with the b-pawn, willingly taking the isolated c-pawn in exchange for the control of d5 and possible use of the d4 square. Modern day theory holds this variation to be somewhat better for White, in part due to his superior center influence and also because Black must often concede the bishop pair to solve the problem of how to develop his queenside pieces.

10.Bg5 Qe7 11.Re1 Re8?!

Natural and seemingly consistent with the plan of holding e5, however after this move Black will have difficulty bringing out his queenside pieces without having to give up the center with ...exd4. The most popular moves here are 11...Rd8 and 11...Nb6 — planning ...Bg4. Anand was successful with 11...exd4 on two separate occasions.

12.Bb3!

Cutting across Black plans based on ...Nb6 and ...Bg4.

12...h6 13.Bh4 exd4

It's easy to criticize this move giving up the center, but it is likely Black's best try here. White can meet 13...b6, intending to complete development with ...Bb7 and ...Rad8, with 14.d5! as Black can no longer answer dxc6 with ...bxc6 to maintain control of d5.

14.Nxd4 Nc5



Position after 14...Nc5

15.e5! Bxe5 16.f4 Bxd4+

A better try was 16...Bg4 but after 17.Nf3 Bxf3 18.gxf3 Rad8 19.Nd5 Qd7 (19...cxd5 20.fxe5) 20.fxe5 Nxd5 21.Bxd8 Rxd8 22.Qd4 Qe7 23.Rad1 Nxb3 24.axb3 a6 25.f4 Qh4 26.Qe4 Black doesn't have quite enough for the exchange as White will soon play f5.

17.Qxd4 Nxb3 18.axb3 Qf8?

18...Rd8 was the only chance to put up stiff resistance. After 19.Qf2 Qf8 (19...Qd6 20.Rad1) 20.Bxf6 gxf6 21.f5 intending Re3 and Ne4 Black would still face a difficult defense.

19.Bxf6 Rxe1+ 20.Rxe1 gxf6 21.Ne4

Effectively ending the game.

21...Be6 22.Nxf6+ Kh8 23.Nh5+ Kh7 24.Qe4+ Kh8 25.Qe5+ Kh7 26.Re3 Rd8 27.Rg3 f6 28.Nxf6+ 1–0

**Elmars Zemgalis –
G. Baumanis [D63]**
GER Tm Germany, June, 1946
[John Donaldson]

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.c4 e6 4.Nc3 Nbd7 5.Bg5 Be7 6.e3 0–0 7.Rc1 c5 8.cxd5 Nxd5 9.Bxe7 Nxe7 10.Be2 cxd4?!

10...b6 11.0–0 Bb7 12.dxc5 Nxc5 13.b4 Ne4 14.Nxe4 Bxe4 15.Qa4± Geller-Larsen, Copenhagen(m/8) 1966

11.Nxd4

11.Qxd4! was possibly stronger.

11...Nf6 12.Qc2 a6

12...Bd7 13.0–0 Rc8 14.Rfd1 Qa5 was a viable alternative scheme of development.

13.0–0 b5?!

Black starts to fall dangerously behind in development after this move. Instead 13...e5 14.Nf3 Qc7 15.Na4 Nc6 16.Nc5 Bg4 or; 13...Bd7 14.Rfd1 Qb6 would have limited White's advantage.

14.Bf3 Rb8 15.Rfd1 Qb6 16.Ne4! Ned5?

16...Nfd5 17.Nc5 Rd8 had to be played. Now White builds up a powerful attack that Black is powerless to stop.

17.Nxf6+ Nxf6 18.Nc6! Rb7 19.Rd6

19.Ne5 Rb8 20.Qc7 was equally strong.

19...Qc7 20.Qc5 g6 21.h4 Kg7 22.Qe5

with the idea of h5-h6

22...h5 23.Rc5 Rb6



Position after 23...Rb6

24.Bxh5! Kh7 25.Qxf6 Qxd6



Position after 25...Qxd6

26.Ne7! e5

26...Qxc5 27.Bxg6+ fxg6 28.Qxg6+ Kh8 29.Qh6# mate.

27.Bxg6+ Kh6

27...fxg6 28.Qxf8 Be6 29.Rc8! with mate soon to follow.

28.Qg5+ Kg7 29.Bf5+ Kh8 30.Rxc8 Rxc8 31.Nxc8 Qd1+ 32.Kh2 1–0



Elmars Zemgalis at his 90th birthday party celebration in 2013.

Photo credit: Deborah Petzal

Chess Groovies

By NM Daniel He and NM Samuel He



L-R: Samuel He, Daniel He.
Photo credit: Samuel He

Hey chess fans! Here is the second article of "Chess Groovies." Last month, the article was about strategic play, and prophylaxis. Using prophylaxis, each move slowly improves your position, while stopping possible play from the opponent. This month, we will focus on the tactical style of play, and go through games that illustrate how tactical thinking won the game. The first game is a win from Mikhail Tal, who was known as the "tactical genius," over Dragoljub Velimirovic. We have come up with the most important aspects to a tactical mindset.

1. Make use of all of your pieces
2. Always be willing to take risks
3. Always be watchful of all parts of the board
4. Think creatively

As you go over Tal's game, be attentive of the four aspects. Like many of Tal's games, the win was brilliant.

**Mikhail Tal (2615) –
Dragoljub Velimirovic (2515) [A30]**
YUG-URS Teslic, 1979
[Daniel He]

**1.c4 c5 2.b3 Nc6 3.Bb2 e5 4.g3 d6 5.Bg2
Be6 6.Nc3 Qd7 7.Nf3 Bh3**

In these positions where White has the fianchettoed bishop on g2, Black would have equalized if he got to play ...Bh3, trading bishops. However, in this case, Black's bishop being traded off leaves the

center square, d5, weak for Black, perfect for a white knight to jump in...

**8.Bxh3 Qxh3 9.Nd5 Qd7 10.e3 Nce7
11.Nc3 Nf6 12.0-0 e4 13.Ng5 d5 14.cxd5
Qf5**



Position after 14...Qf5

15.Nxf7

Did Tal calculate a forced win for White after Nxf7? It doesn't seem so, but Tal, after seeing the uncoordinated black pieces, took the risk and sacrificed the piece for active play.

15...Kxf7 16.f3

Tal brings the rook into play, and gives him the eventual option of advancing his center pawns up the board.

**16...Nexd5 17.fxe4 Nxc3 18.Bxc3 Qxe4
19.Qh5+**



Position after 19.Qh5+

White's position looks very nice, with his pieces well-coordinated. The black king is forced to run towards the center, as ...Kg8 leads to Bxf6, which is too dangerous for Black to defend.

19...Ke6 20.Qh3+ Kd6 21.b4

The queenside will open up in White's favor and once White gets his rooks in the attack, he will be winning.

**21...Kc7 22.Rac1 Rc8 23.Rf5 Qg4
24.Be5+ Kd7 25.Qf1**

The attacking side should avoid trades as much as possible. After Qf1, which threatens Rc4, the black king is in danger.

**25...Qe4 26.Rc4 Qc6 27.Qh3 Qe6
28.Bxf6 gxf6 29.Re4 Qxa2 30.Rxc5+**



Position after 30.Rxc5+

If 30...Kd8, then 31.Qxc8#. If 30...Kd6, then 31.Rd4+ with 32.Qd7#. This was an amazing tactical win by Tal. It's interesting to note that Black's B on f8 and R on h8 did not move, while White's pieces all contributed to the win.

1-0

**Ivan Elishev (2287) –
Daniel He (2226) [C00]**

North American Open (U2300)
Las Vegas, NV (R7), December 29, 2013
[Daniel He]

Here is a game I played a year ago that I believe demonstrates the four important features of tactical approach. I will explain my thoughts during the game.

