

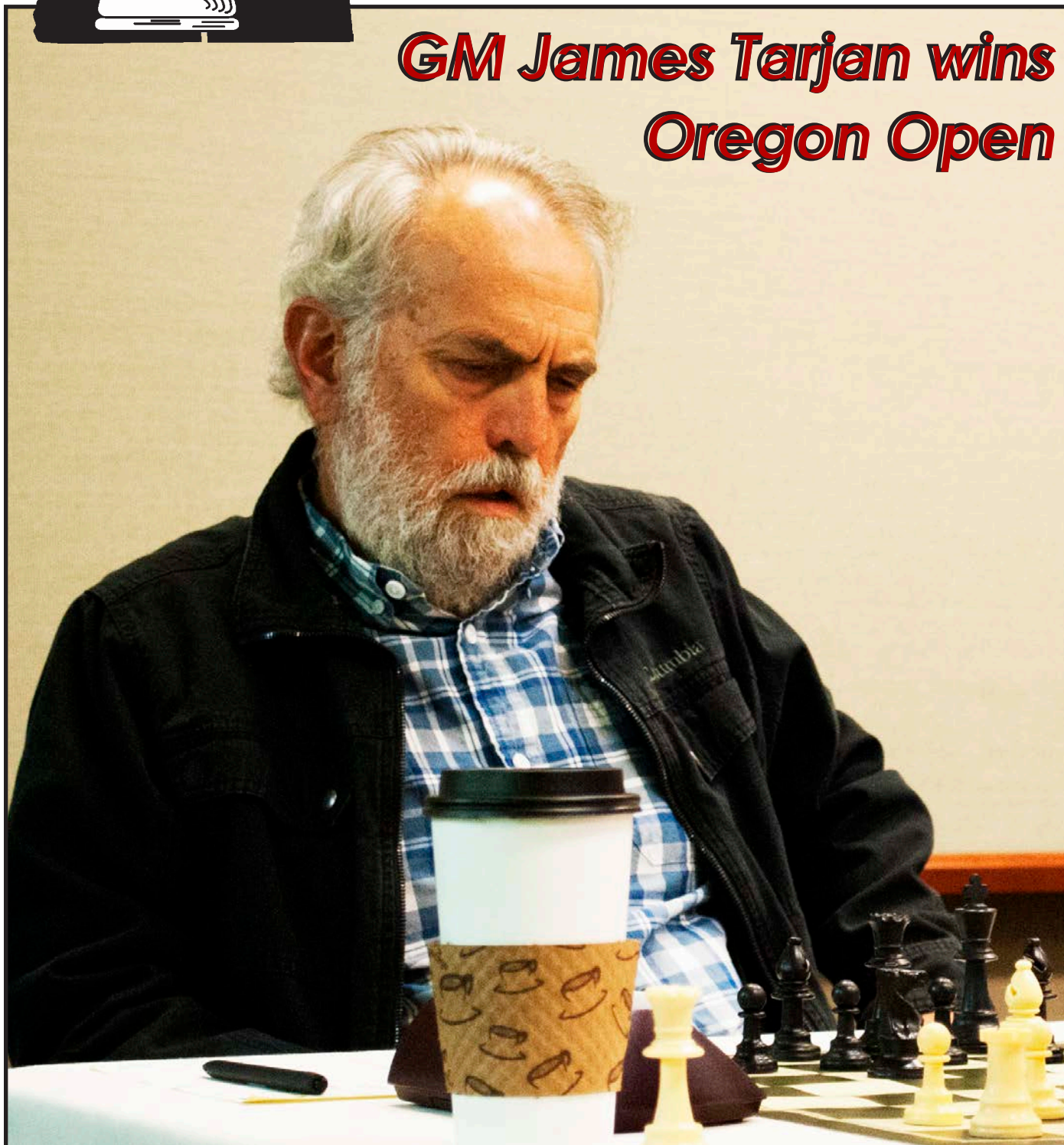


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November 2017

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

**GM James Tarjan wins
Oregon Open**



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GM Jim Tarjan in final round of the 2017 Oregon Open.
Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.

On the back cover:

"I've just seen a face."
Photo credit: JR & AM.

Chesstoons:

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

Submissions

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

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From The Editor's Desk

This is my 60th issue—five years as your editor and still going! I am just as excited about this issue as any other before it, and I plan to continue on with the same enthusiasm going forward.

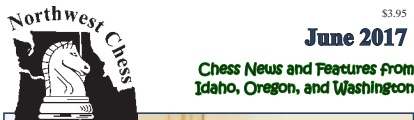
I was a bit more playful in this issue than other recent efforts. If you check out “FELDMAN’S FOLLY” by Ralph Dubisch, you can get an idea of how good things tend to happen in our little magazine, sometimes by accident, sometimes not, but I try to be open to the moment and willing to try things.

The back cover actually comes as a result of me trying to joke around with Ralph. But everyone, including me, loved it so much that there was no way anything else could possibly go there once we saw it!

As always, I appreciate all the great contributions of material from so many people. This month we even got material from a Grandmaster (Jim Tarjan). I found his games to be so interesting and amazing that I wanted to put each one in the issue.

I am personally proud of the fact that I was able to put a picture of the winner from the Oregon Open on the front cover, which completes a goal I had set going back to the June 2017 issue (see illustrations below).

I enjoyed working on this issue, and I hope you enjoy it too.



This month's issue completes the following set: Idaho Open, Washington Open, and Oregon Open. Each event got it's own front cover. Each event had a clear winner!

**Please remember to keep submitting
games, articles, and photos to
editor@nwchess.com.**

Feldman's Folly

By **Ralph Dubisch** (CJA Award-winning) *Northwest Chess* Games Editor

A couple of weeks before the submission deadline for the November issue of (the CJA Award-winning) *Northwest Chess* magazine, Editor Jeff Roland and his friend, Idaho Open Champion Alex Machin, started annotating some of their games from the Oregon Open. Alex came up with a unique annotation involving watching both sides of the board, mentioning the late comic actor Marty Feldman, whose eyes famously had diverging views of the world.

Hitting up IMDb, Jeff found a publicity picture of Feldman from a 1975 spoof and popped it into the game as an illustration. This he emailed to me and called asking for my opinion.

"Brilliant," I replied, "but we'll need to get permission from the copyright holder. Who is that?"

"No idea."

Fine. I dug a little deeper into the movie database site, and discovered the picture copyright as 20th Century Fox. "But isn't this the 21st Century?" Quick Google search finds an address with an online permission form, though it isn't entirely clear this will reach the right department. My part in the business was done; I sent the link to Jeff with the suggestion that he write to them and ask for permission to use the photo.

In case you don't know this already, let me explain that the editor is overworked, underpaid, and has plenty of other things going on in life. Jeff figured he could pass the buck, so he wrote to Duane Polich, Publisher of (the CJA Award-winning) *Northwest Chess*. "This kind of request should come from the publisher." Hmm. Duane didn't just fall off the turnip truck, so he quickly replied, "Go ahead and submit that using my name and contact address." Back to you, Mr. Editor.

Jeff isn't generally as succinct in his emails, so when I got the rambling "story of all the things that need doing" message, which just happened to mention that if I could take on this copyright thing it would be a big help, I knew I was on the hook again. So having learned some minutes ago — after decades of putting it off — that procrastination doesn't get the job done, I popped onto the Fox web site and sent off a polite request to use the picture.

That was October 1. On the afternoon of Friday, October 6, I got a nice, friendly reply, suggesting I write to a different address, and wishing me luck.

"We're a small chess publication... want to use... blah, blah, etc." Surprisingly, there was a very quick reply, though not a permission, telling me that "THE ADVENTURE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES' SMARTER BROTHER is no longer in its publicity period." Really a big surprise, that, considering the movie was released in 1975. The note included a copy of a legal form for me to sign and return along with \$100 to cover the application, which, if granted, would cost a fee of between \$500 and \$2500.

My reply: CANCEL REQUEST (gotta love all caps).



Ralph Dubisch selfie taken April 8, 2017.

Well, that was fun. "Jeff, do you think Brian Berger could cartoon up Marty Feldman for us?" Not much hope at my end, but hey, worth a try.

By Saturday morning Brian had done just that, and in our considered opinion his drawing is even better than the photo. Marty was a bit of a cartoon character anyway, right? Check it out on page 10. And if Fox (of whatever century) wants to use it, I'm sure permission can be arranged. For a suitable fee.

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Oregon Open

By Brian Berger

Portland, OR — September 2-4, 2017

Under the growing threat of a nuclear Armageddon, the real ravages of hurricane Harvey, the breaking down of the world's ecosystems under the pressure of runaway pollution and global warming, and the thousands of acres of Columbia Gorge forestland burning at our doorstep, a semblance of sanity and brotherhood prevailed at the 2017 Oregon Open, held at the Lloyd Center DoubleTree Hotel over the Labor Day weekend. (How is that for a lead paragraph to grab your attention?)

