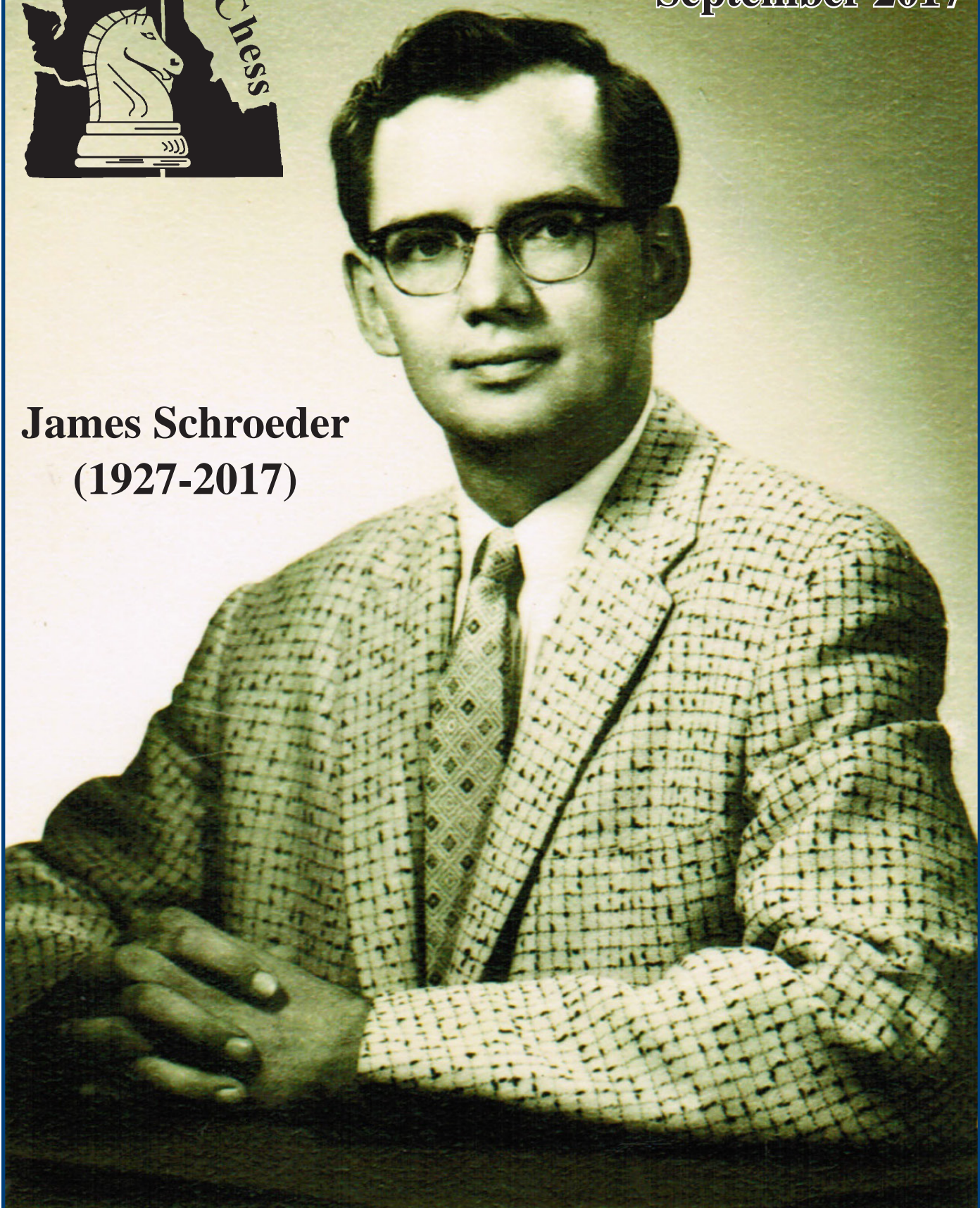


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September 2017



**James Schroeder  
(1927-2017)**



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## On the front cover:

James Schroeder circa late 1950s/early 1960s.  
Photo: James Schroeder.

## On the back cover:

James Schroeder at the 2012 U.S. Open held in  
Vancouver, Washington.  
Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.

## Chesstoons:

Chess cartoons drawn by local artist Brian Berger,  
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## From The Editor's Desk

This is my 58th issue as editor.

Some material that I couldn't fit into the 32 pages of this issue will be reconsidered to go into the next issue.

Thank you all for reading!

— Editor.

**Please remember to keep  
submitting games, articles,  
and photos to  
[editor@nwchess.com](mailto:editor@nwchess.com).**

# Remembering James Schroeder (1927-2017)

By John Donaldson

2017 will be remembered as the annus horribilis of American chess. The year is little more than half over and already we have lost Grandmaster Arthur Bisguier, World Correspondence Champion Hans Berliner, International Masters Nikolay Minev and Walter Shipman and three-time Washington State champion John Braley. Now one more name can be added to this distinguished list as National Master James Schroeder died on July 8th at the age of 89 in Vancouver, Washington.

Few American chess players have contributed in so many ways and for so long as James Schroeder. He was always active in an over seventy year career promoting prison chess, organizing, tournament directing, publishing, book selling, and playing. Arguably his most important contributions were through his writing, as a both a journalist and author.

We lead off this tribute with a few quotes and a remembrance from National Master David Presser.

*He was scathingly blunt, had never even crossed paths with the concept of tact, and would do anything for you, up to and including the shirt off his back. He also had a wicked sense of humor.*

## Douglas Ayers

(Jim's good friend who helped him so much his last few years.)

*James Schroeder was my inspiration for prison chess outreach. He was the father of prison chess.*

## Steven Frymer

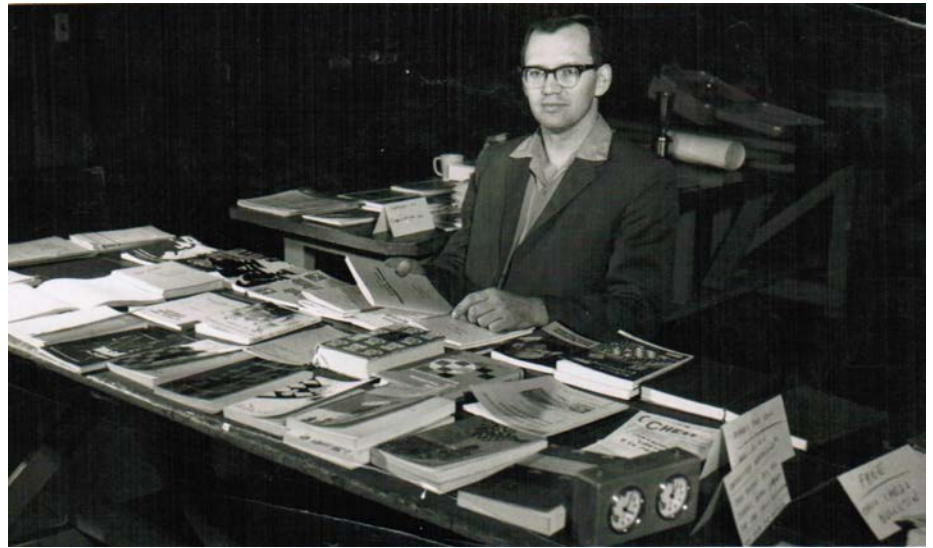
(Head of the Prison Committee of the United States Chess Federation for several decades.)

I knew him only thru his spicy writings, "Confidential Chess Lessons." He evidently loved chess, brought it to prisoners, studied its history and did a lot for documenting tournaments. He retired the term "opinionated." "Scathing" does not begin to describe his typical book review. But occasionally one of his intuitions, like so-and-so was better with knights, hit home. Where else will you find a writer who says on one page, Seirawan is a blithering imbecile, and on the next tells you where to send your money for Seirawan's mag?

## International Master Anthony Saidy

JIM SCHROEDER

(As remembered by David Presser in Cleveland)



*A typical scene at Cleveland tournaments in the 1960s and 1970s is shown here. Jim Schroeder is pictured selling books, many of which he wrote or produced. Photo James Schroeder.*

I have known Jim since my early teens and first saw him when playing in the Ohio Junior Chess Championship in Columbus where Jim was the tournament director. When Jim moved to Cleveland we saw each other frequently. One of Jim's great ideas was a combination chess and table tennis club which he arranged and which met one evening each week. In 1987 or 1988 he moved to Portland, OR but we remained in touch, and I spoke with Jim for half an hour a few weeks before he passed away. He appeared to be just as sharp as ever.

Jim was married for a time and had a daughter. He served in the Korean War as a radio and Morse code operator.

Jim lived on the edge financially for most of his life. He worked in a bookstore for a while in one of the cities of southern Ohio. He tried to survive through chess but sometimes it wasn't enough. He told me he sold food at Cleveland Indians' baseball games occasionally to get by. Jim did come into money once when he inherited \$40,000 from his sister, but Jim spent most of the money on donations to prison chess clubs, a charitable endeavor of Jim's which lasted several decades. In this way he helped thousands of prisoners; it noteworthy that the rate of recidivism among prisoners who played chess was very low.

In chess Jim found his calling. He was a strong National Master and had three draws with International Grandmasters to his credit including a 1958 draw with Pal Benko, who at that time was one of

the world's top 30 players. Jim twice won the Ohio Chess Championship (1950 and 1985).

Jim was a successful tournament organizer and chess book dealer. He wrote "Confidential Chess Lessons" for many years and published chess pamphlets, tournament books, bulletins and similar works — a difficult undertaking with only a typewriter. Jim had an encyclopedic knowledge of all aspects of chess and followed World Chess until the last few months of his life. He freely shared his knowledge of chess with many persons and helped some of Cleveland's top players with their chess development.

Although Jim could be irascible, behind that exterior was a very intelligent man with many interests and a large heart. Music was one of his passions! He and I discussed many things by telephone and letter (Jim was old school; no email).

Jim's last gift to me was Grandmaster Yuri Averbach's autobiography, a treasure that arrived out of the blue last April, a most thoughtful gesture.

Jim was my friend. Rest in peace Jim.

We now offer a few of Jim's games. The first is from the 1991 Oregon Open which he nearly won. Jim drew the following battle against Lubomir Ftacnik and would have shared first place with the Slovak Grandmaster if he had won from a dominating position in the last round. That game, played against many-time Oregon Champion James Bricher, is given in the notes.

**James Schroeder –  
Lubomir Ftacnik [B07]**  
Oregon Open Portland  
(R3), September 1, 1991  
[John Donaldson]

**1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6 4.Bg5 c6**

4...Bg7 5.Qd2 h6 6.Bh4 g5 7.Bg3 Nh5 8.0-0 Nd7 9.f3 Nxc3 10.hxg3 c5 11.Nge2 Qa5 12.f4 g4 13.e5 cxd4 14.Nxd4 dxe5 15.Nf5 0-0 16.Nxe7+ Kh8 17.f5! (17.Nxc8 Raxc8 18.Qxd7 Rxc3 19.bxc3 Qxc3 20.Qd3 wins but the text is even stronger.) 17...Kh7 18.f6? (18.Qg5! with the deadly threat of f6.) 18...Nxf6 19.Bd3+ e4 20.Rxh6+?? (20.Nxe4 and White is still on top.) 20...Bxh6 21.Rh1 Nh5 0-1, Schroeder-J. Bricher, Oregon Open (6).

**5.Qd2 b5 6.Bd3 h6 7.Bh4 e5 8.dxe5 dxe5 9.f4 Nbd7 10.Nf3 b4 11.Ne2 Qe7 12.fxg3 Nxe5 13.Nxe5**

13.Ned4 Bd7 and now either 14.0-0-0 or 14.0-0 offer White the better chances. What follows is a solidly played draw.

**13...Qxe5 14.0-0-0 Be7 15.Kb1 Be6 16.Bg3 Qa5 17.b3 Rd8 18.Qe3 Ng4 19.Qf4 Bf6 20.h3 Qa3 21.Qc1 Qxc1+ 22.Rxc1 Ne5 23.Nf4 Bc8 24.Rcd1 0-0 25.Bf2 Bg5 26.g3 f5 27.Bxa7 Bxf4 28.gxf4 Nxd3 29.cxd3 fxe4 30.dxe4 Rxd1+ 31.Rxd1 Bxh3 32.Rd6 Rxf4 33.Rxc6 Kf7 34.Be3 Rxe4 35.Bxh6 Bf5 36.Kc1 Re1+ 37.Kd2 Rg1 38.Rb6 Rg2+ 39.Ke3 Rxa2 40.Rxb4 Ra7 41.Bg5 ½-½**

The following entertaining miniature was played against one of the great gentlemen of chess, National Master James Harkins.

**James Harkins –  
James Schroeder [C37]**  
Cleveland 1968

**1.e4 e5 2.f4 exf4 3.Nf3 g5 4.Bc4**

Here 4.h4 (the main line) and 4.d4 are more commonly played.

**4...g4 5.Ne5**

White declines the chance to enter the romantic Muzio Gambit. One modern example was played by the young Alexey Shirov in 1990: 5.0-0 gxf3 6.Qxf3 Qf6 7.e5 Qxe5 8.Bxf7+ Kxf7 9.d4 Qxd4+ 10.Be3 Qf6 11.Bxf4 Ke8 12.Nc3 Nc6 13.Nd5 Qg6 14.Rae1+ Be7 15.Bd6 Kd8 16.Qf8+ Bxf8 17.Bxc7 mate!, Shirov-Lapinski, Daugavpils 1990.

**5...Qh4+ 6.Kf1 Nc6!?**

Jim makes a spicy dish extra spicy! Anderssen, Steinitz and Chigorin all tested the position after 6...Nh6. Black can also try 6...f3. The text is especially challenging. **7.Nxf7**

7.Bxf7+!? might be the critical test of 6...Nc6.

**7...Bc5**

Also possible was 7...f3 meeting 8.Nxh8 (8.d4 b5 9.Bb3 b4 10.Bc4 Na5) with 8...fxg2+ 9.Kxg2 Qh3+ 10.Kf2 Nf6 11.d3 g3+ 12.hxg3 Ng4+.

**8.Qe1 g3**



Position after 8...g3

**9.Nxh8**

The alternatives were (1) 9.d3 Nf6 10.Nxh8 Ng4 11.Bxf4 Nxh2+ 12.Rxh2 Qxf4+ 13.Ke2 Qe3+ 14.Kd1 Qxe1+ 15.Kxe1 gxh2; (2) 9.d4 Nxd4 10.Nxh8 Nf6 11.Nd2 Ng4 12.Nb3 Nxb3 13.axb3 f3 In both cases Black is doing very well.