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.b4

The Wing Gambit against the Sicilian Defense is a surprise gambit which often leads to unbalanced and sharp positions.

3...cxb4 4.d4 d5 5.e5 Bd7 6.Bd3 Qb6



Position after 6...Qb6

Since the position now is already unbalanced, it's a good time to evaluate the position and come up with a plan. White will probably play in the center and kingside, while Black should play actively on the queenside, and possibly castle queenside for safety at times.

**7.Qe2 Ne7 8.a3 Nbc6 9.Be3 Rc8 10.0-0
a5 11.c3 Nf5 12.axb4 axb4 13.Bxf5 exf5**

14.c4



Position after 14.c4

This is a critical position of the game. Black has entered the middle-game a pawn up, but with slow development and a weak pawn structure. If White can get a strong pawn center and activate his rooks, then he will have the advantage.

14...Ne7 15.Nbd2

The d5-square seems to be guarded well, but now, White is threatening to exchange pawns on d5 and play Nc4 with a good position. White now has control on the queenside, with a better pawn structure and active rook on the open file. I decided I needed to create some play on the kingside, and also get my king castled on the kingside, so I found this creative move...

15...Ng6!? 16.g3 f4!?



Position after 16...f4

I am really satisfied with this move. Now, White's kingside is going to be a bit open, and I can take control over the weak light squares.

17.gxf4 dxc4 18.d5 Qb5 19.d6 Bg4

This pin is very annoying for White, as I have potential to win the knight with ...Nh4 and ...Qc6.

20.h3 Bh5 21.Rfc1 Bxd6!?

This logic behind this move is similar to Tal's 15.Nxf7. I did not calculate any win for this sacrifice, but in return, I get my king to safety, and will activate my rooks.

22.exd6 0-0

Black is now better positioned on the kingside, center, and the queenside. My next plan is to put more pressure on the f3-knight, as well as slowly advance my

connected passed pawns on the queenside.

23.Nd4 Qd5 24.Qf1 c3 25.d7 Qxd7 26.Nc4 Qc7 27.Ra5 Nxf4 28.Bxf4 Qxf4 29.Rxh5 Qxd4

The passed-pawns are too dangerous for White to defend.

30.Ne3 b3 31.Rb5 b2 32.Rc2 Ra8 33.Rd5 Ra1 34.Rxd4 Rxf1+ 35.Nxf1 b1Q 36.Rxc3

Black won several moves later.

0-1

Overall, I believe these two games illustrate the mindset of a tactical player. One should always make the best use of pieces, be willing to take risks and sacrifice material, be aware of all parts of the board, and to think creatively. Overall, a strong tactical mind is important when you get in to sharp positions, and I wish you all good luck using this style!



9th Annual Grand Pacific Open

C\$5000 GUARANTEED Prize Fund; FIDE rated

Easter: April 3-6, 2015

Location: Hotel Grand Pacific, 463 Belleville St, Victoria, BC

Round Times: Friday 6:00pm, Sat. 12:00 / 6:00pm, Sun. 12:00 / 6:00pm, Monday 10:00am

Sections: Open (FIDE and CFC rated); U1900 (CFC rated); U1400 (CFC rated)

Entry Fees: C\$80 by Feb. 23, C\$90 by Mar. 30, C\$100 on site. Discount C\$20 if rated U1400 or unrated. Add C\$20 if playing up a section. Family discounts available.

Prizes: C\$5000 guaranteed.

Registration: on line at www.grandpacificopen.com or by cheque payable to Victoria Chess. Mail to Paul Leblanc, 1012 Spiritwood Place, Victoria, BC V8Y 1C6

Transportation: Clipper jet boat from Seattle and Coho ferry from Port Angeles both dock across the street from the playing site. Round times are set up to match the sailing schedule.

Misc: Equipment provided. C\$102 room rate at Hotel Grand Pacific 1-800-663-7550 (rate code "APR15CHESS") See www.grandpacificopen.com for further details and side events.

Oregon Chess News

2014 Oregon Junior Championship

By Carl Haessler

The 2014 Oregon Junior Championship was held November 8-9 at the Portland Chess Club. Six of Oregon's top junior players met in a Round-Robin event with a seeded spot in the Oregon Championship going to the winner.

The field was very competitive; in fact, every player lost at least once. In one of the closest finished in recent memory, Yogi Saputra finished clear first with 3.5/5, followed closely by Seth Talyansky with 3.0. Seth beat Clemen Deng in the last round, who also finished with 3.0. Clemen led for most of the event, but his last round loss kept him out of the winner's circle.

Fourth place went to Abhinav Brahmrouthu. He finished with a 2.5 score. Had he defeated Yogi in the last round, he would have won the event. Erik Skalnes finished 5th with 2.0. Erik's games featured a lot of tactics and uncompromising, unbalanced positions which sometimes worked in his favor and sometimes not.

A special thanks goes to Benjamin Pikus, who agreed to be a last minute replacement when an earlier confirmed player had to drop out. With little time to prepare, Ben was competitive in every game, including a nice win against Seth Talyansky.

The tournament was co-directed by OCF officers Mike Morris, Dave Yoshinaga and Carl Haessler.

**Benjamin M Pikus (1729) –
Clemen Deng (2009) [A80]**

Oregon Junior Closed Portland, OR
(R1), November 8, 2014
[Ralph Dubisch]

**1.d4 f5 2.Bf4!? Nf6 3.e3 e6 4.c4 Bb4+
5.Nc3 b6 6.a3**

6.Nge2!? tries to gain the bishop-pair without suffering the weakness of doubled c-pawns. After 6...0-0 7.a3, Black should shift gears and retreat 7...Be7, but White can now claim some initiative with 8.d5!?

**6...Bxc3+ 7.bxc3 Bb7 8.Nf3 0-0 9.Bd3
d6 10.Bg5**

10.0-0

10...Qe8 11.0-0 Qh5

11...Ne4±

12.Bf4

12.Bxf6 Rxf6 13.Nd2 is roughly equal.

**12...Kh8 13.Be2 Nbd7 14.Nd2 Qh4
15.Bf3 Bxf3 16.Nxf3**

16.Qxf3 eyes c6 and b7. Any White disadvantage here is extremely small.

16...Qh5 17.Ng5

17.Ne5!? dxe5 18.dxe5 Qe8 19.exf6
Nxf6±

17...Qe8 18.d5?!

18.Qc2±

18...e5



Position after 18...e5

19.Bg3

Another try is 19.Ne6 exf4 20.exf4 Nc5 (Or 20...Rc8 21.Nxf8 Qxf8 22.Re1.) 21.Nxc7 Qe4 22.Nxa8 Rxa8, though Black's knights are much more active than White's rook — the two pawns don't mean much, considering the weaknesses on c3, c4, f4, a3...

**19...Nc5 20.f3 h6 21.Nh3 g5 22.Be1 g4
23.Nf2 gxf3 24.gxf3??**

24.Qxf3 definitely leaves White hurting, but at least it isn't mate yet.

24...Qg6+

After 25.Kh1 Rg8, it will cost White a piece — or more — to avoid mate on the g-file.

0-1

**Yogi Saputra (2124) –
Eric A Skalnes (1846) [D60]**
Oregon Junior Closed Portland, OR
(R1), November 8, 2014
[Ralph Dubisch]

**1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 e6 5.Bg5
Nbd7 6.e3 Be7 7.Bd3 0-0 8.0-0 b6**

**9.Qc2 Bb7 10.Rad1 dxc4 11.Bxc4 Nd5
12.Bxe7 Qxe7 13.e4**



Position after 13.e4

13...N5f6?!

Black should avoid the tempo loss and remove a pair of minor pieces with 13...Nxc3 14.bxc3 when the position is defensible.

