



\$3.95

February 2015

Chess News and Features from Oregon, Washington, and Idaho

Aaron Grabinsky wins Portland Winter Open



Northwest Chess

February 2015, Volume 69-02 Issue 805

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)

NWC Staff

Editor: Jeffrey Roland,
editor@nwchess.com

Games Editor: Ralph Dubisch,
chesscoaching@gmail.com

Publisher: Duane Polich,
publisher@nwchess.com

Business Manager: Eric Holcomb,
eric@holcomb.com

Board Representatives

David Yoshinaga, Josh Sinanan,
Grisha Alpernas, Marty Campbell,
Jeffrey Roland, Cameron Leslie, Chouhanik
Airapetian (alternate for Marty Campbell)

Entire contents ©2015 by Northwest Chess. All rights reserved. Published opinions are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the editor or the Northwest Chess Board. Northwest Chess is the official publication of the chess governing bodies of the states of Washington, Oregon and Idaho.

Advertising Rates

Display Ads: \$100 for a full page; \$60 for one-half page; \$30 for one-quarter page; \$20 for one-eighth page or for a business card. Additional charges apply if the staff must do layout work. Discounts: 10% (two consecutive ads); 15% (three or more consecutive ads); special business card rates: \$50 for three months or \$125 for one year. A surcharge may apply for non-chess-related ads. All ads subject to acceptance based on content and available space.

Event Announcement Rates (Upcoming Events listings)

Grand Prix events: \$25 for two consecutive listings of the same event. Other events: \$20 for one listing.

Please arrange payment for ads and Grand Prix fees with the Business Manager.

Advertising & Copy Deadline

Ads and submissions must be received by the 5th of the month for the items to appear in the next issue (e.g., February 5 for the March issue; March 5 for the April issue).

Submit all ads, donations, payments, changes of address & subscriptions to:

Business Manager, Northwest Chess
Eric Holcomb
1900 NE 3rd St, STE 106 PMB 361
Bend, OR 97701-3889
Eric@Holcomb.com
www.nwchess.com

Table of Contents

Aaron Grabinsky by Nancy Keller.....	Front Cover
Larry Evans Memorial Open (Reno, NV, Apr 3-5) Full-Page Ad.....	3
Oregon Chess News.....	4
The Foolish King by Samir Sen.....	10
Washington Chess News.....	12
Washington President's Cup (Seattle, WA, Feb 14-15) Half-Page Ad.....	20
Grand Pacific Open (Victoria, BC, Apr 3-6) Half-Page Ad.....	21
Idaho Chess News.....	22
Northwest Chess Grand Prix Report by Murlin Varner.....	28
Seattle Chess Club Tournaments.....	30
Upcoming Events.....	31
Corey Longhurst by Jim Berezow.....	Back Cover

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

On the front cover:

Aaron Grabinsky concentrating as he plays Nick Raptis at the Portland Winter Open on December 14, 2014. Photo credit: Nancy Keller

On the back cover:

Corey Longhurst sports a new hat for "hat night" at the Boise Chess Club. This picture taken on December 22, 2014. Photo credit: Jim Berezow.

Chesstoons:

Chess cartoons drawn by local artist Brian Berger, of West Linn, Oregon.

Northwest Chess Knights

Please donate today to help Northwest Chess!
Patrons, 2014-2015

Gerard Van Deene, Washington Chess Federation, Idaho Chess Association,
Murlin Varner, Russell Miller.

Submissions

Submissions of games (PGN format if possible), 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:

Jeffrey Roland, NWC Editor
1514 S. Longmont Ave.
Boise, Idaho 83706-3732
or via e-mail to:
editor@nwchess.com

Northwest Grand Prix Administrator

Murlin Varner
13329 208 Ave NE
Woodinville, WA 98072
MEVjr54@yahoo.com
425-882-0102

See our quarter page ad in the March issue of Chess Life, or visit www.renochess.org

4th Annual Sands Regency
RENO - LARRY EVANS MEMORIAL OPEN
formerly The Far West Open
 A WEIKEL TOURNAMENT

150 Grand Prix Pts. ♦ **April 3-4-5, 2015** ♦ F.I.D.E. Rated

\$26,000!!
(b/275)

\$16,500!!
(Guaranteed)

6 Round Swiss ♦ 5 Sections ♦ 40/2 - Game-1-5d
 ♦ **Rooms: \$36.03 / 53.06 !!**

Open Section (2000 & above) EF: \$149, (1999 & below = \$200) (GMs & IMs free but must enter by (3/1) or pay late fee at door). Guaranteed (Prizes 1-10 in Open Section Gtd. plus 1/2 of all other prizes).

\$2,000 -1300 -1000 - 700 - 500 - 400 - 300 - 300 - 300 - 200, (2399/below) - \$1,000, (2299/below) - \$1,000, (2199/below) - \$1200 - 800 - 500 - 400 (2099/below) - \$1000 (If a tie for 1st then a playoff for \$100 out of prize fund plus trophy).

Sec."A"- (1800-1999) EF: \$148; \$1,500-800-500-300-200.

Sec."B" - (1600-1799) EF: \$147; \$1400-700-400-300-200.

Sec."C" - (1400-1599) EF: \$146; \$1200-600-400-300-200.

Sec."D"/under - (1399-below) EF: \$145; \$1000-500-400-300-200,(1199 - below) \$300

Top Senior (65+) - \$200; Club Champ. - \$800-400.

Wednesday 4/1: 7:00 pm - GM Sergey Kudrin - Clock Simul. w/ complete analysis of YOUR Game (Only \$30!)

Thursday 4/2: 6-7:15 pm - Lecture by IM John Donaldson (FREE)

7:30 pm - GM TBA - Simul. (\$20) ; Blitz (G/5 d0) Tourney \$20 - 80% entries = Prize Fund

Saturday 4/4: 3-4:30 pm - FREE Game/Position Analysis - IM John Donaldson

 **Main Tournament** 

Registration: Thursday (4/2) (5 - 8 pm.) - Friday (4/3) - (9 - 10 am.)

Round Times: Fri.- 12 Noon - 7 pm, Sat.-10 am - 6 pm, Sun.- 9:30 am - 4:30 pm

PLUS! Complimentary Coffee and Coffee Cakes! Chess Palace Book Concession!

**For more information: Call, Write or E-mail Organizer and Chief TD, N.T.D. Jerome (Jerry) Weikel, (775) 747-1405
 6578 Valley Wood Dr., Reno, NV 89523 • wackyykl@aol.com**

**Room Reservations: Call the Sands Regency - 1-866-FUN-STAY • Reserve by March 15 for Chess Rate
 Ask for code: CHESS0415**

For TLA and to confirm receipt of entry see player list at: www.renochess.org

ENTRY FORM - 4th Annual Larry Evans Memorial (formerly Far West Open) - Reno, Nevada - April 3 - 5, 2015

Mail to: Sands Regency Casino Hotel - 345 N. Arlington Avenue - Reno NV 89501

PRINT Name _____ Daytime Phone _____ USCF/FIDE Rating _____
 Street Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

USCF I.D. Number _____ Exp. Date _____ **All pre-registered players please check in at tournament desk on arrival.**

ENTRY FEE ENCLOSED: (CIRCLE SECTION AND FEE BELOW) BYE(S) REQUESTED FOR ROUND(S): (CIRCLE) 1 2 3 4 5 6

----- OPEN SECTION -----		"A"	"B"	"C"	"D and Under"	UNRATED
GM/IM	Masters/Experts	1999-Below	1800-1999	1600-1799	1400-1599	1200-1399
Free	\$149	\$200	\$148	\$147	\$146	\$145

FEES ALSO ENCLOSED FOR:

- Hotel Deposit \$36.03* (Weekday) or
- Hotel Deposit \$53.06* (Fri. & Sat.)
- \$30 Wed. Clock Simul. GM Kudrin
- \$20 Thursday-Simul. GM TBA
- \$20 Thursday Blitz (G/5 d0)
- \$10 Discount - Sr.+65 Age_____

HOTEL INFORMATION:

- No Room Needed
- Made By Phone
- Please Make Me a Reservation*
- Arrival Date _____
- Departure Date _____
- One Bed Two Beds S NS

*Send \$36.03 for weekday arrival, \$53.06 for Friday arrival.

POSTMARK BY March 1, 2015.

Add \$11 after 3/1 and before 3/27. Do not mail after 3/27. \$22 on site. check / m.o. payable to THE SANDS REGENCY or provide credit card information and signature. \$5 service charge on credit card entries.

Visa MasterCard Am.Exp.

Card Number AND Expiration Date _____

Signature _____

<input type="checkbox"/> CHECK ENCLOSED
<input type="checkbox"/> CHARGE MY CARD
TOTAL FEES: \$ _____

Oregon Chess News

Portland Winter Open

By Brian Berger

Portland, OR — December 13/14, 2014

A frigid fog muted further the already drab colors of Portland and its surrounds, as Chief TD (and not to be messed with under any conditions) Neil Dale, assisted by Mike Morris, greeted the slow procession of players looking to register for the Portland Chess Club's Winter Open tournament.

Thirty-seven players made up the final tally, with 17 opting for the Open Section, and 20 for the Reserve, at a time control of 40/90, SD/30, with a 5 second delay. And, of course, winding his way through the milling crowd of players awaiting pairings, was the now familiar form of Morgan the Dog, sniffing the strength of the competition, listening for tell-tale signs of nervousness; and in general, assessing Jerrold Richards' (his owner?) chances against the assembled field of participants.

Although Morgan the Dog's agenda at these tournaments is finally out in the open, i.e. helping Jerrold Richards to become a



Mark Ethen with Morgan the Dog.
Photo credit: Brian Berger.

much better player, Morgan has refrained from entering such competitions himself, in deference to Richards, and because of his playing strength (calculated to be near 3000 by FIDE), that would make it unfair to all other players. Instead, Morgan the Dog exercises his chess skills against such players as Magnus Carlsen and Anand, with whom he has become close



Jazon Samillano thinks twice about his move.
Photo credit: Brian Berger.

friends, after being invited by Magnus to be on his advisory team during the World Chess Championship at Sochi, Russia.

And in this tournament Morgan the Dog did not disappoint Richards, guiding him to win the U-1400 prize of \$46, for his 2 1/2 points, and upping his rating by 48 points (1353-1401). Others in the Reserve Section to win prizes were 1st place winner Danny Phipps, who blew through the competition with a near perfect 4.5 points, drawing only with Gavin Zhang—and this with a pre-tournament rating of only 1322! Needless to say, the boost in rating points post-tournament was substantial, pushing him to 1562! The \$93 prize was just icing on the cake.

Second place money went to Gavin Zhang (1658-1705), who, with a 3rd round bye, accumulated 4.0 points and lined his pockets with \$57.50. And with the same number of points, but taking the U-1600 win, was Karl Wallulis, who also earned himself \$57.50 and tacked on 122 additional rating points (1432-1554). Lastly, Victor Dossin (1127-1183) took the U-1200 money, finishing with 2 1/2 points, and adding \$46 to his net worth.

Nearly as impressive as Danny Phipps' 240 point gain in his rating, was Andrea Botez's phenomenal performance in the Open Section. Choosing to forgo the Reserve Section in search of bigger game, this young lady showed that she is fast on the heels of her older sister, Alexandra, an Expert level player. Taking best U-2000, the 1577 Botez lost only to Richard Gutman (2045-2039), showing impressive wins against an 1851 provisional player; another 1800-plus player; and finishing with a very hard fought win against an extremely talented, 2100-plus competitor. Including a 3rd round bye, Botez finished with 3 1/2 points, propelling her post-tournament rating to 1739, and placing her in a category that, many have come to believe, better suits her skill level.

A not too hidden secret to Andrea's rapid rise is having been schooled at her father's (Andrei Botez) Silver Knight Chess Club in Happy Valley, Oregon. So if you have a youngster hankering to learn the game, or improve on his or her understanding of the game's finer points, I highly recommend you contact Mr. Botez for the needed information.

The other two prizes handed out in the

December 2014 PCC Quad 45

By Brian Berger

Portland, OR — December 20, 2014

With the threat of torrential rain hitting the Willamette Valley, and the holidays' fast approaching, no one was sure how many players to expect for the Portland Chess Club's December Quad 45. Luckily, eight hardy souls braved the warnings of rising rivers and flooded streets, to play a fast three rounds of chess.

Because the ratings leaned somewhat toward the lower levels, with only one opponent being a true upper level player, the mixing and matching was a bit lopsided (as it was in the month prior), placing Jeff Austin (1849-1845) with two 1400-plus players, and one slightly-over-1500 player. And the lower quad was headed by (1459-1445) Aaron Probst, whose closest competition was nearly 130 points south of his rating.

Alas, the ratings reflected pretty much the order of the finish in both quads, except for the Yeo brothers, both coming in with provisional ratings, and both tying for 1st place with the highest rated player in their quad.



Micah Smith at computer, with Michael Lilly in the background.

Photo credit: Brian Berger.



(L) Mike Lilly vs Greg Markowski.

Photo credit: Brian Berger.

Open Section were for 1st and 2nd place, with Aaron Grabinsky (2291-2318) taking all the marbles with a perfect 5.0, and a win over a chess juggernaut, better known as Nick Raptis. The \$139 was nice to win also, leaving just \$93 for Raptis, who graciously accepted the 2nd place prize money for his 4.0 points, with the hopes of a better payout the next time.

Aaron Grabinsky

By Nancy Keller

Written December 15, 2014

Aaron Grabinsky. His name just begs to be a name for a grandmaster.

