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**Chess News and Features from
Washington, Oregon, and Idaho**



**WCM no more: Naomi wins World
Schools Individual Championship and
WFM title in Sochi, Russia**

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On the front cover:

Naomi Bashkansky takes first place at the World Schools
Chess Championship Girls Under 13 awards ceremony in
Sochi, Russia December 2-12, 2016.
Photo credit: Alexander Kaplunov.

On the back cover:

Aaron Fischer (left), and George Oliver (right) winners of the
Reserve Section of the SCC Extravaganza held
November 11-13, 2016. Photo credit: Matthew Tedesco.

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Dear *Northwest Chess*, please help spread the word — it must be very inspiring to have a scholastic world champion in our great Northwest chess community!

Naomi Bashkansky has just won the 2016 World Schools Chess Championship in the Girls Under 13 category, held on December 2 - 12 in Sochi, Russia.

With 5 wins (full points) and 4 draws (half-points), she got 7 points in 9 games, and finished in the first place — without a single loss, undefeated.

As a winner she is awarded the Woman FIDE Master (WFM) title, and is invited (expenses paid) to the 2017 World School Chess Championship in Romania.

Here are the full WSCC GU13 results: <http://chess-results.com/tnr251725.aspx?lan=1&art=4&flag=30&wi=821> — note the singular US flag on top!

FIDE report: <http://www.fide.com/component/content/article/1-fide-news/9952-2016-world-schools-championship-finished-in-sochi.html>

Naomi's family chess travel blog post: <http://chesstravel.blogspot.com/2016/11/world-school-chess-championship.html>

— Guy Bashkansky

Fall Quarter at the Seattle Chess Club (SCC).

By Carol and Fred Kleist

Looking Back

SCC Team in Reno! SCC Club Championship! Fall Open! October and November Quads and Tornados! Seven Round Extravaganza! The SCC also hosted WCF's Washington Women's Championship won by Bada Norovsambuu and covered in the November edition of *Northwest Chess Magazine* and the Washington Challengers' Cup, won by Anthony He, Derek Zhang, and Naomi Bashkansky and the new Master Series. The Fall Open, September 23-25, produced two players with perfect scores of five points each. These were Brendan Zhang, Open Section winner and Reserve Section winner, Jeffrey Yan. The Extravaganza, Seven Round Marathon from November 11-13, culminated with two Open Section winners scoring six each. These were newcomer Alikhan Irgaliyev, rated 2249 after 24 games, and well-known (you might better say famous) respected Life Master, Viktors Pupols. The Reserve also

had a two-way tie for first-second, shared by George Oliver and Aaron Fischer (see photo on back cover of this issue).

Let us explore more closely some of these events.

The Seattle Chess Club Team in Reno

SCC Team in Reno Takes First Place!

Twice a year, once in the Fall close to Halloween, and once in the Spring close to Easter, the SCC forms a team, and takes part in the heritage event held at the Sands Regency Casino/Hotel in the little big town of Reno Nevada, situated in the desert, surrounded by inviting hills. The crowning attraction of these two events is that a team prize, as well as all the usual individual prizes, is offered. The tournaments have consistently been six rounds over three days with liberal time controls (TC 40/2; SD/60, 5 second delay). The organizer plans to introduce a two-day option in the near future; stay tuned!

Jerry Weikel is the organizer and chief TD of the events, assisted by his wife, Fran, and daughter and son-in-law with their pre-school progeny coming along to assist next. The spacious TD office looks refreshingly like warm

fun with its building block towers and teddy bear houses. Of course, there is the competing attraction of the GMs and IMs on the top boards with demo boards informing us of their games-in-progress. We find complimentary coffee and coffee cake in the bookstore before the morning rounds. A major bonus is that some of the top players offer simulms before the tournament and IM John Donaldson—respected chess author, historian, coach, and former Northwesterner—offers free analysis of your games. In addition, the food in Reno is exceptionally good, with a rich assortment of buffets throughout downtown Reno, and a plentitude of other restaurant choices to please all tastes.

The Sands Hotel itself is clean, adequate and inexpensive and the Circus Circus Casino has games for children with tight-rope and swinging trapeze acts for the child in us all. There is the Truckee river for a refreshing walk along the banks, with white water rafting and ducks to watch. I hope you are starting to wonder whether it might not be a great idea to bring along your spouse, family or friends, play in a great tournament, and make it a real vacation on the side, while still playing some hard games of chess. And if you live in Western Washington you could play for the Seattle Chess Club Team! Or, since any area can form a team, you could try to get the optimum number

Washington President's Cup

February 11-12, 2017

Highest Finishing WA resident in Open section seeded into the 2018 Washington Invitational

Site: Seattle Chess Club, 2150 North 107th Street, Seattle, WA 98133.

Format: 5 Round Swiss. **Two Sections:** Open and Reserve (under 1600).

Time Control: Rd 1 G/60, d10, Rds 2-5 40/120, SD/30, d10.

USCF February 2017 rating supplement will be used to determine parings and prizes.

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

Prize Fund: \$1,760 (based on 60 paid entries).

Open: 1st \$340, 2nd \$255, 3rd \$175, 1st U1800 \$90, 1st U1600 \$90

Reserve: 1st \$240, 2nd \$180, 3rd \$120, 1st U1400 \$90, 1st U1200 \$90, 1st U1000/Unrated \$90

Entry Fee: \$70 if postmarked or online by 02/08, \$80 after 02/08 or at site. Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs.

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

Rounds: Saturday 10:00 AM, 12:30 PM, 6:30 PM; Sunday 11:00 AM, 5:00 PM.

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

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

Northwest Chess Grand Prix event. 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/online/registration



L-R: Carol Kleist, Fred Kleist.
Photo credit: Matthew Tedesco.

allowed for one team, a ten-player group, if you are lucky enough to have that many from your area. We at the SCC have not managed to form two full teams in recent years, but the Mechanics Institute of San Francisco, being a larger Club, frequently fields two, and sometimes three, full ten-player teams.

The fall tournament is named the Western States Open, and in the Spring the same format becomes the Larry Evans Memorial. This year, the recent 34th Annual Western States Open (October 21-23) was won by two GMs and an IM for equal first-third. These were GM Melikset Khachiyan, GM Alexander Ivanov, and IM John Bryant. The winner of the Team Prize was the Seattle Chess Club! The SCC won with 35 points, Mechanics 1 came second with 31.5 points, and Mechanics 2 tied with Sacramento for third-fourth with 26.5 points each.

The players who played for the SCC

were LM Viktors Pupols, whose 2.5 points helped us win, Fred Kleist—SCC TD, Board Member, and an Expert—scored 3.5 points, which resulted in his sharing first through third in his prize group. Paul Bartron, also an Expert, helped the team with his two points. These three played in the tough Open Section.

Neal Bonrud, SCC Board Member, has the profession of Attorney at Law, but when he saw the need, he developed, with incredible speed, his webmaster talent, and voila! (or presto!, your choice) the SCC has a website (visit at www.seattlechess.club). Neal played in the A Section and scored 3.5 points. H.G. Pitre, well-known organizer in the great Pacific Northwest, also played in the A Section, scoring three points for the team.

Kerry Van Veen has often played in the C Section, but this time she played in the B section, showing that adults can improve, too, and perhaps she will show us that adults can hang onto their rating gains. I know she will give it her best effort. Kerry has been a most loyal supporter of the team, playing both the Fall and Spring events every year for many years now, and once, when the Kleists couldn't make it, she was the Team Captain and assisted by her partner, Charlie Carosella, she was able to organize the team, collect the signatures by the deadline before the third round, and proudly bring back the first place team trophy!

Joseph Levine was the hero of the C Section, scoring an impressive five points for the team and securing a tie for first and second in the C section for himself. Dave Juchau also played in the C section, scoring a robust four points. Carol Kleist, SCC Board Member and Secretary, also played in the C section and scored 3.5 for the team. August Piper, Board Member and Club President, also C Section, made three points, despite having to play teammate, Dave Juchau, in the fourth round and losing to him. Of course, we don't prefer playing our teammates, which guarantees that, no matter what the outcome of the game, the team can get only one point from the two players that round.



Viktors Pupols.
Photo credit: Matthew Tedesco.

The D Section also saw a happy contributor of five points to the team, securing his section's first place prize money for himself. This player was Michael Munsey. Go, Michael! Another player in the section, scored 5.5, but he was unrated coming in, and so it didn't affect Munsey's prize money or plaque for first in his section. One more D section player to be thanked is Timothy Sheehan, an occasional participant in SCC tournaments, who contributed 2.5 points.

GMs and IMs and those below Class D are not eligible to play for the teams. Otherwise a point is a point, no matter what your level or class. A "D" player's score is as valuable as a Master's. All points are most welcome! You, too, will contribute after reading this article and deciding to come to the next Larry Evans Memorial in April (and I'm trying hypnosis, you see). Although it is

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appreciated, you do not have to volunteer for the team in advance, you can tell Fred or Carol Kleist at the tournament, or if you are registered for the tournament, our Team Captain, Fred Kleist, or Assistant Team Captain (if there is such a title) Carol Kleist, will find you and ask if you would like to sign on to play for the team. See you there!

Seattle Chess Club Championship

The Club Championship was held on seven Friday nights, extending from September 7 through November 4 consecutively, with the exception of time-outs for the Seattle Fall Open and the Reno Western States event. Thirteen members registered and ten remained for most of the distance, but only nine actually finished the tournament. The ten were Will Babcock, Fred Kleist, Mike Hosford, Neal Bonrud, Kerry VanVeen, David Kelly, Brian Raffel, August Piper, Henry Louie, and Carol Kleist. Kerry who did not make it to the last two rounds.

There being three times an uneven number, three full-point byes were handed out, but, because the regular Friday night games were going on at the same time as the Championship, TD Fred Kleist was always able to find a game for all present.

After five rounds the top three boards, Experts Babcock and Kleist as well as A player Hosford, were all tied at four points each, with Kleist and Hosford having already drawn with Babcock, and Hosford having also drawn with Kleist. All three defeated their next two opponents, thus securing a place in SCC history with their names engraved on the large plaque, dating back to 1986, and hosting Babcock's name for the second time, Kleist's for the eighth time, while Hosford makes his first appearance.

They share this honor with such venerable company as Bob Ferguson, our present State Attorney General, shortly to begin his second term, and players known to many readers of *Northwest Chess*, such as LM Viktors Pupols, IM Eric Tangborn, and FM Ignacio Perez. Our three winners

divided first, second and U2000 (Mike being 1884 going in and 1922 coming out). Other prizes distributed were Carol Kleist, U1800, and Brian Raffel, U1600. There were no under 1400's; so the club treasury got lucky. If you decide next September that you would like to play, you can get a special membership in the SCC for just the term of the Championship, so you can come and join in the fun!

Move Over Steinitz

By FM David Lucky

In chess, as in other sports, records come in all sizes and shapes. Chess records are how we gauge things, and how we compare present achievements to past achievements. In chess we have records for the longest game, the shortest game, the longest reigning champion, the shortest reigning champion, the highest rating, the most tournaments won, the most correspondence games won, and on and on. One of the most fundamental chess records over the years is the most consecutive tournament games won in classical chess. Within this set of records are a few similar but distinct records. For example, there is a record for the most number of consecutive games played without a loss. This record comprises a string of games, which include both wins and any number of draws. Theoretically, within this record, one could have a string of dozens of draws, and still be within the record parameters. Although as soon as a loss occurs, then that record of games without a loss would come to an end. The record holder for the longest string of games without a loss is held by the late IM William Martz. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Martz Although IM Martz had lots of draws in his results, he had played 104 US Chess rated games before losing a game thus ending his non-losing streak.

Now, there is another type of record called the record for "Consecutive Wins." In this type of record, all wins must be consecutive. If a player has any draws at all, then the record comes to an abrupt halt, and his winning streak number is set

back to zero. The qualifications within this record are that all games must be consecutive wins, and that all games must be played in an official tournament capacity. For example, offhand skittles games played at the beach, at the bar, in a park, or at your home with a friend, would not count as official tournament games. The games must be played in an official tournament capacity, usually with a national chess federation sanctioning the event.

According to Wikipedia, US Chess, Grandmaster Andy Soltis (in his book "Chess Lists"), Chess.com, Chessmaniac.com, and many other chess websites, former World Champion Wilhelm Steinitz had set the record with 25 consecutive wins, without any draws or losses. Wikipedia, and other websites point out that Bobby Fischer had set a different and impressive record in 1971. The 1971 record included winning 20 consecutive games against "all masters" (GM's & IM's). The record that Steinitz set in 1882 is against tournament players, under tournament conditions, but without any condition of his opponents being masters. They are both impressive records, but are different types of records, and different categories of records. The Steinitz record of 1882 is slightly similar to the IM William Martz record, in that the opponents are merely regular tournament players, and that the games are all played under serious tournament conditions.

In the last few years, I have had the very good luck in winning a series of tournaments which were played mostly in State Championship tournaments, State Open Tournaments, and related events. Since chess is merely an occasional pastime for me, I'm never thinking about ratings, records, or results very much. Chess has mainly been a nice way to get my mind off of business activities, and onto something totally different. However, I decided that it was time to finally count up the score, since I don't know when or if I will play again. In looking at my results for the last few years, I noticed that I had a total of 11 clear first place finishes, with three of them being in blitz tournaments.

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This meant that there were eight clear first place finishes in classical tournaments, out of eight tournaments played. Anyhow, in adding up the Classical games ONLY, I had counted a total of 36 consecutive classical wins, out of the last 36 classical games played. In looking at Wikipedia, regarding Steinitz, and his chess record, it states: "Steinitz's 25-game winning streak over nine years has never been equaled." My question then was, could Steinitz's record from 1873-1882 finally have been broken? Although, just to be clear, this records question is not about the quality of opponents, but strictly about the pure number of consecutive tournament wins, in classical tournament games. Although on a side note, many of today's strong club players come equipped with computer databases, engine analysis, GM opening books, online accounts, and can be very tough to beat. Some of Steinitz's opponents from 1873 – 1882 may have a hard time against some of today's club players, if they were suddenly transported to the future. Although that is an entirely different point, and different argument for another day. The records question at hand is concerned strictly with the total number of consecutive classical tournament wins, and not the strength of the opponents. When the question becomes the strength of the opponents, then that is a separate record, which belongs to Bobby Fischer. Fischer won an impressive 20 straight games, against all masters (IM's & GM's). That was a very impressive record, but again a different category of record, from the Steinitz record.

Incidentally, the US Chess does an excellent job of keeping track of all rated games and tournaments these days. A complete record of my last series of tournaments can easily be seen and verified at the US Chess link at:

<http://www.uschess.org/msa/MbrDtlTnmHst.php?10462967>

Apparently, the 134 year old record from Steinitz, on his 25 consecutive game winning streak of classical games, has finally been broken. It's about time!

Enjoy, chess fans!