14.Rfe1

14.e5!? Nd5 15.Ne4 c5 16.dxc5 Nxc5
17.Nd6±

14...Rac8

14...e5±

15.e5! Nd5 16.Ne4 Ba8

Slow, but it's already hard to suggest a meaningful improvement. 16...c5 17.Nd6 now hits the rook.

17.Nd6 Rcd8

17...Rc7±



Position after 17...Rcd8

18.Bxd5! cxd5

18...exd5? 19.Nf5 Qb4 (19...Qe8 20.Ng5 g6 21.e6!) 20.Ng5 g6 21.a3 Qc4 22.Nh6+ Kg7 23.Qd2+— intending 24.e6.

19.Qc7

Black is completely tied up, White dominates the only open file, and every white piece is superior to its counterpart.

1-0

Eric A Skalmes (1846) –
Seth Talyansky (1968) [D53]
Oregon Junior Closed Portland, OR
(R3), November 8, 2014
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 e6
5.Bg5 Be7 6.e3 Nbd7 7.Bd3 dxc4
8.Bxc4 b5 9.Bd3 Bb7 10.0–0 a6 11.Qe2
0–0 12.Rfd1 h6 13.Bh4 b4 14.Na4 Qa5
15.b3 c5



Position after 15...c5

16.e4

16.Ne5! Nxe5 (16...Rfe8 17.Nc4 Qc7
18.Rac1 looks promising for White.)
17.dxe5 Nd5 18.Bxe7 Nxe7 19.Rac1
Rac8 20.Bb1 with initiative.

16...cxd4 17.Nxd4 Ne5 18.f3 Rfd8
19.Bf2 Nxd3 20.Rxd3 Nd7 21.Rc1 Ne5
22.Rd2



Position after 22.Rd2

22...Bg5??

22...Rac8∞

23.Be3?

23.Rc5!+– The queen is trapped.

23...Bxe3+ 24.Qxe3 Rac8 25.Rdc2 Rxc2
26.Rxc2 Rc8 27.Rxc8+ Bxc8 28.Nc2
Bd7 29.Qb6



Position after 29.Qb6

29...Qxb6+

29...Nxf3+! 30.Kf2!

a) The natural 30.gxf3 Qg5+ 31.Kf2
Qd2+ 32.Kg3 Qg5+ draws immediately;
b) 30.Kh1?? Qh5 31.gxf3 (31.h3 Bxa4
32.bxa4 Qg5–+) 31...Qxf3+ 32.Kg1
Qd1+ and Black wins.;



Analysis

(#Diagram-analysis after 30.Kf2)

30...Qxb6+ (30...Qg5 31.Kxf3! and
White may be able to weather checks
long enough to enjoy the extra material.;
30...Qh5!?! 31.Qd8+ Kh7 32.Qxd7 Ne5
33.Qd2 Qxh2 White has an extra piece
— and weak pawns, and an exposed
king. Could be interesting.) 31.Nxb6 Ne5
32.Nxd7 Nxd7 33.Nxb4± White's distant
pawn majority and quickly centralized
king offer decent chances in this ending.

30.Nxb6 a5?

The better 30...Bb5 31.Nxb4 isn't going
to be easy to defend, though.

31.f4 Bb5 32.fxe5 Bd3 33.Nd4 Bxe4
34.Nc4 a4 35.bxa4 Bb1 36.a5 Bxa2
37.Nb6 b3 38.Nxb3 Bxb3 39.a6 1–0

Seth Talyansky (1968) –
Benjamin M Pikus (1729) [B15]
Oregon Junior Closed Portland, OR
(R4), November 9, 2014
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 c6?!

3...Bb4 and; 3...Nf6 are dependable here.

In the French, Black generally wants
the c-pawn to play to c5 supported by
a knight on c6 to help pressure a d4–e5
pawn chain, so 3...c6 both wastes a tempo
en route to c5 and occupies the knight's
natural square.

4.Nf3 Bb4 5.Bd3
Nf6 6.exd5?!

6.e5

6...cxd5 7.0–0 Nc6
8.Bg5 Be7 9.a3 h6
10.Bh4 0–0 11.Re1
Bd7 12.Bf1 Rc8
13.Ne5 Re8 14.Qd2
Nh7 15.Bg3 Nxe5
16.dxe5 Bc6 17.Nb5
Qb6 18.Nd4 Nf8
19.c3 Bc5 20.Rac1

[Diagram top of
next column]



Position after 20.Rac1

20...Nd7

20...Bxd4 21.cxd4 (21.Qxd4 Qxb2, and
while White may get partial compensation
for the pawn with 22.Rb1 Qxa3 23.Ra1
Qe7 24.Rxa7, this is hardly an attempt for
advantage.) 21...Bb5, e.g. 22.Qb4 Bxf1
23.Qxb6 axb6 24.Kxf1 Rc4.

21.Bd3 Bxd4 22.cxd4 Kf8 23.Bb1 Bb5
24.Bf4 Ke7 25.Qe3

25.Qb4+!?

25...Bc4 26.b4 a5 27.Qd2 axb4 28.axb4
Rg8 29.Bd3?

29.Bg3±

29...Qxd4 30.Rc3 Bxd3 31.Rxd3 Qa7

31...Qc4

32.b5?!

32.h4!?! intending Rg3 and h5.

32...Rc4 33.Be3 Qa4 34.Qb2 Rgc8
35.Bd2 Nc5 36.Rg3!?



Position after 36.Rg3

36...Ne4?!

Better is 36...Rc2 37.Qb4 Qxb4 38.Bxb4
g6, with a clear pawn plus.



Carl Haessler Chess Master

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37.Rxg7 Nxd2

37...Rc2? 38.Qb4+ Qxb4 39.Bxb4+ Nc5∞

38.Qxd2 Qb4 39.Qe2??

39.Qxb4+ Rxb4 40.Rh7 Rxb5 41.Rxh6 definitely still favors Black, but it isn't clear by how much.

39...Re4 40.Rxf7+ Kxf7 41.Qh5+ Kg7

42.Rf1 Re1 43.h4 Rcc1 44.Rxe1 Rxe1+

45.Kh2 Qf4+ 46.g3 Qxf2+ 47.Kh3

Rh1+ 0-1

November 2014 PCC Quad 45

By Brian Berger

November 15, 2014 — Portland, OR.

Just on the tail end of the big storm scare (freezing rain and up to six inches of snow predicted in the Portland area), those contemplating entering the Portland Chess Club's third Saturday of the month Quad 45, found to their relief that they would be able to attend without the necessity of snowshoes or a pack of sled dogs.

Although this was billed as a Game 45;d5 sectioned into quads of like ratings, a disproportionate number of entrants fell into the U1200 group. Many of them had low provisional ratings, and two were unrated. Lacking an even number to split them into quads (only seven players showed in this group). Assistant TD Michael Lilly (Rated 1046) agreed to fill in as the eighth player. Even then it was decided that rather than pair them up into two quads (their ratings being so close), they would make that section a small Swiss. The other reason was that only four players showed up with substantially higher ratings, and of these, two were higher than 1800 and two were lower than



TD Micah Smith. Photo credit: Brian Berger

1600.

So, it was decided that since only two players fell into the U1600 Section and two in the U2000 Section, that they would combine these players into a quad—not exactly what any of those tossed into this quad were looking for—but seemingly the only solution to a rather low turnout (11 players) that Saturday.

Playing in the small Swiss were four players from Washington, and four from Oregon—mostly youngsters except for stand-in player, Michael Lilly, who, in his benevolent gesture to make the pairings even, added 61 points to his rating by winning all three of his games and taking his section.