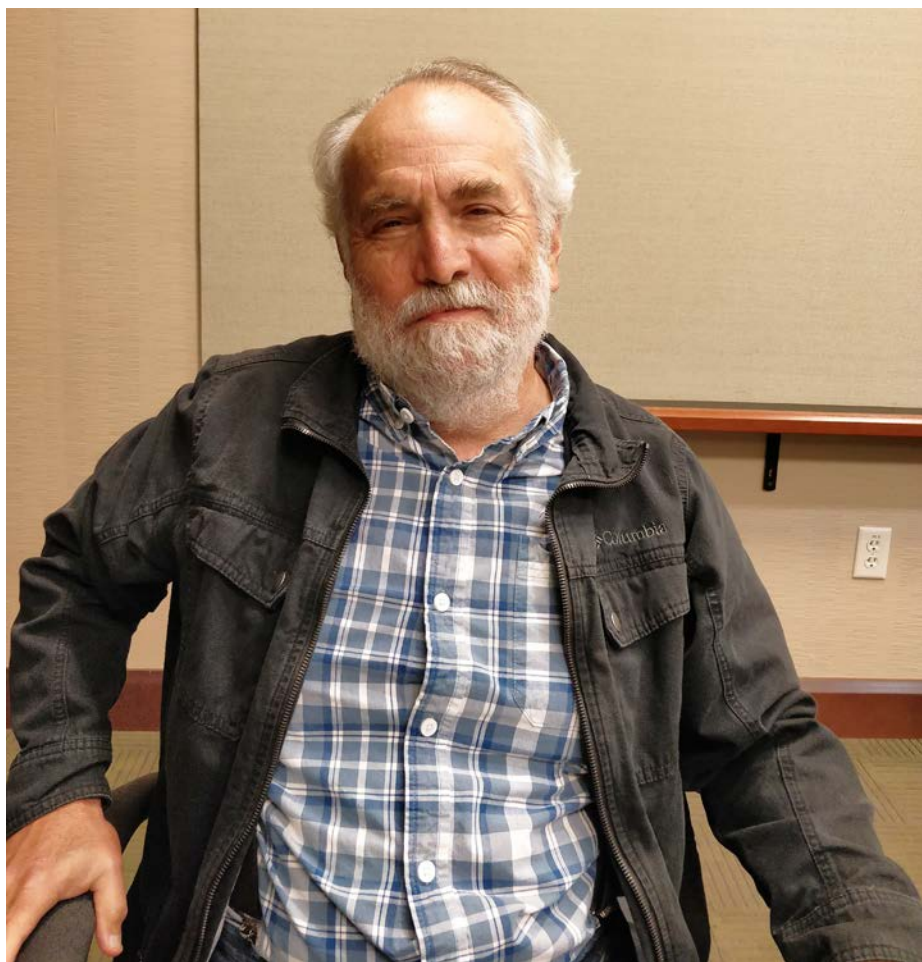
In charge of what was a fast-gathering throng of registering players, all eager to claim some part of the \$10,000 in guaranteed prize money, was the legendary, by-the-book, no-time-for-nonsense Chief TD Gregori (Grisha) Alpernas, assisted by Mike Morris, Andrei Botez, Micah Smith, and with further assistance by Lennart Bjorksten, David Yoshinaga, Mike Janniro and Danny Phipps.

This was the 67th Annual Oregon Open, and the second in a row to offer a \$10,000 prize fund, a lure that was expected to draw a large and enthusiastic audience. And although its player count of 151 was large, it was a number that fell short of last year's 179 participants.

The schedule for this event closely followed that of last year, when a two-day schedule was added for those who might find it difficult to attend all three days, and for those scholastic players attending the Oregon Open Scholastic Tournament (a Saturday only event at the same venue), who might like to merge with the Open.

For those wanting a faster decision than that offered by the three-day schedule of five-hour games (time control: 40/120,SD/30;d10), a Blitz tournament (G/3;inc.2) was also on the schedule, starting at 3:30 on Sunday, where one could play 10-rounds at the speed of light, before again returning to the plodding pace of real chess.

A side attraction was a collection of chess books and chess sets, offered for sale during the tournament's three-day run by the wife (Kihomi) of the recently passed (March 19, 2017) player, Thomas Kuge. It was a collection carefully selected, consisting of older classic titles (one of which was a two-volume set of the 1808 edition of "Studies Of Chess," by Mr. A.D. Philidor—now in this reporter's collection), as well as selections of hundreds of newer titles, runs of periodicals, and many unusual chess sets.



Jim Tarjan. Photo credit: Andrei Botez.

Of the 151 players filling three sections (Open, U2000, U1600—a fourth section accommodated Extra games), much attention was focused on one in particular, Oregon's own GM Jim Tarjan (2482-2493—5.0/6), whose winning score reflected four wins and two 1/2-point byes. The \$2000 first place prize was more than a monetary acknowledgement of a tournament well played, but of a journey, continued in 2014, after a 30-year hiatus from competitive chess; one in which Tarjan hopes to prove a strong flame still burns in an aging furnace.

And if one thinks that at 65 years of age, Tarjan has already seen all the highlights of his long interrupted journey, his win against onetime world champion, Vladimir Kramnik (2803) at the 2017 Isle of Man Open (played later in September), should stun them into becoming a believer that not all of us age the same.

Along with Tarjan, nine masters from Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia helped make up the 44-player Open Section, lured by the chance to earn some big bucks. But only two of those, FM Tanraj Sohal from BC (2324-2330—4.5/6) and LM Josh Sinanan

from Washington (2265-2281—4.5/6), were in the money, they forming part of a four-way tie for second and third place—the other two being Jose Gatica (2100-2115—4.5/6) and Jason Yu from Washington (2073-2080—4.5/6). And tacked on to those winnings were the U2200 first and second place prizes that, when combined, gave each player a \$575 bankroll to take home.

Last of the prize money awarded in the Open Section was for third place in the U2200, a \$200 prize parceled out five ways when Joshua Grabinsky (2114-2119—4.0/6), Brendan Zhang (2103-2115—4.0/6), William Lapham (2084-2109—4.0/6), Jerry Sherrard (2028-2050—4.0/6) and Paul Shannon (2006-2025—4.0/6) all finished with four points, the five-way split giving each \$40 towards next year's entrance fee.

The 62-player U2000 Section also had its share of ties; the big money going to two Washington players, Addison Lee (1960-1971—5.0/6) and Steven Merwin (1948-1970—5.0/6), whose 5.0 scores allowed them to split first and second place prize money, each taking home the hefty sum of \$800.

A four-way tie for third place by Karl Cosner (2006-1986—4.5/6), a New York player, Jarrod Tavares (2037-2036—4.5/6), Michael Hosford (1897-1927—4.5/6), and Mika Mitchell (1816-1847—4.5/6) of Washington, resulted in each receiving \$100 of the \$400 guarantee. While Roshen Nair (1777-1801—4.0/6—whose profile appeared in last month's *Northwest Chess*) and Advait Vijayakumar (1761-1795—4/0/6) of Washington tied for first and second in the U1800, each pocketing \$400.

The final prize money in this section, \$200 for U1800 third place, was split four-ways, when Alex Machin (1758-1785—3.5/6) of Idaho, Jake Winkler (1713-1740—3.5/6), James Tsai (1639-1665—3.5/6), and James Nelson (1662-1662—3.5/6) walked away with \$50 each, and the memory of some tough competition.

Besides the attention given to GM Tarjan's entrance into the Open Section of this tournament, one other celebrity elicited great attention when his companion entered the the 44-player U1600 section, and that was the world renowned Morgan the (chess playing) Dog, who appeared with his live-in buddy, Jerrold "I Just Want To Reach 1600 Before It's Over" Richards—known mostly for always being in the company of Morgan, and only secondly for his roller-coaster rating results, which have gone through deeper plunges than climbs.

Morgan's fans, much like last year, mobbed Morgan—hoping to pet his famous fur, pat his famous head, rub his



*Some of the books and chess sets for sale from the Kuge collection.
Photo credit: Brian Berger.*

famous belly, scratch his famous behind, and receive in return Morgan's loving-licks for their effusive loyalty. But it is Morgan's loyalty to his companion, Richards (1312-1354—4.0/6), that surpasses even the loyalty of Morgan's fans, shown in his steadfast goal of making Richard's a B-player "Before It's Over."

And although B-player status still is somewhat distant given Richard's mid-

1300 rating (and quite a bit lower than his 1500+ rating entering last year's Oregon Open), Morgan's teaching efforts just before this tournament seemed to galvanize the 1600-player hidden deep in Richards, resulting in three wins and two draws, a modest increase in rating, and \$367 in a 3-way tie for first and second in the U1400-U1200—the other two players being David Roshu (1350-1373—4.0/6) and Vaughn Wampole (1094-1199—4.0/6), each receiving the same amount.

The third place U1400 money also was divided in a tie between Austin Tang (1091-1253—3.5/6) and Bob Liu (849P-1093—3.5/6), each receiving \$100, along with huge gains in rating—Tang seeing a 162-point jump, while Liu busted out of his provisional status with a huge 244-point leap!