Aaron tore through the 2300 barrier at the Portland Winter Open chess tournament held December 13th and 14th. His USCF rating rose from 2291 to 2318. He continues to add to his United States Chess Federation rating as he gets closer to his goal of 2500.

Aaron was undefeated at the Portland Winter Open and during the fourth round, took down Nick Raptis. Nick had been the top Oregon player for many years until Grandmaster James Tarjan recently moved to Oregon. Unfortunately, Tarjan was not at the tournament but Aaron had played the grandmaster this summer in Florida at the US Open. Aaron drew Tarjan at that event.

Currently Aaron is the only Junior

National Master in Oregon and the top scholastic player in the state for over a year. Prior to playing in the Portland Winter Open, he was ranked #4 in the state (which includes adults), #13 in the nation for age 16 and #96 out of all scholastic players in the US prior to this last weekend's event. He has now likely moved into the #3 slot for Oregon.

Unfortunately, the USCF rating does not grant the grandmaster title and he needs to attend more internationally rated tournaments to raise his FIDE rating. USCF and FIDE ratings are closely correlated but cannot be interchanged. FIDE rated events are rarer than USCF rated events but Aaron (and his brother Joshua and teammate Hailey Riley) will be going to Milpitas California this coming weekend to work on their FIDE ratings. Aaron's FIDE rating is currently 2095 just due to lack of playing opportunities. More FIDE events are on the East Coast so traveling costs are prohibitive for Oregonian Aaron Grabinsky.

When Aaron gets his FIDE rating up to where his USCF rating predicts he is playing at, he can earn the FIDE master title. At 2400 he can earn the International Master title. Then 2500 plus a few norms is the rare Grandmaster title.





(L) Nicholas Brown vs Jeff Austin. Photo credit: Brian Berger.

The upper quad saw Jeff Austin finish with 2 1/2 points, tied with Alex Yeo (1518-1618), whose provisional rating is hiding a strong talent. And in the lower quad, Alex's brother Austin Yeo (1306-1328), tied with Aaron Probst, both finishing with 3.0 points, in what turned out to be a 4 round, instead of a 3 round contest between the two, each in turn having a win and a loss against the other.



(L) Austin Yeo vs Aaron Probst. Photo credit: Brian Berger.

As has been the case with these 3rd Saturday of the month gatherings, Micah Smith was again the Chief TD, ably assisted by Michael Lilly.

PCC December G60

By Brian Berger

Portland, OR — December 27, 2014

Hardly had Santa left town in his sleigh, lighter by 15 million pounds of presents, than the Portland Chess Club was back in business, offering December's Game 60. Twenty-six players showed, some bringing their new digital clocks (gifts of Santa); others, having been a bit naughty in 2014, had to make do with their old ticktocks.

Having asked Santa to leave me a book on "How to Win a Chess Game," I was disappointed to find he had somehow overlooked the book while giving me socks, slippers, a hat, a sweater, long-johns, a hot-spa foot massager, a vibrating neck warmer and earmuffs. (It seems that as I age, Santa has decided to keep me as warm as possible).

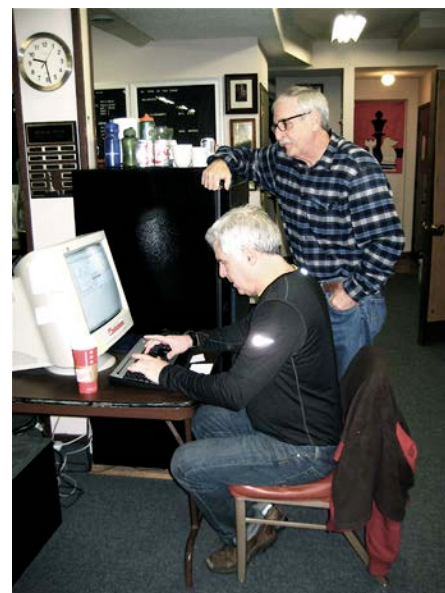
Needless to say, without that info, I struggled to maintain my chess dignity. In my first game,

matched against Michael Goffe, I'd look one way, and when I looked back, a pawn was gone! I'd look another way, and when I looked back, another pawn was gone! Closing my eyes did no good, because when I opened them, something else had disappeared!! In desperation, I looked to Morgan the Dog for help, but he had his paws full with trying to keep Jerrold Richards out of trouble—so I was on my own. Finally, with three major pieces down, and the next move being checkmate, I chose to resign—at least I had the last word.

Just a mention of the weather, as I failed to report it at the beginning of the article. It was rainy, overcast, and cold. There, I want to remain consistent in always reporting the meteorological variations from tournament to tournament.

A notable absentee from the tournament was Neil Dale, who generally is Chief TD at Game 60; and taking his place was Mike Janniro, assisted by Mike Morris. It seems that Neil was on his way to an undisclosed area in Africa, to help in controlling a hyena population that has become too aggressive towards the local inhabitants—a task Neil Dale is ideally suited for because of the nature of his TD training, and known crocodile wrestling prowess.

Let's see, I seem to be missing the point of this report—so here goes. Tied at 4.0, and splitting 1st and 2nd prize monies amounting to \$65 each, were Oregon's chess champ, Nick "no-prisoners" Raptis (2379-2383), and Yogi "fast-fingers" Saputra (2108-2121). And with final scores of 3.0 points each, Carl "heavy-hitter" Haessler (2202-2201), Michael



Chief TD Mike Janniro and Mike Morris. Photo credit: Brian Berger.



Carl Haessler Chess Master

503-875-7278 ■ carl@chessworksNW.com
chessworksNW.com

Gresham Open

By Brian Berger

Portland, OR — January 3-4, 2015

After two previous days of bright sunshine and very cold nights, the day of the 2015 Gresham Open, held at Mount Hood Community College, greeted a contingent of 47 players with a morning of rain and fog. And lucky they were, as this venue can sometimes test the will of the most determined of players, due to weather conditions that, in the past, have mimicked the best that Siberia could throw at you. (Well, not quite that bad, but close).

Having just returned from Africa, where he was called to eradicate roving packs of hyenas that were threatening the lives of villagers, Neil Dale was in fine form to take on the duties of Chief TD. And assisting him was Mike Morris, who, although he has had no experience handling wild animals, runs a mean computer. Together, they had things rolling pretty much on time.

Before I get much further into this report, I want to pass on a request by Neil Dale, to mention that Carl Haessler, a notoriously late comer to any tournament, was actually on time for once—an event, by Neil’s estimation, to equal that of the “second coming.” Whether this is entirely true or not, I can’t say; but I am loth to refuse his request, based on his past performances’ against crocodiles and hyenas.

Also, Jerrold Richards wanted me to mention that, considering the recent revelations about Morgan the Dog (famous now as the result of news stories about his chess playing prowess, and his recent invite by Magnus Carlsen, to be one of his seconds during the World Chess Championship at Sochi, Russia), that Morgan should be allowed access to



(L) Marcus Chi-Leung vs James Bean. Photo credit: Brian Berger.

“make’em-mincemeat” Goffe (1917-1926), and Dagadu “pawn-cruncher” Gaikwad (1838-1848), all shared in the 3rd place prize, that when split-up three ways, was not much to talk about (\$13 each), but was validation for their efforts.

Also with 3.0 points each, but sharing the U-1800 prize, were Venkat “no nickname yet” Doddapaneni (1708-1734), and David “delusive-opening” Yoshinaga (1752-1740), that netted them \$22.75 (somehow adding cents to these winnings makes them sound like discounted prizes). And lastly, three players also tied for the U-1500 prize money; Austin “provisional” Yeo (1328p-1432p), Brian “been-better” Berger (1454-1461), and Jerrold “just-want-to-make-1600-before-I-die” Richards (1401-1433), which, with their \$15 winnings, will need to fill out 15 additional pages when they file their taxes.



(L) Jake Winkler vs Carl Haessler. Photo credit: Brian Berger.

All-in-all, this Game 60 turned out to be the “cat’s meow,” or the “cow’s moo,” or the “chipmunk’s chatter,” or whatever animal utterance gives you pleasure.

Note to readers: Some literary liberties were taken in the writing of the above report.




Some endgames. Photo credit: Brian Berger.

The Chess Butler is represented out West by
russellmiller22@comcast.net

Need a “chess change?”
: C.J.S. Purdy products,
: new/used books,
: Grand Turk & Baby Grand! (\$895)
: Morphy Club, etc.
need name, address, city, state, zip, email address!

the chess set to put your hair on FIRE!



all tournaments (not just the ones held by the Portland Chess Club), as long as no players have a bias against animals in the playing area, and the facility has no rules against it.

Speaking of Jerrold Richards, Morgan the Dog's training sessions with him have been paying off. My own encounter with him in the 5th round of this tournament is a case in point. Early in our game, Richards' now enhanced tactical expertise netted him a pawn up, and he smelled blood in the water. Although the pressure he applied was well thought out, I managed to equalize and eventually gain my pawn back, and then snatched another. Now the pressure was applied from my side on his king, caught in a corner, with no way of getting help from major pieces. It looked like mate was inevitable.

Partly by my misplaying my advantage, and Richards taking advantage of my misjudgment, he extricated himself, and sought to run for cover with my queen chasing him. Somehow he managed to elude me. Still, I had a passed pawn that I calculated could queen if I were able to exchange queens, and when the opportunity presented itself, I did just that. Unfortunately, my calculation was one square off on the queening of the pawn—a mistake I am sure Richards recognized when he allowed the exchange—and I was left with my king out of play trying to push the pawn through (which his king now effectively guarded against), while he had two connected passed pawns left that could not be stopped! Nice playing Jerrold, and kudos to Morgan the Dog.



(L) Greg Markowski vs Arliss Dietz. Photo credit: Brian Berger.

Although the attendance was not as high as previous years, a very strong group of upper-level players made this an exciting event, with our own Oregon State Champion, Nick Raptis, leading a list of 5 Masters and 8 Experts; a number of whom fell prey to much lower rated players. But not Nick “no prisoners” Raptis (2380-2386), who fought his way to a clear 1st place win with a final score of 4.5 points, drawing only with Lennart Bjorksten (2128-2147), and taking home

\$313 with an impressive display of a mind that makes few missteps.

Sharing the 2nd-3rd place prize money, combined with that of 1st U-2200, were Aaron Grabinsky (2323-2325), Yogi Saputra (2121-2125) and Lennart Bjorksten (2128-2147), all posting a score of 4.0 points, yielding them \$132.33 each, to do with what they may. And 7 players maneuvered well enough to post 3.5 points each, only one of whom, Peter Prochaska (2200-2200), not being in the money because of his higher rating. But of the other 6, Phillip Seitzer (2190-2178), Paul Barton (2120-2132), and Calvin Parnon (2096-2085), all tied for the U-2200 2nd place prize that, when split up, left them a little over lunch money at \$23.33 apiece. And Seth Talyansky (1972-1988), Aaron Nicoski (1774-1833) and Joshua Grabinsky (1664-1725), captured the U-2000 1st-2nd, combined with the U-1800 1st place monies which, when portioned out, left each with \$93.33.

Nine contestants managed to win 3 of their games, only the lower 4 being eligible for any prize money; they being David Yoshinaga (1740-1748)—whose opening repertoire is a mystery, even to him—Roland Eagles (1738-1740), Gavin Zhang (1673-1668), and the young Josiah Perkins (1638-1656)—who is part of the Coquille Chess Club team, and who, in the first round, gave a good showing against Nick Raptis in a “who’ll get a passed pawn to queen first?” exciting ending—each sharing in the U-1800 2nd place prize that, when divvied-up, amounted to \$17 and change.



(L) Nick Raptis vs Josiah Perkins. Photo credit: Brian Berger.

Jack Woo McClain won the whole of the U-1600 prize money, posting a respectable 2.5 points, and taking home \$105 for his efforts. While of the 13 players who eked out 2.0 points each, 10 of them could claim some cash: Praveer Sharan (1559-1558), Oscar Petrov (1569-1524), Brian “been better” Berger (1517-1504), Leo Deng (1590-1577), Gregory Markowski (1427-1468) and Jerrold Richards (1433-1481), shared in the U-1600 2nd place prize that, when diluted, came to a heart-pounding \$11.67. And James Hansen (1369-1442)—a young man who has been active in scholastic play, but has just recently gotten his feet wet in USCF rated tournaments, and has yet to show his actual rating strength—Corbin Frias (1266-1362)—another young player who has not yet shown his real potential—and Rohit Gupta (915p-999p) gained \$43.75 each in tying for the U-1440 1st-2nd prize.

I believe fun was had by all but one conspicuously missing member of the Oregon chess community, and that was Morgan the Dog, who had to sit out the

tournament in the confinement of Jerrold Richards’ vehicle, while wishing he could wander amongst his fellow players, and maybe grab a game or two in the skittles’ room.

**Brian Francis Berger (1517) –
David K Yoshinaga (1740) [A43]**
Gresham Open Portland, OR
(R3), January 3, 2015
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.d4 c5 2.Nf3 cxd4 3.Qxd4 Nc6 4.Qd1 e5 5.Nc3 Bb4 6.Bd2 d5 7.a3 Bc5 8.e4 Nge7 9.Bb5 0-0 10.exd5 Nxd5 11.0-0 Nxc3 12.bxc3?

This self-inflicted wound marks the beginning of the end. After the obvious 12.Bxc3 the position is essentially equal.

12...e4 13.Ng5 Bf5 14.Nh3?

Oddly consistent with White’s previous play.

14...Bxh3 15.gxh3 Ne5 16.Be2 Qh4 17.Kg2 Rad8 18.Qc1 Rd6 19.Bf4 Rg6+ 20.Bg3 Re8 21.Qd2 Rd8 22.Qc1 e3 23.f3 Rd2 24.Qe1 f5 25.Kh1

25.f4 keeps White’s fingernails attached to the ledge for a little longer.