5th Annual Clackamas K-12 Open

By Ed Addis

The 5th Annual Clackamas K-12 Open was held on October 29, 2016 in Milwaukie, Oregon with 223 entries pre-registered. Play was in the very spacious commons at the East Campus of Clackamas High School. Lots of pre-planning had been made and the organizers of the

tournament were confident that they had a handle on everything. We arrived at 7 AM and the doors to the school were opened and we got to work. The chess team from LaCenter arrived early and were very helpful in setting up the tournament tables in the commons and the chairs and tables in the hall ways.

By 8 AM all of the tables had been numbered and pairings were ready to be posted for the first round to start at its 9 AM advertised start time. The 100+ chess sets, boards, awards, and trophies had been stored in the janitors store room for a week. The only thing we did not have was the key to the store room. Calls were made to numerous people and the internet was searched to try and find someone with the key to unlock the doors. Finally at 9:30 AM we finally found someone to come and unlock the door. The first round started at 10 AM and we skipped lunch and finished just a little bit later than scheduled.

Many of the scholastic tournaments in Oregon have sections based upon the skill level of the participant. The Clackamas tournament is different in that sections are based upon what grade the player is in. The Clackamas tournament is also different in that the awards for great performance is not cash or trophies but chess equipment. For each section the first place winner was awarded the Rosewood Pioneer Elite chess set by Legend Products, second place a Blue Saitek Chess Clock, and third place Alegria Ivory chess set by Legend Products. Additionally, every player with a plus score was awarded a medallion.

While the tournament is primarily an individual event we do award trophies to the top three teams (based upon their top four scorers) in three different types of schools (Elementary, Middle School, and High School). The pairing software is set to avoid pairing players from the same schools against each other.

In addition to the awards for good performance the Clackamas tournament also has door prizes. This year local businesses donated products and gift certificates with a retail value in excess of \$5,400 allowing everyone of the participants a door prize. The retail value of the door prizes ranged from a few dollars to well over \$100. A random number generator program was used to match door prizes to individual participants.

The Primary Section (for Kindergarten, first, and second grades) had 33 entries. It was won by top rated Henry Westlund (NWSRS 1091) of Skyline Elementary with a prefect 5.0/5 score. Second place on tie breaks was Havish Sripada of Findley Elementary

with 4.0/5 points. Third place on tie breaks was Austin Tang of Hope Chinese Academy. Also scoring 4.0/5 points was Ishaan Kodarapu of Jacob Wisner Elementary and Rishi Ramaswamy of Lake Grove Elementary.

The Third Grade Section had 24 entries and was won by top rated Will Nobles (rated 977) of Forest Park Elementary. Will finished with a perfect score of 5.0/5. Second place on tie breaks was David Kong of River Grove Elementary and Third place again on tie breaks was Zachary Song of Scholls Heights Elementary also scoring 4.0/5 points was Vimal Adiraju of Jacob Wisner Elementary.

The Fourth Grade Section had 29 entries and was won by top rated Eric Erard (1525) of West TV Elementary winning all five of his games. Second place on tie breaks was Ethan Zhang of Access Academy. Third place on tie breaks was Brayden Wang of Hope Chinese Charter. Also scoring 4.0/5 points but with fewer tie breaks was Zoey Tang of Hope Chinese Charter and Ronak Suri of Saint Pius X Catholic School.

The Fifth Grade Section had 30 entries and was won by top rated Roshen Nair (rated 1615) of Valley Catholic School with 4.5/5 points and better tie breaks over second place Mason Wunderle of Access Academy. Egan Wong of Jacob Wisner Elementary, Ethan Troung of Scouters Mountain Elementary, and Devon Tam of Arleta Elementary all scored 4.0/5 points with Egan getting third place on tie breaks.

The Elementary Team Trophy awards were based on the combination of the four sections above. Hope Chinese Academy of Portland took first with 15 points scored by their top four players (Austin Tang; Zoey Tang, Brayden Wang, and Robert Chondro). Second place was Jacob Wisner Elementary of Portland with 14 points with their team including Ishaan Kodarapu; Nathan Ye, Vimal Adiraju, and Egan Wong. Third place was Holy Trinity School of Beaverton with 12 points with their team consisting of Elijah Schaal, Lazlo McClure, Levi McClure and Logan McClure.

The Middle School Section had 57 entries was won by Home Schooled Jack Woo McClain (rated 1673 – second-highest rated in this section) winning all five games. Seven players scored 4.0/5 points and finished in following tie break order: David Ma of Laurel Ridge Middle School; Konner Feldman of Access Academy, Victor Dossin of Roosevelt Middle School in Eugene; Michael Schuff of Robert Gray Middle School; Megan Cheng of Shahala Middle School in Vancouver; Aaron Probst of Our Lady

of Lourdes School; and Nathaniel Tan of Poynter Middle School.

The top three teams in the Middle School Section were Happy Valley Middle School with 12.5 points (team consisting of David Roshu, Ishaan Rao, Cassandra Roshu, and Ethan Tran) winning with tie breaks over Roosevelt Middle School who only brought three players (Jack Woo McClain, Victor Dossin, and Alejandro McClain) and third place Access Academy (Konner Feldman, Kabir Muthu, Neena Feldman, and Orion Fisher) with 12 points edging out Shahala of Vancouver on tie breaks.

The High School Section had 39 entries. Six players scored 4.0/5 points finishing in the following tie break order: James Hansen (rated 2nd highest at 1743) of Canby High School (HS), James Maslen of Catlin Gable School, Chase Jamieson of La Center HS; Jacob Mekediak of The Dalles HS; Duncan Soiffer of Catlin Gable School; and Andrea Botez of Clackamas HS.

The High School Section Team Trophies went to La Center HS of La Center, Washington with 13 points. Their top four scores included Chase Jamieson rated 1457. Erik M. Christensen, Loren Brown, and James Carmona all who were unrated. The host school Clackamas HS was close with 12.5 with their team including Andrea Botez, Patrick Le, Brian Zhen, and Daniel Co. The Dalles HS of the The Dalles, Oregon scored 12 points with all four of their players unrated included Jacob Mekediak, Jacob Holloran, Andres Perez-Fan; and Noah Holloran.

The success of this tournament is a direct result of the many volunteers that helped with the setup and take down of tables, chairs, chess sets, and chess boards. We had volunteers helping with the overall tournament directions (Ed Addis, Katrina Halverson, David Castles, Andre Botez, and Daniel Peterson); the check-in (David Castles, Sai Yuwan Gudavalli, Laura Greenwalt, and Neil Soiffer); the door prizes (Susan Nguyen, Kathryn Schuff, and Hao Geng).

November 2016 PCC Quad 45

By Brian Berger

Portland, OR—November 12, 2016

And so the story repeats itself—try the same thing over and over and over, etc., hoping for a different result, and all to no avail. “And whose story is it?” one asks. Well mine, of course—Brian “I’m Just Glad To Be Here” Berger (1521-1509—2.0/3), who has tried to (seemingly forever) make the monthly Portland Chess Club’s Quad 45 tournament work in my favor, but once again found a way to lose any rating points I might have gained elsewhere.

As a matter of fact, it is THIS tournament that has mostly sucked away nearly 200 of those points in a matter of months, my rating in June of 2016 having reached 1707. So you would think I would have by now learned my lesson—

stay away from short time controls and anybody 12-years old and under. But as a dedicated reporter for the award winning *Northwest Chess* magazine, it is my duty to cover as many of these events as possible—Quad 45 being one of them—and so I have suffered quietly (up until now), performing my duty in a stoic manner on the outside, but feeling the pain of every lost point on the inside.

The pain this time was dealt out by the youngster, Kevin Wu (1141-1337—3.0/3), who at the time was taking lessons from Master Nick “The Raptor” Raptis (already an omen boding no good), and who from the beginning was eyeing me with a predator-towards-his-prey look. But I had somehow managed to win my first two games in a Small Swiss (formed to prevent family members from having to play each other) that had me as its highest rated player (another bad omen for me), and felt THIS time I’d finally found the formula for success. And indeed, about three-quarters into the game I forced him



(L) David Roshu vs Ian Fudalla.
Photo credit: Brian Berger.



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(L) James Tasi vs Carter Lancaster.
Photo credit: Brian Berger.

to exchange a rook for my knight, and victory seemed in clear sight.

But true to past results in similar circumstances, I somehow found a way to hang a rook at the very cusp of victory, victim again to the curse of Quad 45, and the munchkins who inhabit this evil realm. But for my opponent, who in his three wins took first-place in the Small Swiss and gained 196 rating points, plus a trophy and a chess book of his choice, it was a celebration of youth over age and a lessening of brain-cell activity.

I could not even claim having won second-place outright, as I had to share that meager honor with Ian Fudalla (1356-1372—2.0/3), who actually GAINED some points for his effort.

But elsewhere, in Quad 2, Erin Cheng (850-827—2.0/3) and Abbie Wu (846-824—2.0/3) were having somewhat better luck, by tying for first-place, both winning a chess book and also receiving medals for being scholastic players who

took their section—the only down side was both lost rating points in the process (an outcome I know much about). And coming in with one win each were Pierre-Hadrien Beauchet (431P-447P—1.0/3) and Liam Lancaster (321P-379—1.0/3), both managing to GAIN in rating, with Lancaster tacking on a hefty 60 additional points.

The upper Quad saw Noah Fields (2051-2058—3.0/3), an expert player from Tacoma, Washington, take first-place, giving him his choice of a chess book and also a large trophy, which he declined, and instead opted for a small trophy—perhaps because his home was already littered with those big ones. And Andrea Botez added a few points to her rating by coming in second with two wins to her credit.

Of the 14-players who attended this tournament, 11 were scholastic players, who find this time control to their liking (for the very reason I don't)—faster piece-pushing and less squirming. As

noted in the results, it was broken into two Quads and a Small Swiss, and was overseen by Chief TD Micah Smith and Assistant Chief TD Mike Janniuro.

Stay tuned for the skinny on next month's Quad 45, where I will inevitably start out by saying, "And so the story repeats itself—etc, etc."

2016 Turkey Shoot Results

By Adam Porth

Hailey, ID — November 16, 2016

River Shepard and Larry Schwartz bag a turkey! Both players scored 4.0 points and are labeled the co-champions of the annual tournament where players compete to fill the table with Thanksgiving delights. The tournament had 21 players turnout for G/15;d0 games (30 minute games) during five rounds at BCSD Chess Club.

The tournament began with a quick review of tournament rules as there were several players that have never played in a tournament and after a quick round with higher rated players socking it to the newbies, everyone enjoyed some pumpkin pie and hot apple cider. And it was hotter than some of the chess during the first rounds that had two Scholar's Mates and some fun check mates. The young players said the apple cider was like "hot lava!", and it was.

Round Two had Levi Renner playing a great endgame with a king vs. a rook pawn and dark-square bishop which successfully blockaded promotion. Levi could have claimed a three-move repetition had he asked but eventually was forced to lose on time. Round three had upsets with Otto Olson beating Larry Schwartz in a tense endgame and it appeared that Otto was headed for the winner's circle with very solid games. Round four was not very friendly for Otto when he blundered a draw to River Shepard. In the final round, Otto drew against Tyler Wolfley in a 50-move claim!



Carl Haessler Chess Master

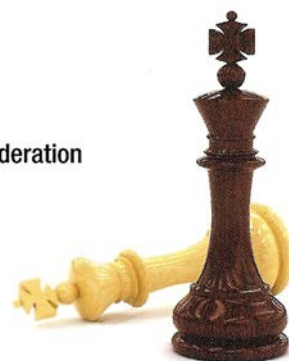
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Though the tournament was unrated, club ratings made the pairings more robust. But an afterschool program such as ours gets a bit crazy with kids wanting to enter and exit as the tournament progresses. By round five, 14 players were left. In Round three, our usual pumpkin pie drawing went to Alezander Hanks.

Breckenridge Rated Simul

Portland, OR — November 18, 2016

Through various emails by three sources, Brian Berger, Lennart Bjorksten, and Steven Breckenridge, I was able to come up with this report on the simul.—Editor.

For some days beforehand, Steven Breckenridge was letting everyone know via social networks that he would be holding a rated simultaneous exhibition at the Portland Chess Club on November 18, 2016. The cost was \$40, limited to 20 players, and those players would have to be rated under 2000.

Time control was Game/90 + 30 seconds increment. Breckenridge kept score in the games (a US Chess requirement in order for the games to be rated). Lennart Bjorksten was Chief Tournament Director.

According to Lennart, Breckenridge faced four opponents: Karl Cosner, Alan Rhoades, Viktor Divinets and Steve R. Martin). Cosner and Rhoades put up serious resistance, but blunders in time pressure enabled Breckenridge to come out on top. In a much appreciated move, Breckenridge stayed around after

the simul to offer his analysis on all the games.

Breckenridge noted that a very nice master, Dereque Kelley (famous Youtuber) showed up afterwards for some postmortem analysis of his most interesting game. (game included below.)

Steven Breckenridge (2333) – Alan Rhoades (1797) [B02]
Breckenridge Rated Simul
Portland, OR, November 18, 2016
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.c4 Nb6 4.c5 Nd5 5.Bc4 e6 6.Nc3 Nxc3 7.bxc3 Bxc5 8.Qg4 g6 9.d4 h5 10.Qf3 Be7 11.d5 Rh7



Position after 11...Rh7

12.Rb1 exd5 13.Bxd5 c6 14.Bc4 d5 15.exd6 Bxd6 16.Ne2 Nd7 17.Nd4 Ne5 18.Qe4

18.Qe2

18...Qe7

18...f5 19.Qe2 Qf6 20.0-0 (20.f4 Re7 21.fxe5 Rxe5 22.Be3 Qe7) 20...Re7

19.Be2 Ng4 20.Qd3

20.Qxe7+ Bxe7 (20...Kxe7 21.h3) 21.0-0

20...Nxh2 21.Qc4 Rb8

21...Bg4

22.Ba3 Bd7

22...Bxa3 23.Nxc6 Qc7 24.Nxb8 Qxc4 25.Bxc4 Ng4

23.Bxd6 Qxd6 24.Rd1 Ng4

24...b5 25.Qd3 (25.Nxb5 cxb5 26.Qh4 (26.Rxd6 bxc4 27.Rxh2 f6 28.Bxc4 Re7+) 26...Qc7) 25...Ng4

25.Nf5

25.Nf3 Qf6 26.0-0



Position after 25.Nf5

25...Qxd1+?

25...Qe5 26.Nd6+ Kf8

26.Bxd1 Bxf5 27.f3?

27.0-0

27...Ne3?!

27...Ne5

28.Qd4

28.Qc5 f6 29.Bb3 Rd8 30.Kf2 Re7 31.Re1 Rd3 (31...Rd2+ 32.Kg1 Rxc2+ 33.Kh1+-) 32.Qxa7



Position after 28.Qd4

28...Nxd1??