But the BIG winners of this section were Eric Erard (1516-1517—5.0/6), with four wins and two draws, and Daniel Wilke (1435-1488—5.0/6), with four wins, one draw, and a bye in the third round—each ending with a 5.0 score. But following the option given to those entering the U1600 section, that of entering at a lower fee and competing only for a trophy versus paying the full entrance fee and competing for a cash prize, Wilke chose a trophy over cash.

That left Eric "Mighty Mite" Erard (an aka I gave him back in 2016, when as a third grader he was swiftly going up the ratings ladder and had fought his way into the low 1700s), to claim the full \$500 first place prize fund. Perhaps the money



*Chief TD Grisha Alpernas at the registration table.
Photo credit: Brian Berger.*

will be a catalyst for this quick thinking, personable youngster to once again become a high B-player.

And just on Erard and Wilke's heels were three who tied for second-fourth—Raj Kodithyala (1584-1580—4.5/6), Jon Strohhahn (1480-1495—4.5/6), and Cassandra Roshu (1389-1399—4.5/6), who merited \$167 each for their efforts.

Coming back to Eric Erard once again, it is more than just an inkling to me that his previous B-player status will soon be reached, as his performance during the blitz event, where he placed second among the 20-player field, was one even an expert would be proud of, finishing with 7.5 points out of a possible 10.0, only a half point behind the winner, Joshua Grabinsky (2121-2120—8.0/10). A feat that upped his blitz rating from 1695 to 1788, and earned him \$40 more to add to that fat \$500 wad!

Others who earned some modest loot in this side event were James Colasurdo (2030P-2007P—7.0/10) of Washington, and Ethan Wu (1738-1824—7.0/10), who tied for the first U2100, each receiving \$12. While Kevin Xu (1578-1644—6.5/10) took first U1900, and James Wei (1594-1634—5.5/10) and Daniel Wilke (1435P-1511P—5.5/10) won first U1700/first U1500, each earning \$25 for playing like mad men.

This was a tournament of nail-biters and unexpected outcomes—one nail-biter being the round-six game between GM Jim Tarjan and FM Steven Breckenridge (2398-2394—4.0/6), where Breckenridge was said to seemingly have an edge on Tarjan for much of the game, but because of time management problems was fighting with only a ten-second delay at the last, finally running out of time.

And for a high example of an unexpected outcome, FM Nick Raptis (2410-2403—1.0/6) dropped his second game against LM Josh Sinanan (who, as noted earlier, went on to finish second-third in the Open section), and subsequently withdrew from the tournament.

The Portland Chess Club and the Oregon Chess Federation (sponsors of this event) seem to have found a winning formula for attracting more and higher-caliber players, as was witnessed during this 2017 tournament.

James Edward Tarjan (2482) – Eric M. Zhang (2000) [A22]

67th Annual Oregon Open (Open)
Portland, OR (R1), September 2, 2017

1.c4 e5 2.g3 Nf6 3.Bg2 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.Nc3 Nb6 6.b3 Be7 7.Bb2 0-0 8.Rc1 c6 9.Nf3 N8d7 10.0-0 a5 11.Qc2 Qc7 12.Rfd1 f5 13.e4 fxe4 14.Nxe4 Nd5

15.Nfg5 Qb6 16.d4 Rf5 17.h4 h6



Position after 17...h6

18.Nd6 1-0

Tres Roring (2071) – James Edward Tarjan (2482) [A46]
67th Annual Oregon Open (Open)
Portland, OR (R2), September 2, 2017

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.b3 d6 3.d4 Bg4 4.e3 Nbd7 5.Be2 e6 6.Bb2 d5 7.0-0 Bd6 8.Nbd2 0-0 9.Ne5 Bxe2 10.Qxe2 c6 11.f4 Qe7 12.g4 Rad8 13.g5 Ne8 14.Rf3 f6 15.Nxd7 Rxd7 16.Rg3 g6 17.Nf3 Ng7 18.Rh3 Nh5 19.Bc1 fxe5 20.Nxg5



Position after 20.Nxg5

20...e5 21.dxe5 Bxe5 22.Ba3 Nxf4 23.Qg4 Qxg5 0-1

James Edward Tarjan (2482) – Matt Zavortink (2242) [A40]

67th Annual Oregon Open (Open)
Portland, OR (R4), September 3, 2017

1.c4 b6 2.d4 Bb7 3.Nc3 e6 4.e4 Bb4 5.f3 Ne7 6.Nge2 0-0 7.a3 Bxc3+ 8.Nxc3 f5 9.Be3 fxe4 10.fxe4 e5 11.d5 Ng6 12.h4 d6 13.h5 Nh8 14.h6 g6 15.Be2 Nd7 16.Bg4 Bc8 17.Be6+ Nf7 18.b4 Nb8 19.0-0 Qe7



Position after 19...Qe7

20.Qg4 Na6 21.Rxf7 Rxf7 22.Bxc8 1-0

Steven Breckenridge (2398) – James Edward Tarjan (2482) [C55]
67th Annual Oregon Open (Open)
Portland, OR (R6), September 4, 2017
[Jim Tarjan]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.d3 Be7 5.0-0 0-0 6.Re1 d6 7.a4 Be6

7...Na5 8.Ba2 c5 Ntrilis

8.Nbd2 Qd7 9.c3 Rad8

9...Rfe8 Bologan

10.Bxe6 fxe6

10...Qxe6

11.b4 a6 12.b5 Na7 13.Qb3!?

An imaginative and entirely correct temporary pawn sacrifice.

13...axb5 14.d4 bxa4 15.Rxa4 Nc6 16.d5 b5 17.Ra2 Nb8 18.dxe6 Qc6 19.Ra5 Na6 20.Qxb5



Position after 20.Qxb5

Many interesting alternatives for both sides on the following moves, just for example: 20.Ba3!? Rb8 21.Rb1

20...Qxb5 21.Rxb5 Nc5 22.Ba3 Nd3 23.Re3 Ra8 24.Rxd3 Rxa3 25.g3 Rfa8

25...Ra7

26.Rb7 R3a7 27.Rxa7 Rxa7 28.c4 c5 29.Rb3 g6 30.Rb8+ Kg7 31.Kf1 h6 32.h3 Nh7 33.Nb1 Nf8 34.Nc3 Nxe6 35.Nd5 Bd8

35...Bf8!?: 35...Nd4

36.Rc8 Ra1+ 37.Kg2 Ra6 38.Rb8 Ra7 39.Rc8 Ra6 40.Nd2 Kf7

40...Ba5 bringing the bishop to e1 to counterattack: for the first time in the game Houdini then thinks Black has equalized.

41.Rb8 Ra7 42.Nb1 Ba5 43.Na3 Bc7 44.Rb3 Bd8

44...Nd4!? 45.Nb5 (45.Rd3 is also possible, followed by Nb5) 45...Nxb3 46.Nxa7 Bd8 though this looks like a better try for Black than as I played.

45.Rf3+ Ke8 46.Nb5 Ra6

[Diagram top of next page]

White has finally activated both his knights, and Black's position has become desperate. Black is essentially in zugzwang as things stand but oddly, it is



Steven Breckenridge in the final round vs. Jim Tarjan.
Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.



Position after 46...Ra6

almost a mutual zugzwang.

47.h4

If 47.Nf6+ Black must step into the discovered check: 47...Kf7 but then White has nothing better than to repeat moves with 48.Nd5+; 47.g4! looks like a winner, with Black indeed in zugzwang and having to weaken his own position.

47...h5

Now I believe it is truly a mutual zugzwang. If White could pass, what could Black play? All I could find was ...Rc6 allowing Ra3 and a rook invasion.

48.Nf6+ Ke7 49.Nd5+ Ke8 50.Kh2 Nd4

Now this is possible, as the rook is unprotected on f3.

51.Ndc7+ Bxc7 52.Nxc7+ Kd8

The only move; not 52...Ke7 53.Nd5+ followed by 54.Rf6

53.Rf7

Hereabouts Breckenridge stopped keeping score as he had less than five minutes remaining on his clock (plus a ten second delay). I had about 12

minutes. But the game is far from over, with a complicated endgame and difficult choices at practically every move.

53...Ra4 54.Nd5 Rxc4

Houdini thinks the position equal, but only after long and debatable variations. I was not happy, as White's pieces are better coordinated and I did not see how I would stop a White passed h-pawn, nor use my passed c-pawn in time.

55.Rf6 Kd7 56.Nb6+ Ke7 57.Nd5+ Kd7 58.Rxg6 Rc2

58...Kc6 59.g4 Ne2 is a computer try that might hold the draw.

59.Kg2 c4 60.g4

Now Black is lost.

60...Ne6 61.gxh5 Rd2

Sheer desperation, with the trick of ...Rxd5 in mind.

62.Nb6+?

62.h6 Rxd5 63.Rg7+! wins (63.Rxe6 Rc5 64.Re8! Kxe8 65.h7 gets to the same thing) 63...Nxg7 64.hxg7 Rc5 65.g8Q c3 66.Qg5 c2 67.Qc1.