**9...Bf2 10.hxg3 Qxh1+ 11.Kxf2 fxg3+ 12.Ke2 Qxg2+**

[Diagram top of next column]

**13.Kd1 d5 14.exd5+ Nge7 15.dxc6**

Or 15.c3 Bg4+ 16.Kc2 Bf5+ 17.Bd3 (17.



Position after 12...Qxg2+

Kd1 Qh2) 17...Bxd3+ 18.Kxd3 Qxd5+ winning.

**15...Bg4+ 16.Be2 Bxe2+ 17.Qxe2 Qh1+ 18.Qe1 g2-0-1**

Jim's triumph in the 1985 Ohio State Championship, 35 years after his first victory in the event, surprised many but was well-deserved. Three players tied for first with five points: Grandmaster Anatoly Lein, International Master Calvin Blocker, and James Schroeder — Blocker and Schroeder earning the title of state champions as they were Ohio residents. A half-point back were Grandmaster Dmitry Gurevich, International Master Edward Formanek and Senior Master Sergey Berchenko and Vivek Rao.

Jim advocated playing classical chess to his students (meeting 1.e4 with 1...e5 and 1.d4 with 1...d5) and was known for his skillful handling of the black side of the Open variation of the Ruy Lopez and the Tarrasch variation of the QGD



James Schroeder (right) is pictured standing alongside Vassily Smyslov (center) after the latter gave an exhibition in Cleveland in the mid-1970s. The third person in the photo is the Ohio organizer and player Bill Costaras. Photo James Schroeder.

(he drew with Benko in the line 1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 c5 4.cxd5 exd5 5.Nf3 Nf6 6.g3 Nc6 7.Bg2 Be7 8.0-0 0-0 9.dxc5 d4 — a game which we would love to see in full), but he could also play more modern openings well. Here he defeats the Cincinnati Senior Master Sergey Berchenko in fine style in a dynamic Sicilian.

**Sergey Berchenko – James Schroeder [B85]**

Ohio State Championship Columbus (R5), September 1, 1985

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 d6 6.Bc4 Qb6 7.Nb3 e6 8.Be3 Qc7 9.f4 a6 10.a4 b6 11.0-0 Bb7 12.Be2 Be7 13.Bf3 0-0 14.Rf2 Rfd8 15.Rd2 Nd7 16.Qe1 Nc5 17.Nd4 Nxd4 18.Bxd4 e5 19.Be3 exf4 20.Bxf4 Ne6 21.Be3 Bg5 22.Rad1 h6 23.Bg4 Qe7 24.Bxe6 fxe6



Position after 24...fxe6

25.Bxb6?! Bxd2 26.Qxd2?! Rd7 27.e5 d5 28.Qd4 Rc8 29.b3 Qf7 30.Rf1 Qg6 31.Rf2 Rf7 32.Rxf7 Qxf7 33.Be5 Qf5 34.b4 Qxc2 35.h3 Bc6 36.a5 Rc7 37.Nd1 Rf7 38.Ne3 Qe2 39.Kh2 Bb5 40.Ng4 Bd3 41.Nf2 Be4 42.Ng4 Rf5 43.Ne3 Rg5 44.h4 Rg6 45.Kh3 Bd3 46.g4 Qf3+ 47.Kh2 Be4 48.Qd1 Qf4+ 49.Kh3 Qxe5 50.Bd4 Qf4 51.b5 Bf3 0-1

Schroeder was the first researcher to really take advantage of the famous John G. White collection at the Cleveland Public Library and he used it resources to produce many bulletins and books on forgotten tournaments. Among his best books was *Boris Spassky: World's Greatest Player* (1967), the first work in English on Spassky. The series of pamphlets he produced on early World Championship matches, which relied heavily on primary sources, were first rate.

Jim could be brutally honest in his reviews and for him it was never personal. He considered his criticism to be professional and constructive, but those on the receiving end did not always see it that way – friend and foe alike! Tony Miles has the record for the shortest book review – Utter crap. – but Jim was not far behind. His review of *The Dragon Variation* by Anthony Glyn could have ended after the first sentence: “I have one



## QUIZ.

### WHO IS THE MASTER? WHO IS THE STUDENT?

good comment on this slop: the book is well bound.”

Although Jim never learned in a major chess center, his entire adult life spent in Ohio, Oregon and Washington, he knew and corresponded with many top players and considered U.S. Chess Hall of Famer Milan Vukcevic a close friend. It was Schroeder that drove the 21-year-old Bobby Fischer from Cleveland to Toledo when the young U.S. champion was on his 1964 transcontinental chess tour. Schroeder was so impressed with the young Fischer that two months later he arranged to have him give an exhibition in Columbus.

Those wanting to know more about this remarkable man will want to visit the

website devoted to him at:

<http://isolanis.com/schroeder/>

Schroeder was recognized by the U.S. Chess Federation before the 2012 U.S. Open held in his adopted hometown of Vancouver. U.S.C.F. Executive Director Bill Hall sent Jim a very nice letter specifically mentioning his contributions to prison chess and gave him a free entry into the U.S. Open, the last tournament he would play. Those who had been most active in pushing for this recognition, Grandmaster Yasser Seirawan and International Master Jeremy Silman, were among Jim’s chief targets in his role as a chess critic, but they recognized and respected his contributions to the game.

# 67<sup>th</sup> Annual Oregon Open

## September 2-4, 2017

# \$10,000 Guaranteed

Sponsored by the Portland Chess Club and Oregon Chess Federation

**FORMAT:** 6-round Swiss in three sections, Open, U2000, U1600. The official September US Chess regular ratings generally used. Unofficial US Chess regular ratings based on at least four games or foreign ratings (with adjustment if necessary) generally used for players with no official US Chess regular rating. Choice of 3-day and 2-day schedules. Two half point byes are available if requested before round 1.

**TIME CONTROL:** 40/120,SD/30;d10, first three rounds of the 2-day schedule played at G/60;d10. **Bring digital clocks as well as sets and boards (none supplied).**

**ROUND TIMES:** **3-day:** Saturday 11am & 5pm; Sunday 10am & 6pm; Monday 9:30am & 3:30pm. **2-day:** Sunday 9am, 11:45am, 2:30pm, then merge with 3-day schedule for round 4.

**ENTRY FEE:** \$100 if you pre-register by August 30, \$120 on-site. Free entry to GM's and IM's if pre-registered by August 30 (\$100 deducted from any prizes). Players under 19 in the U1600 section may pay a lower rate (\$25 if pre-registered by August 30, \$35 on-site) and compete for trophies instead of cash prizes. Players in the 3-day may withdraw and re-enter into the 2-day by paying \$100. **US Chess & OCF/WCF/ICA memberships required (OSA).**

**RATED:** All sections US Chess rated. Open section also FIDE rated except for the first three rounds of the 2-day schedule. FIDE rules used in the Open section (including the first 3-rounds of the 2-day schedule; see the PCC website for the US Chess-FIDE rule differences). US Chess rules used in the other sections.

**REGISTRATION:** To pre-register, fill out the online registration form at [pdxchess.org](http://pdxchess.org) **and** pay the entry fee online or mail a check payable to Portland Chess Club to Mike Morris at 2344 NE 27th Ave, Portland, OR, 97212. To get the lower entry fee rate, we must receive your registration form **and** entry fee by August 30. On-site registration runs from 9-10:30am Saturday for the 3-day schedule and 8-8:45am Sunday for the 2-day schedule (only cash or check accepted on-site).

### OPEN SECTION PRIZES

1<sup>ST</sup>, 2<sup>ND</sup>, 3<sup>RD</sup>: \$2000-1000-500; U2200: \$500-300-200

### U2000 SECTION PRIZES

1<sup>ST</sup>, 2<sup>ND</sup>, 3<sup>RD</sup>: \$1000-600-400; U1800: \$500-300-200

### U1600 SECTION PRIZES

1<sup>ST</sup>, 2<sup>ND</sup>, 3<sup>RD</sup>: \$500-300-200; U1400: \$500-300-200

U1200: \$300 UNR: \$200

Unrated players limited to place prizes in Open section and unrated prize in U1600 section. Any player winning \$600 or more must complete IRS form with SSN before payment. Foreign players may be subject to withholding taxes. Players under 19 in the U1600 section choosing the lower entry fee option will compete for trophies instead of cash prizes based on points. Players rated 1400 or higher will win a trophy if they score at least 5, players rated between 1200 and 1399 will win a trophy if they score at least 4, and players rated under 1200 or unrated will win a trophy if they score at least 3.5.

**OTHER:** Northwest Chess, US Chess, and US Chess Junior Grand Prix event; qualifier for the Oregon State Championship, Oregon Invitational Tournament, and OSCF State Championship; see the list of tournament sponsors at [pdxchess.org](http://pdxchess.org)

**SIDE EVENTS:** **Scholastic**-see information at [pdxchess.org](http://pdxchess.org). **Blitz**-registration Sunday 3-3:20pm, play starts at 3:30pm. One section, 5-round double Swiss, G/3;inc2, \$15 entry fee, US Chess blitz rated, US Chess membership required, prize fund: \$200 based on 20-1<sup>st</sup> \$60, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$40, U2100, U1900, U1700, U1500-\$25 each; unrated players are eligible for all of the prizes. The higher of a player's US Chess regular and blitz rating is generally used. **OCF membership meeting**-Sunday at 4:30pm.

**LOCATION:** Lloyd Center DoubleTree Hotel, 1000 NE Multnomah St, Portland, OR 97232. A limited number of rooms are available at special chess rate (mention tournament); single or double occupancy \$119 plus tax. Reserve early, 1-800-996-0510. Free parking.

# 2017 ICA Summer Classic

By Jeffrey Roland

Boise, ID — July 15, 2017

The 2017 ICA Summer Classic was played at the Boise Public Library! at 715 S. Capitol Boulevard in Boise on July 15, 2017. Jeffrey Roland was Chief Tournament Director and Alise Pemsler was Assistant Tournament Director. The Organizers were Adam Porth and Alise Pemsler.

The tournament was originally promoted and slated to take place at the Eagle Public Library! in Eagle, Idaho with a time control of Game/45;d5, but there was apparently a scheduling conflict at the library that meant the event could not be played there, even after all the promotion the ICA had given it, and so the tournament organizers had to scramble for a new playing site.

Adam Porth and Alise Pemsler worked diligently to find a new playing site, opened many doors, got some leads for future events, and I'm told it was actually the newly appointed ICA Scholastic Coordinator and Board Member Dian-xiang Xu (who is pictured on Page 18 of the August 2017 issue.)



Jesse Brent. Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.

who came up with the Boise Public Library! on Capitol Boulevard in Boise as the playing site on such short notice.

A new flyer was quickly produced with new details (most notably the new venue, time control of Game/30;d5, and registration from 12:00 p.m. to 12:30 p.m. with the tournament ending at 5:00 p.m.

because that's when the library closed).

Thirty-four players showed up to play, which was much higher than expected, but we're very glad they came. When it comes to chess tournaments, more is indeed merrier! And the event was very fun and exciting. We didn't have time to actually play four rounds

## Washington Women's Championship

September 15-17, 2017

**Highest finishing Washington resident seeded into the Premier Section of the 2018 Washington State Championship**

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

**Format:** A one-section 5-Round Swiss. Dual US Chess & FIDE rated.

**Time Control:** Game in 90 minutes with a 30-second increment added after each move.  
US Chess September 2017 rating supplement will be used to determine pairings and prizes.  
Foreign ratings used for players with no US Chess rating.  
Higher of US Chess or foreign ratings used at TD discretion.

**Prize Fund:** \$1000 (based on 20 paid entries).  
1st \$300, 2nd \$200, 3rd \$100, 1st U1800 \$80, 1st U1600 \$80, 1st U1400 \$80, 1st U1200 \$80, 1st U1000/Unr \$80.

**Entry Fee:** \$50 if postmarked or online by 09/13, \$60 after 09/13 or at site. Free entry for WGMs and WIMs.

**Registration:** Friday 6:00 - 6:45 PM.

**Rounds:** Friday 7:00 PM; Saturday 11:00 AM, 5:00 PM; Sunday 11:00 AM, 5:00 PM.

**Byes:** Two half-point byes available. Request before end of round 2.  
US Chess and WCF/OCF/ICA memberships required, other states accepted.  
Trophies Plus Grand Prix Points: 6. US Chess Junior Grand Prix event. NS. NC. W.

**Entries:** Make checks payable to Washington Chess Federation.  
**Mail To:** Josh Sinanan, 3610 218th Street SW, Brier, WA 98036.  
**Phone:** (206) 769-3757. **E-mail:** [joshsinanan@gmail.com](mailto:joshsinanan@gmail.com).  
**Online Registration:** [www.nwchess.com/onlineregistration](http://www.nwchess.com/onlineregistration).



in the time we had, but what we did was after three rounds decided to let the tie-breakers decide. We wouldn't have had a clear winner even after four rounds, as there were four players tied with perfect scores after three rounds. The advertised tie-breakers in order were Solkoff, Cumulative, Cumulative of Opposition, and Modified Median.

There was still a tie, even after all those tie-breaks were taken into account, between first and second place, however, third and fourth were clear. So what should I do about the tie for first-second? Well, I was tempted to flip a coin, given how we were under the gun to get out of the library by 5:00 p.m. and it was already after 4:30 p.m. But now that we didn't have a fourth round to worry about, I had enough time to break the tie with a blitz playoff game. Both players wanted that too.

Here are the moves (with clock times) to the 5-minute blitz playoff game. It wasn't the greatest game ever played, but anything can and does happen in Blitz!

Jesse Brent - Cody Gorman

1. e4 (4:59), c5 (4:59); 2. Nf3 (4:57), d6 (4:57); 3. d4 (4:56), cxd4 (4:55); 4. Nxd4 (4:54), Nf6 (4:54); 5. Nc3 (4:53), a6 (4:52); 6. Bg5 (4:52), Nbd7 (4:51); 7. Qf3 (4:47), e5 (4:47); 8. Nf5 (4:39), Qb6 (4:39); 9. 0-0-0 (4:23), Nc5 (4:22); 10. Bxf6 (4:07), gxf6 (4:20); 11. Nxd6+ (3:51), Ke7 (3:49); 12. Nd5+ (3:47), Kxd6 (3:38); 13. Nxb6+ (3:44), Kc7 (3:29); 14. Nxa8+ (3:42), 1-0 (3:25).