25...Qxh3 26.Rg1 Nxf3! 27.Bxf3 Rxh2+! 0-1



*TDs Mike Morris and Neil Dale.
Photo credit: Brian Berger.*



(L) Carl Haessler vs Mike Hasuike. Photo credit: Brian Berger.

The Foolish King

By Samir Sen

“Though this be madness, yet there is method in’t.”

- Polonius in Hamlet, Act. 2, Scene 2

How foolish can a king be? Let’s journey back 1,000 years to when our cherished game was first created ...

In ancient India, there once lived a Brahmin named Sessa. For many years, Sessa kept to himself as he lived in solitude on the outskirts of the kingdom, introspecting upon the choices he made in life and solemnly searching for its divine meaning.

One day, out of bare curiosity, Sessa decided to revisit the kingdom and see how it was doing. He observed the common interactions between the villagers and merchants. He overheard the conversations between the daily laborers during their mid-day tea. Of all the talk and all the jive, Sessa found the one thing troubling everyone’s minds - the rivalry with the neighboring kingdom and the possibility of a series of wars.

The story then goes on to describe how the Brahmin tirelessly struggled to invent a game that calm the people’s apprehension and restore peace back to the kingdom. When Sessa introduced his game (chess, of course) to King Varagunan, the king was thoroughly impressed. Now he had a game where two rivaling armies could engage in war without any blood shed! A stunning success! Varagunan loved the game so much that he offered to give the Brahmin anything he wished for.

One Grain of Wheat

“I would like one grain of wheat for the first square on the board, two grains for the second, four for the third, and so on doubled for each of the 64 squares on the chessboard,” requested Sessa.

Astounded and perplexed the king replied, “Is that all? Why ask for a few grains of wheat when you can be asking me for all the glitters and gold you desire?”

“The grains will be quite enough for me, I can assure you” answered Sessa, who could not mask his ever expanding grin running alongside his cheeks.

“Very well, your wish shall be granted ...”

What a foolish king! Soon after the king accepted the deal, his court advisors calculated that the grains requested (18,446,744,073,709,551,615 of them!) would exceed the kingdoms’ total reserves of wheat and that even if all the oceans were dried up and used to harvest wheat, there still would not be enough to meet those accumulated on the 64 squares of the chessboard.

However, unlike King Varagunan, the king on the chess board does not have to be so foolish! In fact, His Majesty can provide just the right amount of winning wisdom to finish off his opposing majesty!

Let’s take a look at the game between Lasker and Thomas, which I like to call “Clash between the Foolish and Wise Kings.” Which king is foolish? Which is wise?

W: Edward Lasker
B: George Alan Thomas
London, 1912



Position after 10... Qe7

At first, it seems clear that White is dominating. One might say that all White needs to do is move the e4 knight and deliver checkmate on h7! But, it’s not that easy. If 1. Nxf6+, then 1... gxf6 defends and if White plays Nd6 (double attack!), Nc5, or Ng5, Black plays ...g6! So what did White play?

11. Qxh7+!! Kxh7 12. Nxf6+ Kh6

The foolish king gets hunted!

13. Neg4+! Kg5 14. h4+! Kf4 15. g3+ Kf3 16. Be2+ Kg2 17. Rh2+! Kg1

Find the winning move!

18. 0-0-0#!!

(or Kd2#) The wise king captures the hunted! Why was Black’s king foolish? It

meandered aimlessly, *unsupported* by other active pieces which allowed it to be hunted. This should be avoided! However, when the king has sufficient protection and is well-surrounded by active pieces (like in the endgame ...), it can prove itself quite wise and powerful.

W: Alexander Alekhine
B: Fred Dewhurst Yates
London, 1922



Position after 37... Rxf6

White’s dream is to checkmate the Black king. If one of Black’s rooks were to end up on f8, he could finally achieve his dream with Rh7+, Kg8, Rcg7#. So White played ...

38. Ke5!

He uses his king to push Black over the edge! Now the rook has nowhere to go and so Black resigned. Again if 38... R6f8, 39. Rh7+ Kg8 39. Rcg7 is checkmate!

You might be thinking, “Yeah, yeah ... I already know to activate my king in the endgame. Show me a wise and active king in the middle game!” Alright then, you got it!

But before we proceed, a quick disclaimer is necessary. Most of the time, moving your king out in the middle game is highly dangerous. There’s simply not enough protection and other active pieces to support His Majesty, which as I said earlier is the most important part of activating the king!

Knight in Shining Armor

However, in the few rare cases where the king does have enough support, it can be the knight in shining armor, the marvelous attacking piece of the middle game!

Take a look at the following position from a famous Alekhine – Capablanca match. How did White finish off Capablanca?

W: Alexander Alekhine
B: Jose Raoul Capablanca
 Avro, 1938



Position after 30...Be8

In this scenario, White clearly dominates the kingside while Black's major pieces are nicely tucked away on the queenside. This sort of kingside protection allows the White king to move in for the kill ...

31. Kg3!

There's nothing the Black knight can do!

31...Qf7 32. Kxg4!

Fearless! The White king is well guarded by his active kingside knight and pawns.

32...Nh4!

The only try

33. Nxf4 Qxf5+ 34. Kg3

and Black soon lost.

In this bizarre position, what would you play?

W: Henri Weenink
B: Louis Gans
 Haarlem, 1930



Position after 24...Qb6

Okay. At first, it seems like White's king has gone completely bonkers. It is sitting in the middle of the board and there are still queens looking for blood! However,

looking a little closer, all of White's other pieces are centralized and active and, at least for the moment, protecting the king. So the king is not so vulnerable after all and this lets White decisively move his king even further into the heat of battle!

25. Kf4!

The wise and valiant king is headed right for h6!

25...Qc7+ 26. Kg5!

There is nothing Black can do! White's centralized rook stops Qd8 and Nd6 (if 25...Nd6 headed to f5, 26. Rxd6!! ends the game). The only other option for Black, then, is 26...Rfe8 and if 27. Kh6, 27...Kf8. Do you see White's best continuation?

It is 28. Qg7+! Ke7 29. Rxe6+!! Kxe6 30. Bg4+ and checkmate is soon to come.

In the game, Black played

26...Bd5 27. Kh6

and Black resigned. What happens if Black plays 27...Qd6, pinning White's queen?

The hunt is over with 28.Rg4#!

To end, here is a "short" and (hopefully) fun tactic in which Short lets his king go on a little stroll.

W: Nigel Short
B: Jan Timman
 Tilburg, 1991



Position after 30...h5

Right off the bat, it's clear that White is dominating. With rooks doubled on the d-file and a dangerously imposed queen on f6, all White needs is a pawn on h6 to finish Black off. Short looked and looked for the way to place the jewel on his crowning position: g4, Ng5, ... nothing. And then it struck him, "Why does it have to be a pawn?"

31. Kh2!!

The king goes on a stroll.

31...Rc8 32. Kg3! Rce8 33. Kf4!

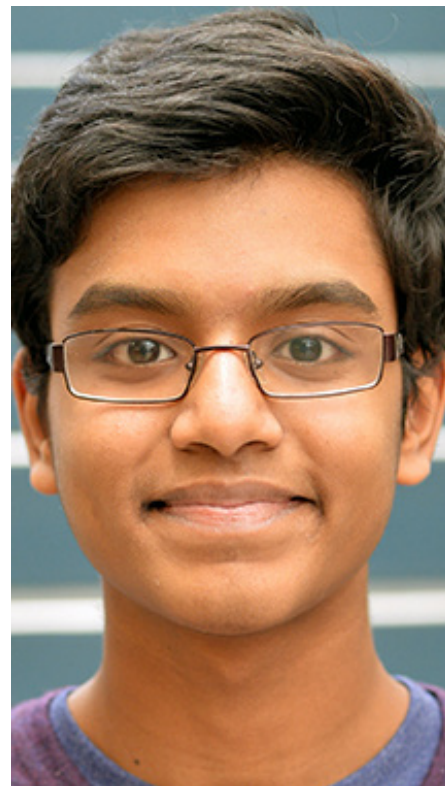
Amazing! Black can't do anything! White is off to mate, king leading the way.

33...Bc8 34. Kg5! 1-0

(34...Kh7 35. Rxf7+)

And so, we see that the king is not so foolish and weak as we might have thought. In fact, His Majesty has been the champion of numerous rivalries in every stage of the game, even the middle game!

While we must, in most cases, keep our king safe and guarded behind pawns when there are many pieces on the board, it's important to not overlook the opportunity to use the king's latent power and march onward! For in those rare cases, ordinary games suddenly become extraordinary. Don't underestimate the power of a king!



Samir Sen.

Photo credit: Vancouver School District

Washington Chess News

US Chess League

By Josh Sinanan

Hi Sluggers Fans,

Here are the games and recap from the Wildcard round of the Sluggers matches.



Wildcard Round: 11-5-2014

Recap: Seattle Sluggers vs. New Jersey Knockouts

The Sluggers played a rematch against the same New Jersey Knockouts team that we faced in week 9. Going into this match, we had color choice and picked white on boards 1 and 3 while New Jersey received draw odds and would advance to the quarterfinals in the case of a 2-2 tie. Given these circumstances, our match strategy was to play for wins with white and draws with black, without anyone taking any unnecessary risks. Unfortunately for us, the New Jersey team that we had crushed a few weeks ago returned new and improved as they managed to go 2.5/3 on the last three boards after only managing 0.5/3 in our last encounter.

Board 1: In his rematch with GM Alex Stripunsky, IM Georgi Orlov managed to score yet another fantastic victory, for which he won the league's best game of the week award! Out of a Reti Opening that transposed to a Semi-Slav, Stripunsky played the somewhat rare 5...a6, entering Chebanenko Slav territory. Georgi responded with the principled 6.c5, which has been the preferred move of many strong grandmasters including Aronian, Nakamura, and Kramnik since it grabs space on the queenside and highlights the weakness of the b6-square. The game followed Bosiocic-Stojanovic for 10 moves until Georgi played the novelty 11.Na4! to unleash his bishop on b2 and reinforce his grip on the b6-square. A few moves later, a complicated middle-

game resulted in which Georgi displayed his deep understanding of the minor pieces by trading his light-square bishop for a centralized knight and proceeding to maneuver both of his knights to the beautiful outposts on b6 and d6, where they completely dominated the board. After some further maneuvering, the game took an interesting turn when White grabbed a "free" pawn on e4, which allowed Black's pieces to spring to life and obtain stronger counterplay down the e-file and on the kingside. New Jersey fans were excited when Stripunsky sacrificed his bishop on h3 for what looked like a dangerous attack if Georgi accepted the offering. After some deliberation, Georgi correctly judged that it was too dangerous to take the bishop and instead maneuvered his other knight into d6, which wins the exchange. Stripunsky missed his best chance to continue the attack with 27...Nxb2, a risky line in which he would have to sac two exchanges for unclear compensation. Black instead played the inferior 27...Qd7?, which allows White to consolidate his extra exchange and force out the black intruders. With time pressure approaching, Stripunsky blundered with 34...cxb5??., allowing 35.Qxh6, setting up a powerful attack down the open h-file. Georgi finished convincingly with the powerful clearance sacrifice 36.d5 to open the long diagonal, which forces a decisive invasion on the dark squares. The last move of the game, 39.Re5, was the nail in the coffin since it wins a piece on the spot. With his tremendous 4.5/6 record against GM opposition this season, there can be no doubt in anyone's mind that Georgi Orlov is the world's strongest IM!

IM Georgi Orlov(2528) – GM Alex Stripunsky (2656) [D45]
USCL Wildcard Round ICC,
November 5, 2014

1.Nf3 d5 2.c4 c6 3.e3 Nf6 4.Nc3 e6 5.d4 a6 6.c5 Nbd7 7.b4 g6 8.Bd3 Bg7 9.Bb2 0-0 10.h3 Qc7



Position after 10...Qc7

11.Na4 a5 12.b5 Ne4 13.Rc1 Re8 14.Qb3 h6 15.Bxe4 dxe4 16.Nd2 e5 17.Nc4 exd4 18.Nd6 Re7 19.exd4 Rb8 20.0-0 Nf6 21.Nb6



Position after 21.Nb6

21...Be6 22.Qa3 Nd5 23.Nxe4 Nf4 24.Rce1 Bf5 25.f3 Rbe8 26.Nc4 Bxh3



Position after 26...Bxh3

27.Ncd6 Qd7 28.Nxe8 Rxe8 29.Qe3 Nd5 30.Qd2 Be6 31.Nd6 Ra8 32.a4 Bf8 33.Ba3 Bxd6 34.cxd6 cxb5 35.Qxh6 Nf6



Position after 35...Nf6

36.d5 Bxd5 37.Qf4 Qf5 38.Qd4 Rd8 39.Re5 1-0

Board 2: FM Curt Collyer played Owen's Defense against GM Joel Benjamin in a game that shall hence forth be known as the "Benjaminoweni," as proclaimed by Sluggers TD Mark Smith. Since we were facing New Jersey, Curt was a bit superstitious and wore his Sluggers Jersey especially for this match. The team manager even ate a Jersey Mike's



Curt Collyer's Jersey and Jersey Mike's sandwich. Photo credit: Josh Sinanan

sandwich before the match to try and give the Sluggers a psychological advantage come game time. Benjamin grabbed the typical central space advantage out of the opening and chose a solid but aggressive setup with Bd3 and knights on c3 and e2. Both sides castled short, and Curt exchanged a set of minor pieces in the style of the Nimzo-Indian by saddling White with doubled c-pawns. Despite his structural advantages, Curt was unable to equalize since he could not achieve any meaningful pawn breaks, and soon White built up a stong attack on the kingside. Black found several strong defensive moves with ...Kh8, ...Rg8, and ...h6 to prevent sacrifices on h7, but his hippo-knights were passively placed and he was eating up a lot of time on the clock. Soon Benjamin's rooks joined the attack, but he couldn't quite seem to find the knockout blow and started to go astray with 18.d5, missing 18.Nxg7, which leads to a strong attack. Curt's big chance to obtain an advantage occurred on move 22, when simply capturing the hanging-bishop on g5 seems to win for Black. In a wild time scramble, Benjamin was forced to sacrifice the exchange for a bishop and two

pawns, and it seemed that Curt had some good drawing chances. White's position was much easier to play in time pressure due to his safer king, and Benjamin methodically consolidated his advantage without allowing Curt's queen and rook to become active. An interesting moment occurred on move 43 just after Curt had played 42...Kg6, attacking Benjamin's pinned bishop. White found the tricky reply 43.Qf4 with the idea of Qg3+ next if Black takes the bishop, which actually leads to a draw by perpetual check. Unfortunately for Curt and the Sluggers, Black missed this opportunity and instead retreated his king, which allows White to win another pawn and reach an easily winning ending.