62...Ke7 63.Rxe6+?? Kxe6 64.h6

By now I was down to just under five minutes myself, and also stopped keeping score. I cannot exactly reconstruct the rest of the game. I am fairly sure of the next couple of moves.

64...Kf7

64...Kf6 would have been better.

65.Nxc4 Rd4 66.Ne3 Rxe4

If this is indeed how the game went, then 65.Nf5 would still offer White drawing chances. Whatever the exact next moves were, I remember the gist of it. Black's king took the advanced h-pawn, while Black's center pawns remained on the board, supported by the rook. After a few more moves, in a hopeless position, White forfeited on time.

0-1



Final position of Breckenridge (White) vs. Tarjan game. White is moving left to right.
Photo credit: Andrei Botez.

Moshe Rachmuth (1952) – Alex James Machin (1758) [C11]
 67th Annual Oregon Open (U2000)
 Portland, OR (R2), September 2, 2017
[Alex Machin]

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.e5 Nfd7 5.f4 c5 6.Nf3 Nc6 7.Be3 Be7

7...Qb6 was tempting to add pressure to the queenside.

8.Qd2 a6 9.dxc5 Qa5 10.0-0-0 Nxc5 11.Kb1 b5 12.Bd3 Bd7 13.Rhe1 Rb8



Position after 13...Rb8

It was only at this point did I think about White's game plan. My left eyeball drifted toward the move f5, while my right eyeball remained laser focused on his king. I thought about changing my name to Marty Feldman on the score sheet.



14.f5

Here we go. This move pushes White in the right direction and adds pressure to Black's position. Will it be enough to distract Black from his queenside attack? Let's find out.

14...b4 15.Ne2

15.fxe6 Bxe6 Looks worse for White considering he has to worry about d4 checkmate discoveries.

15...Na4 16.b3



Position after 16.b3

White is lost. The rest of the game is a forced continuation which White can't stop. 16.Ka1 Nc3 threatening mate and the rook on d1 17.bxc3 (17.Nxc3 bxc3) 17...bxc3 18.Qxc3 (18.Nxc3 Bb4 19.Bd4 Nxd4; 18.Qc1 Ba3) 18...Bb4 19.Qb3 Bxe1

16...Nc3+ 17.Nxc3 bxc3 18.Qf2

18.Qc1 Ba3; 18.Qe2 Nb4 19.a4 Bxa4 20.fxe6 Bc6 21.exf7+ Kf8

18...Nb4

Threatening mate.

19.a4 Bxa4 20.fxe6

20.bxa4 Nxd3+ 21.Bb6 Qb4+ 22.Ka2 Qb2#

20...Bc6 21.exf7+ Kf8 0-1

Jeffrey T. Roland (1700) – Travis J. Olson (1921) [C05]
 67th Annual Oregon Open (U2000)
 Portland, OR (R1), September 2, 2017
[Jeffrey Roland]

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 Nf6 4.e5 Nfd7 5.f4

I usually get into trouble when playing this move, and yet I feel it has to be played too. I want to at least try to maintain my pawn center, but it does open up my kingside if I castle that way.

5...c5 6.Ngf3 Nc6 7.c3 Qb6 8.Nb3 a5

This move was new to me. If 9.Be3 which is a natural way for me to develop, Black gets a great game with 9...c4 10.Nc5 Qxb2. So I already feel a sense of urgency here in that I feel I have to take on c5 now, giving Black an opportunity to develop freely and easily to every square he wants to, and my dark squares are weak and it will be hard if not impossible to castle k-side. But I'm not surprised at this, I went into this game knowing Travis is a great player. I was taking mental notes, zoning in to my opponent's excellent grasp of the position, and admiring his skill while at the same time trying to figure out how to deal with this (at least) perceived crisis!

Later, it was suggested to me that the move 8...a5 just weakens b5. I could have

played 9.a4 to stop the advance of the a-pawn and control b5. Black will likely not play ...c4 releasing the tension since the bishop is still on c1.

9.dxc5 Nxc5 10.Be3 a4 11.Bxc5

I had a slight sense of relief that I should be able to hold this position. And yet also in the back of my mind was something Josh Sinanan told me two years ago at the Washington Open... that White usually has the advantage in the French in the opening, but if Black can hold on to the endgame, it favors Black! If I struggle hard, come out even... then won't I lose the ending?? All these things go on in the mind. How much is true, how much is imagined... but how much I love playing chess and hoping to find out!

11...Bxc5 12.Nxc5 Qxc5 13.Qd2



Position after 13.Qd2

I feel like the first stage has just finished. Now Travis will start developing, I'll start developing, but so far, I feel the position is about even.

13...0-0 14.Qf2 Qa5!?

Okay, this surprised me. I thought Travis would trade queens, put my king on the f-file, play ...f6 and stuff like that. Although I would be fine with that. His move makes sense though, he has ...a3 to try to hit the c3-pawn, but with ...a3 there is no longer en passant, and I could play b4 in response. So I don't know, this just doesn't seem right to me either. But whether good or bad, it definitely surprised me.

15.Bd3

Threatening obvious shots at h7, easily defended by Travis' next move, but useful development nonetheless.

15...h6 16.0-0 a3 17.b4 Qa7 18.Kh1?

18.Qxa7 seems better to me now in hindsight.

18...Qxf2 19.Rxf2 b6 20.Rb1 f6 21.Nd4 Nxd4 22.cxd4 fxe5 23.dxe5 Ba6 24.b5 Bb7

[Diagram top of next page]

25.Rc1?

Okay, I confess I felt I needed to contest this file, however, I also felt I needed to double on the f-file. What I ended up



(L) Jeffrey Roland vs. Travis Olson. Photo credit: Brian Berger.



Position after 24...Bb7

doing here was wasting a move because as soon as I played it I could see that it was a mistake (the f-pawn is weak and if I play g3, then the a8-h1 diagonal is Black's with an eventual ...d4 coming aiming at my king), so I moved to the f-file next move anyway.

25...Rac8 26.Rf1 Rc3 27.Bg6

I like that bishop on g6!

27...Bc8



Position after 27...Bc8

Black should try 27...d4 (intending ...Bd5 with pressure against a2) or 27...Rc5 (directly hitting the b-pawn), with some

advantage in either case. The game move, 27...Bc8, is equal.

28.Rf3 Rc4

Black can avoid the loss of a pawn with 28...d4 (likely good for Black in the complications) or first 28...Rxf3 followed by 29...d4 (likely equal). Note that the reason White can't win a pawn is the weakness of f4 and a2.

29.Rxa3

29.g3 seems obvious and best in hindsight. What was I thinking at the board though? Well, for one thing, I was still liking my bishop on g6, gave me dreams of back-rank mates or winning the c8-bishop...so I liked the idea of busting things open to facilitate that happening.

29...Rxf4 30.Kg1

30.Rxf4 Rc1+

30...Rg4 31.Bb1

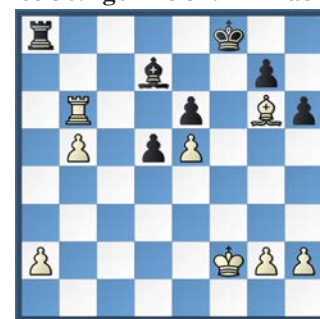
31.Bd3 tempos the c4-rook, so looks better than the retreat to b1. In reply to 31.Bb1, Black should improve the bishop with 31...Bb7.

31...Rgf4 32.Rxf4 Rxf4 33.Ra8 Rf8 34.Rb8 Bd7 35.Rxb6+

This is clearly winning for White. How is it that I didn't win this game? My technique needs work! My best position in the game is yet to come though. On move 53, I could have easily won the game with one not-so-hard to see move!! Yet while games are in progress it isn't so easy for some of us to see the obvious... except for the players who train themselves to see and play the best moves! This comes

from practice, study, and playing more. I have probably been directing too many tournaments lately instead of playing!

35...Rc8 36.Bg6 Kf8 37.Kf2 Ra8



Position after 37...Ra8

38.Rb7

38.Ra6 Rxa6 39.bxa6 Bc6 40.Ke3 Ke7 41.Kd4 Kd7 42.Bf7 Ba8 43.g3 Ke7 44.Bg6 Kd7 45.Kc5 Kc7 46.a7 Kb7 (46...Kd7 47.Kb6 followed by Bd3, Bb5, and Bc6 winning.) 47.Bf7 Kxa7 48.Bxe6+

38...Rxa2+ 39.Kf3 Ke7 40.b6 Rb2 41.h4 Kd8 42.Rb8+ Bc8 43.Bf7

43.Bd3 Rb3 44.Ke2 Rb2+ 45.Ke3 Kd7 46.Kd4

43...Kd7 44.Be8+ Kxe8 45.Rxc8+ Kf7 46.Rc7+

46.Rc6 is better than the check, which just drives the black king forward to where it wants to go.