And so it was that 2006 Idaho Scholastic Champion Jesse Brent (1509-1609—3.0/3), beat 2014 Idaho Scholastic Champion Cody Gorman (1900-1906—3.0/3), for the first-place prize of a chess clock by winning the blitz tie-breaker. Cody Gorman won a triple-weighted chess set as second-place, while Boise State University Student Jameson Juyan Tang (1444P-1604P—3.0/3), was third, winning a vinyl chessboard. Carmen Pemsler (1637-1648—3.0/3), also a former Idaho Scholastic Champion (2015) was fourth on tie-break, and there was no fourth place prize.

When the tournament was done, the tables and chairs were put back exactly like we found them, and we walked down the three flights of steps and as we were walking out the door, the PA was announcing that the library was closing... so we did it!! We made it out on time and the players were clearly pleased and several of them told me they really enjoyed the tournament.

## Rose City Sectionals

By Brian Berger

July 8-9 was a weekend of sun, but also a weekend of FUN, for the 39 players who attended the 3rd Annual Rose City Sectionals at the Portland Chess Club—where attendees vied for prize money, trophies and rating points in five sections: Open, U1900, U1700, U1500 and U1300, at a time control of G90, with a 30 second increment.

Started in 2015, the Sectionals drew an initial 25 players, with this year's field almost equaling that of 2016, when 40 entrants participated. Counting a now famous member of the club, Morgan The Dog, that figure could be upped to 40, but

Morgan was not there to play, but to once again encourage his live-in companion, Jerrold "I Just Want To Make 1600 Before It's Over" Richards (1300-1300—1.5/4), to do his best in trying to achieve his life-long goal of becoming a B-player.

Unfortunately, neither the encouragement of Morgan, nor just pure luck, could alter what is becoming a "song-sung-blue" in many a recent tournament—a kind of soulful wailing, welling from deep within Morgan The Dog at each loss sustained by Richards—this tournament being a rerun of many past performances, leaving Richards still at his floor of 1300.

However, though Richards and I (Brian "I'm Just Glad To Be Here" Berger—1548-1592—3.0/4) have



Mr. Wu and Abbie Wu, seeing what the computer said about her last game.  
Photo credit: Brian Berger.



(L) Abbie Wu vs David Murray.  
Photo credit: Brian Berger.

shared many a “pity-party” after many a tournament (my record of wins, like Richards, being spotty at best), this was one occasion where all of the planets must have been aligned, the gods in a good mood, my rabbit’s foot giving off its Mojo, and my synaptic channels free of debris, because I somehow managed three wins out of four games, enough to place third in my section (U1700) and take home \$47 in prize money.

The Open section held ten players, headed by two Masters—Matt Zavortink (2227-2223—2.5/4) and Jason Cigan (2191-2218—4.0/4). Zavortink, who has been on a roll of late, dropped a game to Cigan, and also was held to a draw by Benedict Small (2183-2171—2.0/4), ceding the first place prize of \$125 to Cigan, and tying for second and third place prizes with Ethan Wu (1892-1914—2.5/4), each of them receiving \$73. As a scholastic



(L) Danny Phipps vs Isaac Vega.  
Photo credit: Brian Berger.

player, Wu also won a trophy.

In addition to the amount won by a sectional first place finisher, a special bonus this year was given to winners of their sections who finished with a perfect score (of whom Cigan was one), that was worth a \$35 reduction in their entry fee to next year’s Rose City Sectionals. For PCC members, that would mean a free entry.

The first U2100 prize was split by Carl Koontz (1945-1952—2.0/4) and Danny Phipps (1921-1920—2.0/4), the two reclaiming a portion of the entrance fee when each received \$22 for two days of brain-sapping concentration. For Koontz it was his first go at tournament chess since 2016, the time in between being occupied by overseeing a magnificent home garden, playing Civilization, and teaching chess.

The U1900 section was taken whole-hog by a player who has been sharpening his game at almost every tournament of recent note, awaiting his chance to make a strong statement of his advancing skills—Will Hollaran III (1712-1846—4.0/4). Competing in a field of nine players, he bettered his competition with a perfect score, taking home \$114 (plus a \$35 bonus), and upping his rating by 134 points to better match his skill level.

Splitting second and third in this section were David Bannon (1865-1858—2.5/4) and David Murray (1850-1831—2.5/4), their payoff being \$63 each. And it must be noted that Abbie Wu (1441-1478—2.0/4), the tiny-titan that is beginning to put a scare into B and A players every time she plays up, probably rattled the nerves of Murray and Chris Burris (1755-1751—2.0/4) by drawing each, while looking at times as if other games in the area were of more interest.

As I mentioned five paragraphs above, I managed to take third place in the U1700 section against a six-player field. But it was Mike Hasuike (1523-1617—3.5/4) and John Rolston (1602-1671—3.5/4) who split the first and second place prizes, their 3.5 scores earning them \$86 each.

Another split for first and second occurred in the U1500 section, which also had six players, when David Roshu (1314-1342—3.0/4) and Ethan Zhang (1131-1182—3.0/4) tied at 3-points each. Along with the \$78 each of them received, they were also awarded a trophy for being scholastic players.

Third place in this section was also won by a scholastic player, Calvin Chang (1149-1198—2.5/4), whose 2.5 points



(L) Patrick Morrissey vs Cassandra Roshu.  
Photo credit: Brian Berger.

finish was good enough to earn him a trophy (smaller than the first and second place winners received) and \$43.

Another perfect score was turned in by the winner of the U1300 section, Cassandra Roshu (1298-1345—4.0/4), competing in a field of 11-players. Roshu not only became \$86 richer, but also received the \$35 bonus for next year's entry fee, a trophy for being a scholastic player, and

gained 47 additional rating points.

Splitting second and third place prize money were Pierre-Hadrien Beauchet (1014-1040—3.0/4) and Arlso Maslen (1054-1083—3.0/4), who also won trophies to go along with their \$41 winnings.

And competing in this same section were the five players who divided up



(L) Russell Tennant vs Dave Prideaux.  
Photo credit: Brian Berger.

the U1100/unrated prize money: Ethan Truong (1087-1066—2.0/4), Patrick Morrissey (1014-1040—2.0/4), Nick Major (651P-849P—2.0/4), Nesara Shree (541P-739P—2.0/4), and Christopher Morrissey (482p-547P—2.0/4), each earning \$8, and all but Truong gaining more rating points—with Major and Shree earning huge jumps.

Thanks must go to Chief TD Micah Smith and Chief Assistant TD Mike Hasuike for their competent handling of all things official.

## Northwest Represented Well at National Scholastic Events

By Owen McCoy

The 118th annual U.S. Chess Open took place from July 29th through August 6th in Norfolk, Virginia. Running concurrently with the open tournament were three side events: The GM Arnold Denker Tournament of High School Champions, the Dewain Barber Tournament of K-8 Champions, and the National Girls Tournament of Champions. (Whew! I ran out of breath just typing that! From now on I'll just refer to them as the Denker, Barber, and NGTOC respectively.)

The Northwest players in the Denker were Bryce Tiglon (2471) from Washington, Seth Talyansky (2230) from Oregon, and Seth Machakos (1443) from Idaho. Round one featured not just a Northwest showdown, but also a Seths showdown, as Seth Talyansky was paired against Seth Machakos. What are the odds?

Bryce in particular had an impressive result, scoring 5.0/6, tying for first (but getting third on tiebreaks), and winning the last round against top seed Advait Patel (2504)! After this tournament he is just shy of 2500 himself at 2487—and Bryce was just awarded the IM title for winning undefeated first place in the Open section at the North American Youth Chess Championship in July!

The Northwest players in the Barber were your author, Owen McCoy (2040) from Oregon, Jason Yu (2037) from Washington, and Kevin Xu (1681) from Idaho; and let me tell you, our rating gains were off the charts! Firstly, Kevin finished with 3.5/6 and drew with a 1900 player and won against a 2000(!) player, pushing his rating up 60(!) points to 1731! Also, Jason and I tied for third place with 4.5/6! (Jason got sixth on tiebreaks and



Owen McCoy proudly holds his state flag at the opening ceremony of the Barber Tournament.  
Photo credit: Sarah McCoy.

I got third!) Jason's rating jumped 45 points up to 2082, and mine went up 65 points to 2105! Unfortunately, it was the last year in the Barber for me. But Jason is going into sixth grade and Kevin is going into the seventh grade, so they will both have chances to return again!

Representing the Northwest in the NGTOC were Naomi Bashkansky (1995) from Washington, Olivia Izaak (1169) from Oregon, and Temilolu Aderogda (1097) from Idaho. This talented field was by rating topped by Southern California's WIM Annie Wang at 2296. Wang's shock loss in round two was good news for everyone else! Round three saw Naomi playing on board one against number two rated Sanjana Vittal (2137), and convincingly coming out on top! However, in round four she met with the very determined Rochelle Wu of Alabama, who went on to take clear first.

Another thought to mull over is that between the nine of us, we racked up a total of 14 upsets! Also, we had an average rating gain of 27 points! Clearly we need to get more Northwest players to the East Coast!

Here is my win from round three:

**Owen McCoy (OR) (2040) – Justin Chen (NY) (2282) [A05]**  
Dewain Barber Tournament of K-8  
Champions Norfolk, VA  
(R3), July 30, 2017  
[Owen McCoy]

I had just come off of a win against another Master, so I was very excited coming into this game! Somehow, I managed to calm myself down enough to be able to play

**1.Nf3**

Instead of 1.e4

**1...Nf6 2.g3 b6 3.Bg2 Bb7 4.0-0 e6 5.d3 c5 6.e4 d6 7.Nc3 Nbd7 8.Nd2 a6 9.a4 Qc7 10.f4**

Up to this point we have been following McCoy-Grabinsky, Eugene 2016 in which ...g6 was played and I had a big advantage but then lost horribly. Gotta set the record straight!

**10...Be7 11.Qe2?!**

Admittedly a bit of a "nothing move."

**11...0-0 12.f5 exf5 13.Rxf5 Ne5 14.Rf1 Qd7 15.h3**

My play hasn't been the best and now my position is a bit clogged. I would like to get my knight to c4. If only he would play

Nc6...

**15...Nc6**

Well then!

**16.Nc4 Nd4 17.Qd1**

Ahh, that's better.

**17...Bd8**



Position after 17...Bd8

Huh? That seems a bit unnatural. Not only that, it sets me up for...

**18.Rxf6!**

The point is that the bishop is now tied to b6, so

**18...gxf6?**

Actually, 18...Bxf6 was the correct move. I win the exchange back and come out a pawn ahead, but that's better than what happened in the game!

**19.Bh6**

Now White has a clear advantage, if...


**19...Re8?**



Position after 19...Re8

... Black returns the exchange. Then material would be equal and his position





**Carl Haessler** Chess Master  
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# 35th Annual Sands Regency RENO - WESTERN STATES OPEN October 13 - 15 & October 14 - 15, 2017 3 Day or 2 Day Schedule

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**Sec. "D"/under** - (1399/below) EF: \$150; \$1000 - 400 - 300 - 300, (1199/below) \$300

**Top Senior (65+)** - \$200; **Club Champ.** - \$600 - 300.

**Wednesday 10/11 7:00 pm** - GM Sergey Kudrin - Clock Simul. w/ complete analysis of YOUR Game (Only \$30!)

**Thursday 10/12 6 - 7:15 pm** - Lecture by IM John Donaldson (FREE)

**7:30 pm** - GM Alex Yermolinsky - Simul. (\$20); Blitz (G/5 d0) Tourney \$25 - 80% entries = Prize Fund

**Saturday 10/14 3 - 4:30 pm** - FREE Game/Position Analysis - IM John Donaldson

## ♔♚♛♜♝♞♟ **Main Tournament** ♞♟♚♛♜♝♞♟

**Registration: Thursday (10/12) 5 - 8 pm. - Friday (10/13) 9 - 10 am. Saturday (10/14) 9 - 10 am.**

**Round Times: (3 Day Sch.): Fri.- 12 Noon - 7 pm; Sat.-10 am - 7 pm; Sun.- 9:30 am - 4:30 pm**

**(2 Day Sch.): Sat.- Rd 1 - 11:00 am, Rd 2 - 1:15 pm, Rd 3 - 3:45 pm, Rd 4 merge with regular schedule - 7:00 pm**

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**Room Reservations: Call the Sands Regency - 1-866-FUN-STAY • Reserve by October 1st for Chess Rate**

**Ask for code: CHESS1017**

**For TLA and to confirm receipt of entry see player list at: [www.renochess.org](http://www.renochess.org)**

**ENTRY FORM - 35th Annual Western States Open - Reno, Nevada - October 13 - 15, 14 - 15, 2017**

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

PRINT Name \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime Phone \_\_\_\_\_ USCF/FIDE Rating \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

----- OPEN SECTION -----					"EXPERT"	"A"	"B"	"C"	"D and Under"	UNRATED
GM/IM	Masters	2000-2199	1999-Below		2000-2199	1800-1999	1600-1799	1400-1599	1399-Below	Free With
<b>3-Day EF</b>	Free	\$159	\$200	\$300	\$159	\$158	\$157	\$156	\$150	USCF Dues
<b>2-Day EF</b>	NA	NA	NA	NA	\$155	\$155	\$155	\$155	\$155	USCFDues

**FEES ALSO ENCLOSED FOR:**

- Hotel Deposit \$47.26\* (Weekday) or
- Hotel Deposit \$81.31\* (Fri. & Sat.)
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- \$20 Thursday-Simul. GM Yermolinsky
- \$25 Thursday Blitz (G/5 d0)
- \$10 Discount - Sr. 65+ Age \_\_\_\_\_

**HOTEL INFORMATION:**

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- Made By Phone
- Please Make Me a Reservation\*
- Arrival Date \_\_\_\_\_
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\*Send \$47.26 for weekday arrival, \$81.31 for Friday arrival.

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would still be Swiss cheese, but this loses to...

### 20.Ne3?

20.Nxd6! is completely winning and was completely missed by me, and I think my opponent too! (My tactical skills had been exhausted by Rxf6.)

Darn. Now I have to win the game all over again.

### 20...Kh8 21.Qf1 Rg8 22.Kh2 Rg6 23.Bf4 Bc7 24.h4 Re8 25.h5 Rgg8 26.Bh3 Ne6?

Over the last few moves I have improved my position somewhat, whilst he's managed to bury his bishop on c7. Actually, it's going to be sorely missed on the kingside!