Going in, the favorite seemed to be

Marcus Leung of Washington, entering with a 1227 rating, but who managed to win only one game. But not counting the overall winner, three other Washington players finished in the top four spots, with Megan Cheng tying for 2nd with Erin Cheng and Jeffrey Tso, each earning 2.0 points and substantially upping their ratings.

Alas, the quad results were a different matter (I say alas, because I was one of the players), with the outcome pretty much foreordained by the disparity in ratings. Even so, Andrea Botez (1596) and I (1491) put up a good fight (an after game analysis showing that on 23rd move against Moshe Rachmuth (1834), I had overlooked a forced loss of his Queen, or an eventual mate), but both of us having to settle for 0.5 in a draw against each



(L) Marcus Leung vs Michael Lilly. Photo credit: Brian Berger



(L) Andrea Botez vs Jeff Austin. Photo credit: Brian Berger

other. Still, we tied for 2nd place, as Jeff Austin (1862) and Rachmuth shared 1st place with 2.5 points.

Micah Smith was the Chief TD for this tournament, and kept things smooth throughout, while his assistant TD raked in the ratings points. And the only complaint on my part is that Morgan the Dog was not somewhere near at hand to offer some insight as to my opponents' strengths and weaknesses.

PCC November G60

By Brian Berger

November 22, 2014 — Portland, OR.

As many of you know by now, weather reports are generally addressed first whenever I begin a tournament report—I'm not quite sure why that is. Perhaps I was fascinated as a kid by isobars, low-pressure systems, fronts, the names of hurricanes, temperature shifts, percentages of rainfalls, wind-chill factors, etc, etc.

Whatever the reason, I'm driven to relay to my readers the atmospheric phenomena swirling around any given venue—so here goes. Noah himself would have been impressed by the blustery torrents of rain that had saturated, swamped, and partially flooded (I'm trying to emphasize here that it was really, really wet) Portland and surrounding areas in the two days preceding November's Game 60 at the Portland Chess Club (the just written portion of this paragraph contains poetic license). But on the day of the tournament all that had been replaced by light sprinkles averaging a high of 50 degrees and a low of 43 degrees with winds SW at 8-16 miles an hour and humidity calculated to be in the 80 to 90 percentile range.

That said, I can now get on with what I am not paid to do (but love to, anyway), i.e. inform you of the results of the



(L) Aaron Probst plays Michael Strigul between games. Photo credit: Brian Berger

forementioned tournament.

As is the case with many a monthly Game 60, the Chief TD was the famed world traveler and part-time alligator wrestler, Neil Dale—a man who does not suffer fools lightly. With no assistant on hand to help with the pairings, I was conscripted to give a hand (possibly two) during the registration process (how does one say no to a guy who wrestles alligators?), which I have found out is barely within my technical grasp. And so, we managed to get things rolling on time, and I escaped the wrath of what could have been a highly disturbed, wild animal tamer.

Eighteen players entered this month's tournament and, not surprisingly, Phillip Seitzer (2182-2192) was the overall winner, earning 4.0 points and \$54, in a field that had only one other player near his rating; Yogi Saputra (2115-

2109). Saputra, losing only to Seitzer, took second and \$34 for his 3.0 score, with Stephen Buck (1727-1715) and Masakazu Shimada (1664-1652) sharing third-fourth and a very modest \$7 each.

The U-1800 prize went to Gavin Zhang (1633-1688) who, when pooled with the monies from second place, took home \$34 for his 3.0 points total. And it was Christopher Burriss (1600-1623) and Ethan Wu (1671-1662) who tied for third in the same category, they too earning that aforementioned modest \$7 each for their efforts. And Finally, Aaron Probst (1335-1459) showed a huge gain in his rating by capturing the U-1500 prize money of \$32, adding 124 points to a rating that has not reflected for some time this youngster's real playing prowess.



(L) Masakazu Shimada vs Jon Strohhahn. Photo credit: Brian Berger



Although Probst's 124 rating points gain was impressive, mention must be made of the young Megan Cheng (904p-1166p), who pushed her provisional pre-tournament rating a whopping 262 points, with a win and a draw; the draw being with Ethan Wu, carrying a 767 rating points advantage, and the win against Marcus Leung (1157-1165).

Now to the meat-of-the-matter, the question on everyone's minds; was Morgan the Dog there? The answer is yes, and he brought Jerrold Richards along with him. Unfortunately, Morgan had jet-lag from his flight back from the World Chess Championship in Sochi, Russia, where he was part of Magnus Carlsen's advisory team—a position he was asked to fill when Magnus, just happening to be reading an issue of Northwest Chess on a rest day, came across an article concerning Morgan the Dog's extraordinary analytical powers.

Stymied as how to finish off an extremely talented and tenacious Anand, Magnus sent an urgent request to Morgan the Dog's owner, to allow Morgan to fly by private jet to Sochi, to confer privately with Magnus. After arriving and dining on caviar and other delectable doggy treats, Morgan took Magnus aside to explain the varied weakness's he had observed in Anand's play, and to suggest possible lines to pursue—the result of which led Carlsen to gain a two-point lead and seal the deal.

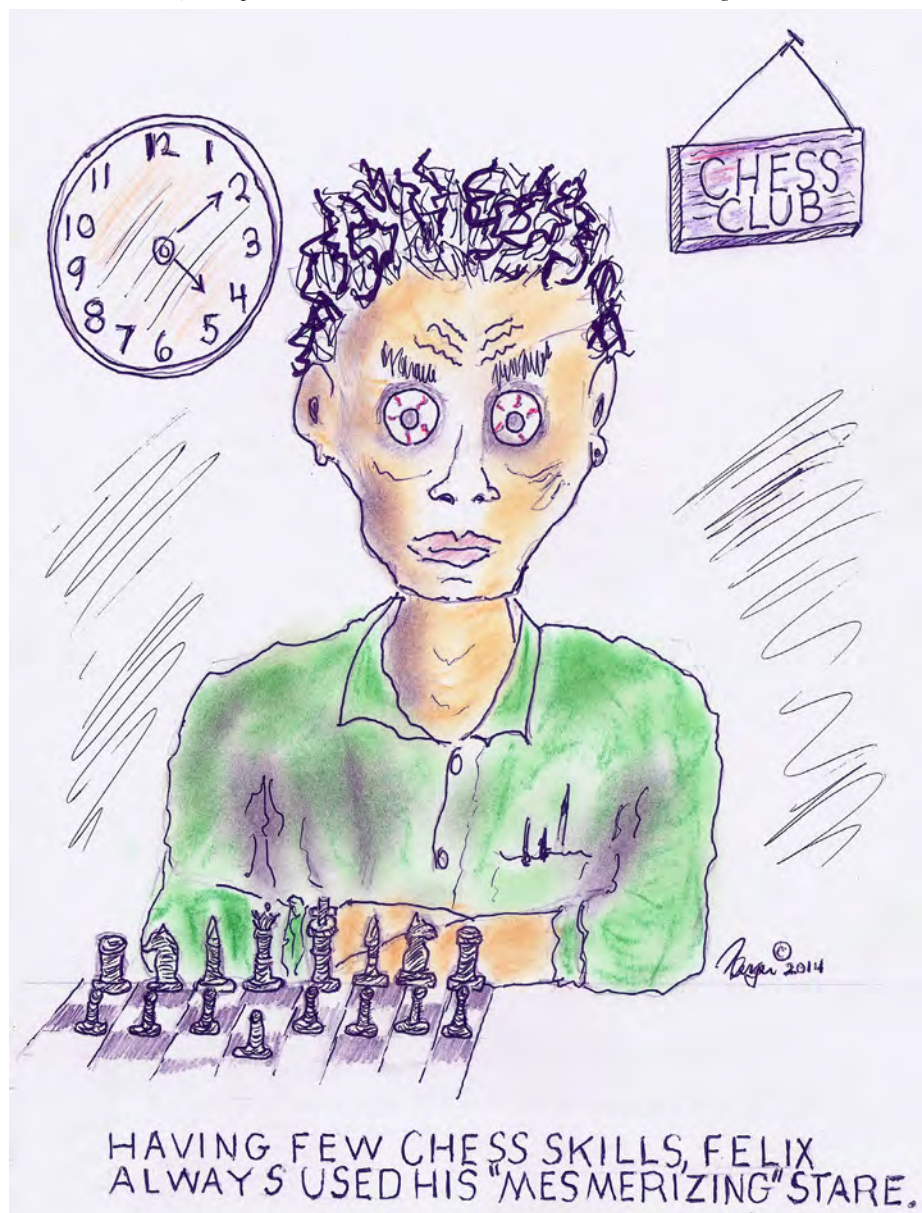
Even so, Morgan the Dog had just enough energy left to help Richards with a draw against 1619 rated, Jan Hultman, and a win against a much lower rated Erin Cheng, before collapsing behind Richards' chair and sleeping the day away.