46...Kg6 47.b7 Kf5?!

47...Rb3+ 48.Ke2 h5 is better, and then make the king run to the center.

48.Rxg7 Kxe5 49.Rh7

49.g4±

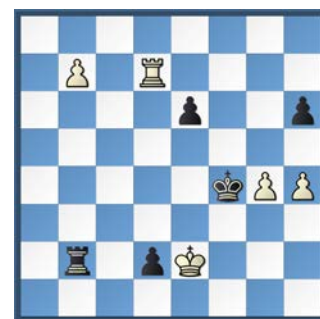
49...d4 50.g4 d3?

50...Rb3+=

51.Rd7

51.Rf7! wins.

51...d2 52.Ke2 Kf4?



Position after 52...Kf4

52...Kf6=

53.Rg7

There is an outright win on the board on this move, and I did consider it over-the-board at the time, but just didn't calculate



Morgan the Dog guards Jerrold Richards while he catches a catnap.
Photo credit: Brian Berger.

it out correctly and so played 53.Rg7 instead. 53.g5! just wins! 53...d1Q+ 54.Kxd1 hxg5 55.h5 g4 56.h6 g3 57.Rg7 g2 58.h7 Rb1+ (58...Rxb7 59.h8Q Rb1+ 60.Kc2 g1Q 61.Rxg1 Rxg1 62.Qd4+! wins easily.) 59.Kc2 Rxb7 60.h8Q Rxg7 61.Qxg7 Kf3 62.Kd2 Kf2 63.Qf6+ Kg3 64.Qd4 Kh2 65.Qh4+ Kg1 66.Ke2 e5 67.Kf3 e4+ 68.Ke3 Kf1 69.Qf2#

53...e5!

Okay, this move scared me, really! I don't want him to connect the two pawns, then what could I do against ...Rb1 and ...d1Q

54.g5 hxg5 55.Rf7+ Kg4 56.hxg5 Kxg5 57.b8Q Rxb8 58.Kxd2 Rb3 59.Ke2 Kg4 60.Rf8 Kg3 61.Rg8+ Kf4 62.Re8 Re3+ 63.Kd2 Kf3 64.Rf8+ Ke4 65.Re8 Rd3+ 66.Ke2 Re3+ 67.Kd2 Rd3+

Travis offered the draw. And I accepted. I knew I couldn't win at this point (that ship had sailed more than once!), so why not accept? I enjoyed the game. But I can definitely see I need to work on things, but that's why it's good to play in tournaments to find the areas one needs to work on and do better in the future.

1/2-1/2

Travis J. Olson (1921) – Alex James Machin (1758) [E40]
67th Annual Oregon Open (U2000)
Portland, OR (R4), September 3, 2017
[Alex Machin]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e3 Bxc3+ 5.bxc3 0-0 6.Bd3 d6

Now that I have exchanged my dark-square bishop, I want to place my pawns on dark squares.

7.Ne2 Nbd7

I was scared he might play e4 and an eventual Bg5 pinning my knight. If I could do it over, I would play 7...Nc6 instead. In the game continuation the knights ended up getting in the way of each other. Furthermore, having the option of playing ...Na5 to pressurize c4 would've been nice.

8.0-0 b6 9.Ng3 Bb7 10.e4 e5 11.Be3 Re8 12.f3 c5 13.d5 Bc8

Moving the bishop to a useful diagonal and eyeing the f5-square.

14.Qe1



Position after 14.Qe1

I believe a plan involving f4 is the key to breaking through Black's position. The immediate f4 gives up the e5 square. Let's assess the position if White goes for it. 14.f4! exf4 15.Bxf4 Ne5 16.Bg5 Bg4 17.Qd2 Nxd3 18.Qxd3 Re5 19.Bxf6 gxf6 20.Rf4 I wouldn't want to play Black in this position.

14...Nf8 15.Bg5 h6 16.Bd2 Ng6 17.Qc1 Qc7

As odd as it seems, I have a long-winded plan of playing ...Kf8, ...Ke7, ...Kd8, ...Qe7 and ...Kc7. However, I don't get very far with this.

18.Kh1 Kf8 19.Nf5 Bxf5 20.exf5 e4

This is my best chance to stay active.

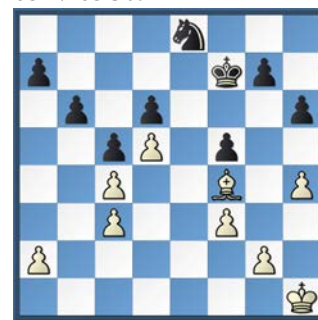
21.fxg6 exd3 22.Qb1 fxg6 23.Qxd3 Kf7

I've taken a bit of a hit with my kingside pawns, however I still have hope for a better minor piece endgame.

24.Rae1 Qd7 25.Qb1 Qf5 26.Qxf5

26.Qb5 is interesting and risky for both sides. I was relieved to see this exchange.

26...gxf5 27.Bf4 Rxe1 28.Rxe1 Re8 29.Rxe8 Nxe8 30.h4



Position after 30.h4

I thought for about 20 minutes before realizing that White's c4- and d5-pawns are actually weak because they can't be defended by his dark-square bishop, and his king is too far away. So after protecting my d-pawn with my king, I can play the decisive ...b5.

30...Ke7 31.Kh2 Nc7 32.Kh3 b5! 33.cxb5 Nxb5 34.Bd2

If 34.c4 then 34...Na3 mops everything up.

34...c4!

Keeps the d-pawn isolated and is forever safe from capture by the dark-square bishop. The knight is better than the bishop in this ending.

35.g4 Kf6 36.Be3 Ke5

36...Nxc3?? 37.Bd4+

37.gxf5 Kxf5

Simpler and avoiding the complications arising from 37...Nxc3 38.f6 gxf6 39.Bxh6 Nxa2 40.Kg4 c3 41.Bf4+ Kxd5 42.h5 Ke6 43.h6 Kf7 44.Kf5 d5 which were hard to calculate over-the-board.

38.Bd2 Nc7 39.Be3 Nxd5 40.Bd4 g6 41.Kg3 a6 42.a3 Nc7 43.Bg7 h5 44.a4 d5 45.Kf2 Ne6 46.Bh6 Nc5 47.Ke3 Nxa4 48.Kd4 Ke6 49.Bd2 Kd6 50.Bf4+ Kc6 51.Bg5 a5 52.Be7 Nb6 53.Ke5 Nd7+ 54.Ke6 Nc5+ 55.Kf7 a4 56.Bg5 a3 57.Bc1 a2 58.Bb2 Na4 59.Ba1 d4

0-1



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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.

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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.

More Jim Tarjan

Included below are two recent games I have annotated. I am hoping you can use them in the magazine. They are both from events concluded a few months ago. The game with Ziska was played in the Reykjavik Open in April 2017. Helgi Dan Ziska is a grandmaster, champion of the Faroe Islands, FIDE 2545. The game with Lenderman is from the Canadian Open held in Sault St. Marie July 2017.

— Jim Tarjan

**Helgi Dan Ziska –
Jim Tarjan [C84]**
Reykjavik Open (R8),
April 25, 2017
[Jim Tarjan]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Be7 6.d3 b5 7.Bb3 d6 8.a4 Bd7 9.c3 0-0 10.Nbd2 Na5 11.Bc2 c5 12.Re1 Qc7 13.Nf1 Rab8

With the plan of ...b4 and if then cxb4 taking back with the rook.

14.axb5 axb5 15.Bg5

White is developing and also looking to take control of the d5 square.

15...Be6 16.Ne3 Ra8

Black has spent time moving this rook back and forth, but on the other hand the exchange of the a-pawns has eased any queenside pressure.

17.Rc1 Rfc8

I left my rook on a8 with a specific idea in mind. If instead 17...Nc6 18.Bb3 White progresses with his plan of taking over the d5 square. But as long as I leave my N on a5, White can only get his bishop to b3 by playing b4 first. Then, my rook gets to a nice square on a3. As the game proceeded, this all worked like a charm, but looking at the position as it is on the board it seems far-fetched. I think White should change plans here, either playing for a properly timed d4 or for some kingside action led by his knights, leaving the rook on a8 and the knight on a5 out in left field.

18.Bh4 h6 19.b4 Nc6 20.Bxf6 Bxf6 21.Bb3 Ra3

White has achieved at least temporary control of d5, but one square does not make a position. All Black's pieces are well-placed, especially that annoying rook on a3. The position remains about equal, but White needs to switch gears. For example 22.Bxe6 fxe6 23.Ng4 or 23.Re2 with approximate equality.

22.Bd5 Qd8 23.Qd2?

This innocuous-looking move is a serious blunder handing the advantage to Black.

23...cxb4 24.cxb4 Nd4!

Suddenly Black's pieces all dance: ...Nxf3+ will double White's pawns and exposed his king; the c-file will be Black's; the bishop comes to g5.