28...f6! 29.— (29.Qxf6 Rd8 30.Be2 Nd5 31.Qd4 Re7; 29.Kf2 Re7 30.Bb3 Rd8 31.Bf7+ Rxf7 32.Qxe3+ Re7 33.Qh6 Rdd7 34.g4 hxg4 35.fxg4 Be4 36.Qh8+ Kf7 37.Rh7+ Ke6; 29.Qxa7?! Rd8+)

29.Qe5+ Kd7 30.Qxb8 Nxc3 31.Qxb7+ Kd8 32.Qxc6 f6 33.Qxc3 Re7+ 34.Kf2 Rc7 35.Qxf6+ Ke8 36.Re1+ 1-0



(L) Alan Rhoades makes his 32nd move against Steven Breckenridge.
Photo credit: Bryan Atkinson.



Advanced: Arvind Mahadevan (blue shirt) vs. Alejandro McClain (red shirt).
Photo credit: Maria McClain.

Fall Classic in Eugene

By Owen McCoy

Saturday, November 19th, 2016, was a great day for chess, with the usual overcast skies of Eugene and nothing much better to do. (Come to think of it, there's rarely anything better to do than chess!) Conveniently, the Southside chess organizers had for some time been gearing up for a tournament that day at South Eugene High School. I was unable to sleep-in that day, so I was able to witness both the trickle-in of all the Eugene area folk and also the arrival of the Coquille garrison, ready for battle. (Okay, that might be overdoing it a little, but I just like that phrase.) Not to out-do them or anything, but several kids came from Klamath Lake, way down Souther. (Almost a 3-hour drive! Wow!)

In most or all of my previous articles,

I have included the rating change of each player next to their name. In the interest of time (and also my mental sanity) I have decided to leave them out for a change, both because it is a tiresome effort, and also - who cares? I might include a few minor details about a rating change that is particularly spectacular, and I'll leave the ones that people might not want to be published. (Mine may or may not be included.)

The Elite 8 section got off to a very interesting start. The games on boards one and four went on the whole as expected, with the higher-rated player winning. On boards two and three, though, something very peculiar happened. Lower-rated Ian Vo and Victor Dossin both found themselves in winning positions at one point in each of their games before each one lost! I made sure to congratulate the two for their efforts, and also to congratulate their respective opponents, Joshua Grabinsky and Josiah Perkins, for being very lucky. Joshua actually

repeated the miracle in round two - this time, against Josiah, whose luck ran out around then. Your author had a similar trauma, finding himself totally lost against Simon Venter, who won the game (and a big rating boost, too!)

I was somehow able to shake off the dust and keep playing after that disaster, and my efforts were rewarded. Joshua defeated Simon in round three, leaving him alone at 3.0/3. After a wild and crazy endgame, I was able to outplay Victor Dossin in a heated time scramble. (I give credit to assistant TD Forrest Ramey, doing the best he could to maintain a quiet environment, which was no easy task.) This left me in a must-win situation with white against Joshua. I managed to do this, after a very peculiar opening and a real rampage by my knights. Thus, first place went to Joshua Grabinsky, and yours truly, Owen McCoy (whose rating change need not be mentioned but can be found here <http://chess.ratingsnw.com/report16-17/EugeneFallClassic.html> as with all the others), giving each of us \$100, which for his part is more than enough for gas money from Coquille to Eugene and back. However, I was awarded the trophy as I had beat Josh in our individual encounter. Josiah Perkins and Simon Venter shared third prize after drawing their game in the last round, giving them each \$25.

The advanced section was no less interesting, even though it had only two players rated over 1200: Philip Vianna at 1293, and Alejandro McClain at 1246. However, these two players met in round three after both going 2-0, and Alejandro won. He then proceeded to play a 15-move draw against the third place winner, Isabella Harker, securing for him first place. Meanwhile, in round four, there was a raging battle between Arvind Mahadevan and Philip Vianna for second place. Arvind came out on top, and acquired the second place trophy. Alright, time for some numbers! Isabella went from 1111 to 1151, Arvind went from 1099 to 1223, and Alejandro went from 1246 to 1323! Great job guys! (Incidentally, by winning the advanced section, Alejandro



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Remember to keep
submitting articles,
games, and photos!

has earned the privilege/torture of free entry into the Elite section next time!)

The Intermediate section was particularly impressive this time. It consisted of 35 kids coming from as far south Klamath Lake to as far north as the Portland area. However, Corinna Drouin (904-1102!) was indisputably the winner with 5.0/5 wins. There followed a five-way-tie for second with only three more trophies to go around. Thus the second, third, and fourth place trophies went to Dorian Mills, Noah Menachemson, and Brennan Connelly respectively, while Luke Donaldson and Kevin McCoy, each received an outstanding performance trophy. (Maybe they could've each received 3/5 of a trophy? Just an idea...)

Novice II; again, no questioning who the winner was. Jonah Girvan (683-885!) won clear first place with 5.0/5. Second, third, and fourth went to James Zhong (615-781!), Sam Parsons (687-806!), and Calvin Joye (523-666!) respectively. Novice I was won by Yufei Su (607-853!), followed by Simon Wu (400-804!), Benjamin Urbancic (526-655), and Valerie Ostrovsky (400-640), in second, third, and fourth. All Novice participants received medals for taking part in the festivities.

All in all, it was a very good turnout, with almost 100 kids playing. This couldn't possibly have been managed without Chief TD Jerry Ramey, and Assistant TDs Forrest Ramey, Jordan Seagrove, and Sophia Dossin. Hope to see you all at the Winter Carnival, Saturday, January 21, 2017!

Explosive Growth Evident

By TD James Stripes

Spokane, WA — November 19, 2016

Youth chess in Spokane appears to be growing rapidly, judging by the turnout at the Pilgrim's Progress scholastic tournament at Saint George's School, November 19. There were 83 students in grades K-8 representing 24 schools. The size of the event proved challenging to organizers who were set up for 64 players, and they rose to the challenge.

It was the largest event, aside from two state tournaments, since 2009. Youth tournaments typically drew 90 players in 2008-2009, but the largest youth tournament in the area in subsequent years had 77 participants. Most events in recent years have drawn in 40-50 players with an occasional event having as few as 30 or as many as 60.

The 22 player K-2 section had four kindergartners, the largest number of very

young students in several years. Hattie Condon topped players in this grade with 2.5/5. Notably, all kindergarten players had earned points—the bottom two managed three and two draws, respectively. Hattie's success included wins against one of the other kindergarten students and a second grader. The other K-2 section winners were Tiernan Waggoner (4.5 points), first overall; Creighton Condon (4.0), second place; Adrian Rooney (4.0), third place; Zihan Wang (3.5), first in grade 2; Clayton Ebat (3.0), first in grade 1; and Matthew Hou, upset prize.

There were 27 players in grades 3-4. One elected to play up in the K-12 section, leaving 26 players in K-4. Arnav Wadikar (4.5) took home the trophy for first place in the section. Three players were a half point behind. Cole Knapton (4.0) held Arnav to a draw and won the second place trophy on tiebreaks over Paul Michael Leaver, third place, and Ben Barrett, first in grade 3. Tom Albrecht had the strongest tie-breaks among the seven players who finished with 3.5, earning first in grade 4. Per Sande (3.5) won the upset medal, while the others with 3.5 all took home medals: Colby Jessup, Olivia Hilton, Mike Mitchell, Colton Thomas, and Zane Bergsma.

Varun Ambalavanan scored a perfect 5.0 to win top honors in the K-12, or championship section. there were 35 students in this section. Five players finished with 4.0: Connor Gosselin-Harris, second overall; Liam Reeves, third overall; Mia Sponseller, top seventh grader; Aniketh Parlapalli, top fifth

grader; and Alexander Nicolazzo, who earned a chess book. Also taking home prizes in that section were Noah Kuhn (3.5), book; Eli Mounts (3.5), book; Quincy Hofer, top grade 8; Dylan Boyle, top grade 6; and Ira Morelli, upset medal.

The Odyssey Program at Libby won their second team trophy in two events with 16.5 points earned by their top four. Cataldo and Saint George's shared honors for second place with 14.0 each.

November 2016 PCC Game 60

By Brian Berger

Portland, OR — November 19, 2016

As mentioned in the reporting of the Quad 45 article in this issue, short time controls seem to be my nemesis (especially Quad 45), and you now can add Game 60 to that list.

With 23 players in attendance for the monthly Game 60 at the Portland Chess Club, overseen by Chief TD Lennart Bjorksten and Chief Assistant TD Mike Morris, I—Brian “I’m Just Glad To Be Here” Berger (1502-1500—1.5/4)—was paired in my first round (by want of my extraordinarily high rating) to a 1249 player, in which I was lucky to get a draw (which should have told me something about how this tournament might play out).

In my second round I was paired to Jon Strohbehn (1411-1494—2.5/4). And



(L) Eric Erard vs Ryan Richardson at the PCC November Game 60.
Photo credit: Brian Berger.

caring not-a-twit about my high status as a chess player, Strohbehn went about methodically dismantling my position (if it could be called that—perhaps misposition would be a better word for it), until I had nothing left to play with.

I first lost a pawn, but was unfazed, as I knew my rating would save me. I then lost a knight, but though I knew that this was tough to come back from, I reflected on my rating advantage once again, and persevered. I then lost a rook, and I forgot about my rating, but tried to put on a game face while facing annihilation. I then realized that I had lost my mind and resigned—a case in which “hope springs eternal” lasting about 20 minutes. Strohbehn, to his credit, went on to win against another 1500 player (showing his win against me was no fluke), and with his first round bye, went home with 2.5 points and a nice 83 points gain in his rating—his only loss being to Steven Breckenridge (2336-2337—4.0/4), the winner of the tournament.

And speaking of Steven Breckenridge, this tournament will most likely be his last for some time at the Portland Chess Club, as he has announced he is moving to the Philippines, but might come back to visit from time to time. And if you can imagine a place that is the absolute opposite of the Northwest corner of the old USA, it is the Philippines. Last I was there was in the 1960s, and the heat and humidity is not to be believed! Good luck, Steve.

Returning to my dilemma with short time controls, I finally managed a win in my third round, in a not easy game with the young Neena Feldman (1287-1288—1.0/4), but again lost my mind, and thus the fourth game, to another young player, Carter Lancaster (1568-1541—2.5/4) which, combined with my less than sterling performance throughout this tournament, left me at my floor of 1500—a performance which would have gobbled up a considerable amount of rating points if I had any to lose.

So that in a nut-shell is part of how I have managed to hit my rock bottom rating, from a high of 1707, in June of 2016. But short time controls and very young players have not only impacted me, but also the man whose chess games I have documented with some humor for some time, and in whom I am now seeing a mirror image of myself, Jerrold “I Just



*Steven Breckenridge takes his winnings from Chief TD Lennart Bjorksten.
Photo credit: Brian Berger.*

Want To Reach 1600 Before It’s Over” Richards (1499-1504—2.0/4).

Richards, as most readers of this magazine know, is the companion of the world famous, chess-playing, Morgan The Dog, who has been guiding Richards in his bid to become a 1600 player. Although Richards’ performance in this tournament was better than mine, his difficulties with these short time controls are principally what has kept his rating fluctuating like the beating of an erratic heart-rate—and so we share a common bond (which I believe many of us older players do).

Okay, enough of mine and Richards’ troubles, time to inform you readers about this tournament’s winners—not whiners. As was mentioned above, Breckenridge took all the marbles (\$66 worth of marbles to be exact) with a perfect 4.0/4, and whose closest rival was Ryan Richardson (2108-2111—3.5/4), who for some reason took a bye in the last round, but still came in second place and \$44 richer.

There was a three-way tie for third place with three wins each, by Gavin Zhang (1807-1799—3.0/4), Eric Erard (1435-1605—3.0/4) and Konner Feldman (1693-1704—3.0/4), with Zhang taking the \$33 prize money for 3rd, while Erard

and Feldman split the U1800/Unrated, U1500/Unrated prizes, each taking home \$38.50.

As was mentioned earlier, it was Feldman’s younger sister, Neena, who was the only player I was lucky enough to beat—I say LUCKY because, she has of late been winning on a regular basis, gaining 100 rating points in winning her division at The National Girls Tournament of Champions, and gaining 140 more points at the U.S. Open. (To read more about this young player, see the December issue of Chess Life, where Neena is profiled in Faces Across the Board.)

And to sum up this report, a little background on that 1435 player who tied for 3rd, and whom we shall refer to by his given name of Eric Erard, but henceforth shall be known as “Mighty Mite,” the giant slayer. Yes, he is small (and very young—a third grader at West Tualatin View Elementary in Beaverton, OR), but as you can see by his ratings gain this tournament, he packs a wallop, his only loss being to 2nd place winner, Richardson—a game in which time pressure was a factor, but one in which Erard showed his tenacious nature and lightning calculation ability. (Note the

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

July 2015 *Northwest Chess* article on results of the Annual Oregon Scholastic Chess Championship, held in Seaside, Oregon, in which Eric is seen holding his trophy after winning the Primary School Platinum section—the trophy almost hiding the whole of Eric.)

**Steven Breckenridge (2336) –
Konner Feldman (1693) [C42]**

PCC November 2016 G60

Portland, OR (R3), November 19, 2016

[Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Bd3 Nc6
5.Nd5 0-0 6.0-0 d6 7.c3 Bc5 8.b4 Bb6
9.a4 a6 10.Nxb6 cxb6



Position after 10...cxb6

11.Bc2

11.Re1∞

11...d5 12.d3 Bg4 13.h3

13.Bg5

13...Bh5

13...Bxf3 14.Qxf3 d4

14.Qe2?!



Position after 14.Qe2

14...d4! 15.c4 Bxf3 16.Qxf3 Nxb4
17.Bd1 Nc6

17...Nd7

18.g4

18.Bg5∞

18...Ne7 19.Qg3 Qc7

19...Ng6

20.f4 Nd7 21.f5 f6 22.g5 Kf7?

22...Nc6∞

[Diagram top of next column]

23.g6+?!



Position after 22...Kf7

23.gxf6! Nxf6 24.c5! bxc5 25.Bb3+ Ke8
26.Qxg7±

23...hxg6 24.fxg6+ Ke8 25.h4 f5?

25...Nc5±

26.exf5 Nxf5 27.Qh3 Nd6?

27...Ne3 28.Bxe3 dxe3 (28...Rxf1+
29.Qxf1 dxe3 30.Qf7+ Kd8 31.Qg8+
Ke7 32.Qxg7+ (32.Qxa8?? e4) 32...Kd6
33.Bg4+—) 29.Qe6+ Kd8 30.Rf7±

28.Qe6+ Kd8 29.Rxf8+ Nxf8 30.Bg5+
Qe7 31.Qxe7+ Kc8 32.Qd8# 1-0

Aaron Grabinsky Games

Aaron shares his games from a recent tournament he played in St. Louis. Aaron's university studies make it difficult for him to write detailed articles, but he gave us these games.—Editor.