**GM Joel Benjamin (2634) –
FM Curt Collyer (2302) [B00]**
USCL Wildcard Round ICC,
November 5, 2014

1.e4 b6 2.d4 Bb7 3.Nc3 e6 4.Bd3 Bb4
5.Nge2 Ne7 6.0-0 0-0 7.Ng3 Bxc3 8.bxc3
d6 9.Qg4 Kh8 10.Nh5 Rg8 11.Bg5 Nd7
12.e5 h6 13.f4 Qe8 14.Rae1 Nd5 15.c4
Nb4 16.Re3 Nxd3 17.cxd3 Nf8



Position after 17...Nf8

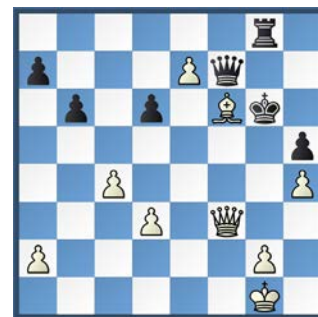
18.d5 Nh7 19.exd6 cxd6 20.dxe6 fxe6
21.Rxe6 Bc8 22.Rfe1

[Diagram top of next column]

22...Bxe6 23.Rxe6 Qd7 24.Bh4 Rae8
25.f5 Rxe6 26.fxe6 Qe8 27.Nf4 g5
28.Be1 gxf4 29.Bc3+ Nf6 30.Qxf4 Qg6
31.Bxf6+ Kh7 32.Qf3 h5 33.h3 Rf8
34.Qb7+ Kh6 35.Bd4 Qg3 36.Qe4 Qg6
37.Qb7 Qg5 38.Qe4 Qg6 39.e7 Rg8
40.Qf3 Kh7 41.Bf6 Qf7 42.h4 Kg6



Position after 22.Rfe1



Position after 42...Kg6

43.Qf4 Kh7 44.Qxd6 Rg6 45.Qe5 Rg8
46.d4 Qg6 47.Bg5 Qf7 48.d5 Kg6 49.d6
Qxc4 50.Qf6+ Kh7 51.Qh6# 1-0

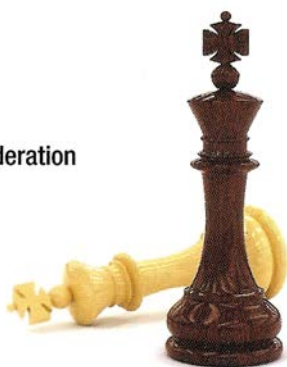
Board 3: NM Nat Koons played the Queen's Gambit and entered the Ragozin Defense against IM Alexander Katz. Nat was having one of those days that we all dread; getting stuck in traffic on his way to the match, having trouble connecting once he got there, and not having as much time to prepare for the game as he would like. Once the game began, Nat tried to remember some of the analysis that he had read a few years ago in IM Vladimir Barsky's excellent book, *The Ragozin Complex*. Nat chose the sideline 5.Qb3, which attacks the bishop on b4 and defends the weak pawn on c4. Katz replied with the modern and theoretically strongest move 5...c5, in which, according to Barsky, "Black wants to force mass exchanges in the centre and develop active piece play, thanks to his advantage in development." The game followed Akobian-Krush 2011 until Katz deviated with 7...Bxc3 instead of 7...h6, as played by Krush.

Joshua C. Sinanan

National Master
President, Washington Chess Federation

3610 218th St. SW
Brier, WA 98036

Cell: (206) 769-3757
joshsinanan@gmail.com

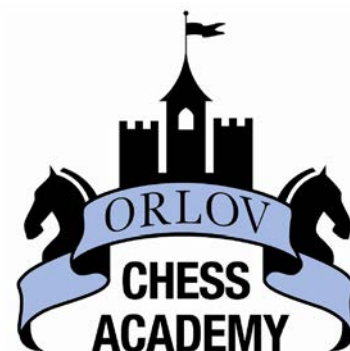


Orlov Chess Academy
IM Georgi Orlov
2540 USCF

Offers time-tested program,
challenge and quick progress!

Chess Camps, Tournaments
Chess Classes, Private Lessons

chess64@comcast.net
www.chessplayer.com
(206)-387-1253





Coach Michael Hosford and his student Aidan Lawler joined Assistant Manager Tian Sang and TD Mark Smith after their lesson to catch some of the Sluggers action! Front: Aidan Lawler Rear: (L-R): Tian Sang, Mark Smith, Michael Hosford. Photo credit: Josh Sinanan.

After Katz's next move, 8...d4, Nat went into the tank for over 20 minutes trying to decide where to move his queen. He ultimately settled on 9.Qc2, which allows Black to equalize after Qa5+ and Qxc5. Instead, both Qa3 and Qd2 preventing the check were interesting alternatives in which White may retain some advantage, though it is extremely complicated. A few moves later, Katz declared his aggressive intentions by declining a three-move repetition and sacrificing a pawn in return for two well placed knights supporting a mobile central pawn duo. Nat correctly castled queenside but forgot to continue to the grandmaster-king-move 22.Kb1, which would have prevented any tricks and guaranteed him a lasting advantage. Sensing his opportunity with time pressure approaching, Katz rolled the dice with the flashy 22.Nb4!?, which looks dangerous but probably is unsound. Had Nat found the accurate 23.Bxb4!, he would have been well on his way to refuting the sacrifice and secured a clear advantage. Instead, he blundered with 23.axb4 simply missing the zwischenzug 23...d3, which mates or wins the queen. After this unfortunate turn of events, White only had two bishops for the sacrificed queen and Katz scored a much needed point for the Knockouts.

NM Nat Koons (2293) –
IM Alexander Katz (2380) [D38]
USCL Wildcard Round ICC,
November 5, 2014

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.c4 Bb4+ 4.Nc3
d5 5.Qb3 c5 6.dxc5 Nc6 7.Bg5 Bxc3+
8.Qxc3 d4

[Diagram next column]



Position after 8...d4

9.Qc2 Qa5+ 10.Bd2 Qxc5 11.a3 a5
12.e3 e5 13.Bd3 Qe7 14.Ng5 Ng4 15.Nf3
Nf6 16.Ng5 Nd7 17.h4 Nc5 18.Bxh7 Be6
19.Nxe6 Qxe6 20.Bf5 Qe7 21.0-0 e4
22.f3



Position after 22.f3

22...Nb4 23.axb4 d3 24.bxc5 dxc2
25.Kxc2 Qxc5 26.Bc3 Qxf5 0-1

Board 4: NM David Golub finished the regular season with a perfect 7/7 on board 4 and racked up an amazing 20.5 MVP-points with a performance-rating over 2500, a feat that will go down forever in Sluggers history. He is a leading candidate

for the first all-star team on board 4, which will be announced shortly after the playoffs are complete. In his final game of the season, David opted for the Grünfeld Defense against Ethan Klein, which he has analyzed out to a pulp following several of GM Ray Robson's recent discoveries. Klein chose the sideline 4.Bg5, a safe option which only strives for a tiny edge, and David soon gambited a pawn in return for the bishop-pair and a lead in development. The game followed Vuckovic-Mekhitarian for 15 moves until Klein deviated with 16.Rc2!?, keeping the bishop but allowing Black's knight to remain dominant on d3 for a few more turns, instead of trading it off right away with 16.Bxd3 as played by Vuckovic. After this inaccuracy, David was able to equalize and won back his sacrificed pawn a few turns later. Now with a symmetrical pawn structure and the presence of opposite-colored bishops, the position seemed quite drawish despite Klein obtaining a symbolic advantage as he gained space with 23.f4 and chased David's knight back to b6. Soon the pawns became locked with neither side able to make progress when Klein suddenly went on chess "tilt," perhaps because all three of his draw offers had been declined, and allowed David to exchange minor pieces. This trade created a bishop vs. knight imbalance with pawns on both flanks, clearly favoring the bishop, and massive liquidation resulted with each side scooping up the other's pawns and trying to create passed pawns. On move 58, David calculated the winning variation 58.Bxh4 to create a winning outside passed pawn, but decided to play it safe with 58.Bxf4, which only leads to a draw. The players simplified all the way down to K+B vs. K+N before finally shaking hands.

Ethan Klein (2022) –
NM David Golub (2270) [D80]
USCL Wildcard Round ICC,
November 5, 2014

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.Bg5 Bg7
5.Bxf6 Bxf6 6.cxd5 c6 7.Rc1 0-0 8.dxc6
Qxd4 9.Qxd4 Bxd4 10.cxb7 Bxb7 11.e3
Bf6 12.Nf3 Rd8 13.Be2 Na6 14.0-0 Nb4
15.a3 Nb3



Position after 15...Nd3

16.Rc2 Bxf3 17.Bxf3 Rac8 18.Rd1 e6
 19.g3 Nxb2 20.Rxd8+ Rxd8 21.Ne4
 Be5 22.Be2 Na4 23.f4 Bb8 24.Kf2 Kf8
 25.Bb5 Nb6 26.Rc6 Ke7 27.Ke2 h6
 28.a4 Rc8 29.Rxc8 Nxc8 30.Kd3 Bc7
 31.Nc3 Ba5 32.Ne2 Bb6 33.Nc3 Nd6
 34.Bc6 Nf5 35.e4 Nd4 36.Ba8 Nf3 37.h4
 h5 38.e5 Nh2 39.Ne4 Ng4 40.Ke2 Nh6
 41.Bb7 Nf5 42.Kf3 Ba5 43.Ba6 Be1
 44.Bd3 Bb4 45.Ba6 Kd8 46.Ng5 Ke7
 47.Ne4 Kf8 48.Bd3 a5 49.Ba6 Be7
 50.Bd3 Ke8 51.Bb5+ Kd8 52.Ke2 Nd4+
 53.Kd3 Nxb5 54.axb5 Kc7 55.Kc4 Bb4
 56.Ng5 Be1 57.Nxf7 Bxg3 58.Nh8



Position after 58.Nh8

58...Bxf4 59.Nxg6 Bg3 60.Nf8 Bxe5
 61.Nxe6+ Kb6 62.Ng5 Bf6 63.Nf3 Be7
 64.Ng5 a4 65.Ne6 Bf6 66.Kb4 Bxh4
 67.Nf4 Be1+ 68.Kxa4 h4 69.Kb3 Bg3
 70.Nh3 Kxb5 71.Kc3 Kc5 72.Kd3 Kd5
 73.Ke3 Ke5 74.Kf3 Kf5 75.Kg2 Kg4
 76.Ng1 h3+ 77.Nxh3 1/2-1/2

Final score of the match: New Jersey 2.5 - Seattle 1.5

On behalf of the Sluggers management, Tian and I would like to thank everyone for playing on the team and supporting the Sluggers this year. We will be working hard to improve the team during the off-season and welcome any suggestions or new ideas.

Go Sluggers!

Josh

Washington Class Championships

By Josh Sinanan

Each year during Thanksgiving weekend, Northwest chess players from all walks of life gather to compete in the Washington Class Championships, the largest regional tournament of its kind hosted by the Washington Chess Federation. For many ambitious juniors, the event offers a unique opportunity to “play up” a class against stronger opposition in order to gain valuable experience or establish a higher USCF rating. For adult players, it offers a chance to unwind after Thursday’s



L-R: Jason Kenney, Nick Raptis. Photo credit: Victoria Doknjas.

holiday festivities and provides a welcome escape from the consumerism and stress that often accompany Black Friday.

The 2014 Washington Class Championships were held November 28-30 at the Lynnwood Embassy Suites for the second year in a row. The site is unique in that features an open-air atrium including two waterfalls, streams, and beautiful koi ponds adjacent to the playing room and skittles area. Players and spectators appreciate the free parking, spacious parent waiting area, and close proximity to shopping destinations in Lynnwood.

The field was comprised of 170 players competing in seven sections including four Fide Masters and eleven National Masters, slightly up from last year’s numbers. Current State Champions FM Nick Raptis of Oregon and NM Nat Koons of Washington both took part, eventually facing off in the fifth round. Fourteen players traveled from British Columbia, including the Doknjas brothers, Neil, Joshua, and John, all of whom represented Team Canada at the recent World Youth Olympiad in Hungary.

Legendary tournament director Fred Kleist was the chief TD with assistance from WCF Secretary Gary Dorfner. WCF Tournament Coordinator Dan Mathews of Edmonds organized the event with the help of Treasurer Robert Allen. Murlin Varner tirelessly worked to decipher illegible scoresheets and compile games between the rounds. Victoria Jung-

Doknjas, mother of the Doknjas brothers, graciously volunteered to be the official tournament photographer.