(L) Stephen Buck vs Eathan Wu. Photo credit: Brian Berger



"Some of the players"
Photo credit: Brian Berger



HAVING FEW CHESS SKILLS, FELIX ALWAYS USED HIS "MESMERIZING" STARE.

Idaho Chess News



L-R regardless of row: Adam Porth, Roger Hunter, Chris Amen, James Inman, Fred Bartell, John Carr, Desmond Porth, Jarod Buus, Jay Simonson, Jeffrey Roland, Dylan Porth, Keegan Crowson, River Shepard, Andre Murphy, Wesley Brimstein, Levi Catangatang, Caleb Kircher.
Photo credit: Unknown Best Western hotel staff with Adam Porth's camera.

Southern Idaho Open

For the fourth time in five years, Caleb Kircher of Nampa won the Southern Idaho Open chess tournament that was held on November 8, 2014 at the Best Western on Blue Lakes Boulevard North in Twin Falls.

This is the 22nd Southern Idaho Open, which started in 1974 when the late former ICA President, Ted Hartwell, held the first one. After 15 years of no event another one was held in 1990, and it became an annual ICA event ever since (except 1998-2001) due in large part to the efforts of Barry Eacker of Twin Falls, who for many seems to epitomize the heart and soul of chess in Twin Falls.

Barry was originally going to be the Chief Tournament Director of this year's event, but due to an unexpected hospitalization of his wife, Vickie, he was not able to attend the event. Adam Porth stepped into the role of Chief Tournament Director with short notice and still managed to put together a quality contingent of students

from Hailey. Adam personally drove the students to the event in a school bus— even taking time to go across town to get one more player who had slept-in late and in the process was almost late himself. Jeffrey Roland was Assistant Tournament Director.

ICA Treasurer Jay Simonson of Idaho Falls was the first of the ICA officers to arrive and immediately took charge taking entries so that when Adam arrived within minutes of the start time, he was able to sail right in and start things right on time.

In all, there were 17 players who took part in the one-day, four-round Swiss event which had a time control of Game/60;d5. Eight players made up the Open section and Nine players

made up the Reserve (U1400) section.

John Carr of Victor, James Inman of Nampa, and Jarod Buus of Nampa tied for second through fourth places in the Open section with 2.5 points each.

Desmond Porth of Bellevue won the Reserve section with 3.5 points, but his last round game was a 4-move draw to a player rated 942-points lower than him.



Chief TD, Adam Porth. Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland

And thus Desmond's post-tournament USCF rating stayed exactly the same (instead of going up), and he got a stern talking-to by his father, Adam.

Roger Hunter of Nyssa, Oregon and Wesley Brimstein of Hailey tied for second through third places with 3 points each.

Chris Amen (1526) – Caleb Paul Kircher (1869) [B01]
Southern Idaho Open Twin Falls, ID
(R3), November 8, 2014
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qd6 4.d4 Nf6 5.Nf3 c6 6.Bc4 Bg4 7.Be3 e6 8.h3 Qb4
8...Bh5
9.Bb3
9.hxg4!?
9...Bf5 10.0-0 Be7 11.Qe2 0-0 12.Nh4 Bg6 13.Nxg6 hxg6 14.Rad1 Nd5 15.Ne4 15.Nxd5±
15...Nxe3 16.fxe3 Nd7 17.Rf3 Nf6 18.Nxf6+ Bxf6 19.c3 Qd6 20.e4 e5 21.d5 c5



Position after 21...c5



L-R: Chris Amen, Caleb Kircher. Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland

22.Rdf1 Rac8 23.c4 Rc7 24.Bd1 Bg5 25.Qf2 b6 26.h4 Bd8 27.Rh3 27.Qg3 27...f5 28.exf5? 28.h5 or; 28.Qe3 keep some edge for White. 28...gxf5 29.Bc2?! 29.g4 fxe4 30.Qxf8+ Qxf8 31.Rxf8+ Kxf8 32.Bxg4 29...e4 30.Qf4 Qxf4 31.Rxf4



Position after 31.Rxf4

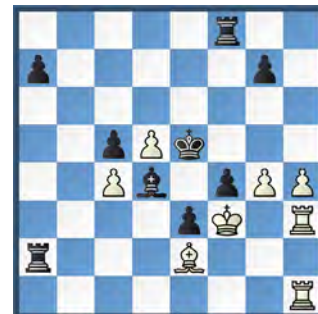
31...Be7?! 31...Bf6! 32.Bd1?! 32.g4! fxe4 33.Rxg4 Bf6 34.Bxe4 Bxb2 35.Kg2 32...Bd6 33.Rf1 Be5 34.b3 Re7 35.Bh5 e3?! 35...Bd4+± 36.Kh1 36.Be2 f4 37.Rhf3 36...f4 37.Be2 Ref7 38.Rhf3 Rf6 39.Kh2 Kf7 40.Kh3 Ke7 41.Kg4 41.g3! fxe3 42.Rxe3 Kd6 (42...Rxf1? 43.Rxe5+ Kd8 44.Bxf1 Rxf1 45.Kxg3+-)

43.Ref3 41...Rg6+ 42.Kh3 Rh8



Position after 42...Rh8

43.Rh1? 43.Rxf4!? Bxf4 44.Rxf4 with compensation. 43...Rgh6? 43...Rxb4+ 44.Kxb4 Rh6+ 45.Kg4 Rxb4± 44.Kg4 Kf6 45.Bd3 Ke7 46.Be2 Kd6 47.Rfh3 Rg6+ 48.Kf3 Bd4 49.Rg1 49.h5 49...Ke5 50.Rgh1 b5 50...Rxb4! though the opposite bishops are still a drawish factor when the rooks all come off. 51.Bd3? 51.h5 Rg5 52.cxb5 Rh6 53.Bc4 Bc3 54.a4 51...Ra6 52.Bb1 bxc4 53.bxc4 Rb6 Or 53...Rb8 54.Bd3 Rb2 55.Be2 Rxa2 55...Rhb8 56.g3? 56.Rb1; or 56.h5± 56...Rf8 56...fxg3+- 57.g4? 57.R3h2 fxe3+ 58.Kxg3 a5



Position after 57.g4

57...a5 57...Rxe2! 58.Kxe2 Ke4 59.h5 f3+-+ 58.Rb1? 58.Re1± 58...a4

58...Rxe2! 59.Kxe2 Ke4 60.Rf3 a4+
59.Rb6
 59.Rb7
59...Rf6 60.Rb7?
 60.Rb8 a3 61.Re8+ Kd6 62.g5
60...a3?
 60...Rxe2! 61.Kxe2 Ke4+



Position after 60...a3

61.Rxg7?
 61.Re7+! Kd6 62.Ra7∞
61...Rxe2! 62.Kxe2 a2
 62...Ke4! 63.Re7+ Be5-+
63.Ra7?
 63.Re7+ Kd6 64.Ra7 a1Q 65.Rxa1 Bxa1
 66.g5 Black should win, but there's still
 some wiggle left.
63...a1Q
 63...Ke4!
64.Rxa1 Bxa1 65.g5
 65.Kf3 Ra6
65...Ra6 66.h5 Ke4 67.h6 f3+ 68.Kf1
Be5 0-1

BCC #5 Chess Tournament

The fifth event of the new Boise Chess Club was held at All About Games on Overland Road in Boise, Idaho on Saturday, November 22, 2014. The name of the event was of course, BCC #5. Jeffrey Roland was the Chief Tournament Director. This was a four-round Swiss tournament in one section with a time control of Game/45;d5 and was USCF-rated.