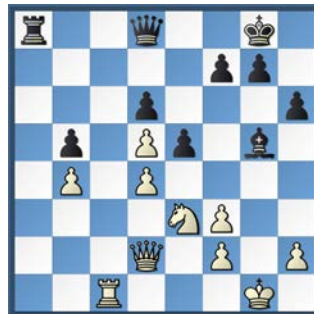
25.Ra1

25.Nxd4 exd4 26.Rxc8 Qxc8 27.Rc1 is likely a better defensive try, though Black retains the advantage.

25...Rxa1 26.Rxa1 Nxf3+ 27.gxf3 Bg5 28.Rc1?

Better is 28.Qa2 Qf6 29.Bxe6 fxe6 30.Ng2

28...Bxd5 29.exd5 Ra8 30.d4



Position after 30.d4

In this crucial moment, I lost the thread of the game. Black has two strong continuations: The straightforward 30...Bf4 intending among other things to take White's h-pawn and play for mate. I saw this at the board, and cannot explain what ghost caused me to reject it. But there is another strong move as well, pointed out after by the computer, which I did

not at all consider during the game: the paradoxical 30...Bxe3! The human mind shies away from exchanging this strong bishop, which pins both queen and rook, and inspires dreams of mate on the Black squares. However, as the continuation of the actual game showed, White's knight is not a bad piece, and in any case after 30...Bxe3 White has no good way to recapture. 30...Bxe3 31.Qxe3 exd4 and White cannot take on d4 because of the fork on g5. So White has to accede to the loss of a pawn after say 32. Qf4 Ra4. With rooks on the board he can hope to prove the adage "all rook endgames are drawn" but here there are still queens on, and among his other problems White's king is more exposed than Black's. 30...Bxe3 31.fxe3. White avoids the immediate loss of a pawn, and he also connects his two pairs of isolated pawns: what's not to like? But if you look a bit deeper, after 31. ...Qg5+ you realize the trouble White is in. Connected though they may be, his pawns remain targets, and in addition Black's queen and rook will coordinate against his king, especially now that the second rank is open to Black all the way across the board. For example, 32.Kh1 Qf5 33.Kg2 e4.

30...Qf6? 31.dxe5 Qxe5 32.Qc3

Even here Black is certainly better, but White can put up a fight.

32...Qf4 33.Kg2 g6 34.Qd3 Qe5 35.Qe4 Qxe4 36.fxe4 Ra4 37.Rc8+ Kg7 38.Nc2 Kf6 39.Kg3 Bd2 40.Rd8 Ke7 41.Rb8

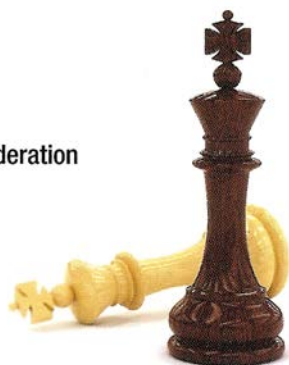
The time control has been reached. White has defended well and Black has made no progress whatsoever. The position is close to equal. A logical continuation would be 41...Bxb4 42.Rxb5 Bc5 and Black could still press a bit but with the pawns all on the same side of the board it looked like a draw to me. Instead I conceive an ambitious plan to capture the f-pawn and push Black's kingside pawns up, with many checks and even mating patterns against White's king. But in the meantime, White gets a passed pawn of his own going and things become double edged. It seemed likely to me I would keep a draw in hand, either by a perpetual

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check or by giving up the bishop for a White passed pawn. But I won't pretend that I had worked out the mind-numbing details.

41...Ra2 42.Nd4 Be1 43.Nc6+ Kf6 44.Rd8

This looks right but 44.Rxb5 is also a move.

44...Bxf2+ 45.Kf3 Bg1 46.Rxd6+ Kg5 47.e5 Rf2+ 48.Kg3

White's king should run away from his problems on the kingside: 48.Ke4! Rxb2 49.Kd3=

48...Rxb2

And here I could try 48...f5! 49.exf6 Bxb2+! 50.Kxf2 Bxd6. Black ends up with two pawns against one, bishop vs. knight. Win or draw? I don't know, you tell me. After the exchange of the b-pawns, it is a draw if White can trade his knight for the g-pawn, right? But can he force that?

49.e6 f5 50.e7



Position after 50.e7

It is looking more like a composed study than a practical game. White is queening, Black is mating, or almost mating. 50.Kf3 is an alternative, again to run the king away from the mates. Then 50...f4 51.Ke4? Rh3 wins for Black. Instead White can draw in two ways: 51.e7 transposing to the game; or 51.Rd8 Rh3+ 52.Ke2 Bb6 53.Rf8 and Black must bail out with a perpetual check: 53. ...Rg3 54.e7 Rg2+=. Yes, this is all really complicated.

50...f4+ 51.Kf3 Kf5

The stage is set for a remarkable finish. White can queen but then he is mated; he can only save himself by sacrificing first the knight, then the rook.

52.Nd4+!

52.Rf6+? Kxf6 53.e8Q Rf2+ 54.Kg4 h5+ 55.Kh3 Rh2# is checkmate. Therefore the knight must be sacrificed to deflect the bishop from g1.

52...Bxd4 53.Rf6+! Kxf6

53...Kg5? 54.Rxg6+

54.e8Q

After the game Ziska suggested I could keep playing for a win here, but objectively White always has at least a perpetual check. And both our clocks were running down to the increment in the final sudden death time control. Time to make a draw by perpetual check myself.

54...Rf2+ 55.Kg4 h5+ 56.Kh3 Rf3+ 57.Kh2 Rf2+ 58.Kh3 Rf3+ 59.Kh2 Rf2+

1/2-1/2

Alex Lenderman –
Jim Tarjan [A17]
Canadian Open (R8),
July 15, 2017
[Jim Tarjan]

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.g3 b6 4.Bg2 Bb7 5.0-0 Be7 6.Nc3 0-0 7.Re1 Ne4 8.Nxe4 Bxe4 9.d3 Bb7 10.e4 c5 11.d4 cxd4 12.Nxd4 d6

A Hedgehog with a pair of knights traded off.

13.b3 a6 14.Bb2 Nd7 15.Qd2 Qc7 16.Rad1 Rfe8 17.Qe2

The typical Hedgehog maneuvering starts.

17...Bf8 18.Qf1 Rad8 19.Rc1 Qb8 20.b4 Qa8 21.a3 Rc8 22.Nb3 h6 23.Nd2

At the board I thought 23.a4!? was a good idea here, intending a5. After 23... a5 24.b5 White has the plan of putting his bishop on a3, piling up on the d6 pawn. If Black then puts his on c5 White trades knights, forcing Black to recapture with a

pawn and block the c-file.

23...Rc7 24.f4

Both sides could go on maneuvering like this for a very long time, but I decide the moment has come to do something. I want to break with ...d5, but to make it playable I need to first soften up the b4-pawn.

24...a5 25.Qd3 d5

Another typical Hedgehog moment: finally a pawn break, and then complications. White will wish his f-pawn was back on f2, sheltering his king.

26.cxd5 Rxc1 27.Rxc1 exd5 28.Qb5?



Position after 28.Qb5

A serious error, after which White is in big trouble. Black does not need to defend the N on d7. Things are complicated but about equal after either 28.Rc7 or 28.exd5: 28.Rc7 axb4 29.axb4 dxe4 (or 29...Rd8=) 30.Qxd7 Re7 31.Qd6 e3 32.Bxb7 Rxc7 33.Qxc7 exd2 34.Bxa8 d1Q+=; 28.exd5 axb4 29.axb4 Bxb4=

28...axb4 29.Qxd7 dxe4

Among other things Black threatens ...Rd8 winning back the Nd2.

30.Nc4


The forlorn 30.Nb1 is hardly appealing, but might offer some resistance. Instead White throws everything into a last ditch kingside attack.

30...Rd8 31.Qg4 b5+ 32.Ne5 bxa3 33.Ba1 Bd5 34.f5 b4 35.f6 b3


This little pawn is going to b2 putting out the fire on the kingside from afar.

36.Bc3 Qa7+ 37.Kh1 Qe3 38.Rf1 Qxc3 39.fxg7 Bxg7 40.Nd7 Be6 0-1

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PCC September 2017 Game 60

By Brian Berger

Portland, OR – September 30, 2017

Rain was in the forecast on the day of the Portland Chess Club's monthly Game 60; the kind of rain that drizzles for periods, then can catch you off-guard with a substantial downpour of the wet stuff—something of a metaphor for what took place in the club's comfortable interior, where some opponents were unfazed by what seemed to be a drizzly-dull game, only to be surprised when they suddenly found themselves in deep water.

I say SOME were surprised, because others of us are so used to being in deep water, that we accept it as a natural part of playing chess. This player for one, Brian "I'm Just Glad To Be Here" Berger (1565—1571—1.0/4), is a perfect case in point. In fact, I have developed many counter measures to finding myself waist deep or deeper, starting with the normal, in place treading, to various forms of the backstroke, dog-paddle and slow-crawl.