The Master Section consisted of 32 players and was again won by professional chess player FM Nick Raptis of Portland with 5-1, which he achieved despite losing his first round game. FM Tian Sang, NM Roland Feng, and Canadian Master Tanraj Sohal tied for second with 4.5 points apiece. WA State Champion Nat Koons and WCF President Josh Sinanan finished with 4-2.

The traditionally small Expert Section contained only 14 players and was won by Toshihiro “ToTo” Nagase, an 8th grader at Lakeside Middle School, with an undefeated score of 4.5-1.5. Tied for second with 4-2 were FM Paul Bartron, Benjamin Brusniak, and James Soetedjo.

The 17-player Class A Section was also won by a Lakeside student, sophomore Justin Yu, with 5-1. Michael Hosford, a popular chess coach, took clear second place with 4.5-1.5, half a point ahead of Paul LeBlanc and H.G. Pitre.

After a brief hiatus from OTB chess, 8th grader Jothi Ramesh of Shoreline won the 24-player Class B Section with a dominant 5.5-0.5 performance. Neal Bonrud, an attorney from North Bend, captured clear second with 4.5-1.5. A handful of players with a 4-2 score, Robin Tu, Brian Sullivan, Naomi Bashkansky, and Daniel Pogrebinsky, rounded out the prize winners.



WCF President Josh Sinanan (in tie) and Dan Matthews (gray t-shirt) making some kind of executive decision. These two make a fantastic team. Photo credit: Victoria Doknjas.

Two players topped the 30-player Class C section with 5-1, Northwest Chess Grand Prix Administrator Murlin Varner of Woodinville and Bellevue High School sophomore Eugene Chin. Tied for second half a point behind them were Addison Lee, Mike Hasuike, and Allistair Yu. A quadruplet of youngsters including Neil Doknjas, Cheyenne Zhang, Brian Chen, and Alec Beck each scored 4-2.

Revanth Pothukuchi, a 6th grader at Bear Creek Elementary who regularly attends classes at the Orlov Chess Academy in

Redmond, won the 18-player Class D Section with 5-1. Joshua Lewis-Sandy of Bainbridge Island took clear second with 4.5-1.5, half a point ahead of Anshul Ahluwalia and Breck Haining, who split third place honors.

The massive 36-player Class E Section was won by four middle school players each scoring 5-1: 7th grader Charith Sunku of Pine Lake Middle School, 7th grader Ethan Wu of Bear Creek Elementary School, 6th grader Scott Wynn of Lakeside Middle School, and home-schooled 8th

grader Samuel Deng. Joh Morrill of Seattle won clear second with 4.5-1.5 and raised his rating over 500 points in the process. Half a point behind him were five young up-and-coming players who finished with 4-2: Jeffrey Tiglon, Sophie Tien, Tendo Lumala, Praneeth Somisetty, and Daniel Shubin.

**Joshua Sinanan (2264) –
Becca Lampman (2117) [E97]**
WA Class Championships Lynnwood,
WA (R5), November 30, 2014
[Ralph Dubisch]

**1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6
5.d4 0-0 6.Be2 e5 7.0-0 Nc6 8.d5 Ne7
9.b4 Nd7 10.c5 f5 11.Ng5 Nf6 12.Bf3?!**

If White is planning Ne6, wouldn't this bishop prefer c4? 12.f3 seems more natural. Then 12...h6 13.Ne6 Bxe6 14.dxe6 d5 15.exd5 Nfxd5 16.Nxd5 Nxd5 17.Bc4 c6 18.Bb2±

**12...h6 13.Ne6 Bxe6 14.dxe6 fxe4
15.Nxe4 Nxe4 16.Bxe4 d5 17.Bc2**



Position after 17.Bc2



Organizers and TD's. L-R: Dan Matthews, Fred Kleist, Gary Dorfner, Robert Allen, Josh Sinanan. Photo credit: Victoria Doknjas.



L-R: Josh Sinanan, Becca Lampman. Photo credit: Victoria Doknjas.

17...Qe8

17...Qc8! looks a move faster.

18.Bb2 Qc6 19.Qe2 Qxe6 20.Rae1
Rae8 21.Bxe5?! Nc6 22.f4 Bxe5 23.fxe5
Rxf1+ 24.Qxf1 Nxe5

Or 24...Nxb4

25.Kh1 Qf7 26.Qe2



Position after 26.Qe2

26...Rf8

26...Qf4! 27.a3 (27.Bxg6?! Re7 28.Bc2?
Ng4!-+) 27...Kg7 28.g3 Qc4!?

27.h3 Nc6

Returning with 27...Re8 still favors Black.

28.Qd2 Kh7 29.b5 Nd8 30.Qe3 c6 31.a4
Kg7 32.Bd3 Qf2 33.Qe5+ Qf6 34.Qg3
Qg5 35.Qd6 Rf2

[Diagram next column]

36.Bf1?

36.Qd7+ Rf7 (36...Nf7 37.Rg1 White's
king is surprisingly safe, and the queen
and passed pawn combination will be
strong. One interesting line: 37...Qe3
38.Qxb7! Qxd3 39.bxc6 and Black



Position after 35...Rf2

must force a perpetual, though there are
several ways to achieve this, e.g. 39...
Rf1 40.c7 Rxg1+ 41.Kxg1 Qe3+ 42.Kf1
Qc1+ 43.Ke2 Qc4+ 44.Kd2 Qd4+ and
now if White attempts to cross the c-file,
45.Kc2? Qxc5+ 46.Kd3 Nd6! 47.c8Q+
Nxb7 48.Qxb7+ Kf6 with edge to Black.)
37.Qe8 Kh7 38.Re6 Qc1+ 39.Re1 (39.
Kh2?? Qf4+ 40.Kh1 Nxe6) 39...Qg5
repeats.

36...Nf7 37.Qc7 Qf5 38.Kg1 Rc2 39.Qg3

39.Rd1 Qf2+ 40.Kh2
Qxc5 41.Qxb7
Rc1 42.Rxc1 Qxc1
43.bxc6 Qxf1 looks
similar to the last
note: 44.c7 Nd6
45.c8Q+ Nxb7
46.Qxb7+ Qf7

39...Qf6 40.Bd3

[Diagram next
column]

40...Rxc5

40...Rc3!



Position after 40.Bd3

41.Rf1 Qe6 42.Qf2 b6 43.Qd4+ Kg8

43...Kh7 44.Rf6

44.Rf6 Rc1+ 45.Bf1



Position after 45.Bf1

45...c5?

45...Qe5 46.Rxg6+ Kh7 47.Qxe5 Nxe5
48.Re6 Re1 49.Kf2 Re4 50.Re7+ Kg6
51.Rxa7

46.Qf4 g5??

Loses on the spot, but Black is now in
serious trouble in any case. 46...Rxf1+
47.Kxf1 Qe8 48.Rxg6+ doesn't look like
much fun for Black.; 46...Qe7 47.Rxg6+
Kh7 48.Rc6! is also lights out.

47.Qb8+ 1-0

Bryce Tiglon (2244) –
Harley Greninger (2163) [C08]
WA Class Championships Lynnwood,
WA (R5), November 30, 2014
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 c5 4.exd5 exd5
5.Ng3 Nf6 6.Bb5+ Bd7 7.Bxd7+ Nbx7
8.0-0 Be7 9.dxc5 Nxc5 10.Re1 0-0

Chess DVDs Now Available through
Elliott's Chess School!

LEARN CHESS INDEPTH WITH NATIONAL MASTER ELLIOTT NEFF

Chess4Life also offers:

- Chess Camps
- Tournaments
- Afterschool Program
- Private Lessons
- Chess Classes
- Chess4Life Center

Chess4Life
Teaching life skills through chess

For more Info, call 425-283-0549 | www.chess4life.com



Round one of the 3-day schedule is under way. Photo credit: Victoria Doknjas.

11.Nf1 Nce4 12.Be3 Re8 13.Bd4 b6
14.Ne3 Bc5 15.c3 a5



Position after 15...a5

16.Qd3 Qd7 17.Re2 Rad8 18.Rae1 Qc6
19.Kf1 Kf8 20.h3 h6 21.Kg1 Re6 22.Be5
Qe8 23.Bh2 Bxe3 24.Rxe3 Nc5 25.Qc2



Position after 25.Qc2

25...Re4?!
25...Rxe3 26.Rxe3 Qd7±
26.Nd4?!
26.Bc7!

26...Qa4 27.Bc7 Rc8

27...Rxe3! 28.Rxe3 Qxc2 29.Nxc2 Ra8±
since 30.Bxb6 Na4 31.Bd4 Nxb2

28.Bxb6

28.b3! Qd7 29.Bxb6±

28...Qxa2 29.Bxc5+ Rxc5 30.f3!? Rxd4?

30...Rxe3 31.Rxe3 a4±



Position after 30...Rxd4

31.Qh7!?

Flashy, but perhaps not strongest. 31.Qe2!
Re4 (31...Rc8 32.cxd4±) 32.fxe4 dxe4
(32...Nxe4 33.Qa6! with threats.) 33.Rd1±

31...Rc8 32.Qh8+ Ng8 33.cxd4 Qxb2
34.Qh7 Qxd4 35.Qb1 Nf6 36.Qa1

[Diagram next column]

36...Qxa1?

Black is almost equal — with the queens
on. After the exchange, not so much. 36...
Qa7! 37.Kh1 Kg8 38.Ra3 Rc5 39.Qe5±

37.Rxa1 Ra8 38.Rea3± Ke7 39.Rxa5
Rxa5 40.Rxa5 h5 41.Kf2 Kd6 42.Ke3

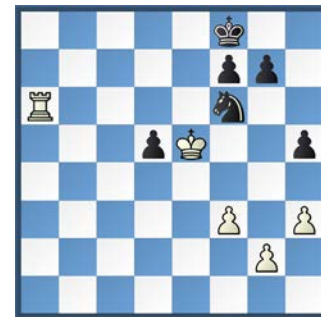


Position after 36.Qa1

Nd7?!

42...Ne8!? has the idea of transferring the
knight to e6 via c7, with better chances
of keeping out the white king and an
interesting technical challenge ahead.

43.Kd4 Nf6 44.Ra6+ Ke7 45.Ke5 Kf8



Position after 45...Kf8

46.Rxf6! gxf6+ 47.Kxd5 Kg7 48.Ke4
Kg6 49.h4 f5+ 50.Ke5 f4 51.Kxf4 Kf6
52.g3 Kg6 53.Ke5 1-0



The playing hall at the Thanksgiving Scholastic event. Photo credit: Victoria Doknjas.

Thanksgiving Scholastic

(Scholastic side event to the Washington Class Championship)

By Gary Dorfner

Lynnwood, WA — November 28, 2014

There were 126 kids participating in this event. Some of them also played in the Washington Class Championship event as well. The tournament director for this event was David Hendricks. The winners were:

K-3 U800

1st Nathan Race 5.0, 2nd Denman Hertz 4.5, 3rd/4th/5th Advaith Vijayakumar,

Brian Huh, and Srisha Prasanna 4.0 each.

4-6 U900

1st Terence Sinn 5.0, 2nd/3rd/4th Stella Moore, Sherri Xu, and Richie Uthaisombut 4.0 each, 5th Justin Lee and Ben Lin 3.5 each.

K-3 Open

1st Brandon Peng 5.0, 2nd Miles Kuipers 4.0, 3rd/4th Anirudh Rajesh and Robert Michailov 3.5 each, 5th Asher Bradshaw, Sophie Szeto, Andy Tien, Brandon Jiang and Aaryan Dhingra 3.0 each.

4-6 Open

1st/2nd/3rd/4th/5th Dylan Xu, Aakash Banerji, Toby Black, Jack Little and Krish Jain 4.0 each.

7-12 Open

1st Nicholas Whale 4.5, 2nd/3rd/4th Jakey Snyder, Tudor Muntianu and Daniel Wilke 4.0 each, 5th Ryan Cho, Chris Hom, Harrison Keyser and Emily Tang 3.0 each.

Team Standings

1st APP At Lincoln, 2nd Shelton View Elementary, 3rd Somerset, 4th Redmond, 5th Seattle Country Day.

Northwest Chess Open

By Duane Polich

41 players overall took a break from the December Christmas rush and gray skies to play some chess in the Northwest Chess Open at the Seattle Chess Club on December 13th and 14th. The event was directed by Dan Mathews with registration and pairing assistance from Duane Polich, under the auspices of Fred Kleist and the Seattle Chess Club.

This is an annual fundraising event for *Northwest Chess* magazine, as extra proceeds and donations go to the magazine to help offset its operating expenses.

When the dust settled, Bryce Tiglon and Anthony He came out on top with 4.5 points each and a share of first place, good for \$125.00 each. Jason Yu got the top under 2000 prize of \$85.00 with 4 points and Alan Tan continued to fatten his money roll with the first place prize



Trophies. Photo credit: Victoria Doknjas.



*Anthony He.
Photo credit: Duane Polich*

for under 1800 with 4 points. Other cash winners included Anshul Bharat Ahluwalia, Revanth Pothukuchi, and Ethan Pogrebinsky. Noah Borthwick and Chris Peterson earned an extra year subscription to *Northwest Chess*.

A big thank you to those that participated and to those generous donors, who contributed to help give us such a fantastic magazine. Over \$300 was raised for *NWC*.



Games from the top boards were tense in round 3. Photo credit: Josh Sinanan.