Entry was free and open to everyone. Prizes were nothing financial or physically tangible...but the prize of the enjoyment of chess went to everyone who attended, which is in some people's minds the greatest prize of all.

15 players attended the event, easily making this the best turnout of any Boise Chess Club event to date, breaking the record previously set by the BCC #2 of



The chess alcove at All About Games where all the players are squeezed into. It's actually the perfect size for this sized event. Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland

12 players. (This statistic counts only this new Boise Chess Club that started this year, not the original Boise Chess Club that existed prior to 1996.)

First place was Chris Amen of Boise with 4.0 points and who defeated Idaho State Champion Caleb Kircher of Nampa in the second round and who ended up with 3.0 points and clear second place. Third-sixth place was a tie between James Inman of Nampa, Tom Booth of Caldwell, former Idaho State Champion Kenneth Sanderson of Boise, and Corey Longhurst of Boise each having 2.5 points.

Chris Amen (1526) –
Caleb Paul Kircher (1869) [B01]
 BCC #5 Boise, ID
 (R2), November 22, 2014
 [Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Nf6 3.Nf3 Nxd5 4.d4 Bg4
5.Be2 Nc6 6.c4 Nb6 7.b3 e6 8.0-0 Be7
9.Bb2 Bf6 10.h3



Position after 10.h3

10...Bh5?

The complications are hard to fully analyze with limited time over the board, but Black should profit from 10...Bxf3!

11.Bxf3 Nxd4 12.Bxb7 Rb8 13.Ba6 (13.
 Be4 Nxc4 14.Bc3 Nd6) 13...Nf3+ 14.Qxf3
 Bxb2 15.Nc3 Bxa1 16.Bb5+! Nd7



Analysis

(#Diagram-analysis after 16...Nd7)

a) 17.Rd1?! Rxb5 (17...0-0!±) 18.Nxb5
 a6 19.Na7 Bf6 20.Qc6 Be7!±; b) 17.Bxd7+
 Qxd7 18.Rd1 Qe7 19.Qc6+ Kf8 20.Rxa1
 (20.Rd7? Qe8 21.Nb5 Rd8 22.Qc5+ Kg8
 23.Rxc7 Qf8 and Black's extra rook will
 eventually weigh in with decisive effect.)
 20...Rd8±; c) 17.Rxa1 17...0-0!
 18.Rd1 Ne5±

11.Na3 0-0 12.Nc2 Qd7 13.g4

13.Ne5 Bxe5 14.Bxh5±

13...Bg6 14.Ne5?!

14.Bd3±

14...Bxc2?

14...Bxe5 15.dxe5 Rfd8 16.Qc1 Qd2
 17.Bd1 a5±

15.Nxd7 Bxd1 16.Nxf6+ gxf6 17.Raxd1
Rad8

[Diagram top of next page]

18.f4!

Simple and effective. Black gets smothered.



Position after 17...Rad8

18...Rd7?!

18...Ne7 19.Bf3 c6±

19.Rd2

19.Bf3 Rfd8 20.d5 exd5 21.Bxf6+—

19...Rfd8 20.Rfd1 e5 21.d5 a5

21...Nd4 22.Bxd4 exd4 23.Rxd4+—

22.Bc3

22.g5!?

22...Ne7 23.fxe5 fxe5 24.Bxe5 Ng6

25.Bf6 Re8 26.Bf3

26.g5

26...Nc8 27.c5 b6 28.cxb6

28.d6! bxc5 29.Bc6 Rxd6 30.Rxd6 Nxd6

31.Rxd6

28...Nxb6 29.g5 Nf4

29...Rd6 30.Rc2 Ne5 31.Bg2

30.h4 Re3? 31.Kf2 Re8 32.Kg3 Ng6

33.d6 Ne5?



Position after 33...Ne5

34.Re2

Or 34.dxc7 Rxc7 35.Rd8 Rc8 36.Rxc8 Nxc8 37.Re1

34...Rxd6 35.Rxe5 1-0

**James Inman (1719) –
Kenneth Sanderson (1577) [E48]**
BCC #5 Boise, ID
(R4), November 22, 2014
[Ralph Dubisch]

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e3 0-0
5.Bd3 d5 6.Nge2 dxc4 7.Bxc4 b6 8.0-0
Bb7 9.a3 Be7 10.Qc2 c5 11.dxc5 Bxc5
12.b4 Be7 13.Bb2 Qc7 14.Bd3**



Position after 14.Bd3

14...Ng4?!

Better to complete development with 14... Nbd7

15.Bxh7+

15.Nf4± g5?? 16.Ncd5! Qxc2 17.Nxe7#

15...Kh8 16.g3?!

16.Nf4±

16...Nf6

16...f5 17.Bg6 Nd7 and Black has good compensation for the pawn.



*Shane Taylor. You have to understand Idaho's fascination with this guy's hair. Only two years ago he had really short hair and no beard.
Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland*

17.Bd3 Qc6 18.f3 Ng4? 19.Nd4!+- Nxe3



Position after 19...Nxe3

20.Nxc6?!

20.Qe2+-

20...Nxc2 21.Nxb8

21.Nxe7! Nxa1 22.Be4! Bxe4 23.fxe4±

21...Nxa1 22.Nd7 Rfd8 23.Ne5 Nb3?!

23...Kg8 24.Rxa1 f6 25.Bc4 fxe5

26.Bxe6+ Kh7

24.Nxf7+ Kg8 25.Nxd8 Rxd8 26.Bc4

26.Be4 Bxe4 27.Nxe4 Nd2 28.Nxd2

Rxd2 29.Rf2±

26...Nd2 27.Bxe6+ Kf8

27...Kh8

28.Rf2 Nxf3+ 29.Kg2

29.Kf1 Bf6 30.Nd5 Bxb2 31.Rxf3+ Bf6

32.Rf5±

29...Bf6 30.Kh3? Ng5+ 31.Kg4 Nxe6+

32.Nb5 Ke7 33.Bxf6+ gxf6 34.Re2 Rg8+

35.Kh4



Position after 35.Kh4

35...Rh8+

35...Bf3+-

36.Kg4 Rg8+ 37.Kh4 Rh8+ 1/2-1/2



This is an artist's rendition of (presumably the Sicilian) Dragon from the August 1971 issue of Northwest Chess. We are unsure who the artist was. Many (and some day hopefully all) past issues of Northwest Chess can be found at www.nwchess.com where even more gems like this can be found.



1974 Idaho State Chess Champion, Kenneth Sanderson. Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland



L-R: Jarod Buus, Caleb Kircher Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland

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Chris Amen. Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland

2014 Elena Donaldson Akhmylovskaja Memorial

Northwest Chess Grand Prix

by Murlin Varner, administrator

2014 All Over, New One Starting

Since this is intended for the January issue, it is safe to say that the 2014 Grand Prix is finished. Of course, since this was written on December 5, the exact winners and amounts won are not yet known, at least to your author. Once the final events are in the books (PCC G/60 and WA G/60 Championship, both on 12/27), and the business manager and I have verified that all GP fees have been paid, we will know all that, too. I cannot promise that all will be known by the next deadline (January 5), but if at all possible, we would like to get the results in the February issue. If not, it will be on the web site by February and in the magazine by March. Since all eight December events are single multiplier events, some of the leaders below are pretty much assured to win, but in many other cases, the December events could be very impactful.