**Christopher Au (1790) –
Aaron Grabinsky (2370) [C16]**

Thanksgiving Open

St. Louis, MO (R1), November 25, 2016

[Aaron Grabinsky]

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e5 b6 5.a3
Bf8 6.Nf3 Ne7 7.Bf4 Ba6 8.Ne2 Nf5 9.c3
Be7 10.g4 Nh4 11.Nxh4 Bxh4 12.Bg3
Be7 13.Qa4+ c6 14.h3 Bb5 15.Qc2
c5 16.f4 h5 17.f5 hxg4 18.fxe6 Bh4
19.exf7+ Kf8 20.Bg2 cxd4 21.cxd4 Nc6
22.Qc3 Rc8 23.Nf4 Bxg3+ 24.Qxg3 Rh6
25.hxg4 Rxh1+ 26.Bxh1 Nxd4



Position after 26...Nxd4

27.Bxd5

27.e6 Qg5 (27...Nc2+ 28.Kd1 Ne3+
29.Qxe3) 28.Ng6+ Qxg6 29.Qd6#

27...Qg5 28.Ng6+

28.Be4

28...Qxg6 29.a4 Nc2+ 30.Kf2 Nxa1
31.Qa3+ Rc5 32.axb5 Qc2+ 33.Kg3 Qe2
34.Ba2 Qxe5+ 35.Kg2 Nc2 36.Qxa7
Ne1+ 37.Kf1 Qf4+ 0-1

Aaron Grabinsky (2370) –

Fidel Corrales Jimenez (2526) [A45]

Thanksgiving Open

St. Louis, MO (R2), November 25, 2016

[Aaron Grabinsky]

1.d4 Nf6 2.Bf4 c5 3.e3 Qb6 4.Na3 d5
5.Nb5 Na6 6.a4 Bd7 7.a5 Qc6 8.Nf3 c4
9.Nc3 e6 10.Ne5 Qc8 11.Nb1 b5 12.axb6
axb6 13.g4 Nb4 14.Rxa8 Qxa8 15.g5
Ne4 16.Nxd7 Kxd7 17.c3 Qa2 18.f3 Nd6
19.cxb4 Qxb2

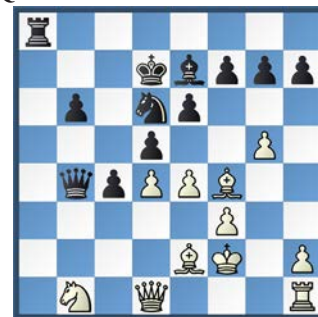


Position after 19...Qxb2

20.Be2

20.Qa4+ b5 21.Qa7+ Kc8 22.Nd2 c3
23.Qa8+ Kc7 (23...Kd7 24.Nb3 Qxb3
25.Qa7+ Kc8 26.Bxb5 Nxb5 27.Qb8+
Kd7 28.Qxb5+ Kd8 29.Qb8+ Kd7
30.Qc7+ Ke8 31.Qc6+ Kd8 32.Bc7+)
24.Nb3 Qxb3 25.Bxb5 c2 26.Qc6+

20...Qxb4+ 21.Kf2 Be7 22.e4 Ra8



Position after 22...Ra8

23.Bd2

23.exd5 exd5 24.Qc2 Ra1 25.Rd1 Qb3
26.Qxh7 g6 27.Bxd6 Kxd6 28.Qxf7

23...Qb2 24.Bc3 Qa2 25.h4 b5 26.Nd2
Ra3 27.Qc1 ½-½

**James McLaughlin (1946) –
Aaron Grabinsky (2370) [E41]**

Thanksgiving Open

St. Louis, MO (R3), November 26, 2016

[Aaron Grabinsky]

1.d4 e6 2.c4 Nf6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e3 c5
5.Bd3 Bxc3+ 6.bxc3 d6 7.f4 Nc6 8.Nf3
Qc7 9.0-0 b6 10.e4 Na5 11.e5 Ng8 12.d5

Ne7 13.Ng5 exd5 14.cxd5 c4



Position after 14...c4

15.Bc2

15.Ba3 cxd3 16.exd6 Qxc3 17.Re1 Qxa3 18.Rxe7+ Kf8 19.Qe1 Qc5+ 20.Kh1 Bg4 21.Rxf7+ Kg8 22.Qe5 Qd4 23.Rxg7+ Kf8 24.Qe7#

15...Qc5+ 16.Kh1 Nb7 17.Qh5 g6 18.Ba4+ b5 19.Be3 gxf5 20.Bxc5 bxa4 0-1

Aaron Grabinsky (2370) – Akshat Chandra (2509) [A48]

Thanksgiving Open

St. Louis, MO (R4), November 26, 2016

[Ralph Dubisch]

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.Bf4 Bg7 4.e3 0-0 5.Be2 d6 6.h3 b6 7.0-0 Bb7 8.c3 Nbd7 9.a4 a5 10.Bh2 Ne8 11.Bb5 e6 12.Nbd2 Qe7 13.Re1 Rd8 14.e4 e5 15.Qc2 Nef6 16.Bd3 Nh5 17.Rab1 Bh6 18.b4 axb4 19.cxb4 Rc8



Position after 19...Rc8

20.Nc4

20.a5!? exd4 (20...bxa5 21.bxa5 Ba8 22.Ba6±) 21.a6 Ba8 22.Nxd4 Nf4 23.N4f3 (23.Bf1!? Nxh3+ 24.gxf3 Qg5+ 25.Bg3 Qxd2 26.Qxd2 Bxd2 27.Re2 Bh6 28.Bg2 with good compensation.) 23... Nxd3 24.Qxd3±

20...Nf4

20...exd4 21.Nxd4 Nf4 22.Bf1∞

21.dxe5 Nxe5 22.Nxe5 dxe5 23.Bf1 Rfd8 24.a5! Rd6 25.a6 Ba8 26.Qc3 f6 27.Bxf4 Bxf4 28.Bc4+ Kf8 29.Bd5

29.h4 h5 30.b5 c6 31.Ba2±

29...b5 30.Ra1 Bxd5 31.exd5 Ra8 32.a7 Qd7 33.Red1 Kg8?!

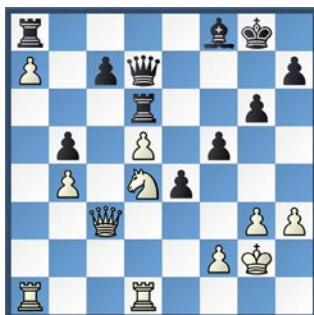
33...c6 34.Qc5 Kf7 35.Qb6 cxd5 36.Qb8

Qd8 37.Qxb5∞

34.g3 Bh6 35.Kg2 Bf8 36.Nd2 f5

36...Rxd5? 37.Ne4 Kg7 38.Rxd5 Qxd5 39.Qxc7+ Qf7 40.Qb6+—

37.Nf3 e4 38.Nd4



Position after 38.Nd4

38...Rxd5?

38...Bg7 39.Qc5 Rxd5 40.Qc6 Rxa7 41.Qxd7 Rxd7 42.Rxa7 Bxd4 43.Rb7±

39.Qc6 Qxc6

39...Rxa7 40.Qxd7 Rxd7 41.Rxa7 Bg7 42.Rc1! Bxd4 43.Rxc7 Rxc7 44.Rxc7+—

40.Nxc6 Rxd1

Or 40...Rd3 41.Rxd3 exd3 42.Kf3 d2 43.Ke2 Bh6 44.Kd1 Kf7 45.Ra5 Re8 46.f4+—

41.Rxd1 Bd6 42.Ra1

42.Rd5 is faster.

42...Kf7 43.Ra5 Ke6 44.Rxb5 Kd7 45.Rb8 Kxc6 46.b5+ Kc5 47.Rxa8 [47. b6] 47...Kb6 1-0

2016 Washington State Blitz and Bughouse Championships

By Josh Sinanan

Seattle, WA — December 3, 2016

FM Bryce Tiglon and NM Anthony He won the 2016 Washington State Blitz Chess Championship each with 12.5/14 in a 23-player field that included six masters. FM's Roland Feng and Ignacio Perez tied for second with 8.5/14, finishing half a point ahead of the field. The K-6 Scholastic and Open sections were combined this time due to lack of scholastic K-6 players. In the Bughouse tournament earlier in the day, Neo Olin and Vikram Ramasamy won first place on tie-breaks over Anne Frasca and Joseph Levine in the 5-team field.

Bethel December Quads

By Owen McCoy

Eugene, OR — December 4, 2016

The word is getting out about Eugene's monthly Bethel Sunday Quads. December's edition had a record 34 participants split between seven quads and a Swiss Six! Of the 34 players, six came from Corvallis, 15 were adults and there were six pairs of parents and their offspring playing.

Another first was that Quad 1 was also US Chess rated for the first time! (I'm using NWSRS ratings though.) Your author, Owen McCoy (2030-2041) returned to these quads after a two-month hiatus to gain another 11 rating points by winning Quad 1 with 3.0/3. Jack Wool McClain (1806-1789), John Bain (1673-1676), and Cody Webb (1700-1699) beat each other so they all end with 1.0/3.

Torrey Gage-Tomlinson (1576-1646 - 3.0/3), a name that hasn't been seen much of late, won Quad 2 to gain 70 rating points! He went through Clifton Harris (1483-1523 - 2.0/3), Victor Dossin (1604-1575 - 1.0/3), and Ben Kurtz (1477-1433 - 0.0/3), all regular customers of these quads.

Speaking of rating gains, the greatest rating increase prize goes to Jeremy Thomas (1324-1438 - 3.0/3.) who won Quad 3 with a clean sweep. His victims this time were Owen Young-Flynn (1314-



Brandon Young (left) receives prize for first in Quad 7, Mike Myers (right).
Photo credit: Selena Young.

1324 - 1.5/3), Jared Roe (1357-1336 - 1.0/3), and Andrei Kleshchev (1373-1327 - 0.5/3).

Eric Gibbs (1248-1326 - 3.0/3) won Quad 4 with yet another perfect score. Alexandre Dossin (1072-1077), Scott Chatham (1300-1092), and Scott Svetal (1311-1262) each collected one point.

Similarly, in Quad 5, Addison Thomas (1041-1130 - 3.0/3) was the one who scored as many points as Nathan Faber (1230-1138 - 1.0/3), Robert Thompson (852-855 - 1.0/3), and Bradley Austin (734-770 - 1.0/3) combined.

Noah Menachemson (997-1020 - 3.0/3), a fifth grader, certainly proved himself to be competent with his adult opponents by winning against John Roe (693-749 - 2.0/3), Rene Nagy (699-682 - 1.0/3), and Bruce Havernek (674-537 - 0.0/3).

Quad 7 featured only kids in elementary school. Brandon Young (981-1028 3.0/3), a second-grader, emerged victorious in the end, followed by Sam Farley (750-815 - 2.0/3), Haven Wenzel (737-731 - 1.0/3), and Fabian Thompson (773-701 - 0.0/3).

This left six players to form a Swiss Six. It would've been five, had it not been for Sarah McCoy (1300-400 - 0.5/3) stepping up to play in her first tournament! The half-point collected is certainly an achievement considering that she spends all of her time raising myself and my two siblings. That draw was against Emma Loveall (400-400 - 0.5/3), while the four (!) winners were Bryce Newell (533-618 - 2.0/3), Leland Newell (467-585 - 2.0/3), Yufei Su (853-820 - 2.0/3), and Gabriel Havernek (400-531 - 2.0/3).

Great job to everybody who came!
Next quads will be January 8th 2017!

Tiglon, Raptis, and Collyer win Second Seattle Masters

By Josh Sinanan

The second Seattle Chess Masters Tournament took place December 10 at the Seattle Chess Club and attracted 12 players in two sections - six in the Master and six in the Expert. Three FIDE Masters, Bryce Tiglon, Nick Raptis, and Curt Collyer, tied for first in the Master section each with 2.5/3. Aaryan Deshpande, rated just over 2000 US Chess, won the expert section with a perfect 3.0/3. Arjun Thomas and Anshul Ahluwalia tied for second with 2.0/3. The tournament was directed by Senior TD Fred Kleist, organized by WCF President Josh Sinanan, and hosted by the Washington Chess Federation.

Portland Winter Open

By Brian Berger

Portland, OR — December 10-11, 2016

Projections of a massive snow and ice storm hitting Portland and its surrounds two days before the scheduled Portland Chess Club's Winter Open were somewhat overstated. Not only did it come in later that Thursday than predicted, but the lower elevations had more like a dusting of snow than the two to four inches they said to expect.

And speaking of predictions, I had thought the lingering ice falling from some of the trees and overhead wires, and coating roads in the higher elevations, together with the shopping season shifting into high gear, would lower the number of participants in this event. Not so, as 37 players showed little heed of the weather, or the bright and pretty things being offered at discount prices in the malls, and opted to spend two afternoons attending to more important matters.

In charge of this anxious crowd of chess enthusiasts were Chief TD Mike Morris and Assistant Chief TD Mike Janniro—who, even during the hubbub of late phone inquiries to enter the tournament and handling those registries on hand, managed to get things off and running close to the time advertised.

This was a two-section tournament, with an Open and a Reserve, and a time control of 40/90, sudden death 30, and a

five second delay, with three games the first day and two the second—a schedule that saw a number of byes in the third round, which seems the norm on the first day of these longer events.

What seemed not the norm for a two day event with long games, were the many very young participants in attendance, who generally prefer the shorter time controls, where they can dazzle us older players with what seems chess-slight-of-hand—the use of which, removes pieces from the board with a sickening swiftness—then quickly move on to their next victim.

Faced with just such a fear, I, Brian “I’m Just Glad To Be Here” Berger (1500-1568—2.0/5), had to quickly decide if I wanted to play against these miniature, wizened-wizards, or take my chances against players above my pay-scale. Since I had recently reached my floor of 1500 after a brief time basking in the limelight of being a B-player, I thought being roughed-up would be less painful coming from a known, superior force, and so opted to play in the Open section.

The chess gods were kind to me the first part of this day, allowing me control of my faculties long enough to win a long, and very tough game against my first opponent—a 1973 player(!) who used every tactical trick at his disposal to prevent what was slowly becoming the inevitable. But the chess gods must have taken a coffee break and then went for lunch after that, as my following games against an Expert and another A-player sobered me to the fact that I was



Eric Erard with his winnings.
Photo credit: Brian Berger.

swimming in shark-infested waters.

My second day matches against two B-players secured me my second victory, with my one loss coming from leaving a rook en prise during a game in which I felt I had drawing or winning chances—a blunder probably common to players who have nearly reached the three-quarter century mark, but irritating as heck when a draw or possible win seems enticingly within reach. Still, I felt that my choice of opting for the Open section had been a good call, providing me with enough positive feedback to make me believe I can once again elevate my rating into the B-class, or even to A-player status.

The player I most identify with, Jerrold “I Just Want To Reach 1600 Before It’s Over” Richards (1510-1484—2.5/5), was also in attendance with his famous companion and most recognized chess player on the planet, Morgan The Dog (I say “identify with” because we both have ratings that surge and ebb like the tides). Unfortunately, the much loved Morgan had obligations to meet (a photo shoot with Magnus Carlsen, celebrating Carlsen’s winning of the World Chess Championship) on the tournament’s second day, so Richards could only play the opening day’s three games, leaving one to wonder if his 26 points loss in rating could have been avoided, or compounded.