Eastside Championship Scholastic Tournament

By Gary Dorfner

The Eastside Championship scholastic tournament was held at the Burger King restaurant in Issaquah on November 22,

2014. The organizer was Vince Marr. There were 19 players in all, 13 in the Scholastic Section and six in the Adult section. The winners were:

Scholastic section 1st Bill Lee (Sunset) 5.0, 2nd Gavin Clark (Maplewood Heights) 4.0, 3rd Madhav Binu (Apollo) 3.0.

In the Adult Section 1st Juan Crawford 3.0, 2nd Michael Piper 2.0, 3rd Bill Hare 1.5. TD for this Event was Gary Dorfner.



The playing area in Burger King. Photo credit: Gary Dorfner.

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.

Mail To: Dan Mathews, 749 Somerset Lane, Edmonds, WA 98020-2646.

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

Online Registration: www.nwchess.com/onlineregistration.



Gavin Clark. Photo credit: Gary Dorfner.

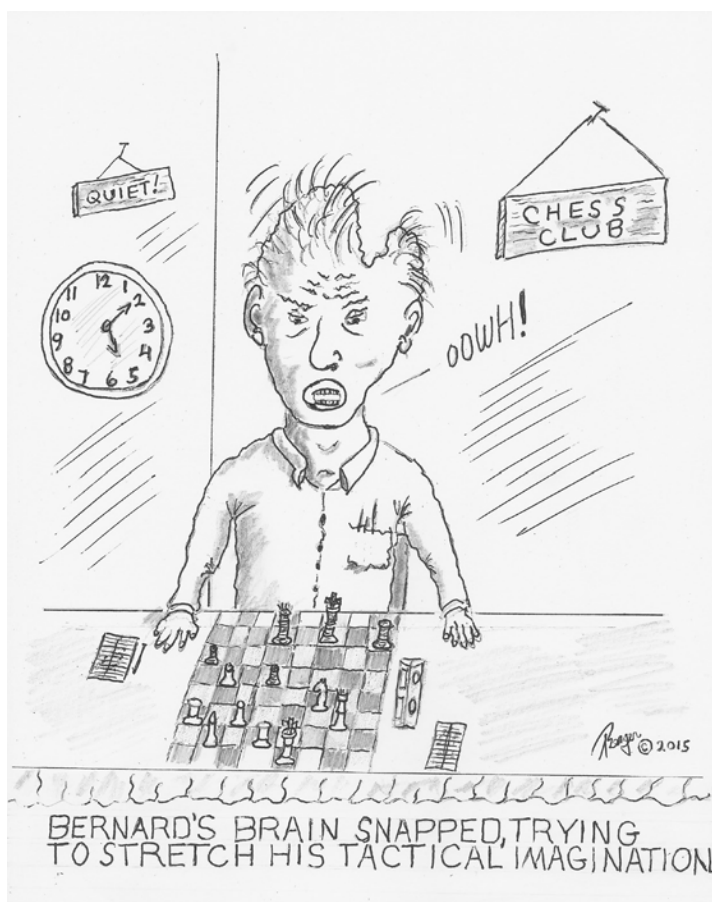
Christmas Congress

By Gary Dorfner

The Christmas Congress was held at the Fife Library on December 20, 2014. The tournament director was Gary Dorfner.

As there were only four players the tournament was done as a Quad.

Viktors Pupols was 1st with 3.0, Arjun Thomas was 2nd with 1.5, Stephen Buck finished 3rd with 1.0 and Ralph Anthony was 4th with 0.5.



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.

Idaho Chess News

Western Idaho Open

The 33rd Western Idaho Open chess tournament was held December 13/14, 2014 at the mall located at 3085 North Cole Road in Boise, Idaho. Jeffrey Roland was tournament director. The time control was Game/120 with a five-second delay. The tournament was divided into two playing sections, Open and Reserve (U1400). There were 29 total players in the event. Five players rated below 1400 “played up” into the Open Section which had a total of 22 players. Seven players played in the Reserve Section.

Three players came from out of state. H.G. Pitre traveled all the way from Seattle, Washington while Eric Woro came from Ontario, Oregon and Roger Hunter came from Nyssa, Oregon.

In the open section, top-rated David Lucky (2375) of Eagle was first place with a perfect score of 5-0. Graeme Faulkner of Boise (1329-rated player who “played up”) was second place with a score of 4-1. There was a tie between H.G. Pitre of Seattle and Carmen Pemsler of Eagle for third-fourth places with 3.5-1.5.

In the reserve section, Desmond Porth (son/brother) and Adam Porth (father) tied for first-second places with four points each and Dylan Porth (daughter/sister) was third place with 3.5 points. This is a nice statistical anomaly, in that the top three placers in the section were all from the same family. In fact, a “fourth Porth” (yes, that rhymes) in the name of Darwin Porth (youngest son/brother and the player we saw on the December 2014 cover of *Northwest Chess*) was also in the section. In fact, more than half of the players in the section were from the same family. Both of these statistics have to be records for the history books. The Idaho Chess Association (ICA) is truly appreciative of the support the Porth family gives to Idaho chess tournaments.

It was nice to see players going over their games afterwards in the skittles room. David Lucky, Idaho’s newest master who most of us saw for the first time here at this event, was very generous and giving of his time, knowledge, and friendship. Idaho is very “lucky” to have this new player in our midst.

We wish to thank Julie Nahlen and Master’s Academy for hosting the



Open Section winners. L-R: H.G. Pitre, Carmen Pemsler, Graeme Faulkner, David Lucky.
Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.

playing-site. And we thank all the players for attending and making this event special. And as always, we welcome all players to participate at future events.

**Shane Taylor (1473) –
H G Pitre (1879) [B21]**
Western Idaho Open Boise, ID
(R1), December 13, 2014
[Ralph Dubisch]

**1.e4 c5 2.d4 cxd4 3.c3 dxc3 4.Nxc3 Nc6
5.Nf3 d6 6.Bc4 Nf6**

This is a little provocative. 6...e6 seems a bit safer.

7.0-0

7.e5!? offers definite compensation for the pawn(s): 7...Ng4 (7...dxe5? 8.Qxd8+ Kxd8 9.Ng5±; 7...Nxe5?? 8.Nxe5 dxe5?? 9.Bxf7+ +-) 8.exd6 exd6 (8...Qxd6 9.Qxd6 exd6 10.Nd5) 9.0-0 Be7 10.Qe2 and White’s development and control of the d5-square gives good value for the pawn.

7...e6 8.Qe2 Be7 9.Rd1

[see Diagram next column]

9...0-0?

9...e5 is no worse than equal for Black.

10.e5! Ne8 11.exd6± Nxd6??

11...Bxd6 is necessary, though White is still certainly happy enough with the opening. The reason the bishop capture is better is the e7-square is cleared for the



Position after 9.Rd1

queen to unpin and still defend d6 without allowing a Nb5 fork — which happens if the queen has only c7 for the unpin.

12.Bf4!+- e5

12...Qc7 13.Nb5+-. The idea behind offering the e-pawn is to clear away the c6-knight so the c4-bishop is hit when the queen goes to c7.

13.Nxe5 Nxe5 14.Bxe5 Qc7



Position after 14...Qc7

15.Rxd6?!

15.Bd3! looks strong, despite the apparent reduction in pressure on the d6-knight. White's basic threats such as Nb5 or Nd5 remain, as the sting at the end of multiple captures on d6 will be a Bxh7+ discovery on the black queen. 15...a6 doesn't work: 16.Qh5! g6 17.Qh6 f6 (17...Nf5 18.Qxf8+) 18.Bxg6! hxg6 19.Qxg6+ Kh8 20.Nd5 is more than crushing.

15...Bxd6 16.Nb5 Bxe5

Another, and perhaps slightly better, way to give up the queen is 16...Qxc4 17.Qxc4 Bxe5±.

17.Nxc7 Bxc7 18.Qe7 Bb6 19.Re1

Threatening 20.Qxf7+ Rxf7 21.Re8#, so Black must part with a pawn.

19...Be6 20.Bxe6 fxe6 21.Qxe6+ Kh8 22.Re2 Rac8 23.g3 Rc6 24.Qe7 Rcf6 25.Qxb7 Bxf2+ 26.Kg2 Bb6 27.b4 h6 28.Kh3 Rg8 29.a4 Bg1 30.Qg2

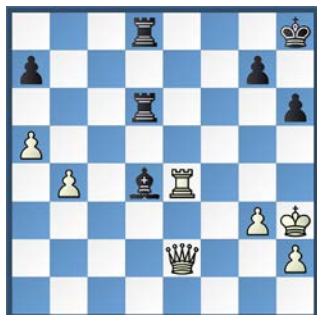
30.a5

30...Bb6 31.a5 Bd4 32.Re4

32.Qd5

32...Rd8 33.Qe2 Rfd6??

33...Rff8



Position after 33...Rfd6

34.Qc2

34.Re8+! Rxe8 35.Qxe8+ Kh7 36.Qe4+ Kg8 37.Qe7 wins another piece.

34...Rf8 35.Qc7 Rdd8 36.Qc4 Bf6 37.Rf4 Rc8 38.Qa6 Rc7 39.Qd6

39.b5

39...Rcf7 40.Rc4 Rd8 41.Qf4

41.Qc6

41...Rfd7 42.Rc7 Rd4 43.Qc1

43.Qf3 makes ...g5 more difficult to achieve: 43...Rd3 (43...Rxb4 44.Rxa7) 44.Qb7

43...Rxb4 44.Rxa7 g5 45.Qc2??

45.Rc7 Re4 (45...g4+ 46.Kg2 Rb2+ 47.Rc2) 46.Rc8 Rxc8 47.Qxc8+ Kg7 48.a6

45...g4+ 46.Kg2 Rb2 47.Qxb2?

47.Rh7+ Kg8 48.Qxb2 Bxb2 49.Rxh6 and White is able to eliminate all of the



L-R: H.G. Pitre, Shane Taylor as White is making his last move of the game. Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.

pawns.

47...Bxb2 48.Rb7 Rd2+ 49.Kh1?!

49.Kf1

49...Bd4



Position after 49...Bd4

50.a6??

50.h3 still offers a chance to hold, based on the drawing potential of having a rook pawn with a bishop that does not control the promotion square. After 50...gxh3 51.a6 Ra2 52.Rd7 Bc5 53.Rd5 Black would have a daunting (and perhaps impossible) over-the-board challenge to construct a plan to win based on the additional rooks on the board, as an exchange of majors looks like a clear draw, and the removal of all the pawns leaves a theoretical draw as well.

50...Rd1+ 0-1

Eric Woro (1761) –
 Jamie Lang (1470) [C47]
 Western Idaho Open Boise, ID
 (R1), December 13, 2014
 [Eric Woro]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.d4 exd4 5.Nd5

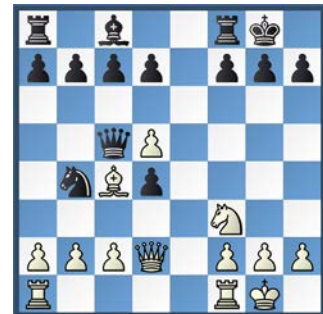
This is C47 in ECO. I'm offering my opponent my e-pawn, after which I could go into some complications with 6.Qe2. But Lang just exchanges down, perhaps

hoping for a drawish position.

5...Nxd5 6.exd5 = Bb4+ 7.Bd2 Qe7+ 8.Be2

8.Qe2 is better: 8...Bxd2+ 9.Kxd2 Qxe2+ 10.Bxe2 Ne7 (10...Nb4 11.Bc4 b5 12.Rhe1+ Kd8 13.Bb3 Bb7 14.a4 Nxd5 15.axb5 Nf4 16.Ng5 +=) 11.d6

8...Bxd2+ 9.Qxd2 Nb4 10.0-0 0-0 11.Bc4 Qc5!?



Position after 11...Qc5

Again pushing me into more simplifying exchanges. 11...b5 12.Bxb5 Rb8 13.Nxd4 Nxd5 14.c4 Qb4 =

12.Qxd4 += Qxd4 13.Nxd4 +/- b6 14.a3 Ba6 15.Bxa6 Nxa6 16.Rfe1 Rfe8

Well I certainly do get the feeling Black wants a draw. Now I made an error, even though I had planned to play an immediate 17.b4 to keep the knight out of c5.

17.Kf1?! +=

17.b4! +/-

17...Nc5 18.b4?

Losing my edge and equalizing. I should have just gone forward with 18.Nb5.

18...Ne4 = 19.Nb5 Nd2+

19...c6 20.dxc6 dxc6 21.Nd4 =

20.Kg1 Rec8 21.Re2

Rybka_3 gives 21.Rad1 += 21...a6

22.Nxc7 Nf3+ 23.gxf3 Rxc7 24.Re2 += but I chose an immediate doubling of my rooks because it still seems to me I can damage Black's queenside pawns and maintain control of the e-file.

21...Nc4 22.Rae1 Kf8 = 23.Re4 a6 24.Rxc4 axb5 25.Rc3 c6 26.dxc6 dxc6 27.f3 Ra7 28.Kf2 f6 29.Re6 Rac7 30.Kg3 Kf7 = 31.Rce3 Kf8 32.Kf4 Kf7 33.g4 =

My Rybka_3 engine shows this as dead equal but I like my prospects. I'm advancing on the kingside to gain space and try to stir up some trouble. Black's rooks are very defensive at the moment. I own the e-file.

33...h6 34.h4 Rh8?!