This tournament found me in just such a mode, except for one game, in which a stray life-preserver (in the form of an IDEA), lifted me above the waters, where a new view of the chess pieces allowed me to sink my opponent (an 1800 player) in the very waters I was previously up-to-my-neck-in. The win saved me from finishing zero-for-four, and salvaged just a bit of my pride, as well as some precious rating points if I had lost.

Because of the large turnout (36 players), the tournament was broken into two sections, an upper and lower, my listed rating being just high enough to squeeze me into the upper, where I attempted to fight off 1700+ to 1900+ opponents, only having success against the above mentioned one.

Two other 1500+ players also happened to end up in the upper section, but unlike me, they scored 2.0-points



(L) Jason Cigan vs Steven Breckenridge. Photo credit: Brian Berger.

each. Clearly these two believably belonged there, their fighting skills beginning to show even at their young age—those being Raj Kodithyala (1571-1593—2.0/4) and Abbie Wu (1568-1592—2.0/4). And although neither won a prize this time, past performances have shown them to be capable of slaying dragons.

Turning to the real winners in this upper section, NM Steven Breckenridge (2400-2405—4.0/4), the overall winner of the recent Vancouver Open, finished with a perfect score—a feat which sent him home with \$84 and a bump of 5-points in rating. And tying for second at 3.0-points each were Jason Cigan (2226-2228—3.0/4), Matt Zavortink (2241-2243—3.0/4) and Jai Dayal (1950-1963—3.0/4) whose split winnings, combined with Jack Woo McClain's (1768-1782—2.5/4) U1800 prize money, saw each player earn

about what it cost them to play—\$16.

The lower section saw chess celebrity, Morgan The Dog, rooting for his live-in companion, Jerrold "I Just Want To Reach 1600 Before It's Over" Richards (1354-1319—2.5/4). Richards, who has also been fighting to keep HIS head above water for about as long as I have, has a Ratings History Graph that, if it were viewed by a cardiologist, would have him shouting out "Get this patient to the operating room, STAT."

Generally fighting a riptide attempting to pull him under at each tournament, this was one of the few times he managed to stay afloat long enough to finish this Game 60 event with two wins and a draw, which normally would translate into rating points gained. But even in winning mode, fate has a way of making what would appear to be a fortuitous outcome for Richards, still be a



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(L) Zoey Tang vs Patrick Morrissey. Photo credit: Brian Berger.

rating-sucking loss—in this case, because his opponents were all MUCH lower rated, and unrated.

Zoey Tang (1615-1634—4.0/4), another fast rising young talent, was the winner of the lower section. Predictably so, because her rating was more than 100-points higher than her nearest competition. If not for the TD using a still-published rating of 1630 for me, rather than the real-time 1565, Tang would have taken my place in the upper section—but even in the kiddy pool I

would probably still have been fighting to keep above water.

The first place win earned Tang \$84 and 19 points more on her rating, while Jon Strohhenn (1495-1482—3.0/4) and Avi Gupta (1439-1443—3.0/4) tied for the second-third prize money, which amounted to \$24 each.

Patrick Morrissey (976-1201—3.0/4), a dentist in the Lake Grove area, who when not engaged in flossing and drilling sometimes intersperses those

activities with online chess study, grabbed the U1200 prize of \$48. That type of dedication, and engaging in over-the-board casual play at the Portland Chess Club or the Oregon City Chess Club, which meets at Singer Hill Cafe from 11:00 to 4:00 on Sundays, is making him a threat not to take lightly.

Thanks must be offered to Chief TD Lennart Bjorksten and Chief Assistant TD Mike Hasuike for their courteous and efficient handling of this event.

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Inaugural Seattle Chess Classic draws 75 players

By Josh Sinanan

The last time chess players in the Northwest were treated to a nine-round open Swiss was the 2012 US Open in Vancouver, WA. Ever since then, many folks have been pining to experience a similar marathon tournament. The solution to this was the creation of the Seattle Chess Classic, which took place August 16-20 during the dog days of summer at the Seattle Chess Club.

FM Roland Feng, a two-time Washington State Champion, won the first Seattle Chess Classic with an undefeated 7.0/9 and took home the \$1300 first place prize! Roland finished half a point ahead of second place finishers IM Ray Kaufman, FM Tanraj Sohal, and NM Daniel He. Tying for second U2300 with six points each were WIM Megan Lee, FM Ignacio Perez, and NM Derek Zhang. Benjamin Mukumbya, who starred in the recent Disney film *Queen of Katwe*, and World Schools Champion Naomi Bashkansky tied for first U2150/U2000, also with six points. Vikram Ramasamy and David Rupel tied for second U2150 with 5.5/9 points. Travis Olson won clear second U2000 with 5.0/9 points and Nicholas Whale had an amazing tournament by winning the U1850 prize with 5.5/9 points, raising his rating by 200 points in the process! Vignesh Anand and Thomas Taylor split second U1850 honors with 4.5/9 points each. Megan Lee and Naomi Bashkansky added to their winnings by splitting the Top Female prize. Ignacio Perez took home the Top Senior prize despite still appearing to be in his mid-20s!

In the Reserve section, two players dominated the 21-player field and scored



*Seattle Chess Classic Organizer Josh Sinanan (L) and Chief TD Fred Kleist.
Photo Credit: Victoria Jung-Doknjas.*

an amazing 8.0/9 points each—Jacob Mayer and Jeffrey Yan! They each won \$275.50 and picked up a handful of rating points along the way. Robin Tu and Sophie Szeto tied for third U1600 with 5.5/9 points each. They were half a point ahead of Lorenzo Patton and Melina Li, who tied for second U1600. Alison Xiao and Ajay Pai split first U1450/U1300 with 5.0/9 points each. Half-a-point back were Harrison Toppen-Ryan and Ethan

Su, who tied for second U1450. Young Anand Gupta won second U1300 with 4.5/9 points, and Kabir Hotani took down the U1150 prize with the same score. Raymond Zhang from Vancouver, B.C. won second U1150 with 3.5/9 points. Sophie Szeto won Top Female honors and August Piper captured the Top Senior Prize by virtue of being the only senior to compete in his section. Congratulations to the winners!



Seattle Chess Classic players prior to the start of the tournament. Photo Credit: Victoria Jung-Doknjas.



Play begins on the top boards of the open section. Photo Credit: Victoria Jung-Doknjas.

The Seattle Chess Classic was directed by Fred Kleist, hosted by Seattle Chess Club, and organized by WCF President Josh Sinanan.

Mary Kuhner (1971) – Roland Feng (2471) [C13]
2017 Seattle Chess Classic
Seattle, WA (R1), August 16, 2017
[Roland Feng]

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 dxe4

Easily my favorite sideline in the French, as positions with dynamic equality and therefore chances for both sides often occur.

5.Nxe4 Be7 6.Nxf6+

More common is capturing with the bishop, but this move is also playable.

6...gxf6

Recapturing with the bishop would allow Black to equalize with minimal issues, hence players will usually play Bxf6 if they wish to press for a win. However, I opt to recapture with the pawn anyways in hopes to keep more pieces on the board and create some imbalances to increase my own winning chances.

7.Be3 Nc6 8.Nf3 b6 9.Be2 Bb7 10.0-0?

I feel it would make more sense to prepare queenside castling. While there are no immediate threats, the white king will surely not feel too great about sitting on the half-open file and having to be vigilant about tactics along the long white

diagonal.

10...Rg8 11.Re1

Pushing g3 may have actually been a better way to cope with the pressure along the g-file. While it does weaken the diagonal, it is not so easy for Black to take advantage of it as the queen can always be forced off the diagonal with moves like c4 and Bd3. My rook would be blunted and the g3 pawn would be relatively stable with its two friends backing it up.

11...Qd6

Clearing the way to castle, and looking to play moves like f5-f4. I also considered playing Qd5 immediately, but I felt it would be premature with my king still in the center.

12.c3 0-0-0 13.Qa4

Developing the queen and possibly looking to force a trade of bishops with Ba6, which would greatly relieve the pressure along the long diagonal.

13...Qd5

Adding more pressure along the diagonal, and preparing the queen to move over to f5 or h5 where it would pose a much scarier threat to the white king. 14.Ba6 Qxf3-+; 14.g3= Stockfish says objectively equal, but I believe Black has the much easier position to play due to the lack of targets for White while Black has a very obvious position to play against the white king. 13... Qd5 also invites a tempting move for White, which happens to be the game.

14.c4??

A very tempting move, which forces my queen off d5. White looks to potentially close the diagonal by playing d5 herself. The position was already a bit uncomfortable for White, but now it is lost because of...

14...Qe4



Position after 14...Qe4

The problem is now that any d5 push can always be met by Rxd5 due to the lateral pin along the fourth rank. At the same time, White's last move weakened the d4 pawn, which is now extremely susceptible due to the f3 knight never being able to move since there will always be tactics on g2. There is also no way to harass my queen, even though it is in the center of the board.