### 27.Bh6 Bd8

And back again!

### 28.Ncd5 Bxd5

And now

### 29.Nxd5

29.exd5 was also good, and perhaps even better, but I felt it would make his position easier to play after 29...Qc7 30.dxe6 fxe6 Okay, it's still horrible for Black, but I had already found a winning plan.

### 29...Rg7?

This makes matters worse, but there

wasn't really much to do. 29...Qb7 30.Nxf6 Qe7 31.Nxe8 Qxe8

### 30.Bxg7+ Kxg7



Position after 30...Kxg7

### 31.h6+!

The point.

### 31...Kg8

31...Kxh6 32.Nxf6 Bxf6 33.Qxf6+ Kh5 34.g4# is one fanciful variation.

### 32.Qxf6! Qb7

32...Bxf6 33.Nxf6+ Kh8 34.Nxd7

### 33.Qf5 Ng5??

Black had no good moves, but he picked one of the worst ones!

### 34.Nf6+ Bxf6 35.Qxf6 Ne6

35...Nf3+ was forced, but also hopeless. Now I have mate in nine.

### 36.Bxe6 fxe6 37.Qg5+ Kh8 38.Rf1

A nice finishing touch. Now rather than wait for me to play Rf4-Qf6-Rg4, he opted for

### 38...Qe7 39.Qxe7

and then resigned. 39.Qxe7 Rxe7 40.Rf8# This game won the upset prize in the Barber for round three!

1-0

## July 2017 PCC Quad 45

By Brian Berger

Portland, OR—July 15, 2017

It is a bit ironic that, given the near record attendance (tied with July 2014) of July's Quad 45 (32 players, requiring eight sections), it has been decided that starting in August, Sundays could be a better day to hold this popular monthly tournament (renamed the Sunday Quads), in the hopes of bringing more players to the table—those that might find Saturdays not to their liking.

As you will be reading this report in the September issue of Northwest Chess (afterwards to be written by another reporter, as I have obligations on Sundays which will prevent me from continuing to

## Washington Blitz Chess Championship

October 14, 2017

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

**Format:** 7 Round Double Swiss. One Section. **Time Control:** G/5, d0.

US Chess October 2017 rating supplement will be used to determine ratings.

Higher of US Chess Regular or Blitz Rating will be used to determine pairings and prizes.

Foreign ratings used for players with no US Chess rating.

Higher of US Chess regular/blitz or foreign ratings used at TD discretion.

**Prize Fund:** \$1,000 (based on 40 paid entries).

1st \$250, 2nd \$200, 3rd \$150, 1st U1800 \$100, 1st U1600 \$100, 1st U1400 \$100, 1st U1200/Unr \$100.

**Entry Fee:** \$45 if postmarked or online by 10/11, \$55 after 10/11 or at site.

Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs.

**Registration:** Saturday 7:40 - 8:10 PM.

**Rounds:** 8:15 PM, 8:45 PM, 9:15 PM, 9:45 PM, 10:15 PM, 10:45 PM, 11:15 PM.

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

NS. NC. W.

**Info/Entries:** Make checks payable to Washington Chess Federation.

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

**Phone:** (425) 218-7529 or **Josh Sinanan:** (206) 769-3757.

**E-mail:** [danomathews01@gmail.com](mailto:danomathews01@gmail.com) or [wcf.tournaments@gmail.com](mailto:wcf.tournaments@gmail.com).

**Online Registration:** [www.nwchess.com/online-registration](http://www.nwchess.com/online-registration).



(L) Cassandra Roshu vs Jon Strohbehn.  
Photo credit: Brian Berger.

attend and report on this event), it will be interesting to note if the desired increase in attendance has been realized—or shows promise of doing so.

Whatever happens attendance-wise, it will still be in the capable hands of Chief TD Micah Smith, who has hoped to improve its player count from the very beginning—and for a short time,

tried to entice players into attending a Blitz tournament, held immediately after the finish of the Quads, which never seemed to catch on. But a Rapid and Blitz Championship recently held at the club on a separate Saturday (July 22th), proved to be a popular draw. So perhaps a Saturday might be given over for just such a monthly tournament.

But my job now is to address what took place in July, and as stated above, it drew a record number of players, overseen by Smith and new Assistant Chief TD Greg Markowski.

Prominent on the player list was FM Nick “The Raptor” Raptis (2424-2425—3.0/3), who has not attended a tournament at the Portland Chess Club for some time, and whose active presence in the past always brought “fear and trembling” to those gathered at any event he entered.

Perhaps word of his presence preceded him, as the highest-rated player after “The Raptor” was some 451 points lower in rating, leading to what was the inevitable conclusion to Quad 1—a perfect score, a selection of a chess book, and a \$10 discount for “The Raptor” on entering his next Quads tournament.

(Continued on page 18)

## Washington G/60 Chess Championship

October 14, 2017

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

**Format:** 4 Round Swiss. One Section.

**Time Control:** G/60, d5.

**Dual Rated:** Regular and Quick Chess rated.

US Chess October 2017 rating supplement will be used to determine pairings and prizes.

Foreign ratings used for players with no USCF rating.

Higher of US Chess or foreign ratings used at TD discretion.

**Prize Fund:** \$1,500 (based on 40 paid entries).

1st \$450, 2nd \$300, 1st U2000 \$150, 1st U1800 \$150, 1st U1600 \$150, 1st U1400 \$150, 1st U1200/Unrated \$150.

**Entry Fee:** \$55 if postmarked or online by 10/11, \$65 after 10/11 or at site.

Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs.

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

**Rounds:** 10:00 AM, 12:30 PM, 3:00 PM, 5:30 PM.

**Byes:** One half-point bye available. Request before end of round 2.

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

Northwest Chess Grand Prix event. NS. NC. W.

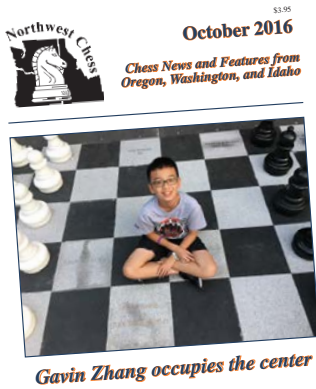
**Info/Entries:** Make checks payable to Washington Chess Federation.

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

**Phone:** (425) 218-7529 or **Josh Sinanan:** (206) 769-3757.

**E-mail:** [danomathews01@gmail.com](mailto:danomathews01@gmail.com) or [wcf.tournaments@gmail.com](mailto:wcf.tournaments@gmail.com).

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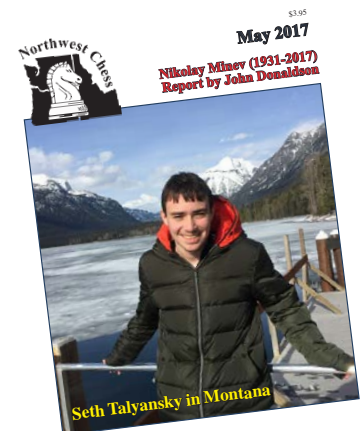
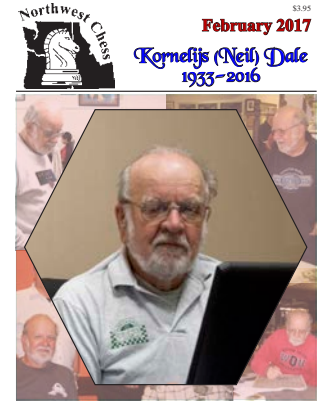
# 2017 Best State Magazine



*Happy Holidays from  
Northwest Chess!*



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







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**Northwest Chess - June 2016 to May 2017**

Chairman CJA Awards Committee



(L) James Tsai vs Kushal Pai.  
Photo credit: Brian Berger.

another nice jump in his rating, making it the seventh time in a row he has elevated his standing.

Quad 3 contained yours truly, Brian “I’m Just Glad To Be Here” Berger (1592-1571—1.0/3), who managed two draws (which means I saved my hind end twice when I should have lost), finally losing to Kushal Pai (1593-1609—2.0/3), when I failed to sidestep my king, being threatened by two connected rooks along the g-file, and protected by a pawn that was also protecting a knight, losing that knight to a classic pin when the lead rook took it sideways.

Though I had my dog Mitzi (a pure-bred Sheltie) with me, she was not the help that Morgan The Dog could have been in scouting the weakness of any given opponent, as she is only a C-player, not versed in the subtler aspects of higher play. But James Tsai (1588-1628—2.5/3) needed no additional help to win this quad, and in the process earned himself a book, \$10 discount, and enough rating points to place him at his all time high of 1628.

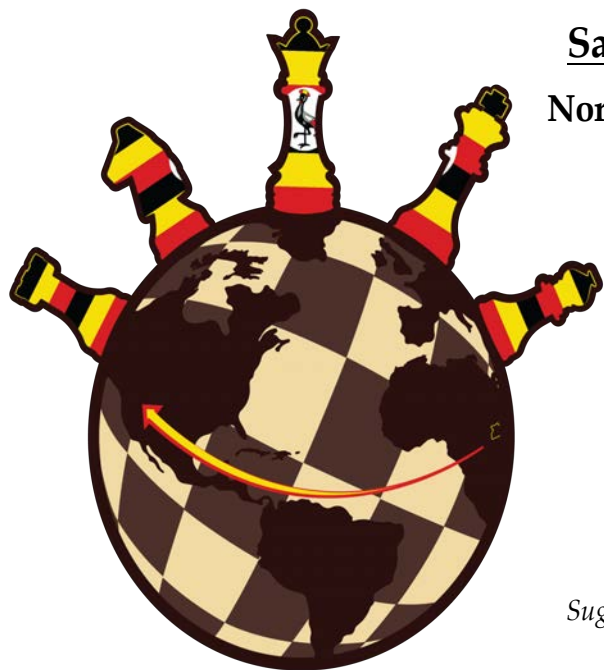
With bishops blazing, Idhant Bhat (1447-1511—2.5/3), visiting from Texas, made it a “High Noon” show-down against the sod-busters in Quad 4, leaving two of his opponents pushing up daises and the third one nursing a flesh wound.

(Continued from page 15)

The fight for first in Quad 2 ended in a tie between Ethan Wu (1914-1910—2.0/3) and Michael Moore (1735-1761—

2.0/3), where each won a selection of a chess book, a \$5 discount towards their next quads and, as scholastic players who won by at least two points, were both awarded medals. Moore also took

## 2017 National Chess Day Simul & Fundraiser



**Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup> 1:00pm - 4:30pm**

**Northwest University, Argue Health & Sciences Center**  
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*\*Subject of film, Queen of Katwe*

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Make checks payable to “The Robert Katende Initiative” or online donation: [www.robertkatende.org](http://www.robertkatende.org)



(L) Moshe Rachmuth vs Nick Raptis.  
Photo credit: Brian Berger.

Last seen, he had grabbed a small trophy, scoffed at the offer of a chess book, then saddled-up for a long ride back to his gang, located somewhere in the sagebrush strewn wilds of the Texas

Rangelands.

Winning two out of three of their games, Fedor Semenov (1424-1434—2.0/3) and Cassandra Roshu (1345-

1375—2.0/3) tied for first place in Quad 5—both players reaching his and her highest rating to date. Also, both were awarded medals for being scholastic players and given the opportunity to select a chess book and earned a \$5 discount on their next quads.

Another tie occurred in Quad 6, when David Ma (1339-1313—2.0/3) and Patrick Morrissey (1040-1112—2.0/3) each scored two points—Morrissey gaining 72-points on this rating (a new high) and also a chess book and \$5 discount against future quads. While Ma, as a scholastic player, saw a dip in rating, and declined his medal award, but did choose a book and also received his \$5 discount.

A perfect score was achieved in Quad 7 by Chad Lykins (764P-905P—3.0/3), upping his provisional rating by some 140-points, adding a chess book to his library, and earning \$10 off his next quads. While in Quad 8, the very young Henry Westlund (674-698—2.5/3) won his quad by scoring two wins and a draw, earning him a chess book and a small trophy (larger trophies are given to scholastic players for winning with a perfect score), plus a \$10 discount on a future quad.

## Washington Challenger's Cup

October 28-29, 2017

**Highest finishing Washington resident in the Open Section seeded into the 2018 Washington State Championship**

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

**Two Sections:** Open (FIDE Rated) and Reserve (under 1800).

**Open:** 4 Round Swiss. **Time Control:** 40/120, SD/30, d10.

**Reserve:** 5 Round Swiss. **Time Control:** Round 1 G/60, d10, Rounds 2-5 40/120, SD/30, d10.

US Chess October 2017 rating supplement will be used to determine pairings and prizes.

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

**Prize Fund:** \$2,500 (based on 60 paid entries).

**Open:** 1st \$600, 2nd \$400, 1st U2100 \$200, 1st U1900 \$200.

**Reserve:** 1st \$400, 2nd \$250, 1st U1600 \$150, 1st U1400 \$150, 1st U1200/Unrated \$150.

**Entry Fee:** \$75 if postmarked or online by 10/25, \$85 after 10/25 or at site. Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs.

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

**Rounds:** Open: Saturday 10:00 AM, 4:00 PM; Sunday 11:00 AM, 5:00 PM.

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

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

Request before end of round 2. US Chess and WCF/OCF/ICA memberships required, other states accepted.

Trophies Plus Grand Prix Points: 10. US Chess Junior Grand Prix event. Northwest Chess Grand Prix event. NS. NC. W.

**Info/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](mailto:danomathews01@gmail.com). **Online Registration:** [www.nwchess.com/online-registration](http://www.nwchess.com/online-registration).

# Washington Class Championships

## A NW Grand Prix Event

### November 24-26, 2017

#### \$9,000 Guaranteed Prize Fund

Entry fees listed as: Postmarked  
By Oct 29 / By Nov 19 / At site

**Master (2200+)** EF \$140 / \$150 / \$160  
Prizes \$650, \$450, \$350 U2300 \$200, \$150

**Expert (2000-2199)** EF \$130 / \$140 / \$150  
Prizes \$550, \$350, \$250, U2100 \$175, \$125

**Class A (1800-1999)** EF \$120 / \$130 / \$140  
Prizes \$400, \$250, \$175 U1900 \$125, \$100

**Class B (1600-1799)** EF \$120 / \$130 / \$140  
Prizes \$400, \$250, \$175 U1700 \$125, \$100

**Class C (1400-1599)** EF \$120 / \$130 / \$140  
Prizes \$400, \$250, \$175 U1500 \$125, \$100

**Class D (1200-1399)** EF \$120 / \$130 / \$140  
Prizes \$400, \$250, \$175 U1300 \$125, \$100

**Class E (1199 & Under)** EF \$110 / \$120 /  
\$130  
Prizes \$300, \$200, \$150, U1000 \$100,  
U800/Unrated \$100

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Top senior 50+ (each class) \$50

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Medals awarded to top two in each class.