Black is playing too defensively. He should try to invade, get behind me, and make threats, for example: 34...Rd8 35.h5 Rd4+ 36.Kg3 Rd1 37.Re8 Rg1+ 38.Kf2 Rcl =

35.h5

35.Rd6 +=

35...Rg8 36.Kf5 +=

36.Rd6 +/-

36...Rd8 37.Kf4?! =

37.Rd3!? may also be equal: 37...Rxd3 38.cxd3 Rc8 39.f4 Rc7 40.g5 hxg5 41.fxg5 fxg5 42.Rd6 c5! =



Position after 37.Kf4

37...Rg8?

No doubt seeking a draw by repetition, but then I saw the way in:

38.Rd6! +/- 38...Re8

The alternative is 38...Rgc8 39.Ree6 Kf8 40.Kf5 Kf7 41.f4 +/-

39.Rxe8 Kxe8 40.Kf5 Kf7 41.Rd8

The ensuing complications favor my aggressive rook, even while Black tries to fix his queenside pawn structure:

41...c5 42.Rb8 +- 42...Rc6 43.Rb7+!

Driving his king to the back rank so that my king can invade.

43...Kf8 44.bxc5?!

Not necessary. 44.f4! cxb4 45.axb4 Rxc2 46.Rxb6 Rc4 47.Rxb5 +-

44...Rxc5+ 45.Kg6 Rg5+ 46.Kh7 f5 47.Rxb6 fxg4 48.fxg4 Rxc4 49.Rxb5 Rg5?

49...Kf7 50.Rc5 +- 50...Ke7 51.a4 Kd6 (51...Rxa4 52.Kxg7 +-) 52.Ra5 Kc6 53.c4 Kb6 54.Rb5+ Ka6 55.c5 Rxa4 56.Rb6+ Ka7 57.Kxg7 +-

50.c4! +- 1-0

Jeffrey T Roland (1703) – Caleb Paul Kircher (1882) [A85]

Western Idaho Open Boise, ID

(R2), December 13, 2014

[Ralph Dubisch]

1.d4 e6 2.c4 f5 3.g3 Nf6 4.Bg2 Bb4+ 5.Nc3 0-0 6.Nh3

White has improved on his opening play from Roland-Kircher in the 2014 Idaho State Championship, where the game ended in a draw.

6...Qe7 7.0-0 Bxc3 8.bxc3 d6 9.Qb3 Nbd7 10.Nf4 Kh8 11.Rb1

11.c5!

11...Rb8

11...e5±

12.c5! d5?!

12...Re8 is a little better.

13.Qa4

13.Qa3! c6 (13...Ra8 14.c6! Qxa3



(#Diagram-analysis after 14...Qxa3)

15.cxb7!? (Or 15.Bxa3 bxc6 16.Bxf8 Nxf8 17.c4±) 15...Bxb7 (Not 15...Qxa2 16.bxa8Q Qxb1 17.Ba3+-) 16.Bxa3 Rfb8 17.Nxe6±) 14.Qxa7±

13...Ra8



Position after 13...Ra8

14.c6

14.Nd3! c6 (14...e5 15.c6 with complications similar to the actual game line, but even better for White.) 15.Bf4 with a nice bind on the dark squares.

14...Nb6 15.Rxb6! cxb6 16.Ba3 Qe8 17.Bxf8 Qxf8 18.cxb7

18.Rb1!? bxc6 19.Rxb6±

18...Bxb7 19.c4±

19.Nxe6?! Qe8 20.Qxe8+ Rxe8 21.Nf4 g5 22.Nd3 Rxe2 23.f4

19...Qd6 20.cxd5 Nxd5 21.Bxd5 Bxd5 22.Rc1 Bb7 23.Qc4 Re8

23...Kg8 24.Qxe6+ Qxe6 25.Nxe6 Bd5 26.Nc7 Rc8 27.a3±

24.Qc7! Qe7 25.Qe5 Qa3? 26.Rc7 Re7



Position after 26...Re7

27.f3

27.d5! Kg8 28.Nxe6+-

27...Kg8 28.Rxe7

28.Nxe6

28...Qxe7 29.Qb8+ Kf7 30.Qxa7 Qc7 31.Nd3 Kf6 32.Qa3

32.a4

32...Qc2??

32...Qd8 hangs on longer.

33.Qf8+ Kg6 34.Nf4+ Kh6 35.Nxe6 Qc1+ 36.Kf2 Bd5 37.Qxg7+ Kh5 38.Nf4+

38.Qxh7+ checkmates a trifle more quickly. 38...Qh6 39.Qxf5+ Qg5 40.Qxg5#

1-0

H G Pitre (1879) –

Jarod N Buus (1671) [A36]

Western Idaho Open Boise, ID

(R2), December 13, 2014

[Ralph Dubisch]

1.c4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.g3 d6 4.Bg2 e5 5.d3 Nge7 6.a3 g6 7.Bg5 Bg7 8.Nd5 0-0 9.Bf6 Be6 10.Bxg7 Kxg7 11.e3 Bxd5 12.cxd5

[Diagram top of next page]

12...Qa5+?

12...Nb8

13.Kf1?

13.b4! Nxb4 (13...cxb4 14.dxc6) 14.axb4



Position after 12.cxd5

Qxb4+ 15.Kf1±

13...Nb8 14.Ne2 Nd7 15.Nc3 f5 16.f4?!

16.Bf3 intending 17.Kg2

16...Rae8 17.Qd2 b5 18.Re1 b4 19.Ne2 Qb5 20.Kf2 Nf6 21.e4?! fxe4?!

21...bxa3 22.bxa3 c4+

22.dxe4



Position after 22.dxe4

22...Qb6?!

22...Qc4 23.Rd1 (23.Nc1 exf4 24.gxf4 Nexd5! 25.exd5 Ng4+ 26.Kf3 (26.Kg1 Rxe1+ 27.Qxe1 Qd4+ 28.Kf1 Rxf4+) 26...Re3!) 23...Nxe4+ 24.Bxe4 Qxe4 25.Rhe1µ or better.

23.Bf3 Nexd5! 24.exd5 e4 25.Ng1 exf3 26.Nxf3 Ne4+ 27.Rxe4 Rxe4 28.Ng5



Position after 28.Ng5

28...Rfe8?

28...c4+! 29.Kg2 Re7 30.Re1 (30.Ne6+ Rxe6 31.dxe6 Qc6+ 32.Kg1 c3 30...Rfe8 31.Ne6+ Kg8 32.axb4 but with insufficient compensation for the exchange.

29.Nxe4 Rxe4 30.Kf3?

30.Re1 for example 30...Rxe1 31.Qxe1 c4+ 32.Kf3 Qb7 33.axb4 Qxd5+ 34.Qe4

30...Rd4 31.Qe1



Position after 31.Qe1

31...Rxd5??

Impatience. 31...Qb7 32.Qe7+ Kh6

32...Kg8 33.Qe6+ Kg7 34.Qxd5

32...Kg8 33.Qe6+ Kg7 34.Qxd5

33.Qf8+ Kh5 34.g4+ Kh4 35.Qe7+ 1-0

Dale R Bowden (1621) –
Eric Woro (1761) [A37]
Western Idaho Open Boise, ID
(R2), December 13, 2014
[Eric Woro]

1.c4 c5

I'm going for the Botvinnik system against the English. I was a KID fan in the past, but recently I've changed my entire opening repertoire. This is my first attempt with this system, and it worked great!

2.g3 g6 3.Bg2 Bg7 4.Nc3 Nc6 5.Nf3 e5 6.d3 Nge7 7.0-0! 0-0! 8.e4 =

This is one of White's choices. IM Vigorito says the position may look dead equal, but there are many ways for either side to go wrong.

8...d6 9.h3 Rb8 10.Bg5 h6 11.Bxe7 Nxe7 12.Ne1

This knight wants to go to d5.

12...a6 13.Nc2 b5 14.Ne3 Be6 15.Rb1 Qd7 =+ 16.Kh2 b4?! =

My Rybka 3 engine gives 16...Nc6 17.Ncd5 Nd4 18.Qd2 bxc4 19.dxc4 a5 =+ 20.Qxa5?! Ra8 21.Qc7 Qxc7 22.Nxc7 Rxa2 23.b4 cxb4 24.Rxb4 Rc8 25.Ned5 Bf8 =+

Not to argue with Rybka, but I had no intention of allowing any such invasion. Black apparently has thrown away his advantage, but I liked my position. I am grabbing some space on the queenside,

and I'm hoping to take over the a-file.

17.Ne2 a5 =+ 18.b3 a4 19.Nd5 Bxd5

20.cxd5 axb3 21.axb3 Ra8 22.h4

22.Ra1 Ra3 23.Rxa3 bxa3 24.Qc2 Ra8 25.Ra1 Qb7 26.Nc3 Qb4 =+

22...Ra3 23.Bh3 Qb5



Position after 23...Qb5

This was the position I envisioned. My plan is to play ...Rfa8 and ...Ra2. I thought it would be suicidal for White to play f4 and open up the long diagonal for my black-squared bishop. So I was surprised, when:

24.f4?!

Bowden said afterwards there was no other way to get counterplay. Maybe so, but now my g7-Bishop is a monster.

24...exf4 25.gxf4

25.Nxf4 Ra2+ 26.Kh1 Kh7 =+

25...f5 =+ 26.Rg1 Kh7

26...Ra2 27.Rg2 Kh7 (Rybka)

27.exf5 Nxf5 28.Bxf5 Rxf5 29.Nc1 Rxf4 30.Qe1 Be5 31.Kh1 Qd7 32.Qg3 Qf7

32...g5 33.hxg5 hxg5 34.Ne2 Rh4+ and wins.

33.Ne2 Qxd5+

33...Rf2 and wins.

34.Rg2 Rf6 35.Qg4 Rxb3 36.Re1 Qf7 37.Nc1 Ra3

37...Rb1 38.Rgg1 Rf2 39.Rxe5 (39.Rg2 Rf4 40.Qg3 Re4 41.Reg1 Bxg3 42.dxe4 Bf2) 39...dxe5 40.h5 Qb7+ 41.Qe4 Qxe4+ 42.dxe4 c4 43.Rd1 Rc2

38.Qe4 Rf4 0-1

Julie Nahlen, Program Director

Nationally Recognized Children's Chess Camp Director and Instructor

208.562.9785 Academy

Email: chessanyone@integrity.com

- ◆ Chess Camps
- ◆ Tournaments
- ◆ After school programs
- ◆ Schooled at home programs
- ◆ Ages 4 and up
- ◆ Nearly 20 years experience

www.mastersacademychess.com

Located in Boise, ID

Camps around Northwest and US



Caleb Paul Kircher (1882) – Carmen Pemsler (1610) [A06]
 Western Idaho Open Boise, ID
 (R3), December 13, 2014
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.b3 d5 2.Bb2 Nf6 3.e3 Bf5 4.Nf3 Nbd7
 5.c4 e6 6.Nh4 Bg6 7.Nxg6 hxg6 8.Qc2
 Bd6 9.g3 c6 10.Bg2 e5



Position after 10...e5

11.d3
 11.0-0 0-0 12.Nc3 Rc8 13.d4±
 11...Qa5+
 11...Bb4+ 12.Bc3 Bxc3+ 13.Nxc3 d4
 12.Bc3 Bb4 13.0-0 Bxc3 14.Nxc3 Rc8
 15.a3
 15.b4!? Qxb4 16.cxd5 cxd5 17.Nxd5
 Rxc2 18.Nxb4 Rc7 19.Rfc1 Kd8 20.Rxc7
 Kxc7 21.Rc1+±
 15...Qd8 16.Qe2 Nf8



Position after 16...Nf8

17.f4?!
 Either 17.d4 exd4 18.exd4+ Ne6 19.cxd5
 cxd5 20.Nxd5 Nxd5 21.Qb5+; or 17.cxd5
 cxd5 18.Rac1 offer White a plus.
 17...exf4 18.exf4+ Ne6 19.Rad1?!
 Qb6+± 20.Kh1?
 20.d4 Qxb3 21.cxd5 cxd5 22.Qb5+ Qxb5
 23.Nxb5 Rc2±
 20...Qxb3 21.cxd5 cxd5 22.Rb1??
 22.Nb1 0-0±
 22...Qxc3 23.Rfc1? Qxc1+ 24.Rxc1
 Rxc1+ 25.Bf1 0-0 26.Kg2 Rfc8 27.Kh3
 R8c2 28.Qf3 g5 29.g4 Nxf4+ 30.Kg3
 Ne4+

[Diagram top of next column]

0-1



Position after 30...Ne4+

John Carr (1745) – Graeme K Faulkner (1329) [D20]
 Western Idaho Open Boise, ID
 (R4), December 14, 2014
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 Nf6?! 3.Nc3
 3.cxd5±
 3...dxc4 4.e4 c6
 4...e5!
 5.Bxc4 e6 6.Nf3 h6?! 7.0-0 Bb4 8.Qc2
 0-0 9.Be3 Nbd7 10.a3 Bxc3 11.bxc3
 Re8 12.Rad1
 12.e5 Nd5 13.Nd2± at least.
 12...Nb6? 13.Ba2 Qe7



Position after 13...Qe7

14.a4
 Unnecessary. 14.c4! Qxa3? 15.c5 Nbd7

(15...Na4 16.Rd3 Qb4 17.Bd2 Qb5
 18.Bc4) 16.Ra1 and Black is in deep
 trouble.