One player I certainly would most like to “identify” with is the third grader from Beaverton, Oregon, Eric “Mighty Mite” Erard (1605-1713—4.5/5)—an aka I attached to him after his memorable performance in the November Game 60 at this same venue, where he took the U1500 prize and jumped in rating from 1435 to 1605!



Jerrold Richards with the famous, Morgan The Dog. Photo credit: Brian Berger.



(L) Danny Phipps vs Lennart Bjorksten.
Photo credit: Brian Berger.

And this tournament proved that that aka was an accurate assessment of Erard’s playing ability, where he won all his games in the Reserve section (the half-point a result of a third round bye) and again took a huge jump in rating and a cash prize of \$93. Watching his playing style, which varies from intense observation of the board, then a lightning fast movement of a piece, to (seemingly) an almost blasé indifference to a position, is a wonder to behold. My guess is, the “Mighty Mite” will continue to amaze.

Continuing with the Reserve section, James Nelson (1652-1683—4.0/5) took second place and \$70 with three wins and a draw; and as in the case with Erard, added a half-point with a bye in the third round. And Geoff Kenway (1458-1468—3.5/5) and David Roshu (1315-1378—3.5/5) split the U1600 and U1400 monies, each receiving \$47, while David’s sister, Cassandra Roshu (1152-1291—3.0/5) and Abbie Wu (649-1029—3.0/5), split the U1200 prize to the tune of \$24 each.

The Open section also saw a couple of ties, the first being between co-winners Corey Russell (2202-2205—4.0/5) and Ethan Wu (1810-1898—4.0/5), with Russell winning three of his games and drawing two, and Wu taking byes for the first two rounds and winning his last three games—each receiving \$116.

Lastly, there was a tie between Danny Phipps (1979-1982—2.5/5) and Jake Winkler (1760-1770—2.5/5), which gave them \$35 each for splitting the U2000 prize fund.

**Corey Russell (2202) –
Kian Patel (1865) [C10]**

Portland Winter Open
Portland, OR (R1), December 10, 2016
[Corey Russell]

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Bd7
5.Nf3 Bc6 6.Bd3 Bxe4 7.Bxe4 c6 8.0-0
Nf6 9.Bd3 Bd6 10.Qe2 Nbd7 11.Rd1
Qc7 12.c4 0-0 13.g3 Rfe8 14.c5 Bf8
15.Bf4 e5!? 16.dxe5 Bxc5



Position after 16...Bxc5

17.exf6

If I had a chance to do it over, would have done 17.Qc2 instead of what I played.

[17.b4!—Dubisch]

17...Rxe2 18.Bxc7 Rxf2 19.b4 Be3
20.Ne1 Rxa2+ 21.Kh1 Rxa1 22.Rxa1
Nxf6 23.Nc2 Nd5 24.Nxe3 Nxc7 25.Bc4
Re8 26.Nf5 Re4 27.Bxf7+ Kf8 28.Rd1
g6 29.Rd7 gxf5 30.Rxc7 Rxb4 31.Be6
a5 32.Rxh7 f4 33.Rf7+ Ke8 34.gxf4 a4
35.f5 a3 36.Rc7 Re4 37.Rxb7 a2 38.Bxa2
Re1+ 39.Kg2 Re2+ 40.Kg3 Rxa2 41.Rc7
Rc2 42.Kf4!? Rxh2 43.Rxc6?!

Here my opponent said in post-mortem

Kg5! was winning. Not sure if it is winning, but certainly actually has chances to win, but the text has none.

43...Kf7 44.Re6 Rf2+ 45.Ke5 Re2+ 46.Kd6 Rd2+ 47.Ke5 1/2-1/2

**Andrea Botez (1814) –
Corey Russell (2202) [D01]**

Portland Winter Open
Portland, OR (R2), December 10, 2016
[Corey Russell]

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nc3 d5 3.Bg5 Bf5 4.e3 c6 5.Bd3 Bxd3 6.cxd3

I prefer Qxd3 here. She wasn't able to do much with her pawn center.

6...Nbd7 7.Nf3 Qb6 8.Qd2 e6 9.0-0 Bb4 10.a3 Bxc3 11.bxc3 0-0 12.Rfe1 Rfc8

Black knows an e4-e5 is likely coming so this keeps his rook connected when I need to play ...Ne8.

13.e4 c5! 14.e5 Ne8 15.Be7!? cxd4 16.Nxd4 a6!

Setups a cool tactic which apparently white missed.

17.Rac1?!



Position after 17.Rac1



(L) Cory Russell vs Andrea Botez.
Photo credit: Brian Berger.

17...Nxe5! 18.Rxe5 Qc7 19.Qe1 Qxe7 20.Rxd5 Qxa3 21.Rg5?!

I think trading a pair of rooks off is the better idea (Rd7 then ...Rc7)

21...Qd6! 22.Qe3 Nf6 23.c4?

This begins a chain of events that leads to very active black pieces in the endgame.

23...Rd8 24.Nb3 Qxd3 25.Qxd3 Rxd3 26.Nc5 Rd2 27.Nxb7 Rb8 28.Rc5?

A pointless trick that is easily defended. Worse, now her knight has to retreat to the side of the board (but could have used c5 if this rook wasn't here) and even gives black an extra tempo for his attack!

28...h6 29.Na5 Ne4! 30.Rc6 Rbb2 31.Rf1 Nxf2 32.Rxa6 Nh3+ 33.Kh1 Rgx2 0-1

**Corey Russell (2202) –
Matt Zavortink (2177) [C18]**

Portland Winter Open
Portland, OR (R3), December 10, 2016
[Corey Russell]

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e5 Ne7 5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.bxc3 c5 7.Qg4 0-0 8.Nf3 Nbc6 9.Bd3 f5 10.exf6 Rxf6 11.Bg5 Rf7 12.Qg3!?

My opponent said he has never seen this move before. But he said it has a lot of merit.

12...c4 13.Be2 Qa5 14.Bd2 Bd7 15.h4! Raf8

Now if needed my queen can retreat to h2 and still restrain any ...e5 by Black.

16.h5 Qd8 17.0-0 Qb8 18.Ne5 Nxe5 19.dxe5 Ba4 20.Ra2 Kh8 21.Qh2 b6 22.g4 Bc6 23.f4 Ba8 24.Be3 d4! 25.Bxd4

Qc8 26.Qg3 Nd5 27.f5 exf5



Position after 27...exf5

28.e6 Qxe6 29.Rxf5!?

Computer found ...Nf4! — but my move complicated things when my opponent was low on time — I could see Black would win if we played a long game, so need to mix it up.

29...Nf6

Of course not 29...Qxe2? then 30.Rxf7 Rxf7 31.Qb8+ wins!

30.h6! Qxe2 31.hxg7+ Rgx7 32.Rxf6 Qd1+ 33.Kf2 Qd2+ 34.Kf1 Qd1+ 35.Kf2 1/2-1/2

**Danny Phipps (1979) –
Corey Russell (2202) [E80]**

Portland Winter Open
Portland, OR (R4), December 12, 2016
[Corey Russell]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.f3 Nc6 6.Nge2 a6 7.Be3 Rb8 8.Ng3 0-0 9.Be2 e5 10.dxe5 Nxe5 11.0-0 Be6?

Think I need to play ...c6 first — this leads to trouble.

12.Nd5 c6 13.Bb6 Qd7

I really hated having to play this as now my e6 bishop has no where to go.

14.Nxf6+ Bxf6 15.Rc1 c5 16.a4 Qc6

In hindsight perhaps Qe7 is better with the idea of Ne5-c6-d4 and also allows my e6 bishop to retreat if needed, which in turns means f5 by White isn't the end of the world (unlike what happens with the text).

17.Ba5 h5 18.Bc3 h4 19.Nh1



Position after 19.Nh1

19...g5

I didn't like this move, but allowing f4-f5 was the end of the world for me so had to try this.

20.Nf2 Kg7! 21.b3 Rh8 22.Qd2 Kg6 23.Nd1 h3 24.g3 g4 25.f4 Qxe4 26.Rf2 Kh5

The potential pin on the b1-h7 diagonal was killing me.

27.fxe5 Bg5 28.Qc2 Qxc2

I saw that White wasn't going to have a lot of pawns left, so still chance to draw even though down a piece, which is why I was playing on.

29.Rxc2 b5!? 30.axb5 axb5 31.exd6 Rhd8 32.Be5 bxc4 33.Bxc4 Bxc4 34.bxc4 Rb1



Position after 34...Rb1

35.Rf1?

I think Rfd2 is winning for White.

35...f6 36.Bf4 Bxf4 37.gxf4 Rxd6 38.Ne3 Rxf1+ 39.Kxf1 Rd4 40.Rf2 Re4 41.Ke2 f5 42.Kd3 Rd4+ 43.Kc3

This is a risky plan for White — if the black pawns ever break free, the white king is too far away to help.

43...Kg6 44.Nf1 Re4 45.Kb3 Rd4 46.Ng3 Kf6 47.Rc2

White thought his rook could move here since he can fork me if I take his f-pawn. But he under-estimated how powerful pawns can be if helped by a king.

47...Rxf4! 48.Nh5+ Kg5 49.Nxf4 Kxf4 50.Rf2+ Ke4 51.Re2+ Kf3 52.Re5 f4 53.Rxc5 g3



Position after 53...g3

54.Rd5

White was low time but he misses a forced draw line, e.g. 54.hxg3 fxg3



Some of the youngsters in the Reserve section..
Photo credit: Brian Berger.

55.Rh5 h2 56.c5 Kg2 57.c6 h1Q 58.Rxh1 Kxh1 59.c7 g2 60.c8Q g1Q

54...g2! 55.Rd1?

55.Rg5

55...Ke2 56.Kc2 f3 57.c5 f2 58.Rd2+ Ke3 0-1

Mike L. Hasuiké (1500) –
Kushal Pai (1350) [D03]

Portland Winter Open
Portland, OR (R4), December 11, 2016
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 d5 3.Bg5 Nbd7 4.Nbd2 e6 5.e3 Be7 6.Bd3 0-0 7.0-0 Re8 8.c3 c5 9.Ne5 h6 10.Bh4 Nxe5 11.dxe5 Nd7 12.Bxe7 Qxe7 13.f4 c4 14.Bb1

Or 14.Bc2± to avoid entombing the rook.

14...a5 15.Qc2 g6 16.Rf3 b5 17.a3 Bb7 18.Rh3 Kg7 19.Nf3 b4 20.Nd4 b3 21.Qe2



Position after 21.Qe2

21...Ba6?

This is a key tempo. Black can use a rook to add support to the kingside

pawn structure in three different ways, all leading to at most a small advantage to White: 21...Ra6 22.Rg3 Kh8 23.Nb5 Rg8±, and if the knight lands on d6, 24.Nd6 Rxd6 25.exd6 Qxd6 gives Black plenty of compensation for the exchange in view of those marginalized white pieces on a1 and b1.; 21...Rh8 22.Rg3 h5 23.e4±; 21...Rg8 22.Qg4 Ra6∞

22.Rg3

Also 22.Qg4! Nc5 (22...Bb7 23.Rg3 Nf8 24.f5+-) 23.f5 Qg5 24.Qe2 Nd3 (24...exf5 25.Rg3 Qd8 26.Nxf5+ Kh7 27.Qf2!+-) 25.Rg3 Qh4 26.Bxd3 cxd3 27.Qf2+-

22...Kh7

22...Qh4 23.f5! Nxe5 24.fxe6 fxe6 25.Bxg6! Nxg6 26.Rf1!+- with Rf4 coming.



Analysis

(#Diagram-analysis after 26.Rf1)

Yes, Black can get two rooks for the queen, but the position is still hopeless. Compare the minor pieces and king safety.



Position after 22...Kh7

23.Qg4

23.Qh5! is the win. 23...Rg8 24.Rh3 (24. Nxe6 Qxe6 25.Rh3 Qxh3 26.Qxh3+- is also good, as is 24.Nf3 Qf8 25.Ng5+ Kh8 26.Nxf7+ Qxf7 27.Bxg6+-) 24... Qf8 25.Nf3 Kh8 26.Qg5 Kh7 27.Qg4! Kh8 (27...Kg7 28.f5 Qc5 29.Nd4 Nxe5 30.Qf4+-) 28.Ng5 f5 29.Qh4 h5 30.Nxe6 and the attack rages on.

23...Rg8 24.Rh3 Nc5 25.Nc6?

Should have been pointless, pushing the queen to a better defensive post on f8.

How about 25.f5! exf5 (25...gxf5 26.Bxf5+ Rg6 (26...exf5 27.Rxh6+ Kxh6 28.Nxf5+ Kh7 29.Qh5#) 27.Bxg6+ fxg6 28.Rf1+-) 26.Nxf5 gxf5 27.Bxf5+ Rg6 28.Qf4 Qf8 29.Rf1 Qg7 30.Qh4 White's attack still looks quite promising. One neat trick for Black to avoid: 30...Ne4 31.Bxg6+ fxg6 32.Rf7 Qxf7 33.Qxh6+

[Diagram top of next column]

25...Qc7??

25...Qf8



Position after 25.Nc6

26.Nd4??

Simply 26.Qg5 h5 27.Qxh5+ Kg7 28.Qh6#; Ditto 26.Qh5 ; and 26.Qh4

26...Nd3 27.Qh4

27.Qg5 is winning quickly: 27...h5 28.Bxd3 cxd3 29.f5 Qc8 30.Rxh5+ (30. Nxe6 fxe6 31.fxg6+ Rxg6 32.Qxh5+ also works.) 30...gxh5 31.Qxh5+ Kg7 32.Rf1 exf5 33.Nxf5+ Kf8 34.Nd6+-

27...h5 28.Bxd3 cxd3 29.Rd1

29.Qf6; and 29.g4 are both good for White.

29...Rac8

29...Qd8 30.Qf6 Qxf6 31.exf6 — intending 32.g4±

30.Nxb3?

30.Qf6±

30...Qb6?!

30...Rb8

31.Nd4 Qxb2 32.Qe7

32.f5 is still strong.

32...Rgf8

32...Rg7

33.Nxe6??

33.f5!; but not 33.g4 d2 34.gxh5?? g5!-+



Position after 33.Nxe6

33...Qc2

Black's big opportunity to turn the tables: 33...Qe2! 34.Nxf8+ Kg8!-+

34.Nxf8+ Rxf8 35.Rf1 Kg8 36.Rxh5 1/2-1/2

Corey Russell (2202) –
Karl Cosner (2014) [B98]

Portland Winter Open
Portland, OR (R5), December 11, 2016
[Corey Russell]

My opponent had 3.5/4 by this point, he was having a great tourney. I know I must win to have a shot at first.

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4

No cowardly closed Sicilian — blood is needed. I am not afraid!

3...cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 e6 7.Qd3

I have a great record with line, something like a 90% kill rate — I was excited about my long term chances.

7...Be7 8.f4 Nbd7 9.0-0-0 Qc7 10.Be2 Nc5

The problem with Black's move is now white can get e5 in. Almost certainly ...b5 and ...Bb7 is the better idea here.

11.Qe3 Bd7

Black was afraid of an eventual g4 by White. So he wanted to castle queen-side. But problem is Black's knights need this square!