Rated players add \$60 to play up one class  
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Phone: (425) 218-7529

E-mail: [danomathews01@gmail.com](mailto:danomathews01@gmail.com)

Joshua Sinanan

Phone: (206) 769-3757

E-mail: [wcf.tournaments@gmail.com](mailto:wcf.tournaments@gmail.com)

Make checks payable to  
Washington Chess Federation.

Embassy Suites Seattle North/Lynnwood  
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Online Registration at [www.nwchess.com/online-registration](http://www.nwchess.com/online-registration)  
Pay by credit/debit or PayPal.

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

**Rating:** US Chess rated. Master/Expert/Class A/Class B sections also FIDE rated (except G/60 games). US Chess November 2017 rating supplement will be used to determine class sections. Higher of US Chess or foreign ratings used at TD discretion. Higher of US Chess or FIDE rating used for pairings and prizes in Master, Expert, Class A, Class B sections. Foreign ratings used for players with no US Chess rating. Unrated players may only win 1st, 2nd, 3rd prizes in Master section, or unrated prize in Class E. Medal Only may not win any cash prizes.

**Registration:** Friday 9:00-10:00 AM for 3-day schedule, or 3:00-3:30 PM if entering with one half-point bye. Saturday 8:00-8:30 AM for 2-day schedule, or 8:30-9:30 AM if entering 3-day schedule with two half-point byes. Two half-point byes available at registration or before end of round 2. Play any two days, if taking two half-point byes.

**Rounds:** 3-day schedule: Fri: 11:00 AM and 5:30 PM, Sat 11:00 AM and 5:30 PM, Sun 9:30 AM and 3:30 PM. 2-day schedule: Sat 9:00 AM, 11:45 AM, 2:30 PM, then join 3-day schedule with round 4 at 5:30 PM.

**Time Controls:** 3-day schedule: 40/120 and SD/30 with 10-second delay. 2-day schedule: G/60 with 10-second delay (rounds 1-3), rounds 4-6 same as 3-day schedule. Please bring tournament chess set, board, and digital clock.

**Miscellaneous:** Current US Chess membership and WCF/OCF/ICA membership required in all sections. Other States Accepted. Memberships may be paid at time of registration. NW Grand Prix event. Trophies Plus Grand Prix Points: 30. US Chess Junior Grand Prix. No Smoking. No Computers. Wheelchair accessible.

**Hotel Info/Rates:** \$129 King, \$139 Double, single or double occupancy. Call (425) 775-2500, request the Washington Chess Federation block. Group ID: 396412. Cut-off date for reservations at the discount is November 10, 2017 at 5:00 PM PST.

**Washington Class G/10 Championship:** Fri 11/24 at 9:00 PM. Format: 5 round Swiss in one section. Registration: 8:00-8:45 PM. Rounds: 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 10:30 and 11:00 PM. TC: G/10; d0. EF: \$25. Prize Fund: \$400/b20. 1st \$130, 2nd \$90, 1st U2000 \$60, 1st U1700 \$60, 1st U1400 \$60. US Chess Quick rated. Current US Chess and WCF/OCF/ICA memberships required.

**Washington Class Blitz Championship:** Sat 11/25 at 9:00 PM. Format: 5 round Double Swiss in one section. Registration: 8:00-8:45 PM. Rounds: 9:00, 9:30, 10:00, 10:30 and 11:00 PM. TC: G/5; d0. EF: \$25. Prize Fund: \$400/b20. 1st \$130, 2nd \$90, 1st U2000 \$60, 1st U1700 \$60, 1st U1400 \$60. US Chess Blitz rated. Current US Chess and WCF/OCF/ICA memberships required.

**Washington Class G/30 Championship:** Sun 11/26 at 11:30 AM. Format: 4 round Swiss in one section. Registration: 10:30-11:15 AM. Rounds: 11:30, 1:00, 2:30 and 4:00 PM. TC: G/30; d10. EF: \$25. Prize Fund: \$400/b20. 1st \$130, 2nd \$90, 1st U2000 \$60, 1st U1700 \$60, 1st U1400 \$60. US Chess Dual rated. Current US Chess and WCF/OCF/ICA memberships required.

## A little Northwest Chess Nostalgia from 1979

Philip Peterson titled this simply, "My first Karch letter," with no further explanation. I liked the image for its historic value and the insight it gives into the way things were done way back when...

Robert Karch was editor of *Northwest Chess* for 83.75 months between January 1973 and May 1996. (Two months as co-editor which accounts for the .75.) That is the second-longest number of issues behind the all-time record-holder Daniel E. Wade who had 108 issues between August 1952 and April 1965.

For more information on Robert Karch, see this special memorial page on the *Northwest Chess* website:

[http://www.nwchess.com/articles/people/Robert\\_Karch.htm](http://www.nwchess.com/articles/people/Robert_Karch.htm)

Philip Peterson subsequently added, "the rating he is referring to is my NW rating, because at that time there was only one tournament director (James C. Little out on Mercer Island if I remember correctly) who ran US Chess rated tournaments, so virtually nobody had a US Chess membership or rating."

Thank you, Phil, for sharing this with our readers.—Editor



"My first Karch letter..." courtesy of former Northwest Chess Editor Philip Peterson.



The enclosed membership card, courtesy of Philip Peterson.

# 2017 Washington State Championship Brilliancy Prizes (Part 2 of 2)

**Judges:** Championship - IM Michael Lee; Premier - FM Curt Collyer; Invitational - Michael Hosford; Challengers - Eric Tohni

## Invitational

(Judged by Michael Hosford)

Extensive analysis was done on all five games using Komodo 10, Stockfish 8, and Houdini 5, as well as ChessBase 13 and LiveBook. Games were chosen for aesthetic and entertainment value, accuracy, effort on the part of both players, and level of complexity. All games were very interesting and the top three games were very close.

The winning game, Airapetian vs. Bishop, was chosen because of the intense theoretical battle and tactical complications. However, an honorable mention goes to the 2nd Place winner, Kuhner vs. Airapetian, for Black's stunning sacrificial kingside attack.

### First Place

Chouchanik vs. Bishop

WFM Airapetian Chouchanik (2015) – Alan Bishop (2043) [B98]

Invitational (R9), February 20, 2017

[Michael Hosford]

The following game won the Brilliancy Prize in the Invitational Section at this year's Washington State Championship. Many thanks to NM Pete Prochaska for his inspiration and assistance with analysis.

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6**

The Sicilian Najdorf.

**6.Bg5 e6 7.f4 Be7**

7...Qb6 is the Najdorf Poisoned Pawn variation.

**8.Qf3 h6 9.Bxf6?!**

A strange decision, exchanging bishop for knight at this stage, but one which certainly has been played before at master level. White prefers not to lose time in retreating, and hopes to quickly advance the g- and h-pawns for the kingside attack. However, the downside of this variation is the early ceding of the bishop pair in a semi-open position without forcing Black to pay a fair price. At best White hopes to enter less theoretical territory with equality. The main line 9.Bh4 preserves the tension, and is by far the most popular and principled continuation.

**9...Bxf6**

White has a lead in development and more space, but there are no immediate

targets to attack. Black has the dynamic advantage of the two bishops, a structural advantage in the center (d- and e-pawn duo), and targets on d4 and b2. Although the position is balanced according to Komodo, GM Daniel King says that Black is just better.

**10.0–0–0 Qb6**

Developing the Queen with tempo on d4, an improvement over the Airapetian-Moroney game in Round seven where Black chose 10...Nd7 instead. The natural 10...Nc6?? loses immediately to 11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.e5+—

**11.Nb3 Nd7?!**



Position after 11...Nd7

There is a subtle problem with this move order. ♖11...Qc7! Repositioning the queen to a somewhat safer square where it pressures targets on the c-file, controls e5, and prepares the important ...b7-b5 advance.

**12.Be2**

Connecting the rooks and completing development, but missing an opportunity. White has a far more crafty continuation with 12.Nd2! Now Black's position is suddenly a bit awkward, as the unrestrained horse is jumping to c4. For example, after 12...Qc7 13.Nc4 Be7 14.Qd3± there is no effective way to save the d-pawn.

**12...Qc7 13.Qd3 Be7 14.Bf3 Nb6**

Black wants to go ... Nc4 and ...b7-b5, expanding on the queenside.

**15.f5?!**

This impatient push weakens e5 and allows Black tactical opportunities on the dark squares. 15.Kb1 is a flexible waiting move that secures the King.

**15...0–0**

Castling into the storm, but there are tactical nuances which make it difficult for White to simply blast open the kingside and force checkmate.

**16.g4 Nc4 17.h4 b5**

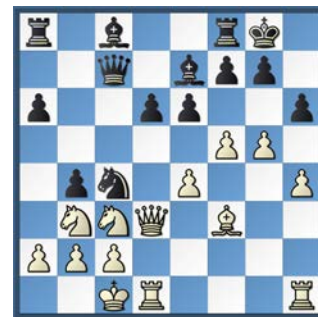


Position after 17...b5

**18.g5?**

Seemingly correct. However, White's pieces are not yet in position to support a breakthrough on the kingside. Instead, the engines prefer the patient 18.a3!? controlling b4. Black improves the KB with 18...Bf6 and only now 19.g5! gaining a tempo on f6, followed by 19...Be5∞ and the position is very tense for both sides.

**18...b4!↑**



Position after 18...b4

Black should not get overly optimistic with 18...hxg5? 19.hxg5 Bxg5+ 20.Kb1 Ne5 because White has 21.Qe2± with the idea of Qh2 doubling majors, since Black is weak on the h-file.

**19.Ne2**

Best under the circumstances according to Stockfish. With the Knight on e2, the White Queen is temporarily blocked from easily maneuvering to the kingside, buying Black some precious tempi on the queenside. Of course 19.Na4?? drops material after 19...Bd7+; Komodo and Houdini prefer 19.Nb1±; The counter-punching 19.f6!? is possible, but after 19...Ne5 20.Qe3 gxf6! 21.Rdg1 Kh7 22.Ne2 Bb7± Black has compete development, two bishops, a killer knight on e5, and a relatively safe king (at least for the moment).

**19...hxg5**

[Diagram top of next page]



Position after 19...hxg5

### 20.Rdg1

Aiming the final rook and tempting Black to win a pawn, which of course would be a bad idea. On 20.hxg5!? opening the h-file, Black has the surface-level tactic of 20...Bxg5+ 21.Kb1 Ne5 and it appears White is dropping a piece. However, the position is not that simple. 22.Qd4 Nxf3 23.Qf2 Ne5 and now 24.f6!! ⇒ Black's kingside is under serious pressure. For example, after 24...Bxf6?? 25.Qh2 Bh4 26.Qxh4 f6 27.Rdg1! Kf7 White has the crushing 28.Rxg7+! and Black can resign.

### 20...g4

The magical Houdini loves this move, keeping things under control on the kingside with a tempo hit on the Bishop.

### 21.Bxg4

The preferred 21.Rxg4?? (trying to double Rooks) runs into 21...Ne5+

### 21...Bf6

Threatening b2.

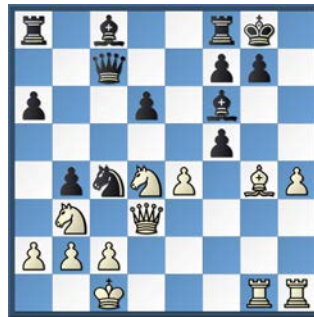
### 22.Ned4?

The wrong knight blocks on d4. This is the tipping point in the struggle, and White does not recover from this point forward. 22.Nbd4 In this position Black has some advantage because of the two bishops and pressure on the dark squares, but White can still try to attack the kingside.

### 22...exf5

[Diagram top of next column]

White has the choice of three recaptures, but only one is correct. Stockfish,



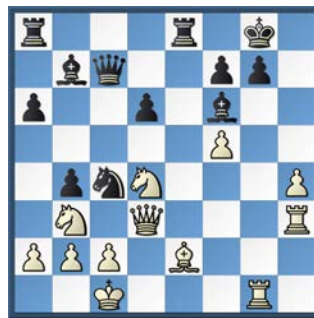
Position after 22...exf5

Komodo, and Houdini all recommend instead 22...a5!↑ ratcheting up the pressure on the queenside, with Black's attack coming much faster than White's.

### 23.exf5?

Mistakes come in pairs! Required is 23.Bxf5 but here Black has 23...Bxf5 24.exf5 d5!± securing the c4-knight outpost and preparing ...Qf4, a useful check that improves the position of the black queen for both attack and defense. For example, 25.h5 Qf4+ 26.Kb1 Qh6! blunting White's kingside attack with a more active position. The Bishop exerts tremendous pressure on the dark squares and the knight on c4 is a beast, ready to sacrifice at any moment. The f8-rook will swing over to the queenside combined with the march of the a6-pawn. Komodo gives Black a clear advantage at nearly -1.50 evaluation.

### 23...Bb7± 24.Rh3 Rfe8 25.Be2



Position after 25.Be2

### 25...Bd5?

This protecting move allows White a free tempo on the kingside. Much better is

25...d5!± with the idea of ...Qf4 check and ... Qh6 (see analysis to White's Move 23). Attempting to stop ...Qf4 with 26.Qf3?? is a catastrophic tactical oversight on account of 26...Re3 27.Qg4 Rxh3 28.Qxh3 Bxd4 29.Nxd4 Qf4+ 30.Kb1 Qxd4+

### 26.h5∞



Position after 26.h5

Now the situation has changed somewhat. White has gained time on the kingside and is ready for h5-h6, cracking open the g and h files for the attack. The position is more dynamically balanced at this point.