January marks the start of the 2015 contest, too. And that one opens, as usual, by the Gresham Open in, of all places, Gresham, Oregon. This annual event, scheduled for January 3-4, will have a 2x multiplier and offer \$1900 in prizes, based on entries. Two weeks later, January's second multiplier event (also 2x) will occur, the Seattle City Championships. Along with these two multiplier events to kick start the New Year, there will be five additional events, in Spokane, Portland and Seattle. Might as well start the year well.

At this writing, your administrator remains solidly back in the pack, standing about 15th place in Class B. This, in spite of spending most of the year as a Class C player. As you may recall, your class is determined by your peak rating over the course of the year. My peak just happened to be in the first month of the year. After a good result in the Washington Class, I look to start the next year in exactly the same position. The difference in 2015 is that I plan (hope?) to be more active and maybe finish somewhat higher than 15th place. How about you? Where would you like to finish? Might as well shoot for #1, don't you think?

Statistics below are current through December 5.

Northwest Grand Prix Standings

Idaho			Oregon			Washington		
last	first	pts.	last	first	pts.	last	first	pts.
Masters								
			1 Raptis	Nick	190	1 Pupols	Viktors	190.5
			2 Grabinsky	Aaron	82.5	2 Feng	Roland	157.5
			3 Haessler	Carl A	42	3 Lessler	Peter	124.5
			4 Russell	Corey J	13.5	4 Tiglon	Bryce	91
			5 Gay	Daniel Z	5	5 Golub	David	80
Experts								
M/X/Class A			1 Bjorksten	Lennart	76.5	1 Nagase	Toshihiro	168
1 Bodie	Brad	58	2 Cigan	Jason	69	2 He	Anthony B	154.5
2 Kircher	Caleb P	28.5	3 Heywood	Bill	62	3 Bartron	Paul R	150
3 Havrilla	Mark A	18.5	4 Sherrard	Jerry D	49	4 Smith	Micah	135
4 Gorman	Cody A	17.5	5 Parnon	Calvin J	32	5 Haining	Kyle	112
5	Two tied at	6.5						
Class A								
Class B			1 Goffe	Michael P	88.5	1 Buck	Stephen J	261.5
1 Roland	Jeffrey T	59	2 Talyansky	Seth D	85.5	2 Olson	Travis J	140.5
2 Inman	James	30.5	3 Gaikwad	Dagadu B	84.5	3 Zhang	Eric M	140
3 Buus	Jarod N	25	4 Brahmarouthu	Abhinav	68	4 Zhang	Brendan	136.5
4 Hamilton	Brett B	15.5	5 Austin	Jeff J	66.5	5 Ramasamy	Vikram	117
4 Edvalson	Paul	15.5						

Idaho			Oregon			Washington					
last	first	pts.	last	first	pts.	last	first	pts.			
Class C			Class B			Class C					
1	Weyland	Ronald M	41.5	1	Berger	Brian F	115.5	1	Anthony	Ralph J	246.5
2	Amen	Chris	20.5	2	Zhang	Gavin	101	2	Bashkansky	Naomi	115.5
3	Porth	Adam	17	3	Wu	Ethan	94.5	3	Lee	Addison	114.5
4	Lombardi	George	13.5	4	Shimada	Masakazu	83.5	4	Thomas	Arjun	102.5
5	Zaklan	David A	12.5	5	Grabinsky	Joshua	74.5	4	Tu	Robin L	102.5
Class D			Class C			Class D and Below					
1	Hiatt	Arlene	45	1	Hasuike	Mike L	238	1	Richards	Jerrold	151.5
2	Jaroski	Jeffrey A	29.5	2	Booth	Liam K	60.5	2	Piper	August	150.5
3	Porth	Desmond	14.5	3	Winkler	Jake	60	3	Rajagopal	Maneesh	92
4	Nathan	Jacob A	14	4	Strigul	Michael	56.5	4	Chalasanani	Sujatha D	79.5
5	Faulkner	Graeme K	11	5	Dietz	Arliss	54.5	5	Zhang	Cheyenne	78
Class E and Below			Class D and Below			Class D and Below					
1	Duan	Daniel L	15.5	1	Buerer	Harry F	78.5	1	Beck	Alec W	96
2	Wetmur	Harold R	13.5	2	Riley	Hailey	37	2	Haining	Breck	92.5
3	Porth	Dylan	13	3	Prideaux	Dave	36	3	Tien	Sophie	79
4	Murphy	Andre R	12	4	Kenway	Geoffrey W	27	4	Mahajan	Rushaan	78.5
5	Three tied at		9	5	Thrash	Vincent	21	5	Two tied at		75
Overall Leaders, by State											
1	Roland	Jeffrey T	59	1	Hasuike	Mike L	238	1	Buck	Stephen J	261.5
2	Bodie	Brad	58	2	Raptis	Nick	190	2	Anthony	Ralph J	246.5
3	Hiatt	Arlene	45	3	Berger	Brian F	115.5	3	Pupols	Viktors	190.5
3	Weyland	Ronald M	41.5	4	Zhang	Gavin	101	4	Nagase	Toshihiro	168
5	Inman	James	30.5	5	Wu	Ethan	94.5	5	Feng	Roland	157.5
6	Jaroski	Jeffrey A	29.5	6	Goffe	Michael P	88.5	6	He	Anthony B	154.5
7	Kircher	Caleb P	28.5	7	Talyansky	Seth D	85.5	7	Richards	Jerrold	151.5
8	Buus	Jarod N	25	8	Gaikwad	Dagadu B	84.5	8	Piper	August	150.5
9	Amen	Chris	20.5	9	Shimada	Masakazu	83.5	9	Bartron	Paul R	150
10	Havrilla	Mark A	18.5	10	Grabinsky	Aaron	82.5	10	Olson	Travis J	140.5
11	Gorman	Cody A	17.5	11	Buerer	Harry F	78.5	11	Zhang	Eric M	140
12	Porth	Adam	17	12	Bjorksten	Lennart	76.5	12	Zhang	Brendan	136.5

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**Also, check out
nwchess.com/blog/**

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Jan. 3, 31; Feb. 28 **Saturday Quads**
Format: 3-RR, 4-plyr sec's by rtg. **TC:** G/120;d5. **EF:** \$9 (+\$7 fee for non-SCC). **Prizes:** Free entry for future qd. **Reg:** 9:00-9:45 a.m. **Rds:** 10:00-2:15-6:30. **Misc:** USCF, WCF memb. req'd, OSA. NS, NC.

January 11 **SCC Novice**
Format: 4-SS. Open to U1200 and UNR. **TC:** G/75;d5. **EF:** \$11 by 1/7, \$16 at site. (-\$2 for SCC mem., -\$1 for mem. of other NW dues-req'd CCs). **Prizes:** Memb (SCC, WCF, USCF). **Reg:** 9-9:45a.m. **Rds:** 10-12:45-3:30-6. **Byes:** 1 (Rd 3/4—commit at reg.). **Misc:** USCF memb. req'd. NS, NC.

January 24 Seattle Scrabble Club
 See www.seattlescrabble.org for details.

Jan. 25, Feb. 22 **Sunday Tornado**
Format: 4-SS. **TC:** G/60;d5. **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 memb. req'd, OSA. NS, NC.