14...Qa3 15.Bb3
 15.c4 Nxe4 16.Ra1 f5 17.c5±
 15...Rd8 16.Bc1
 16.c4 Qe7 17.e5 Nh7 18.Nd2±
 16...Qe7 17.Ba2
 17.c4 Nbd7 18.e5±
 17...Nbd7 18.Rfe1 Nf8 19.Ne5 N6d7
 20.f4
 20.Nc4±
 20...Nxe5 21.fxe5 Ng6 22.Rf1± Rf8
 23.Rf3 c5 24.Rdf1 b6



Position after 24...b6

25.Bf4?! Ba6± 26.R1f2 Rac8 27.Qd2
 Rcd8
 27...Nxf4 28.Rxf4 cxd4 29.cxd4 Bc4±
 28.Qe3
 28.d5∞
 28...cxd4
 28...Qd7 29.d5 Qxa4
 29.cxd4 Qb4 30.Rd2 Qxa4 31.d5
 31.Bxh6!? gxh6 32.Qxh6 Qc6 33.h4
 Qxe4 34.Rg3
 31...Bc8 32.d6 Qb5 33.Rh3 Ba6 34.Rf2
 Nxf4 35.Qxf4 Qe8



L-R: Graeme Faulkner, John Carr. Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.

35...Qa4 36.g4



Position after 35...Qe8

36.Rxh6! gxh6

36...Qa4 37.h3 gxh6 38.Qxh6 Qxe4 39.Rf3 Qxe5 40.Qh4 when Stockfish (computer engine) suggests both players' interests might be best served by a draw through repetition.

37.Qxh6 Bd3?

A better try for counterplay is still 37...Qa4, threatening checks and center pawns.

38.Rf4+- Bxe4 39.Rxe4?

39.Rh4 mates.

39...f5 40.Bxe6+

40.Rh4 mates.

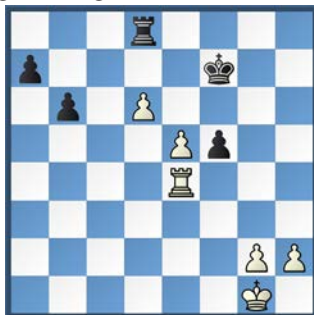
40...Rf7 41.Qg6+

41.Rh4 mates.

41...Kf8 42.Bxf7

42.Qh6+ Kg8 43.Rh4 mates.; And, of course, 42.Rh4 mates.

42...Qxf7 43.Qxf7+ Kxf7



Position after 43...Kxf7

44.Re3?

44.e6+! breaks the blockade threat. 44...Kf6 (44...Ke8 45.Rd4+-). One cute line: 45...a5 46.h4 a4 47.h5 a3 48.h6 a2 49.Ra4 Rxd6 50.h7 Rd1+ 51.Kh2 a1Q 52.Rxa1 Rxa1 53.h8Q+ Ke7 54.Qxa1.) 45.e7 Re8 46.d7+-

44...Ke6 45.Kf2 a5 46.Kf3 a4 47.Kf4 Rg8 48.g3?

Last chance: 48.Rd3

48...b5 49.h3 b4 50.g4 fxg4 51.hxg4 a3 52.Rb3 a2 0-1

Be sure to like
'Northwest Chess' on
Facebook
Also, check out
nwchess.com/blog/



Reserve Section winners. L-R: Adam Porth, Desmond Porth, Dylan Porth. Photo credit: Julie Nahlen.

2014 Elena Donaldson Akhmylovskaja Memorial

Northwest Chess Grand Prix

by Murlin Varner, administrator

Roland streaks, Hasuike stops a streak, Buck returns

Tentative final results are in for 2014. I say tentative because at this writing, not all the fees have been collected. Although it is rare, there have been a couple of times when events have had to be backed out due to non-payment. I don't think this should be a problem with this year's collection of tournament promoters. I will wait until next month to give the exact prize amounts, just to be sure.

Our three overall winners are Jeff Roland of Idaho, Mike Hasuike of Oregon and Stephen Buck of Washington. Roland is the only winner Idaho has known in the three years that state has been participating in the Grand Prix. Hasuike amassed 241.5 points to snap Nick Raptis' six year Oregon win streak. Buck took the top spot in Washington for the fifth time in the past 12 years. Buck scored 272.5 points, missing Geoff Gale's 2005 record by just seven points.

I usually promote the importance of the December events, since gains there cannot be overcome. So did anyone advance their status in December? Yes, they did. In Idaho, Dylan Porth jumped from third to first in Class E and Below, moving Daniel Duan to the second spot. In Oregon, three players used December to jump into second place in their classes. Dagadu Gaikwad moved into second Class A, supplanting Seth Talyansky, Jake Winkler did the same to Liam Booth in Class C and Dave Prideaux took over for Hailey Riley in Class D. In Washington, August took back his leadership of Class C, moving Jerrold Richards into the second spot.

Now, on to 2015! I don't yet know who won the Gresham Open, but that person is your early leader for the new year. You best get going and try to catch up.

Statistics below are current through December 31.

Northwest Grand Prix Standings

Idaho			Oregon			Washington				
last	first	pts.	last	first	pts.	last	first	pts.		
Masters										
			1	Raptis	Nick	202	1	Pupols	Viktors	201.5
			2	Grabinsky	Aaron	89.5	2	Feng	Roland	157.5
			3	Haessler	Carl A	47	3	Lessler	Peter	124.5
			4	Russell	Corey J	13.5	4	Tiglon	Bryce	109.5
			5	Gay	Daniel Z	5	5	Golub	David	80
Experts										
			1	Bjorksten	Lennart	81.5	1	Nagase	Toshihiro	172.5
			2	Cigan	Jason	74	2	He	Anthony B	167.5
			3	Heywood	Bill	65.5	3	Bartron	Paul R	150
			4	Sherrard	Jerry D	49	4	Smith	Micah	135
			5	Parmon	Calvin J	36.5	5	Haining	Kyle	112
Class A										
			1	Roland	Jeffrey T	64	1	Buck	Stephen J	272.5
			2	Inman	James	33.5	2	Olson	Travis J	149.5
			3	Buus	Jarod N	29.5	3	Zhang	Eric M	145.5
			4	Hamilton	Brett B	15.5	4	Zhang	Brendan	141.5
			4	Edvalson	Paul	15.5	5	Hosford	Michael J	118
Class B										
			1	Bodie	Brad	58				
			2	Kircher	Caleb P	32.5				
			3	Havrilla	Mark A	18.5				
			4	Gorman	Cody A	17.5				
			5	Lucky	David	7				

Idaho			Oregon			Washington					
last	first	pts.	last	first	pts.	last	first	pts.			
Class C			Class B								
1	Weyland	Ronald M	41.5	1	Berger	Brian F	124	1	Anthony	Ralph J	256.5
2	Amen	Chris	25.5	2	Zhang	Gavin	111	2	Bashkansky	Naomi	123.5
3	Porth	Adam	23	3	Wu	Ethan	98.5	3	Lee	Addison	122
4	Zaklan	David A	16.5	4	Shimada	Masakazu	88	4	Thomas	Arjun	114.5
5	Lang	Jamie	15	5	Grabinsky	Joshua	78.5	5	Tu	Robin L	106.5
Class D			Class C								
1	Hiatt	Arlene	45	1	Hasuike	Mike L	241.5	1	Piper	August	164.5
2	Jaroski	Jeffrey A	29.5	2	Winkler	Jake	64.5	2	Richards	Jerrold	160
3	Porth	Desmond	20.5	3	Booth	Liam K	60.5	3	Rajagopal	Maneesh	92
4	Nathan	Jacob A	18	4	Strigul	Michael	56.5	4	Chalasan	Sujatha D	79.5
5	Faulkner	Graeme K	17	5	Dietz	Arliss	54.5	5	Zhang	Cheyenne	78
Class E and Below			Class D and Below								
1	Porth	Dylan	18.5	1	Buerer	Harry F	78.5	1	Beck	Alec W	96
2	Duan	Daniel L	15.5	2	Prideaux	Dave	38.5	2	Haining	Breck	92.5
3	Wetmur	Harold R	13.5	3	Riley	Hailey	37	3	Mahajan	Rushaan	83.5
4	Siek	Justin	13	4	Kenway	Geoffrey W	31	4	Tien	Sophie	82.5
5	Murphy	Andre R	12	5	Thrash	Vincent	21	5	Pothukuchi	Revanth V	80
Overall Leaders, by State											
1	Roland	Jeffrey T	64	1	Hasuike	Mike L	241.5	1	Buck	Stephen J	272.5
2	Bodie	Brad	58	2	Raptis	Nick	202	2	Anthony	Ralph J	256.5
3	Hiatt	Arlene	45	3	Berger	Brian F	124	3	Pupols	Viktors	201.5
4	Weyland	Ronald M	41.5	4	Zhang	Gavin	111	4	Nagase	Toshihiro	172.5
5	Inman	James	33.5	5	Wu	Ethan	98.5	5	He	Anthony B	167.5
6	Kircher	Caleb P	32.5	6	Goffe	Michael P	97.5	6	Piper	August	164.5
7	Buus	Jarod N	29.5	7	Gaikwad	Dagadu B	93.5	7	Richards	Jerrold	160
7	Jaroski	Jeffrey A	29.5	8	Grabinsky	Aaron	89.5	8	Feng	Roland	157.5
9	Amen	Chris	25.5	8	Talyansky	Seth D	89.5	9	Bartron	Paul R	150
10	Porth	Adam	23	10	Shimada	Masakazu	88	10	Olson	Travis J	149.5
11	Porth	Desmond	20.5	11	Bjorksten	Lennart	81.5	11	Zhang	Eric M	145.5
12	Two tied at		18.5	11	Grabinsky	Joshua	78.5	12	Zhang	Brendan	141.5

February will bring Oregon, Washington, and Idaho State Championships.

Seattle Chess Club Tournaments

↓
 → Address ←
 → 2150 N 107 St, B85 ←
 Seattle WA 98133
 ↗ Infoline ↖
 206-417-5405
 www.seattlechess.org
 kleistcf@aol.com
Address for Entries
 SCC Tnmt Dir
 2420 S 137 St
 Seattle WA 98168

February 21 **GM Emil Anka Simul**
 See www.chesssport.com for details.

Feb. 22, Mar. 15 **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.

Feb. 28, Mar. 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.

April 11 **SCC Novice**
Format: 4-SS. Open to U1200 and UNR. **TC:** G/75;d5. **EF:** \$11 by 4/8, \$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.

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
 breakfast and free shuttle to downtown/U-
 District.

Seattle Spring Open

March 20-22 or 21-22

A two-section Swiss (4 rounds – Open, 5 rounds – Reserve) with a time control of 40/120 and SD/60 with a 5 second delay (two-day Reserve schedule – Round 1, G/60; d5). The prize fund of \$950 is based on 52 paid entries, 6 per prize group.

a Northwest Grand Prix event

Open		Reserve (U1950)	
First	\$200	First	\$120
Second	\$150	Second	\$80
U2100	\$100	U1750	\$65
		U1550	\$55
		U1350	\$45
		Unrated	\$15

Plus Score Pool – \$120

Entry Fees: \$33 if rec'd by 3/18 (\$24 SCC memb., \$29 memb. of other dues-required CCs in the NW), \$42 at site (\$33 SCC memb., \$38 memb. of other dues-required CCs in the NW). **Unrated**—Free with purchase of 1-yr USCF & 1-yr WCF. **Add \$1 to any EF for 2-day schedule.**

Registration: Open—Sat. 11- noon; **Reserve**—Fri. 7-7:45pm, Sat. 9-9:45am.

Rounds: Open—Sat. 12:30-6:45, Sun. 11-5; **Reserve**—Fri. 8, Sat. (10 @ G/64)-12:30-6:45, Sun. 11-5.

Byes: 1 in Open, 2 in Reserve (Sunday rounds, commit at registration).

Miscellaneous: USCF & WCF membership req'd. No smoking.

WCF Events at the SCC

Feb. 7-8 & 14-16

WA State Champ., Premier, & Invit.

Feb. 14-15

WA President's Cup

How to Find the SCC

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

Upcoming Events

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

☞ **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.

☞ **Feb 14-15** Washington President's Cup, **Seattle, WA**. (see half-page ad on page 20)

☞ **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.

☞ **Feb 28/Mar 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.

☞ **Mar 7** Northwest Open, **Tacoma, WA**. Site: Metro Parks Community Center, 3513 Portland Ave., Tacoma. Format: 3 round Quads. Time Control: G/90. Entry Fee: \$25.00. Prize Fund: 1st \$40.00 each Quad. Reg. 9:00-9:45 a.m. Rounds: 10:00, 1:30, 4:45. Byes: 1 half point bye available. USCF/WCF membership required. NS NC NW. Entries/Info: Gary J. Dorfner, 8423 E. B St., Tacoma, WA 98445, (253) 535-2536, ggarychess@aol.com.

☞ **Mar 14-15** Portland Spring Open, **Portland, OR**. 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 10:00, 2:30 and 7:00 on Saturday, 10:00 and 2:30 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.

Apr 3-5 4th Annual Larry Evans Memorial, **Reno, NV** (see full-page ad on page 3)

Apr 3-6 Grand Pacific Open (FIDE Rated), **Victoria, BC** (see half-page ad on page 21)

☞ **Apr 4** Daffodil Open, **Tacoma, WA**. Site: Metro Parks Community Center, 3513 Portland Ave., Tacoma. Format: 3 round Quads. Time Control: G/90. Entry Fee: \$25.00. Prize Fund: 1st \$40.00 each Quad. Reg. 9:00-9:45 a.m. Rounds: 10:00, 1:30, 4:45. Byes: 1 half point bye available. USCF/WCF membership required. NS NC NW. Entries/Info: Gary J. Dorfner, 8423 E. B St., Tacoma WA 98445, (253) 535-2536, ggarychess@aol.com.

Northwest Chess
c/o Orlov Chess Academy
2501 152nd Ave NE STE M16
Redmond, WA 98052-5546

Periodicals Postage

PAID

Seattle, WA