### 26...Kf8?

Another misstep, but hard to criticize. It's natural to move the king off line of the heavy artillery, but in this situation White is handed yet another tempo to advance the kingside initiative. Perhaps better is 26...Ne5!∞; It should be noted that 26...a5?? is too slow and allows White to strike first with 27.h6 with a crushing attack! 27...Kf8 (Black loses even faster after 27...a4 28.hxg7 Bxg7 29.f6+-) 28.hxg7+ Instead, it's "Run, Forrest, Run!" with 28...Ke7 (Black can forget about 28...Bxg7 on account of 29.Rxg7 Kxg7 30.Qg3+ Kf6 (30...Kf8 31.f6+-) 31.Qh4+ Ke5+- and for sure Black is getting mated.) 29.Re3+! White is going to queen the g-pawn. 29...Nxe3 30.Qxe3+ Kd7 (30...Kd8 31.g8Q+-) 31.Bb5+-

### 27.Rhg3

[Diagram top of next page]

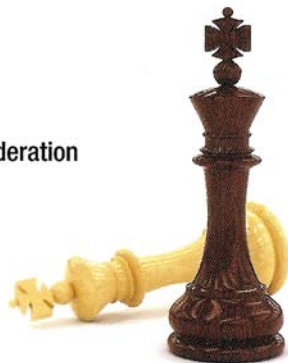
Building the attack by creating a battery on the g-file is the principled continuation, but is there something sharper to exploit

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Position after 27.Rhg3

Black's last two moves? Not surprisingly, the key move is 27.h6! threatening to rip open the kingside. 27...gxf6 28.Rxf6 However, deep calculation is required because Black has 28...Re3 29.Qd1 followed by the crazy 29...Nxb2! and the position becomes tactically unwieldy for both sides. White cannot accept the piece sac 30.Kxb2?? on account of a surprising combination (White should continue 30.Qd2 with multiple threats on b2, e3, and f6. Black must play 30...Bxd4 temporarily guarding the hanging targets on b2 and e3, but now comes the stunning 31.Rg8+!! Ke7 (Absolutely not 31...Kxg8?? 32.Qxd4+- and White's centralized Queen threatens everything!) 32.Rxa8 Bxa8 followed by another important move 33.f6+!± maintaining the initiative.) 30...Rxb3+!! 31.axb3 Qc3+- and White is getting smashed on the dark squares.

### 27...Nxb2!

The engines prefer to keep building pressure with 27...Rac8 but after 28.h6 Stockfish offers the following line where both players spin into the abyss. 28...gxf6 29.Ne6+!! Rxe6!! 30.fxe6 Bxb2+ 31.Kd1 White wants to avoid the ...Na3 check. 31...Bxe6 32.Nd4! Threatening Nxe6 followed by Rg8+ with a winning position. 32...Bxd4 33.Qxd4∞ Black has a knight and three split pawns versus a rook.

### 28.Kxb2 Bxb3 29.axb3 Rxe2 30.Qxe2 Bxd4+ 31.Kb1??

Sadly, White misses the final chance to save the game. 31.Kc1 Bxg1 32.Rxg1= Black is up a pawn, but it probably doesn't

mean much here.

### 31...Qa5

Threatening mate on a1 and the pawn on f5.

### 32.c3 Qxf5+ 33.Ka2 Qa5+ 34.Kb1 Qf5+ 35.Ka2 Qa5+ 36.Kb1 bxc3!

Creating a dangerous passer on c3.

### 37.Rd1 c2+!!

A nice pawn sac combination to secure a winning endgame.

### 38.Kxc2



Position after 38.Kxc2

### 38...Qa2+

38...Rc8+! with a faster win, which apparently was the intended move in the position. However, time was a factor and Black touched the queen.

### 39.Kd3 Qxb3+ 40.Kxd4 Qxg3 41.Re1 Qe5+

Entering a very simple rook ending where Black wins easily.

### 42.Qxe5 dxe5+ 43.Rxe5 a5 44.Kc3 a4 45.Kb2 a3+ 46.Ka2 Ra6 47.Re4 Ra5 48.Rh4 f5 49.h6 gxf6 50.Rxf6 Kg7 51.Rh1 Kf6 52.Rf1 Ke5 53.Re1+ Kd4 54.Re8 f4 55.Rf8 Ke3 56.Re8+ Kf2 0-1

In light of the next game, this was a tough decision. But a brilliancy is more than simply a quick crush. In this game we see masterful opening preparation, tactical accuracy, two strong tacticians battling on opposite wings, an intense struggle for the initiative, and a much longer game where both players give it 100 percent, but one player comes out on top.

What I appreciate about this game is how Black carefully studied an earlier game in the event where White used the same opening variation and simply improved on the analysis. There were several key moments in this game worth noting.

1) The brave decision to deviate from the main line with the less popular 9.Bxf6, instead of the more principled and far more common 9.Bh4. It seems as if the price Black pays for the bishop pair (slight lag in development) is not high enough.

2) White missed 12.Nd2!, and Black would have been on the defensive.

3) Black's accurate handling of White's imposing kingside pawn storm by counter-attacking on the opposite wing with the key move 18...b4!, grabbing the initiative.

4) Move 20...g4!, trying to keep lines closed on the kingside with tempo on the Bishop.

5) Interesting was how Black's sham sacrifice 27...Nxb2!? only wins a pawn with best play.

There is much more to this game, but there is neither the time nor space to include it here. But suffice to say, this game was amazing and worthy of first place and the Gold Medal.

## Second Place

### Kuhner vs. Airapetian

This game was a tactical blowout. White played an opening setup known to give Black instant equality. The fireworks came after White weakened the dark squares with 9.d5, creating a passed pawn, which according to the engines was not a mistake, and analysis showed that Black did not have a forced win. White could have defended more accurately with 13.Na3, pressuring the c4-pawn. Instead, White weakened with 13.h3?, basically sending Black an invitation to invade on the kingside. Black's moment of brilliance was the beautiful 15...N6g4!!, a pure piece sac to expose the White

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King to a vicious and nearly unstoppable attack. The final Rook sacrifice on h3 at the end was simple combinative play to force checkmate.

This “art of attack” brilliancy earns second place and the Silver Medal.

**Mary Kuhner –**

**Airapetian Chouchanik [B07]**

Invitational (R6), February 18, 2017

1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Bd3 e5 4.c3 Be7 5.f4 0-0 6.Nf3 Nbd7 7.0-0 c5 8.fxe5 dxe5 9.d5 c4 10.Bc2 Bc5+ 11.Kh1 Ng4 12.Qe2 Qb6 13.h3 Nf2+ 14.Kh2 Nf6 15.Na3



Position after 15.Na3

15...N6g4+ 16.hxg4 Nxc4+ 17.Kh1 f5 18.Nh2 Nxc2 19.Kxh2 f4 20.Rf3 Rf6 21.Nxc4 Rh6+ 22.Rh3 Bxh3 23.gxh3 Rxh3+ 24.Kxh3 Qh6+ 25.Kg2 Qg5+ 0-1

### Third Place

**Moroney vs. Arganian**

This game was not flashy, but rather a technically accurate positional masterpiece. White plays incredibly solid and without risk, patiently waiting for the optimum moment to strike. Inaccuracies by both players were minimized, making this game more enjoyable to replay. Although White seemed to have a slight initiative, Black definitely fought hard, making for a very interesting positional struggle.

Maneuvers were made and pieces were exchanged, but the brilliant moment for White came in the endgame with 45.h5!!, an interesting pawn sacrifice to play for the win. If Black declined the sac, his king would have been forced back to

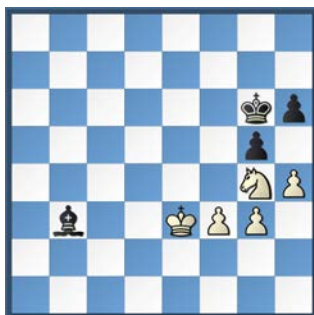
the seventh to guard h6. If Black accepted, then his King would be trapped in a box. Black played correctly and accepted the pawn sacrifice and maintained drawing chances. However, Black eventually cracked and blundered with 47...g4?!, giving White the chance for a picturesque finale.

This positional gem earns the Bronze Medal brilliancy award for the Invitational.

**Tim Moroney –**  
**David Arganian [B51]**

Invitational (R1), February 11, 2017

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bb5+ Nd7 4.d4 cxd4 5.Qxd4 Ngf6 6.Bg5 e5 7.Qd3 a6 8.Bxd7+ Bxd7 9.c4 Be6 10.Nc3 Be7 11.0-0 0-0 12.Rfd1 Qc7 13.b3 Rfd8 14.Rac1 Rac8 15.Nd2 Ng4 16.Bxe7 Qxe7 17.f3 Nh6 18.Nf1 f5 19.Ne3 fxe4 20.Nxe4 Nf5 21.Nxf5 Bxf5 22.Qe3 b5 23.cxb5 d5 24.Ng3 Bc2 25.Re1 d4 26.Qxe5 Qxe5 27.Rxe5 d3 28.Ne4 axb5 29.Nd2 b4 30.Re4 Re8 31.Rce1 Rxe4 32.Rxe4 Ra8 33.Rxb4 Rxa2 34.Rd4 Ra1+ 35.Kf2 Rd1 36.Nc4 Bxb3 37.Ne5 h6 38.Rxd3 Rxd3 39.Nxd3 Kf7 40.Ke3 g5 41.g3 Kf6 42.h4 Kg6 43.Ne5+ Kf6 44.Ng4+ Kg6



Position after 44...Kg6

45.h5+ Kxh5 46.Ne5 Bd1 47.Kf2 g4 48.f4 Bc2 49.Ke3 Bf5 50.Kd4 Be6 51.Kc5 Bf5 52.Kd6 Be6 53.Ke7 Bf5 54.Kf6 Bd7 55.Ng6 Bf5 56.Ne7 Be6 57.Kg7 Bf7 58.Nf5 Bg6 59.Nxh6 Bf5 60.Ng8 1-0

### Fourth Place

**Arganian vs. Zhang**

An even more compelling example of two players going for the kill was this

Round four game between two experts, David Arganian and Eric Zhang. The opening was a Sicilian Wing Gambit (declined), although obviously misplayed by Black. As the game unfolded, White did not find the optimal method of exploiting the opening errors (White missed a key idea, 11.c4! +/-) and allowed the second player enough time to set up a sturdy defense.

By this point the opening had morphed into a French Wing Gambit structure, minus the “gambit”, since White ended up not sacrificing a pawn. This fact possibly lulled White into a false sense of security, since Black had no pressure on d4 and the White pieces looked ready to pounce on the kingside (Bxh7+ was a possible idea in some lines). However, after Black had played 14...f6!, White should have played more conservatively with 15.exf6 to achieve a slight advantage with pressure down the e-file. Instead, White underestimated Black’s pressure on e5 and played for a more direct kingside attack with 15.h4?!, at which point Black, on principle, counter-attacked in the center by opening the f-file, followed by the powerful exchange sacrifice 16...Rxf3!!, stealing the show. This was without question the correct decision, as White’s position became immediately disjointed with weaknesses on both wings, compelling the first player to sacrifice back the exchange to stabilize the endgame and create some targets. With aggressive play, White clawed his way back into the game, but unfortunately missed a winning tactic (39.g4! +/-).

This intense, back-and-forth game eventually ended in a draw, and earns fourth place.

**David Arganian –**  
**Eric Zhang [B20]**

Invitational (R4), February 12, 2017

1.e4 c5 2.b4 e6 3.bxc5 Bxc5 4.d4 Be7 5.Nf3 Nf6 6.Bd3 0-0 7.0-0 d5 8.e5 Nfd7 9.Ba3 b6 10.Bxe7 Qxe7 11.Qe2 Nc6 12.c3 Bb7 13.a4 Rac8 14.Na3 f6 15.h4 fxe5 16.dxe5

[Diagram top of next page]



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Position after 16.dxe5

16...Rxf3 17.Qxf3 Nxe5 18.Qg3 Nxd3 19.Qxd3 Nc5 20.Qh3 Ne4 21.Nb5 Ba6 22.Rfe1 Bxb5 23.Rxe4 dxe4 24.axb5 Rc5 25.Qg4 Rxb5 26.Qxe4 a5 27.Qa8+ Kf7 28.Rd1 Rc5 29.Rd3 Rf5 30.Qc8 Qc5 31.Qd7+ Kf6 32.Qd8+ Kf7 33.Rd7+ Kg6 34.Qe8+ Kh6 35.Qxe6+ Rf6 36.Qe1 Qf5 37.Re7 Qf4 38.Re4 Qd6 39.Qe2 Kg6 40.Qg4+ Kf7 41.Rd4 Qe6 42.Qh5+ Rg6 43.Qf3+ 1/2-1/2

### Fifth Place

#### Kuhner vs. Olson

Both sides blazed their own trails in the opening phase, resulting in White's rather innocuous Stonewall setup versus Black's flexible double fianchetto defense, which was more than adequate to prevent White from gaining any sort of advantage. Black's 11...c5! was a very accurate and well-timed pawn break in the center, followed by both sides establishing their respective Knight outposts on e4 and e5. Komodo 10 gave mostly equality the whole way until White played the passive 12.Bc2?!, which allowed Black to force a slightly better middlegame position with a bit more space. As Black began to gain a positional foothold, White expanded with the move 14.b4!?, trying to generate some queenside play. At this point Black improved the placement of his QB, followed by setting up a creative exchange sacrifice idea, unbalancing the position by shattering White's central pawn structure, which in turn gave Black a powerful King Bishop and excellent play on the dark squares.

Although the engines did not quite agree, the exchange sac 19...Rxc5!! really put White on tilt. The entire game went into a tailspin and it truly was a battle to the finish, with Black owning the initiative and White hanging on, desperately trying to avoid getting crushed. Unfortunately, Black missed some key winning lines, giving White additional chances to hold, and the game ended fairly in a draw, probably due to sheer exhaustion and/or time pressure on the part of both players.

This exciting first round draw earns fifth place.

### Mary Kuhner – Travis Olson [A45]

Invitational (R1), February 11, 2017

1.f4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.e3 Bg7 4.d4 b6 5.Bd3 Bb7 6.0-0 0-0 7.Nbd2 c5 8.c3 d5 9.Ne5 Nbd7 10.Qe1 Ne4 11.Nxe4 dxe4 12.Bc2 Nxe5 13.fxe5 f5 14.b4 Ba6 15.Rf2 Bd3 16.bxc5 bxc5 17.Ba3 Rc8 18.Bxd3 exd3 19.Bxc5



Position after 19.Bxc5

19...Rxc5 20.dxc5 Bxe5 21.Rb1 Qa5 22.Rb3 Qxc5 23.g3 Bg7 24.Qd2 Rd8 25.Rf1 e5 26.Rfb1 e4 27.Rb8 Rc8 28.Rxc8+ Qxc8 29.Rb3 Be5 30.Kf2 Qc5 31.Kg2 g5 32.Kf1 Qc7 33.Qe1 Qc4 34.Kg2 Qd5 35.Rb2 f4 36.gxf4 gxf4 37.Kg1 f3 38.Qd2 Qd7 39.Kh1 Qh3 40.Rb1 Kf8 41.Rg1 Qc8 42.Rc1 Qf5 43.Rf1 Qf6 44.c4 Bc3 45.Qf2 d2 46.Qg3 Be5 47.Qf2 Qd6 48.Rd1 Bc3 49.Qh4 Qe7 50.Qf4+ Ke8 51.Qb8+ Qd8 52.Qb5+ Qd7 53.Qh5+ Kd8 54.Qg5+ Kc8 55.Qc5+ Kd8 56.Qg5+ Kc8 57.Qc5+ Kd8 58.Qg5+ 1/2-1/2

## Challengers

(Judged by Eric Tohni)

Here are my results and rankings.