January 30 **SCC G/15 Championship**
Format: 4-6 rds. (dependent upon num. of entries). **TC:** G/15;d0. **EF:** \$7 (plus \$3 fee for non-SCC). **Prizes:** At least 70% of EFs. **Reg:** 7-7:45 p.m. **First Rd:** 8:00 p.m. **Byes:** 1 (only if SS). **Misc:** USCF memb. req'd. NS, NC.

NM Nat Koons, WA Champion, will give a 20-board simul from 10 a.m. to noon on Sat. 1/17 in conjunction with the City Ch. EF is \$10.

The Hotel Nexus
 on Northgate Way less than a block from
 the club is offering a \$109 chess rate (1 king or 2 queens)
 during the winter months. Includes complimentary hot break-
 fast and free shuttle to downtown/U-District.

Seattle City Championship

January 16-18 or January 17-18

A two-section, five-round Swiss with a time control of 40/120 and SD/60; d5 (Two-day schedule – Round 1, G/60; d5). The prize fund of \$1000 is based on 54 paid entries, 6 per prize group.

a Northwest Grand Prix event

Championship

First	\$250
Second	\$150
Expert	\$100
Class A	\$80

EF: \$42 (\$33 for SCC mem., \$38 for mem. of other NW dues-req'd CCs) by 1/14 \$50 (\$39, \$44) at site; GMs, IMs, WGMs free.

Reserve (U1800)

First	\$140
Second	\$90
Class C	\$65
Class D	\$55
Class E & Under	\$45
Unrated	\$25

EF: \$33 (\$24 for SCC mem., \$29 for mem. of other NW dues-req'd CCs) by 1/14, \$42 (\$33, \$38) at site. **Unrateds** free w/purch. 1-yr USCF & WCF.

Both Sections: Add \$1 to any EF for 2-day schedule.

Reg.: Fri. 7-7:45pm, Sat. 9-9:45am. **Rds:** Fri. 8, Sat. (10am@ G/60;d5)-12:30-6:45, Sun. 11-5.

Byes: 2 (Sun. rds, commit at reg.). **Misc.:** USCF & WCF memb. req'd. No smoking. No computers.

Upcoming Events

♣ denotes 2014 Northwest Grand Prix event; for Seattle Chess Club events see page 30

♣ **Jan 3-4 Gresham Open, Gresham, OR.** (see <http://www.nwchess.com/calendar/TA.htm>)

Jan 3 Idaho Blitz Chess Championship, Boise, ID. Open to all players from any state. Top Idaho placer is recognized as “Idaho Blitz Chess Champion”, which is a new title starting 2015. Site: Library! Plaza Business Mall, 3085 N. Cole Road, Boise, ID 83704. EF: \$10 (made out to ICA). Prizes (Guaranteed): 1st Place \$75 plus title of Idaho Blitz Chess Champion; 2nd Place \$50; 3rd Place \$25. USCF Membership required, event is USCF-rated. Time Control: Game/5;d0. On-site Registration: 10:30am-11:45am. Early e-mail registration encouraged to save time: jroland@cableone.net (but pay entry at event). Rounds: 12 double-round Swiss System (may be decreased if not enough players but will not be increased). Players play two 5-minute games against each paired opponent, one with White and one with Black. Rounds 12:00pm-6pm (approximately) with a 30-minute break after half-way point.

♣ **Jan 22, 29 & Feb 5, 12, 19 Spokane Winter Championship, Spokane, WA.** Site: Gonzaga University (Herak Rm 121). Registration: 6:30-7:15, Jan. 22. Rounds: 7:30 p.m. (Round 1), 7:00 p.m. or ASAP (Rounds 2-5). E.F.: \$16. USCF rated. Format: 5 round Swiss. Time Control: G/120 (with 5 second delay). Contact: David Griffin, dbgrffn@hotmail.com.

♣ **Jan 31/Feb 28 Portland CC Game in 60. Portland, OR.** 4SS, G/60;d5. TD may switch to 5SS and G/45;d5 if more than 25 entries. Portland Chess Club, 8205 SW 24th Ave., Portland, OR. EF: \$20, \$5 discount for PCC Members. OCF/WCF/ICA and USCF membership required, 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 email@pdxchess.org, phone 503-246-2978, website www.pdxchess.org.

♣ **Feb 14-15 Washington President’s Cup, Seattle, WA.** (see half-page ad on page 13)

♣ **Feb 14-16 Idaho Closed State Championship, Twin Falls, ID.** A State Championship Event! - IDAHO RESIDENTS ONLY! Chief TD: Barry Eacker. Site: Shilo Inn, 1586 Blue Lakes Blvd No., Twin Falls, ID 83301. Format: 6SS, 30/120;d5, SD/60;d5. Rounds: 9, 4, 10, 4:30, 8, 3. One ½-point Bye, Rounds 1-5. One zero-point bye available in last round. Must Notify TD before round 2 pairing. Reg & Check-in: 7:30 -8:30 Sat Feb 14. One Section: Open. EF: \$25 if registered by Feb. 8, 2015. \$20 for Seniors (60+) and Juniors (under 18) if registered by Feb. 8, 2015. \$30 for EVERYONE if registered after Feb. 8, 2015. Current USCF and ICA membership required (ICA rates posted online at www.idahocheessassociation.org.) Prizes: Trophies or plaques - 1st, 2nd, 3rd Overall; 1st X; 1st-2nd, A thru F; 1st Junior; 1st Senior; 1st Unrated. HR: call Darlene and mention chess tournament at 208-737-6280. Do not register for hotel online. Calling Darlene gives ICA credit and allows us to have the event at this site. Misc.: Annual ICA Business meeting beginning at 8:30 a.m. prior to round 3. Contact: Barry Eacker, mol64@cableone.net, 208-733-6186, 963 Delmar Dr., Twin Falls, ID 83301. NC,NS,W.

♣ **Feb 28-Mar 1 The 23rd Dave Collyer Memorial, Spokane, WA.** The Spokane Chess Club and the Gary Younker Foundation, in memory of former presidents Dave Collyer and Gary Younker, proudly present the Twenty-Third Dave Collyer Memorial tournament. Location: Basement Conference Room, St. Anne’s Children’s Center, 25 W. Fifth Ave., Spokane. A computer-paired, five-round Swiss System event. Registration: 8:30-9:30, Feb. 28. Mandatory player meeting at 9:45 (except for sleep in). Rounds: 10 (or 12)-2:30-7; 9-1:30 or ASAP. Time control: Game/115 + 5 sec delay. Entry fee: \$27 if received by 2/27, \$33 at the door; under 19 \$5 less. Telephone entries accepted. All registrants must check in by 9:30 unless a first-round bye was granted or player is playing in the “sleep in” section. Late arrivals might not be paired in first round. Special “Sleep In” option. Anyone interested in sleeping in can play their round one game commencing at noon under G/60 time control and join the regular event for round two. Registration for this option ends at 11:40 a.m. Feb. 28. \$1,800 GUARANTEED prize fund. Class prizes based on at least 5 per class; classes may be reconfigured if less than five class entries. Only one prize per player (excluding biggest upset). NS, NC, W. One ½-point bye available if requested by end of prior round; Sunday bye must be requested by end of round 3. Director reserves the right to use class pairings in final round. PRIZES: FIRST — \$350, SECOND — \$225, THIRD — \$125. Class Prizes: Top Expert \$100. \$100 first, \$70 second: A; B; C; D; E/unrated. Biggest Upsets: \$100 & \$50 (non-provisional ratings). Entries: Spokane CC, c/o Kevin Korsmo, N. 9923 Moore, Spokane, WA 99208-9339. For information please call (509) 270-1772. Check website for updates & directions: www.spokanechessclub.org.

Apr 3-6 Grand Pacific Open (FIDE Rated), Victoria, BC (see half-page ad on page 16)

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