Position after 11...Bd7



(L) Arliss Dietz vs John Kong.
Photo credit: Brian Berger.

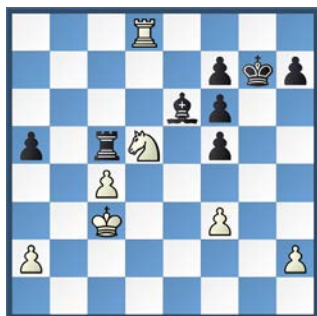
12.e5 dxe5 13.fxe5 Ng8 14.Bf4! Bd8
15.Nf5 exf5 16.e6 Nxe6! 17.Bxc7 Bg5
18.Qxg5 Nxg5 19.Bf3! Nxf3 20.gxf3 Be6
21.Rhe1

For sure we don't want Black to consolidate with ...f6 and ...Kf7

21...Nf6 22.Be5!

Point was Black can't castle queen side (like he could with Bd6) — also if ...Ke7 then Bd6+ and then he can't castle and his king rook would be out of the game. Finally if takes the chance to connect his rooks, he must pay for it by suffering with tripled, isolated f-pawns.

22...0-0 23.Bxf6 gxf6 24.Rd6 Rfd8 25.Red1 Rxd6 26.Rxd6 Rc8 27.Kd2 Kg7 28.b3 Kf8 29.Nd5! Rc5 30.Rd8+ Kg7 31.c4 b5 32.Kc3 bxc4 33.bxc4 a5



Position after 33...a5

Opponent offered a draw here — I said no — we fight to the death!

34.Kd4 Rc8 35.Rxc8 Bxc8 36.Kc5 Kh6

This becomes a race.

37.Kd6 Kg5 38.c5 Kh4 39.c6 Kh3 40.Nb6 Ba6

Of course if ...Be6 then c7, Nd7 and he can't sac for my pawn.

41.a4

Prevents him from saccing for my pawn if Kc7 then ...Bb5 otherwise.

41...Kxh2 42.Kc7 h5 43.Kb8 h4 44.c7 h3 45.Ka7 Kg2 46.Kxa6 h2 47.c8Q h1Q

So we both queen — but I still got my minor piece he lost his bishop!! Got a passed a-pawn too, and black is left with his horrible f-pawns.

48.Qxf5 Qe1 49.Qxa5 Qe7 50.Qd5 Qe2+

Notice that if he ever takes my f-pawn, then I will trade queens to a winning endgame.

51.Kb7 Qe7+ 52.Qd7 Qe4+??

He had about eight minutes for the entire game left. This was probably fatigue, it has been a long tourney.

53.fxe4 1-0

Washington Class Championship

By Gary Dorfner and Ralph Dubisch

179 chessplayers — or was it 180? — descended on the Embassy Suites Hotel in Lynnwood, Washington, the weekend after Thanksgiving, November 25-27, to participate in the six-round 2016 Washington Class Championships. By section, there were 29 in the Master class, 13 in Expert, 26 Class A, 37 Class B, 25 each in Class C and Class D, and 39 in the section for Class E and under. Perhaps some explanation is in order since that adds up to 194; it appears most of the discrepancy can be attributed to cross-section pairing for extra rated games when players would otherwise have earned byes in their original sections. There is, however, still some disagreement about whether the total number of people was actually the 179 reported in US Chess rating crosstables.

Nevertheless, a bigger story is who actually won the event. In the Master Section, first place went to Ignacio Perez (2238-2303 — 5.5), scoring an impressive rating gain and a Senior Master norm, for those who pay attention to that sort of thing. Second was Roland Feng (2438-2435 — 4.5), who was the only person to nick Perez for even a draw in this event. Third (and first under 2300) were Bryce Tiglon (2398-2401 — 4.0) and Josh Sinanan (2250-2264 — 4.0), while second under 2300 was split between five of the eight players on 3.5: Kyle Haining (2270-2268 — 3.5), Samuel He (2259-2262 — 3.5), Jason Cigan (2228-2230 — 3.5), David Bragg (2200-2200 — 3.5), and Matt Zavortink (2148-2177 — 3.5).

In the Expert Section, Alan Bishop (2000-2043 — 4.5) made a diagonal move into first place, starting slowly with only 1.5 from the first three games, but finishing strong. British Columbia's Roger Patterson (2084-2100 — 4.0) tied for second and third with Vikram Ramasamy (2061-2078 — 4.0). First under 2100 went to Chouchanik Airapetian (2040-2033 — 3.5), and Mary Kuhner (1959-1956 — 3.0) second.

Brent Baxter (1948-1973 — 5.0) and Travis Olson (1876-1953 — 5.0) tied for first and second in Class A, with Isaac Vega (1748-1829 — 4.5) in third. First and second under 1900 were Joseph Truelson (1859-1885 — 4.0) and Gary Edwards (1800-1848 — 4.0).

In Class B, Vignesh Anand Jr. (1792-1819 — 5.0) was clear first. Second, third, and first under 1700 were earned by Garrett Casey (1801-1837 — 4.5), Andreas Farny (1690-1751 — 4.5), and Owen Xuan (1711-1800 — 4.5). Second under 1700 was split between Braxton Casey (1803-1801 — 4.0) and Ralph Anthony (1597-1692 — 4.0), who likely values the rating gain more than the cash.

Class C saw even more amazing performances with Brian Lee (1401-1575(!) — 5.0) and Munkhbileg Munkh-Erdene (1391-1571(!) — 5.0) finishing tied for first and second. Third (and first under 1500) were Boas Lee (1605-1625 — 4.5) and Brendon Peng (1457-1573 — 4.5), second under 1500 was split three ways between Nolan Daniels (1449-1462 — 3.5), John Christy (1426-1491 — 3.5), and Jason Esposito (1410-1464 — 3.5).

In Class D first place was awarded to Krish Jain (1005-1236 — 4.0), though this score was actually a tie for third through seventh — all higher finishers



*WA Class tournament directors Gary Dorfner (L) and Fred Kleist.
Photo Credit: Victoria Jung-Doknjas.*

were presumably scholastic players who chose not to compete for the prize money. More on that shortly. Second and third were Ethan Zhang (1341-1355 — 3.5) and Mike Munsey (1287-1293 — 3.5); First and second under 1300 went to Leo Bruce (1274-1241 — 3.0), Pat Peng (1271-1270 — 3.0), Brandon Hitchcock (1165-1168 — 3.0), and Charith Sunku (1133-1158 — 3.0).

Clear first in Class E and under was Graham Cobden (1140-1248 — 5.5); second and third were Anand Gupta (1025-1196 — 5.0) and Harrison Toppen-Ryan (1171P-1199P — 5.0); first under 800 and unrated, Bulan Adiev (unr-1213P — 5.0), and first under 1000 was Garam O'Brien (844-991 — 4.0).

The tournament directors were Fred Kleist and Gary Dorfner.

For some reason results in events like the Washington Class are reported by prize money winners, not by highest scores. So scholastic players who choose to play only for a medal, not for money, are often not recognized as the section winners. In fact all of the following scored well enough to be mentioned above: In the Master section, Anthony Bi He (2242-2261 — 3.5); in the Expert section, James Soetedjo (1948-1959 — 3.0); in the Class A section, Oscar Petrov (1677-1783 — 4.5) and Sangeeta Dhingra (1862-1871 — 4.0); in Class D, Melody Wang (1323P-1445P — 5.0 — clear first!), Anirudh Rajesh (1355-1397 — 4.5 — clear second), Andy Tien (1403-1428 — 4.0), Ethan Pogrebinsky (1341-1403 — 4.0), Victor Zhang (1293P-1336 — 4.0), Nathan Liu (1098P-1269P — 4.0), and Hongning Wang (1254P-1282P — 3.5).

Great job by all.

Washington Class Blitz Championship

There were nine players in all. The winners were: first, John Readey, 8.0; second, Rex Deasis and Patrick Van Dyke, 6.5 each; first under 2000, Vikram Ramasamy, 6.5; first under 1700, Ralph Anthony, 4.0; first under 1400, Munkhbileg Munkh-Erdene, 2.0. TD Gary Dorfner.

Thanksgiving Scholastic

There were 130 students participated.

Section winners: Ivan Allen; Arthur Gong; Meg Isohata and Nathan Nguyen; Aaron Bogolyubov; Melina Li, Dylan Wu, Ray Bai, & Eric Bogolyubov; Joseph Truelson.

Team Standings: First, Somerset, 15.0; Second, Blackwell, 13.5; Third and Fourth, Spritridge, 13.0, and Cascadia, 13.0.

TD David Hendricks.

Frank Fagundes (1791) – Severo Caluza (1935) [A40]
2016 Washington Class
Lynnwood, WA (R1),
November 25, 2016
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.d4 e6 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Bb4+ 4.Bd2 Qe7 5.Nc3 Nf6 6.a3 Bxc3 7.Bxc3 d6 8.Qc2 Nbd7 9.e4 e5 10.Bd3



Position after 10.Bd3

10...exd4 11.Bxd4 Ne5 12.Nxe5 dxe5 13.Bc3 Nh5 14.g3 Bh3 15.0-0-0 0-0 16.Qe2 Nf6 17.f3 Bd7 18.Qe3 c5 19.g4 Rab8 20.h4± b5 21.h5

21.cxb5 Bxb5 22.Bxb5 Rxb5 23.g5±

21...b4 22.axb4 cxb4



Position after 22...cxb4

23.Bd2

23.Be1! The bishop has potential on the diagonal e1-h4.

23...Ba4 24.Rdg1

24.Bc2 Bxc2 25.Kxc2 b3+ 26.Kd3∞

24...Nd7± 25.g5 Nc5 26.g6 Rfd8 27.gxh7+ Kh8 28.Rxg7

Purely for the confusion value. White should lose.

28...Nxd3+

28...Kxg7-+

29.Kb1 Nf4

29...Kxg7+ 30.h8Q+ Rxh8 31.Qxd3 (31.Rg1+ Kf8) 31...Rhd8

30.Qg1 Qf6 31.h6

[Diagram top of next column]

31...Ng6

Simply 31...Rxd2-+ wins: 32.Rg8+ Kxh7 33.Rxb8 Bc2+ 34.Kc1 Rg2 (or 34...



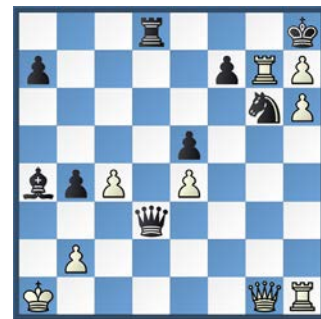
Position after 31.h6

Ne2+) 35.Qxg2 Nxg2 36.Kxc2 Qxf3; But Black also has the spectacular 31...Bc2+!! 32.Kxc2 b3+ 33.Kd1 Qa6!-+

32.Bg5 Qxf3 33.Bxd8 Qd3+?

33...Qxe4+ 34.Ka1 Rxd8-+, the difference from the game being the extra protection for g6.

34.Ka1 Rxd8



Position after 34...Rxd8

35.Qg5?

35.Rxg6! fxg6 (35...Qd1+ 36.Qxd1 Rxd1+ 37.Rxd1 fxg6 38.Rd5+-) 36.Qxg6 Qd7 37.Rg1 and mate follows.

35...Bb3??

35...Rd6∞

36.Rg8+ Rxg8 37.hxg8Q+ Kxg8 38.h7+ 1-0

Roland Feng (2438) – Joshua Doknjas (2194) [D13]
2016 Washington Class
Lynnwood, WA (R1),
November 25, 2016
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.cxd5 cxd5 4.Nf3 Nf6 5.Nc3 Nc6 6.Bf4 Nh5 7.Bd2 e6 8.e3 Nf6 9.Bd3 Be7 10.0-0-0 0-0 11.Rc1 b6 12.Bb5 Bb7 13.Qa4

[Diagram top of next page]

13...Nb4?!

13...Nb8 14.Ne5 a6 White's queen-side piece concentration has little purpose here. 15.Bd3 b5

14.Nb1 a5 15.a3 Na6 16.Ne5 Nb8 17.Nc3 Ne8 18.Be2 Nd6 19.Nb5 Nxb5

19...f6 20.Nxd6 Bxd6 21.Nd3∞

20.Bxb5 Bd6 21.Nd3 Qe7 22.Rc3 f6



Position after 13.Qa4

23.Rfc1 Rd8 24.Qb3 Rf8 25.Ba4

25.f3± planning Be1–g3.

25...Ra6?!

25...Nd7 26.Bc6 (26.Bxd7 Qxd7 27.Qxb6 Rfb8 28.Nc5 is also a clear edge to White.) 26...Bxc6 27.Rxc6 f5 28.Qb5 Ra7 29.Nf4!±

Analysis



(#Diagram-analysis after 29.Nf4)

Taking on f4 would open the e-file against the backward e6-pawn, but failing to capture leaves White with possibilities of an exchange sac on d6 that could undermine Black's entire structure. For example: 29...Kh8 30.Rxd6 Qxd6 31.Rc6 Qb8 32.Rxe6±; 25...Ba6!? 26.Qxb6 (26.e4!? dxe4 (26...Bxd3 27.Rxd3 dxe4 28.Rdc3 Control of the c-file, the bishop-pair, and queenside light-square domination spell more than enough compensation for the pawn.) 27.Nf4 Bxf4 28.Bxf4 with rook penetration to c7 coming shortly.) 26...Bc4

Analysis



(#Diagram-analysis after 26...Bc4)

27.Rxc4 (Or 27.Nc5!?!; but 27.Bb5? leaves the white queen with insufficient running room: 27...Bc7 28.Qc5 Bd6) 27...dxc4 28.Rxc4 and White has to be pretty happy with his compensation for the exchange.



Roland Feng (L) and Ignacio Perez (C) with WCF President Josh Sinanan after receiving their 2nd and 1st place prizes, respectively, at the WA Class. Photo Credit: Victoria Jung-Doknjas.

26.Nf4

26.e4!

Analysis



(#Diagram-analysis after 26.e4)

26...dxe4 27.Nf4 Bxf4 28.Bxf4 Bd5 29.Qd1+–, i.e. 29...Nd7 30.Rc7 Rd8 31.Bb5 Raa8 32.Qa4

26...Qf7 27.R3c2 e5 28.Ne2 Qh5?

Though 28...Qe6 is not much better.

29.Ng3 Qg6 30.Bb5

Or 30.e4!

30...Ra7



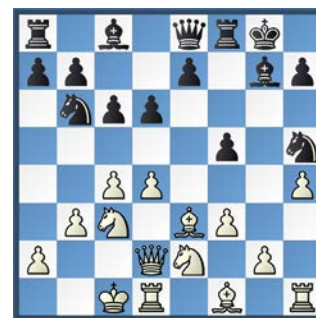
Position after 30...Ra7

31.Bd3 a4 32.Qxb6 Qxd3 33.Qxa7 Ba6

34.Qb6 Be7 35.Qe6+ 1–0

Ignacio Perez (2238) –
Aaryan Deshpande (2003) [E81]
2016 Washington Class
Lynnwood, WA (R1),
November 25, 2016
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 0–0?
5.f3 d6 6.Be3 Nbd7 7.Qd2 c6 8.h4 Nh5
9.Nge2 Nb6 10.b3 f5 11.exf5 gxf5 12.0–0 Qe8



Position after 12...Qe8

13.g4

White certainly gets compensation for the pawn, and for a fire and brimstone attacker like Ignacio, this move must have been almost automatic. But it's worth noting that White's position after 13.Rg1 Nf6 14.g3 e5 15.Bh6 offers a safe advantage.