### 1. Vijayakumar - Alhuwalia, 1-0

Advaith Vijayakumar – Anshul Ahluwalia [E11]

Challengers (R1), February 11, 2017  
[Eric Tohni]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 Bb4+ 4.Bd2 a5 5.a3 Bxd2+ 6.Qxd2 b6 7.Nc3 Bb7 8.g3 0-0 9.Bg2 d6 10.0-0 Nbd7 11.Qc2 Qe7 12.e4 e5 13.d5 Nc5?!

Loses a tempo.

14.b4 axb4 15.axb4 Ncd7 16.Nb5 c5 17.dxc6!

Isolating the weakness on d6.

17...Bxc6 18.Nc3 Rfc8 19.Rfd1 Bb7 20.Nd2 Nf8 21.Nd5!? Nxd5 22.exd5 b5?

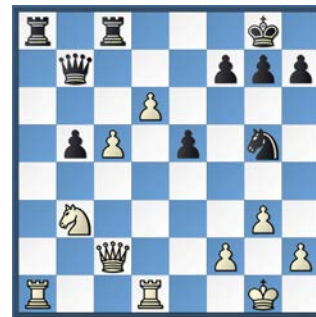
Underestimating the strength of White's pawn center. 22...Nd7, to prevent the c5 advance, was necessary.

23.c5! dxc5 24.d6!

The point of 23. c5! — White has time to

advance his pawns.

24...Qd7 25.Bxb7 Qxb7 26.bxc5 Ne6 27.Nb3 Ng5



Position after 27...Ng5

28.c6!

Well timed. Any pawn capture loses due to the threats of d7-d8 combined with back rank mate.

28...Rxc6 29.Rxa8+ Qxa8 30.d7 Rd6 31.Qc8+ 1-0

### 2. Deng - Xuan, 1-0

Samuel Deng – Xuan Owen [E10]

Challengers (R7), February 19, 2017  
[Eric Tohni]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 Nc6 3.Nf3 e6 4.a3 g6 5.Nc3 Bg7 6.e4 d6 7.Be2 0-0 8.Be3 Re8 9.0-0 e5

The position resembles a KID with White having the extra move a3 inserted.

10.d5 Ne7?!

The usual maneuver in the Black Knights' Tango, but the knight lacks scope here. 10...Nd4 is the book move, as after 11.Nxd4 exd4 12.Bxd4 Nxe4 13.Bxg7 Kxg7 14.Nxe4 Rxe4=

11.Ne1 Nd7 12.f3 f5 13.g4 f4 14.Bf2 Kh8 15.b4 h6 16.c5 Nf6 17.b5 Rg8 18.a4 h5

Black is trying to have a pawn race, but he has already given up three tempi to reach his setup (e6-e5, Re8-Rg8, h6-h5).

19.h3 Nh7 20.Kg2 Bf6



Position after 20...Bf6

21.a5

White's pawn roller creates major pressure.

21...Kg7 22.Nd3 Rh8 23.Rh1 Ng5 24.b6 dxe5 25.bxc7 Qxc7 26.Nxc5 Qd8

It's very hard to find a constructive plan for Black.

27.d6 hgx4 28.fgx4 f3+ 29.Bxf3 Nxf3 30.dxe7 Qxd1 31.Raxd1 Ng5 32.Nd5 Be6 33.h4 Bxd5 34.hgx5 1-0

### 3. Xuan - Vijayakumar, 0-1

Owen Xuan –

Advaith Vijayakumar [C06]

Challengers (R8), February 19, 2017

[Eric Tohni]

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 Nf6 4.e5 Nfd7 5.c3 c5 6.Bd3 Nc6 7.Ngf3 Qb6 8.Qb3

The doubled pawns are good for Black.

8...Qxb3 9.axb3

9.Nxb3 c4+

9...cxd4

Isolating White's b-pawns.

10.cxd4 Be7 11.0-0 0-0 12.Nb1 f6 13.Re1 Nb4

The doubled pawns weaken b4.

14.Rd1 fxe5 15.Nxe5 Nxe5 16.dxe5 Bc5 17.Be3

White defends f2, but further weakens his pawn structure.

17...Bxe3 18.fxe3 Nc6 19.e4 Nxe5 20.exd5 exd5 21.Nc3 d4 22.Nb5?



Position after 22.Nb5

Black to play and win.

22...Bg4! 23.Rd2 Nxd3

White has lost a piece due to 24. Rxd3 Be2.

24.Nc7 Rac8 25.Nd5 Rc1+ 26.Rxc1 Nxc1 27.h3 Be6 28.Nc7 Nxb3 29.Re2 Bc4 30.Re1 Nd2 31.Kh2 Rf2 32.Kg3 Re2 33.Rd1 Bb3 34.Rc1 Nc4 35.Nb5 Rxb2 36.Nxd4 a5 37.Kf4 Nb6 38.Re1 a4 39.Nf5 a3 40.h4 a2 41.h5 Nd5+ 42.Kf3 Nf6 43.Nd6 Rb1 44.Re7 a1Q 0-1

### 4. Anand - Deng, 0-1

Vignesh Anand –

Samuel Deng [E13]

Challengers (R3), February 12, 2017

[Eric Tohni]

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.d4 e6 3.c4 b6 4.Nc3 Bb4 5.Bg5 Bb7 6.e3 h6 7.Bh4 g5 8.Bg3 Ne4 9.a3 Bxc3+ 10.bxc3 Nxc3 11.hxg3 d6 12.Rh5 Qf6 13.Nh2 Nd7 14.Bd3 Qg7 15.Nf3 0-0-0 16.Qa4 Kb8 17.Ke2 f5 18.Rhh1 Rhf8 19.Rab1 e5 20.Nd2 Bxg2 21.Rhg1 Bb7 22.Nb3 c5 23.Qb5 Rc8 24.Na5 Ba8 25.d5 e4 26.Bc2



Position after 26.Bc2

26...Ne5

Black has achieved the more promising position.

27.Rh1 Rf6 28.Qa6 Bb7 29.Nxb7 Qxb7 30.Qb5

The endgame would be slightly worse for White due to the weakness of c4.

30...Qd7 31.Qa6 Qb7 32.Qb5 Qd7 33.Qa6 Rc7

Black correctly declines a repetition.

34.a4 Rb7 35.a5 Kc7?!



Position after 35...Kc7

Allows White an incredible opportunity.

36.axb6+?!

36.Ba4!! activates the Bishop, the Rb2 and Rhb1 to follow. The Bishop is protected because 36...Qxa4? 37.axb6+ axb6 38.Qxa4+

36...axb6 37.Rb2 f4!

Black has activated all his pieces and the end is swift.

38.exf4 Qg4+! 39.Kd2 gxf4 40.Rhb1 e3+! 41.Ke1 Nf3+ 42.Kd1 Nd2+ 43.Kc1 Nxb1 44.Rxb1 exf2 45.Kd2 f3 46.Rxb6 Qf4+ 47.Ke2 f1Q# 0-1

### 5. Seshadri - Majahan, 0-1

Sridhar Seshadri –

Rushaan Mahajan [A50]

Challengers (R9), February 20, 2017

[Eric Tohni]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 Nc6 3.Nc3 e5 4.d5 Ne7 5.e4 Ng6 6.a3 a5 7.Nf3 Bc5 8.h3 0-0 9.Bd3 d6 10.Bd2 Bd7 11.a4 Nh5!

A typical maneuver in the Black Knights' Tango. The Knight on h5 is indirectly protected because of 12. Nxe5 Nxe5 13. Qxh5 Nxd3+.

12.Ne2 h6 13.Qc2 Qf6 14.Qc1



Position after 14.Qc1

14...Nh4!

Black is already winning a pawn.

15.Nxh4 Qxf2+ 16.Kd1 Qxh4 17.Kc2 Kh7?!

17...f5 is stronger.

18.b3?!

18.g4! forces the knight to retreat, as after 18...Ng3 19. Qe1 wins the knight. 18... Ng3

18...Qf2 19.g4 Ng3 20.Nxg3 Qxg3 21.Qe1 Qxe1 22.Raxe1 g6 23.Re1 Kg7 24.Rf3 c6 25.Rhf1 cxd5 26.cxd5 f6 27.Kb2 Bd4+ 28.Ka2 b6 29.Bc4 Rac8 30.Be3? Bxe3 31.Rxe3



Position after 31.Rxe3

31...Bxa4! 32.Ba6 Ra8 33.Bb7 Rab8 34.Bc6 Bxc6 35.dxc6

And Black smoothly converts his two extra pawns.

35...Rbc8 36.Rc3 Kf7 37.c7 Ke6 38.Rc6 Rf7 39.Rd1 Rd7 40.Rdc1 b5 41.Ka3 f5 42.gxf5+ gxf5 43.exf5+ Kxf5 44.R1c2 e4 45.Kb2 Kf4 46.Kc1 b4 47.Kd1 Kf3 48.h4 e3 49.Ke1 Rg7 50.Kf1 Rcg8 0-1

# The 2017 Neil Dale Memorial Northwest Chess Grand Prix

Murlin Varner, Administrator

mevjr54@outlook.com

Last month, I was bemoaning the lack of any players with 100 or more points. I am happy to announce that we now have three. **Joseph Frantz** of Washington has exactly 100 and **Jason Cigan** of Oregon has 104. Topping everyone else is Washington's **August Piper** with 104.5. The number of players over 100 should increase dramatically as August had two multiplier events, the Vancouver Open (3x), at which I am writing this column, and the Seattle Chess Classic (5x), which I hope to attend, time willing.

September will continue the point explosion as it is bookended with multiplier events. On the first weekend, we have the traditional Oregon Open in Portland, with a whopping 6x multiplier, owing to its guaranteed prize fund of \$10,000! The final weekend of September will offer the Eastern Washington Open in Spokane with a 2x multiplier. In between there are five additional events, two each in Seattle and Portland and the Eastern Idaho Open in Pocatello.

It is always nice to improve by a rating class, especially when that improves your Grand Prix status. In Oregon, **William Holloran, III** moved up to Class A and right into second place. **Joseph Truelson** of Washington accomplished a similar feat, taking over second place among the Experts. Of course, sometimes the opposite can occur, as was the case with **Melina Li** who went from first in Washington's Class D to third in Class C. Altogether four contests have new leaders, in Idaho's Master/Expert/Class A and Class B, and in Washington's Class A and Class D. Check the standings below to find out who these new leaders are.

Piper is still the most active player in the Grand Prix, having participated in 19 events through July. Close behind are a pair of Oregonians, **Brian Berger** with 17 and **Abbie Wu** with 16. Through the end of July a total of 597 people had entered one or more Grand Prix events, with 88 from Idaho, 136 from Oregon, 341 from Washington, and 32 from places beyond, one as far away as Denmark.

There really are no insurmountable leads in the Grand Prix at this time. Anyone with a will and a lot of free weekends could easily make a charge on the leaders. Why not be one of them?

All data below is current through July 31.

## Northwest Grand Prix Standings

Idaho			Oregon			Washington		
last	first	pts.	last	first	pts.	last	first	pts.
<b>Masters</b>								
			1 Cigan	Jason D	104	1 Pupols	Viktors	91.5
			2 Zavortink	Matt	73	2 Perez	Ignacio	62.5
			3 Breckenridge	Steven J	60	3 Bragg	David R	42.5
			4 Haessler	Carl A	36.5	4 Orlov	Georgi	40
			5 Russell	Corey J	13	5 Xie	Luke B	37.5
<b>Experts</b>								
			1 Rachmuth	Moshe S	55	1 Yu	Jason	91
			2 Gatica	Jose M	34.5	2 Truelson	Joseph	70.5
			3 Roring	Tres	33	3 Zhang	Brendan	64.5
			4 Seitzer	Phillip	30.5	4 Bashkansky	Naomi	62.5
			5 McCoy	Owen	27.5	5 Ramasamy	Vikram	59.5
<b>Class A</b>								
			1 Vega	Isaac	61	1 Frantz	Joseph K	100
			2 Holloran	William T, III	43.5	2 Jiang	Brandon	97
			3 Wu	Ethan	41.5	3 Xuan	Owen	92.5
			4 Zhang	Gavin	38	4 Levine	Joseph R	87
			5 Two Tied At		30	5 Shubin	Daniel	78
<b>M/X/Class A</b>								
1 Inman	James	34						
2 Cambareri	Michael E	32						
3 Havrilla	Mark A	28						
4 Maki	James J	26						
5 Buus	Jarod N	24						
<b>Class B</b>								
1 Machin	Alex J	20.5						
2 Martonick	Nick	18						
3 Xu	Kevin	13						
4 Derryberry	Dewayne R	10.5						
5 Roland	Jeffrey T	8.5						