13...fxg4 14.fxc4 Bxc4 15.Rg1 Qd7 16.Bh6

16.Re1!? Kh8 17.Ng3

16...Qf5?!

16...Bxh6 17.Qxh6 Kh8∞

17.Bh3

17.Qg5! Qxg5+ 18.Bxg5± and Black has trouble hanging onto the center pawns.

17...Bxh3 18.Rg5 Qe6 19.Rxh5 Bxh6

19...Bg4 20.Rg5 Qxh6 21.Rg1∞

20.Rxh6 Qf5

20...Qg4 21.Qd3 (21.Rg1 Rf1+ 22.Rxf1 Bxf1 23.Qc2 Qg7 24.Rh5 h6 and White's attack has decelerated, though that extra black pawn still seems largely irrelevant to the proceedings.) 21...Qf5 22.Qe3±

21.Rg1+ Kh8 22.Qe3 Bg4

22...Rg8 23.Rg5 Qf8 (23...Rxg5 24.hxg5 Bg4 25.g6+-) 24.Rgh5 Bf5 25.Ne4 with a very fine attacking formation.



Position after 22...Bg4

23.Ne4! Qa5

The point is 23...Bxe2 24.Ng5!; Or 23...Rf7 24.N2g3 with Ng5 coming up shortly. 24...Qa5 25.Ng5 Rg7 26.Qd3, for example, and h7 falls.

24.Rxg4 Rf1+ 25.Kb2 Qb4



Position after 25...Qb4

26.Rxh7+! Kxh7 27.Nf6+! Rxf6 28.Qxe7+ 1-0

Murlin Varner (1545) –
John Patrick Christy (1426) [A22]
2016 Washington Class
Lynnwood, WA (R2),
November 26, 2016
[John Christy]

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 e5 3.g3 d5

Panov in Comprehensive Chess Openings writes that Alekhine always used to reply 3...d5 considering that Black should at least have an equal game.

Of course, I misplay the line as always.

Good news is, we're out of the books!

4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.Bg2 Nxc3?

5...Nb6 is better, and the book line.

6.bxc3 Bd6?

Next time 6...Bc5 so to retreat if need be to b6; but, next time Nb6 at 5...

7.e3 0-0 8.Ne2 c6 9.0-0 Nd7 10.Bb2 Nf6 11.d4 e4?

This just loses the pawn in a few moves; but it does leave the d4 pawn blocking the b2 bishop – temporarily.

12.Qc2 Re8 13.c4 Bf8 14.Rad1

Too slow. Nc3 NOW puts more pressure!

14...Bf5 15.Nc3 Bg4 16.Rd2 Bf3 17.Bxf3 exf3 18.Qd1

And here's where the pawn should be lost.

18...Bb4



Position after 18...Bb4

So with ...Bb4, I resign the pawn to its fate and I try to get activity elsewhere. And 19.a3? helps immensely. If White takes the f3-pawn, White is safe; has more space; well developed and better position; and I don't see a good plan for Black.

19.a3?

This just gives Black the initiative thank you, and I'll take it.

19...Bxc3 20.Bxc3 Ne4 21.Rc2 Qf6 22.Bb2 Qf5 23.h3 h5 24.h4 Re6 25.d5 Rg6 26.Kh2 Rd8 27.Bd4 c5 28.Ba1 Rdd6 29.Rg1 Rg4 30.Qf1??

This loses!!! The attack is fun and plays itself.

30...Nxg3 31.Rxg3 Rxg3 32.fxg3 Qxc2+ 33.Kg1 Rb6 0-1

Michael Munsey (1287) –
Lorenzo Patton Jr (1114) [D21]
2016 Washington Class
Lynnwood, WA (R5),
November 27, 2016
[Michael Munsey]

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.c4 dxc4 4.e3 Bg4 5.Bxc4 e5 6.h3 Bxf3 7.Qxf3 Nf6 8.d5 e4 9.Qd1 Ne5 10.Bb5+ c6 11.dxc6 Qxd1+ 12.Kxd1 bxc6 13.Be2 Bb4 14.Kc2 0-0

[Diagram top of next column]

A horrible position. Now it is time to start



Position after 14...0-0

improving on it.

15.a3 Ba5 16.b4 Bb6 17.Bb2 Ned7 18.Nc3 a5 19.Rad1

I don't want to exchange rooks on the a file.

19...axb4 20.axb4 c5



Position after 20...c5

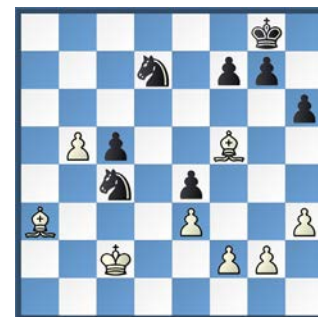
21.b5!

A passed pawn, also creates good outposts at a6 and c6.

21...Rfd8 22.Ra1 h6 23.Rhd1 Nf8 24.Na4 Rxd1 25.Bxd1 Nd5 26.Nxb6 Nxb6 27.Rxa8 Nxa8

A bishop pair against a pair of misplaced knights, in addition to the passed pawn, should be winning at this point.

28.Ba3 Nd7 29.Bg4 Nab6 30.Bf5 Nc4



Position after 30...Nc4

The time has come to give up the bishop pair.

31.Bxd7 Nxa3+

Black has failed to respect the passed pawn, now he has to trade his knight for it.

32.Kb3 Nxb5 33.Bxb5 Kh7 34.g4 Kg6

35.Bc6 f5 36.gxf5+ Kxf5 37.Kc4 h5
38.Kxc5 Ke5 39.h4 g6 40.Be8 Kf5
41.Kd4 g5 42.hxg5 Kxg5 43.Kxe4
h4 44.Bd7 Kf6 45.f4 Kf7 46.Kf3 Ke7
47.Bh3 Kd6 48.Kg4 Kd5 49.Kxh4 Kd6
50.Kg5 Ke7 51.Kg6 Ke8 52.Kg7 Ke7
53.f5 Ke8 54.f6 Kd8 55.f7 1-0

Andy Tien (1403) –
Ethan Zhang (1341) [C56]
2016 Washington Class
Lynnwood, WA (R2),
November 25, 2016
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.d4 exd4
5.e5 Nxe5??

There's no justification for parting with a piece here. 5...d5 6.Bb5 Ne4 7.Nxd4 Bd7 8.Bxc6 bxc6 is well-known and roughly equal.

6.Nxe5 Qe7 7.Qe2 d5 8.Bd3 g6 9.0-0
Bg7 10.Re1 0-0 11.Nf3 Qb4 12.c3 dxc3
13.Nxc3 Qb6?

13...Bg4±

14.Be3 c5 15.Na4 Qb4 16.Bxc5?

Simply winning a pawn with 16.Nxc5 is more reliable.

16...Qxa4 17.Bxf8 Bxf8 18.Ng5 Bh6?

18...Qd4± 19.Rad1?! Bg4 is starting to look like compensation for the exchange.



Position after 18...Bh6

19.Nxf7! Kxf7??

19...Bf8 20.Ne5

20.Qe7+ Kg8 21.Qxf6 Bg7

21...Bd7 22.Bxg6 Bg7 23.Qf7+ Kh8
24.Re7+—

22.Qd8+ Bf8 23.Re8

23.Qxd5+ is also crushing.

23...Qf4 24.Qxd5+ Qf7 25.Qe4?!

25.Qe5

25...Bf5 26.Rxa8?

26.Bc4 Bxe4 27.Bxf7+ Kxf7 28.Rxa8+—

26...Bxe4 27.Bxe4 Kg7??

27...b6

28.Rb8

28.Rxa7+— makes the same threat while removing all of Black's queenside pawns.

28...Kh6 29.Rxb7 Qf4 30.Bf3?

30.Re1 Bc5 31.Bf3 Bd6 32.h3 Qh2+
33.Kf1 While this isn't as comfortably winning for White as some of the previous lines, it's still quite good.

30...Bd6 31.Kf1 Qxh2 32.g3 Bc5 33.Bg2
Qh5 34.Rb5?

34.Rd7; or 34.Rf7 still offer White at least a small edge.

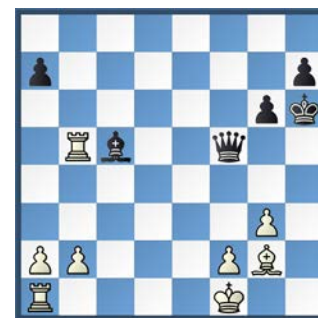
34...Qf5

[Diagram top of next column]

35.Bf3??

35.Rxc5 Qxc5 is forced, with a position that White can likely hold.

35...Qxf3 36.Rxc5 Qh1+ 37.Ke2 Qxa1
38.Rb5 Qxa2 39.Kd3 Qa6 40.Kc4



Position after 34...Qf5

Qe6+ 41.Kb4 Qe1+ 42.Ka4 Qxf2 43.g4
Qd4+ 44.Rb4 Qd7+ 45.Ka3 Kg5 46.b3
Qd1 47.Ka4 h5 48.gxh5 gxh5 49.Ka5
h4 50.Rb5+ Kg4 51.Rb4+ Kg3 52.Ka6
Qd6+ 53.Ka5 Qd8+ 54.Rb6 0-1



THE "KID" HAD BEEN IN TOWN ONLY A SHORT TIME, BUT HAD
ALREADY BEATEN TWO GRANDMASTERS AND WON THE "NEW
YEAR'S OPEN," WITH A PERFECT SCORE OF 5.0/5.



PRO Chess League

By Josh Sinanan

After 10 great years in the U.S. Chess League, the Seattle Sluggers will be joining the newly formed PRO Chess League, which introduces many new, exciting changes. The format of the new Pro Chess League is outlined here:

<https://www.chess.com/article/view/how-to-join-the-pro-chess-league>

A few key details to note:

- Each match will consist of four players on your team facing off against four players on the opposing team.
- The time control will be 15-minutes with a 2-second increment.
- It will be an all-play-all format: All four players on your team will face all four players on the other team.
- A full match should take between 120 and 150 minutes to complete.
- The matches begin on Wednesday Jan 11, and continue on every Wednesday until the end of March. Throughout the season, teams near the bottom of the standings will face each other in elimination matches.
- Our players can play from their computers at home! We can also all play together from a central location (ie. Orlov Academy).
- The prize fund is significantly higher than in previous years: <https://www.chess.com/news/pro-chess-league-prize-fund-increased-to-50k-2699>
- Both Carlsen and Caruana are playing in the new league! Wouldn't it be thrilling to play against one of them!?

Here is the Sluggers roster for the 2017 season:

Pos	Name	Rating (Sept)	Rating (Latest)
1	GM Gabriel Sargissian	2670	2667
2	GM Tigran Petrosian	2589	2592

3	GM Giorgi Margvelashvili	2530	2530
4	GM Victor Mikhalevski	2508	2508
5	IM Georgi Orlov	2475	2475
6	FM Roland Feng	2340	2340
7	FM Bryce Tiglon	2292	2313
8	NM Kyle Haining	2248	2216
9	NM Bob Ferguson	2232	2232
10	NM Daniel He	2144	2208
11	NM Anthony He	2150	2140

We've added a few of Var's training partners from Armenia (GM's Sargissian and Petrosian) and Israel (GM Mikhalevski), who are playing as free agents, to add some pop to the top of our lineup!

Sluggers 2017 Schedule:

Week 1, 1/11 2:50 AM GMT: W vs. San Diego

Week 2, 1/18 2:40 AM GMT: B vs. Portland

Week 3, 1/25 2:40 AM GMT: W vs. Dallas

Week 4, 2/1 2:40 AM GMT: B vs. San Francisco

Week 5, 2/11 7:40 PM GMT: W vs. Dublin

Week 6, 2/15 2:30 AM GMT: B vs. Rio Grande

Week 7, 2/22: TBA

Week 8, 3/1: TBA

Week 9, 3/8: TBA

Week 10, 3/15: TBA

Here is a list of all the teams in the PRO Chess League:

BLUE DIVISION

Atlanta	Kings
Buenos Aires	Krakens
Carolina	Cobras
Columbus	Cardinals
Miami	Champions
Montclair	Sopranos
Montreal	Chessbrahs
New Jersey	Knockouts
New York	Knights
Patagonia	Penguins
Philadelphia	Inventors
Toronto	Dragons

RED DIVISION

Dallas	Destiny
Las Vegas	Desert Rats
Minnesota	Blizzard
Pittsburgh	Pawngrabbers
Portland	Rain
Rio Grande	Ospreys
San Diego	Surfers
San Francisco	Mechanics
San Jose	Hackers
Seattle	Sluggers
St. Louis	Arch Bishops
Webster	Windmills

GREEN DIVISION

Abuja	Rockstars
Amsterdam	Mosquitos
Apeldoorn	Apes
Cannes	Blockbusters
Dublin	Desperadoes
Hamburg	Swashbucklers
Lagos	Leatherbacks
London	Lions
London	Towers
Marseille	Migraines
Reykjavik	Puffins
Stockholm	Snowballs

ORANGE DIVISION

Amaravati	Yodhas
Belgrade	Sparrows
Budapest	Gambit
Delhi	Dynamite
Gorky	Stormbringers
Johannesburg	Koeksisters
Ljubljana	Direwolves
Mumbai	Movers
Norway	Gnomes
Odisha	Express
Riga	Magicians
Shymkent	Nomads

A few notes from Greg Shahade, the league commissioner:

- There are four 12 team divisions, based geographically by time zone.
- There are 6 matches that are preset. These matches will occur no matter what. Aside from a few exceptions, 5/6 of these matches take place within your division.
- After 7 matches, the top six teams in each division will qualify for the playoffs. Team 3 will play Team 6, 4 will play 5, and 1+2 will get first round byes. These will be elimination matches and will proceed until there is one team remaining from each division.
- We will determine the match ups for Week 7 at the conclusion of Week 6. We will set it up so that teams that are fighting to qualify for the playoffs will be facing each other. More specific details on how this will work will be released soon.
- As you can see from our schedule, we have set our four divisions to begin and end at somewhat different times. This is because there will be four different chess.com commentary shows throughout the day, one dealing with the matches from each division.

- The toughest division to schedule was the "Orange" division, as we have many teams from wildly different time zones. Thanks to everyone who is in that division for your flexibility.

- Week 5 will be Interdivisional week, in which teams will be playing teams from outside of their division. It's set to be held on a Saturday. The only other matches on Saturday will be the league Semi Final and Championship Matches.