Idaho			Oregon			Washington					
last	first	pts.	last	first	pts.	last	first	pts.			
<b>Class C</b>			<b>Class B</b>								
1	Geyman	Jonathan P	25.5	1	Berger	Brian F	76.5	1	Kirsch	Ronald B	97.5
2	Weyland	Ron	25	2	Moore	Michael	70	2	Tien	Sophie J	75.5
3	Wei	James	20.5	3	Feldman	Konner	50.5	3	Beck	Alec W	70
4	Machakos	Seth D	15.5	4	Nair	Roshen S	48.5	4	Reeves	Jasen	66.5
4	Jaroski	Jeffrey A	15.5	5	Pai	Kushal	45.5	5	Oliver	George	66
<b>Class D</b>			<b>Class C</b>								
1	Merry	William A F	20	1	Wu	Abbie	98.5	1	Piper	August	104.5
2	Liu	James	14	2	Tang	Zoey	74	2	Tien	Andy C	81.5
3	Lange	Brian	12.5	3	Fudalla	Ian	53.5	3	Li	Melina	80
4	Bian	Raymond B	8	4	Dietz	Arliss	32	4	Richards	Jerrold	79.5
4	Majid	Nishatul	8	5	Kenway	Geoffrey W	23.5	5	Christy	John P	77
<b>Class E and Below</b>			<b>Class D and Below</b>								
1	Callen	Gregory D	17	1	Tang	Austin	66	1	Gupta	Anand	66.5
2	Kitterman	Andrew N	14	2	Zhang	Ethan Y	44.5	2	Hotani	Kabir	59.5
3	Belew	Finn C	8	3	Beauchet	Pierre-Hadrien	42	3	Ruff	Lois	57
3	Porth	Darwin A	8	4	Wu	Kevin	36.5	4	Dunbar	Jason R	53
5	Three Tied At		7	5	Two Tied At		35	5	Min	Ryan	48
<b>Overall Leaders, by State</b>											
1	Inman	James	34	1	Cigan	Jason D	104	1	Piper	August	104.5
2	Cambareri	Michael E	32	2	Wu	Abbie	98.5	2	Frantz	Joseph K	100
3	Havrilla	Mark A	28	3	Berger	Brian F	76.5	3	Kirsch	Ronald B	97.5
4	Maki	James J	26	4	Tang	Zoey	74	4	Jiang	Brandon	97
5	Geyman	Jonathan P	25.5	5	Zavortink	Matt	73	5	Xuan	Owen	92.5
6	Weyland	Ron	25	6	Moore	Michael	70	6	Pupols	Viktors	91.5
7	Buus	Jarod N	24	7	Tang	Austin	66	7	Yu	Jason	91
8	Machin	Alex J	20.5	8	Vega	Isaac	61	8	Levine	Joseph R	87
8	Wei	James	20.5	9	Breckenridge	Steven J	60	9	Tien	Andy C	81.5
10	Roberts	Joseph D	20	10	Rachmuth	Moshe S	55	10	Li	Melina	80
10	Merry	William A F	20	11	Fudalla	Ian	53.5	11	Richards	Jerrold	79.5
12	Martonick	Nick	18	12	Feldman	Konner	50.5	12	Shubin	Daniel	78

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# Seattle Chess Club Tournaments

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☞Sept 10, Oct 8 Sunday Tornado☞  
**Format:** 4-SS. **TC:** G/60; d5. **EF:** \$18 (+\$7 fee for non-SCC). **Prizes:** 1st 35%, 2nd 27%, Bottom Half 1st 22%, 2nd 16% (\$10 from each EF goes to prize fund).  
**Reg:** 10:30-11:15 a.m. **Rds:** 11:30-1:50-4:10-6:30. **Byes:** 1 (Rd 3/4—commit at reg.). **Misc:** US Chess, WCF/OCF/ICA memb. req'd, OSA. NS, NC.

☞Sept 16, Oct 21 New Date Saturday Quads☞  
**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.

**October 13-15 SCC Team in Reno!!**  
**Join** the SCC Team(s) in Reno at the **Western States Open**. We will be competing against six to ten teams from other clubs in Reno, Sacramento, San Francisco, etc. The tournament is multi-section (Open, U2000, U1800, . . .) and teams consist of ten players from a club.

**Oct 22 New Date SCC Novice**  
**Format:** 4-SS. Open to U1200 and UNR. **TC:** G/75; d5. **EF:** \$11 by 10/11, \$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.

## 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.

## WCF @ the SCC

Seattle Masters Series {New & Improved!} Sept. 9, Oct. 7, Dec. 9  
 Washington Women's Championship Sept. 15-17

## SCC Fridays

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

**Workingmen's Qds (G/16;+8):** 9/1.

**Close Ratings 3:** 9/8, 15, 22, 29.

**Autumn Leaves:** 10/6, 13, 20, 27.

**November Rains:** 11/3, 10, 17.

## SCC

### Championship

Sept. 8, 15, 29; Oct. 6, 20, 27, Nov. 3

**Format:** 7-rd Swiss held on Friday evenings. **TC:** 35/100 and 25/60. **EF:** \$32 if rec'd by 9/6, \$40 thereafter. SCC memb. req'd—\$30 special tnmt memb.

**Prize fund:** 75% of EFs. **Prizes:** 23%-16%, U2000 9%, U1800 8%, U1600 7%, U1400 6%, Unrated 3%, Endurance 3%.

**Reg:** Fri. 7-7:45 p.m. **Rds:** Fridays 8 p.m.

**Make-up Games for Rds 1-4:** G/75;d5 make-ups may be scheduled for any Wednesday 9/13 through 10/11. **Byes:** 4 (1 in rds 5-7, commit by 10/14). **Misc:** SCC/US Chess memb. req'd. NS. NC.

## Seattle Fall Open

### September 22-24 or September 23-24

A 2-section, 5-round Swiss chess tournament with a time control of 40/120 & SD/60 and a 5-second delay (except Rd 1 of 2-day option — G/60;d5) with a prize fund of \$1000 based on 62 paid entries, 6 per prize group.

*A Northwest Grand Prix event*

**Open: \$180 gtd-\$120 gtd, U2200 \$100, U2000 \$95, U1800 \$90**

**Reserve (U1700): \$110-\$80, U1550 \$70, U1450 \$65, U1350 \$60, UNR \$30**

**Entry Fees:** \$35 by 9/20, \$45 at site. SCC members—subtract \$10. Members of other dues-req'd CCs in BC, OR, & WA—subtract \$5. Unrated players FREE with purchase of 1-yr US Chess & WCF. **Add \$1 for 2-day option.** Make checks payable to SCC.

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

**Byes:** 2 available. Rounds 4 or 5 must commit at registration. **Misc.:** US Chess & WCF required. NS. NC.

# Upcoming Events

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

☞ **Sep 2-4** 67th Annual Oregon Open, **Portland, OR.** (See full-page ad page 7)

**Sep 15-16** Washington Women's Championship, **Seattle, WA.** (See half-page ad page 8)

☞ **Sep 16** Eastern Idaho Open, **Pocatello, ID.** 4SS, Time Control: G/60; d5. Section: Open. Site: Idaho State University, Student Union Building, 921 South 8th Avenue, Pocatello, ID. US Chess & ICA/OCF/WCF mem req. EF: \$25 (U18 & 60+ \$20, >80, IM,FM,GM free), family rate \$40. Register Online. Late fee \$5 onsite. Check in: 9:30-10:00 a.m. Rd. times: continuous starting at 10:00 a.m. (Rds 2-4 will start ASAP). 1/2 pt bye avail: Max 1, Notify TD before Rd. 2 is paired. \$\$ (based on 30): 1st - 2nd place Overall \$200, \$150, 100 U1800, U1600, U1400, U1200, U1000 each: \$50/class. ICA, [www.idahocheessassociation.com](http://www.idahocheessassociation.com).

☞ **Sep 17/Oct 22** Portland CC Sunday Quads, **Portland, OR.** Site: Portland Chess Club, 8205 SW 24th Ave., Portland, OR. 3-round quads. Some or all the sections may run as a 3-round Swiss with more than four players. The "live" US Chess regular ratings are usually used for section placement and pairings. G/45;inc15, US Chess and NWSRS rated. On-site reg: 9-9:45am, Rds: 10am, 12:30pm, 3pm. 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 (pay by cash or check payable to Portland Chess Club), free entry for players who are playing in their first US Chess rated tournament. US Chess membership is required and can be purchased during registration. Winner of each section receives \$10 discount on the entry fee to one of the next three PCC Sunday or Tuesday Quads. If there is a six or seven player Swiss, the runner-up receives \$5 discount. Bonus scholastic awards: trophy for winning section with 3 points; smaller trophy for winning or tying for first with 2.5; medal for winning or tying for first with 2 or 1.5. OSCF State qualifier. More info. at [pdxchess.org](http://pdxchess.org). Phone: (503) 246-2978.

☞ **Sep 30/Oct 28** Portland CC Game in 60, **Portland, OR.** Site: Portland Chess Club, 8205 SW 24th Ave., Portland, OR. 4-round Swiss. If there are less than thirty players it's played in one section. If there are at least thirty players it's split into two sections at the mid-point of the field based on rating except that both sections will start with an even number of players if possible. G/60;inc5, one half point bye available if requested before round 1, US Chess rated. On-site reg: 9-9:45 am. Rds: 10am, 12:30pm, 2:30pm, 4:30pm. Players who have a game go around the full time can request extra time off before the next round. EF: \$20, \$15 for PCC members (pay by cash or check payable to Portland Chess Club). US Chess and OCF/WCF/ICA memberships are required and can be purchased during registration (OSA). Prizes: If one section (\$200/b20): 1st-\$60, 2nd-\$40, 3rd-\$30; 1st U1800/unrated, 1st U1500/unrated-\$35 each. If two sections, upper section (\$150/b15): 1st-\$70, 2nd-\$40, 1st U1800/unrated-\$40; lower section (\$150/b15): 1st-\$70, 2nd-\$40, 1st U1200/unrated-\$40. OSCF State qualifier. More info at [pdxchess.org](http://pdxchess.org). Phone: (503) 246-2978.

☞ **Sep 30-Oct 1** Eastern Washington Open, **Spokane, WA.** Location: Jepson Center, Rooms 108-109, Gonzaga University (one block southwest from St. Al's church). Format: 5 round Swiss System. Registration: 8:30-9:30, Sept. 30. Rounds: 10-2:30-7; 9-1:30. Time control: Game/120 (d5). Entry fee: \$21 if received by 9/29, \$26 at the door; under 18 \$5 less. \$630 prize fund GUARANTEED. Additional classes and class prizes may be created if entries exceed 30 players. Class prizes based on at least 5 per class; classes (and class prizes) may be reconfigured if less than five class entries. Only one prize per player (except biggest upset). NS, NC, W. One 1/2-point bye available if requested by end of previous round; Sunday bye must be requested by end of round 3. Director reserves right to use class pairings in final round. PRIZES: First \$125, Second \$75. Class Prizes: \$65 first, \$30 second: A; B; C; D/E/unrated. Biggest Upset (non-provisional) \$50. Entries: Kevin Korsmo, 9923 N. Moore St., Spokane, WA 99208. For information please call (509) 270-1772 (cell). Club website: [www.spokanechessclub.org](http://www.spokanechessclub.org).

**Oct 7-8** CCBSU/BCC Chess Meet, **Boise, ID.** Boise State University, Student Union Building, Lookout Room (Saturday)/Simplot A (Sunday), 1910 University Drive, Boise, Idaho 83706. Free entry, open to all! Please register in advance (recommended to save time) by emailing TD Jeffrey Roland at [jroland@cableone.net](mailto:jroland@cableone.net). Parking available for \$2/day at the Lincoln Garage. Email [jroland@cableone.net](mailto:jroland@cableone.net) for code and instructions. Reg. 8-9. 5SS, US Chess Rated, RT Sat: 9:00-1:30-6:00. Sun: 8:30-1:30. Estimated event completed by 6:00 p.m. on Sunday. TC: Rounds 1-3: Game/75+30-second increment per move. Rounds 4-5: Game/90+30-second increment per move. Half-point bye (maximum 1) permitted in any round, but must be requested before round two is paired. Please bring sets/clocks if you have them. Event is rated by US Chess Federation. Players must have current US Chess membership. If it's not, players are encouraged to take care of it themselves before the event by going to <https://new.uschess.org/join-uschess/>, but membership in the US Chess Federation can also be purchased on site if necessary.

**Oct 13-15** 35th Annual Sands Regency Reno Western States Open, **Reno, NV.** (See full-page ad page 13)

**Oct 14** Washington Blitz Championship, **Seattle, WA.** (See half-page ad, page 14)

☞ **Oct 14** Washington Game/60 Chess Championship, **Seattle, WA.** (See half-page ad, page 15)

**Oct 14** National Chess Day Simul & Fundraiser, **Kirkland, WA.** (See half-page ad page 18)

☞ **Oct 14-15** Norman Friedman Memorial & National Chess Day Tournament, **Hailey, ID.** Site: Community Campus, 1050 Fox Acres Rd., Hailey, Idaho. 5 SS, TC: G/120; d5. One Section: Open, US Chess rated. EF: \$25 (U18 & 60+ \$20, >80, IM,FM,GM free), family rate \$40. Register Online. Late fee \$5 onsite. Reg. & checkin: 9:30-10 a.m. or online at [www.idahocheessassociation.com](http://www.idahocheessassociation.com). US Chess & ICA/OCF/WCF mem req., can be purchased at reg. Opening Cer. 9 a.m., Rd times: 10/14 10 a.m., 2 p.m., 7 p.m., 10/15 9 a.m., 1 p.m. Byes: Rd 1-4. Prizes: \$750 guaranteed! 1st - 2nd place Overall \$200, \$150, 100 U1800, U1600, U1400, U1200, U1000 each: \$50/class. Side Events: Blitz 10/13, Scholastic Chess 10/14, ICA, [www.idahocheessassociation.com](http://www.idahocheessassociation.com). Contact: Adam Porth, SCHS, 1060 Fox Acres Rd., Hailey, ID 83333.

☞ **Oct 14-15** National Chess Day-Portland Fall Open, **Portland, OR.** Site: Portland Chess Club, 8205 SW 24th Ave, Portland, OR. Two sections-Open and Reserve (U1800), 5-round Swiss, 40/90,SD/30;d5, two half point byes available if requested before round 1, US Chess rated. On-site reg: 9-9:45am, Rds: Sat 10am, 2:15pm, 6:30pm; Sun 10am, 2:15pm. Players who have a game go around the full time can request extra time off before the next round. EF: \$40, \$30 for PCC members (pay by cash or check payable to Portland Chess Club). US Chess and OCF/WCF/ICA memberships are required and can be purchased during registration (OSA). Prizes (\$1000 b/40): Open: 1st-\$250, 2nd-\$175, 1st U2000-\$100; Reserve: 1st-\$150, 2nd-\$100, U1600, U1400, U1200/unrated-\$75 each. OCF Invitational Tournament and OSCF State qualifier. More info. at [pdxchess.org](http://pdxchess.org). Phone: (503) 246-2978.

☞ **Oct 28-29** Washington Challenger's Cup, **Seattle, WA.** (See half-page ad page 19)

☞ **Nov 24-26** Washington Class Championships, **Lynnwood, WA.** (See full-page ad page 20)

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