Portland Rain

By Jason Cigan

Happy to announce that the Portland Rain will begin play in the PRO Chess League for the coming 2017 season! Our team is going to be stacked, with local players like GM Jim Tarjan, FM Nick Raptis, and FM Steven Breckenridge leading the way. As a member of the team myself, I look forward to making my debut in league play. I will also be our social media director.

We will be up against some tough competition, like world champion Magnus Carlsen and the Norway Gnomes. But we are in it to win it. The matches, which start in January, will be free for all to watch live on Chess.com.

I will keep everyone posted as further details come out. Creative suggestions for a logo are appreciated.

The Seattle Sluggers also have joined the PRO Chess League. Look forward to a rivalry between the Sluggers and the Rain!

Happy New Year!

The 2016 Richard Gutman Memorial Northwest Chess Grand Prix

Murlin Varner, Administrator

As you read this, I am frantically going over all the payments from organizers to make sure we have the prize money we think we have. The year is over and if all works well, I'll be able to announce the winners in February's magazine. If all goes well. Sometimes, it does.

December finished the 2016 contest with nine more events for this record-breaking year. The first three of those events are included in the statistics below. The last was a double event, the Washington G/60 Championship, the 95th Grand Prix event of the year. This beat the previous record by a whopping 10 events. Other records were set in 2016, but I'll talk about those next month, when I have the final results.

There were just a few close races going into the final month, including Idaho's overall champion. You can see the rest below. By now, it's all over, so check next month to see who made a final month move.

Now we can look to 2017, which begins not with the dearly departed Gresham Open, but with the nearby Portland New Year's Open (Jan. 7-8) at the Portland Chess Club. This has a \$1500 prize fund, based on 50 entries, and awards double Grand Prix points. There are seven other Grand Prix events, in Seattle, Spokane, Tacoma and Portland. The Seattle City Championship (Jan. 13-15) is also a double event.

Statistics below are current through 12/4.

Northwest Grand Prix Standings

Idaho			Oregon			Washington		
last	first	pts.	last	first	pts.	last	first	pts.
			Masters					
			1 Cigan	Jason	146	1 Pupols	Viktors	212.5
			2 Haessler	Carl A	86	2 He	Anthony B	183.5
			3 Tarjan	James	71.5	3 Raptis	Nick	171
			4 Grabinsky	Aaron	30	4 Sinanan	Joshua C	107.5
			5 Prochaska	Peter	27	5 Tiglon	Bryce	104.5
M/X/Class A			Experts					
1 Miller	Travis J	63.5	1 Richardson	Ryan	122.5	1 Zhang	Brendan	150
2 Cambareri	Michael E	62	2 Talyansky	Seth D	100.5	2 Yu	Jason	124.5
3 Hawkins	Nicholas B	60	3 Zavortink	Matt	89	3 Bashkansky	Naomi	122
4 Bodie	Brad	47	4 Bjorksten	Lennart	85	4 Thomas	Arjun	113
5 Nathan	Jacob A	26.5	5 Gatica	Jose M	77	5 Ramasamy	Vikram	81
Class B			Class A					
1 Xu	Kevin	64	1 Rachmuth	Moshe S	98	1 Baxter	Brent L	218
2 Derryberry	Dewayne R	19	2 Phipps	Danny	96	2 Lee	Addison	179.5
3 Rainey	Samuel W	13	3 Botez	Andrea C C	93.5	3 Truelson	Joseph	155
4 Eacker	Barry D	12	4 Perkins	Josiah	80	4 Anand	Vignesh	149
5 Roland	Jeffrey T	10.5	5 Murray	David E	79.5	5 Zhang	Eric M	138

Idaho			Oregon			Washington					
last	first	pts.	last	first	pts.	last	first	pts.			
Class C			Class B								
1	Weyland	Ron	38.5	1	Hasuike	Mike L	196	1	Buck	Stephen J	339.0
2	Jaroski	Jeffrey A	24.5	2	Vega	Isaac	149	2	Jiang	Brandon	178
3	Martonick	Nick	23	3	Berger	Brian F	125	3	Velea	Anne-Marie	150.5
4	Courtney	Caleb	21.5	4	Moore	Michael	110.5	4	Xuan	Owen	147
5	Nyblade	Wesley	14	5	Markowski	Gregory A	74	5	Pothukuchi	Revanth V	146.5
Class D			Class C								
1	Liu	James	46	1	Dietz	Arliss	94.5	1	Piper	August	219
2	Wei	James	35	2	Tsai	James	69.5	2	Richards	Jerrold	160
3	Porth	Adam	31	3	Uan-Zo-Li	Sean A	65.5	3	Vijayakumar	Advaith	132.5
4	Bodie	Arlene	26.5	4	Nair	Roshen S	61.5	4	Jiang	Andrew	131.5
5	Porth	Desmond	16	5	Kenway	Geoffrey W	58.5	4	Zhang	Kyle	118.5
Class E and Below			Class D and Below								
1	Callen	Gregory D	57	1	Zhang	Ethan Y	97.5	1	Munsey	Michael R	163.5
2	Zeng	Forrest	44	2	Wu	Kevin	66.5	2	Velea	Sophie	139
3	He	Justin	37.5	3	Roshu	Cassandra M	62.5	3	Pogrebinsky	Ethan	132.5
4	Porth	Darwin A	16	4	Wu	Abbie	60.5	4	Velea	Stephanie	131
5	Aderogba	Temiloluwa D	14.5	5	Pai	Kushal	59.5	4	Clark	Ryan P	98.5
Overall Leaders, by State											
1	Xu	Kevin	64	1	Hasuike	Mike L	196	1	Buck	Stephen J	339.0
2	Miller	Travis J	63.5	2	Vega	Isaac	149	2	Piper	August	219
3	Cambareri	Michael E	62	3	Cigan	Jason	146	3	Baxter	Brent L	218
4	Hawkins	Nicholas B	60	4	Berger	Brian F	125	4	Pupols	Viktors	212.5
5	Callen	Gregory D	57	5	Richardson	Ryan	122.5	5	He	Anthony B	183.5
6	Bodie	Brad	47	6	Moore	Michael	110.5	6	Lee	Addison	179.5
7	Liu	James	46	7	Talyansky	Seth D	100.5	7	Jiang	Brandon	178
8	Zeng	Forrest	44	8	Rachmuth	Moshe S	98	8	Raptis	Nick	171
9	Weyland	Ron	38.5	9	Zhang	Ethan Y	97.5	9	Munsey	Michael R	163.5
10	He	Justin	37.5	10	Phipps	Danny	96	10	Richards	Jerrold	160
11	Wei	James	35	11	Dietz	Arliss	94.5	11	Truelson	Joseph	155
12	Porth	Adam	31	12	Botez	Andrea C C	93.5	12	Velea	Anne-Marie	150.5
13	Nathan	Jacob A	26.5	13	Zavortink	Matt	89	13	Zhang	Brendan	150
13	Bodie	Arlene	26.5	14	Haessler	Carl A	86	14	Anand	Vignesh	149
15	Jaroski	Jeffrey A	24.5	15	Bjorksten	Lennart	85	15	Xuan	Owen	147

Get Ready for the Annual State Championships in February! More information will be posted on the NWC website as available.

Seattle Chess Club Tournaments

Address
→ 2150 N 107 St, B85 ←
Seattle WA 98133 ←

↗ Infoline ↖
206-417-5405
seattlechess.club
kleistcf@aol.com
Address for Entries

SCC Tnmt Dir
2420 S 137 St
Seattle WA 98168

How to Find the SCC

Look for the Northway Square East Building, just across I-5 from Northgate Mall, with 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.

Jan. 7, Feb. 4

Format: 3-SS, 2 sec-- Master & Expert, FIDE-rated. **TC:** G/90; i30. **EF:** \$75 by 5 p.m., 12/9, afterwards \$90. **Prizes (b/15):** \$450-325-225-125. **Reg:** 9-9:45 a.m. **Rds:** 10-2:30-7. **Misc:** US Chess, WCF/OCF/ICA memb. req'd, OSA. NS, NC. **More details:** see www.nwchess.com or contact joshsinanan@gmail.com or call 206-769-3757

↻ **Jan. 8, Feb. 5**

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:** US Chess, WCF/OCF/ICA memb. req'd, OSA. NS, NC.

↻ **Jan. 21, Feb. 25**

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

January 22 New Date

Format: 4-SS. Open to U1200 and UNR. **TC:** G/75; d5. **EF:** \$11 by 1/18, \$16 at site. (-\$2 SCC mem., -\$1 mem. other NW dues-req'd CCs). **Prizes:** Memb (SCC, WCF, US Chess). **Reg:** 9-9:45a.m. **Rds:** 10-12:45-3:30-6. **Byes:** 1 (Rd 3/4-commit at reg.). **Misc:** US Chess memb. req'd. NS, NC.

SCC Novice

SCC Fridays

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

January Thaw: 1/6, 13, 20, 27.

Cabin Fever: 2/3, 10, 17, 24.

Seattle City Championship

January 13-15 or January 14-15

A two-section, five-round Swiss with a time control of 40/120 and SD/60; d5 (Two-day schedule – Round 1, G/60; d5). The prize fund of \$1010 is based on 52 paid entries, 6 per prize group.

a Northwest Grand Prix event

Championship

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

EF: \$45 (\$35 for SCC mem., \$40 for mem. of other NW dues-req'd CCs) by 1/11 \$53 (\$41, \$46) at site; GMs, IMs, WGMs free.

Reserve (U1800)

First	\$140
Second	\$90
Class C	\$70
Class D	\$60
Class E & Under	\$50
Unrated	\$20

EF: \$36 (\$26 for SCC mem., \$31 for mem. of other NW dues-req'd CCs) by 1/11, \$4 (\$35, \$40) at site. **Unrateds** free w/purch. 1-yr US Chess & WCF.

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

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

Byes: 2 (Sun. rds, commit at reg.). **Misc.:** US Chess & ICA/OCF/ WCF memb. req'd. NS. NC.

Upcoming Events

♣ denotes 2017 Northwest Grand Prix event; for Seattle Chess Club events see page 30

♣ **Jan 7-8** Portland New Year's Open, **Portland, OR** (See <http://www.nwchess.com/calendar/TA.htm>)

♣ **Jan 21/Feb 4** Portland CC Quad 45, **Portland, OR**. Portland Chess Club, 8205 SW 24th Ave., Portland, OR. 3-round quads, G/45;d15. Some/all sections may run as a 3-round Swiss with more than four players. The most current ("live") US Chess regular ratings are usually used for section placement. On-site registration runs from 9-9:45am. Rounds are scheduled for 10am, 12:15pm, and 2:30pm. Rounds 2 and 3 can be started earlier if both players agree. Players who have a game go long can request extra time off before the next round. EF: \$15, PCC members \$10, \$5 discount for each additional family member who lives in the same household, free entry for players who are unrated in US Chess. US chess and NWSRS rated. US Chess membership is required and can be purchased during on-site registration. Winner of each section receives \$10 discount on the entry fee for one of the next three PCC Quad 45 or Tuesday Quads. If there is a six or seven player Swiss, the runner-up receives \$5 discount. Scholastic awards: trophy for winning section with 3 points; smaller trophy for winning or tie for first with 2.5; medal for winning or tie for first with 2 or 1.5. OSCF State Qualifier.

Jan 21 Bend Winter Open & Novice, **Bend, OR**. Site: Whispering Winds, 2920 N.E. Conners Ave., Bend, OR 97701. Format: 4-SS in two sections: Open (U.S. Chess rated) and Novice (limited to unrated or U800 who have never won a prize in a previous Novice Tourney). TC: G/60; d5. Entry Fee: \$20 (Open), \$10 (Novice). Reg.: 8:30-9:00. Rounds: 9:30, 12:30, 3:00, 5:30. Prizes based on entries. U.S. Chess membership prize(s) available in Novice section. Entries/Info: Paul Shannon, NTD, 60958 Targee Dr, Bend, OR 97702, email countdune@netscape.net. Misc: U.S. Chess memb. req'd. in Open section, W, NS, NC.

♣ **Jan 28/Feb 25** Portland CC Game in 60, **Portland, OR**. Portland Chess Club, 8205 SW 24th Ave., Portland, OR. 4SS, G/60;d5. If 30 or more entries the field will be divided into 2 sections by ratings. EF: \$20, \$5 discount for PCC Members. US Chess rated; OCF/WCF/ICA and US Chess membership required, OSA. No advance entries. Reg: 9:00-9:45 a.m. Byes: 1/2 point bye if requested at reg. Players who have a game go around the full time can request extra time off before the next round. Prizes: If one section (\$200/b20) \$60-\$40-\$30; U1800, U1500/unrated \$35 each. If two sections - upper section \$75-50-25 (b/15); lower section \$65-35; U1400/unrated \$50 (b/15). No tiebreakers (prizes split). OSCF State Qualifier. Info: email@pdxchess.org, phone 503-246-2978, website www.pdxchess.org.

♣ **Jan 28** Tacoma Open, **Tacoma, WA**. Format: 3 round Swiss. Time Control: G/90;d5. Entry Fee: Advance \$25, At the door \$30; Club members: Advance \$22, At the door \$27. Prize fund: 1st \$25, 2nd \$20; Top half & Bottom half. U.S. Chess & state membership required. W, NS, NC. One half-point bye available. Entries/Info: Gary J. Dorfner, 8423 E. B St., Tacoma, WA 98445, ph. (253) 535-2536, email ggarychess@aol.com.

♣ **Feb 11-12** Washington President's Cup, **Seattle, WA** (See half-page ad on page 4)

♣ **Feb 25-26** The 25th Dave Collyer Memorial, **Spokane, WA**. Site: Millwood Presbyterian Church Community Center, 3223 N. Marguerite, Spokane Valley, WA 99212. Format: 5 Round Swiss. TC: Rd. 1: G/90 d/5; Rds. 2-5: G/115 d/5. Round Times: 11/2:30/7; 9/1:30. Prizes: \$2,500 100% Guaranteed. \$500 \$300 \$200. Class prizes based on at least five per class; classes may be reconfigured if less. Only one prize per player (excluding biggest upset). Expert: \$100; A;B;C;D;E/unr: \$125, \$75; Biggest upsets (non-provisional): \$50 each round, additional \$50 for overall largest; \$100 best performance by provisionally rated player. Byes: One 1/2 point bye available; request by 2/25. Entry Fees: \$27 by 2/24; \$35 at door; Under 19 \$5 less. Cash, checks only. Free advance entry to all rated over 2199. Entries To: Spokane Chess Club, 9923 N. Moore St., Spokane, WA 99208. Telephone: Kevin Korsmo (509) 270-1772. On-site Reg: 9:30-10:30 a.m. 2/25. Directions to site: I-90 exit 287. North on Argonne Road one mile. Left at light on Euclid, two blocks to site. Official Web Site: <http://spokanechessclub.org>. Side Events: Feb 24: John Donaldson lecture & simul; Blitz Tourney. NS, NC, W.

Northwest Chess
c/o Orlov Chess Academy
4174 148th Ave NE, Building I, Suite M
Redmond, WA 98052-5164

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