15.h3

As it turns out, there is no way to hold onto the d4-pawn. 15.d5 Rxd5; 15.Kf1 Rxd5 16.Kxg2 Nxd4 17.Bxd4 Qg4+



WCF President Josh Sinanan (Top) and reserve section players at the Seattle Chess Classic.
Photo Credit: Victoria Jung-Doknjas.

18.Kh1 Rg8+ With mate threats everywhere.; 15.Rad1 Rxc2 16.Kxc2 Rg8+ 17.Kf1 (17.Kh1 Nxd4 18.Bxd4 Qxf3+ 19.Bxf3 Bxf3#) 17...Qf5 18.Ng5 (18.Ng1 Nxd4 19.Rxd4 Bg2#; 18.Bd3 Qxf3 19.d5 Ne5) 18...fxg5 (18...Rxc2? 19.Bxc2 Qh3+ 20.Kg1 Nxd4 21.Qe8+ Bd8 22.f3+-) 19.Bd3 Qg4+ Although the file is now blocked off, the white king still has nowhere to run. White has no counterplay.; 15.g3 Rxd4 16.Bxd4 Nxd4+ The weakened diagonal will quickly prove decisive. At worst, Black can always get two bishops for the rook—easily decisive with all these open diagonals.

15...Nxd4

15...Rxd4 was also considered, but I was not certain if I had a follow up after 16.Kf1!

16.Bxd4 Rxd4 17.Qb3

17.Bd1 Rxc2+ 18.Kxc2 Qxe1

17...Rd2 18.Kf1 Bc5

Pins are everywhere, and setting the stage for my final combination.

19.Rad1

Hoping to trade off the rooks to relieve the pressure, and also setting a sneaky trap that would prolong the game.

19...Rxc2!

There goes the first rook! It cannot be declined as if Rxf2+ is allowed, it is curtains.

20.Kxc2

20.Rxd2 Rxf2+ 21.Kg1 Rxf3+



Position after 20.Kxc2

20...Qh4!!

The most important move of the game. The immediate Rxe2 seems good enough, as after the exchange White is completely paralyzed and will be lost after e5-e4-e3. However, White is not forced to trade rooks on e2: 20...Rxe2? 21.Rd8+!! A brilliant decoy and clearance sacrifice. (21.Rxe2? Qxe2 22.Rf1 e5+ 23.Qc3 e4 24.Nd4 e3+) 21...Kxd8 22.Qd1+ Kc8 23.Qxe2 and the white queen gets back in time to defend. Black is still winning, but

there is still work to be done.

21.Rxd2

If the game had continued 21. Rf1 Rxe2, the Rd8-Qd1 idea is now refuted as the rook being on f1 rather than e1 now proves to be an incredibly important subtlety: 21.Rf1 Rxe2 22.Rd8+ Kxd8 23.Qd1+ Bd6! 24.Qxe2 Qg5+!! 25.Kh1 Qf4+ Mate on h2 is unavoidable, and the f3 knight hanging is just icing on the cake.

21...Qxf2+

Black is now down two rooks, but the power of the bishops and their pins proves to be fatal.

22.Kh1 Qxe1+ 23.Kh2 Qf2+

With mate on g1 to follow. Possibly my favorite game in the French to date!

0-1

**Naomi Bashkansky (1995) –
Nicholas Whale (1547) [E87]**
2017 Seattle Chess Classic
Seattle, WA (R1), August 16, 2017
[Nicholas Whale]

Going into this game, I felt cautiously optimistic, as due to my being the second-lowest rated player in the Open Section I would hopefully avoid having to play one of the 12(!) masters in the field, and thus have a better shot at starting the event off on the right foot. Of course, my “reward” was getting to play the World U-13 Girls Champion instead! So I knew this would be a very tough game... and boy it was, but it was also very satisfying to win.

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.f3

The Saemisch Variation, which for some reason I always seem to not play well against.

5...0-0 6.Be3 e5 7.d5

I had this position as Black twice in the tournament, this game and in round three against Joseph Truelson. Although I eventually won that game as well, I was very unhappy with my position out of the opening both times. Time to study up more I guess!

7...a5

A somewhat less common move, immediately trying to exploit the c5 weakness. 7...c6 and; 7...Nh5 are the main lines.; I tried the even weirder 7...Nfd7!? against Joseph, but would have been in trouble had he played correctly. That game went 8.g4 Nc5 9.Qd2 f5 10.gxf5 gxf5 11.0-0-0 fxe4?! 12.fxe4 Qh4, but now instead of his passive 13.Bg2? White has either the simple 13.Bxc5 dxc5 14.Kb1± with a clear advantage, or the aggressive; 13.Nge2!? when after 13...Nxe4 14.Nxe4

Qxe4 15.Ng3 Qh4 16.Be2± I think White has ample compensation for the pawn, with my lack of development and kind of breezy king.

8.Nge2 Na6 9.g4 c6 10.Ng3 Ne8

Trying to get in the thematic KID ...f5 break to generate some counterplay, but already I wasn't really sure what to play, and it seemed like I was already worse.



Position after 10...Ne8

11.Bd3

This was a surprise, letting me win a tempo on the bishop. I was more concerned about 11.h4!? when it wasn't clear to me how to prevent being squished to death and/or an unfavorable opening of the position in the long run.

11...Nb4 12.Bb1

She should follow this up with a3, to kick away the knight, but this was never played, essentially relegating the b1–bishop and a1–rook to being mere spectators of the kingside action.

12...Qh4!

The computer doesn't like this move, but I was glad to play it, physically blocking h2-h4 and pinning the knight to reinforce ...f5.

13.Qd2 h6

Bg5 has to be prevented. Certainly not 13...f5?? 14.Bg5 Qh3 15.Nce2! A somewhat tricky move to see in advance, but now I didn't (and still don't) see how to save my queen from being lost with Ng1, as 15...Qg2 16.exf5 gxf5 is met with (16...Qxf3 also loses to 17.Be4! Qxg4 18.h3+–) 17.Rf1!+– with the unstoppable Rf2/Ng1 coming; if 17...Qh3 18.Ng1+–

14.0–0

A mistake, castling into my coming attack; unpinning the knight can wait. Instead, this was the first of several chances for White to play the move 14.a3! when after 14...Na6 15.Na4± for instance, I'm under pressure everywhere and also without a clear plan of untangling... in other words, basically losing.

14...Bd7 15.g5!?

Going right for the kill, but I have resources too.



Jacob Mayer (L) and Ignacio Perez enjoy a delicious late-night dinner and analysis session at a nearby Shari's restaurant. Photo Credit: Josh Sinanan.

15...h5

I rejected 15...hxg5!?! without much thought because of 16.Bxg5 Qh3 17.Be7 picking up the exchange but after 17...cxd5 18.Bxf8 Bxf8 19.cxd5 Nf6± the computer only gives White a slight edge.

16.Nd1!?

This move seemed strange to me at the time, as I couldn't see an obvious queen trap, which I thought was the only point. However, the knight winds up being a nice defender on f2, so it's not such a bad idea. Of course, the knight is also now rather passive, so I reacted actively.

16...Bh3!?

16...cxd5 17.cxd5 Nc7= is preferred by the computer. I never really appreciated this idea of weakening the White center by trading on d5 enough; a bit later on this proved unfortunate.

17.Re1!?

The more natural move, to keep f2 open for the knight, but also what I wanted her to play, as the weakening of f3 proves costly.

17...f5!

Finally! Now my position comes to life a bit more. 17...cxd5 18.cxd5 Nc7= is once again the computer choice, but I wanted to win.

18.exf5

White would like to play 18.gxf6?! to break up my pawn advance more effectively but here I have 18...Qxf6! when f3 is awkward to defend. This is

why the rook should be on f2, not e1.

18...gxf5

At last, I have a threat!

19.f4

After this move I had a critical decision to make as to how to proceed.



Position after 19.f4

19...c5?!

After some thought, I came up with this subtle move, but the overall idea behind it was flawed. I actually saw the game position after move 25 here, and assessed it as both very good for Black, and as being reached by a fairly forcing line—as it turns out, I was wrong on both counts! But regardless of all that, here I missed a glorious opportunity: 19...cxd5!± For whatever reason, this obvious move just totally escaped my attention. Black is much better here as after 20.cxd5 Nc7 the d5 pawn is extremely weak without its e4 protector, a key change from the ...cxd5 lines above. Now if 21.Nc3 to defend it I have 21...Rae8!+ followed by ...exf4 violently opening the e-file and long



Daniel He (R) vs Roland Feng and other top boards of the open section during round 6 of the Seattle Chess Classic. Photo Credit: Victoria Jung-Doknjias.

diagonal, and White is toast.

20.Nf2

This was the move ...c5 was directed against.

20...exf4 21.Bxf4 Bd4!?

My plan here was quite simple: ...Qg4-f3-g2#. While she can stop it, there are numerous pitfalls along the way and in my opinion the position is tough for a human to defend.

22.Kh1?

I saw this too, (at the board I thought it was forced) so everything was still going according to plan. However, White is actually just much better here, though it is complicated. Again, the move 22.a3!± is very strong, forcing me to retreat as my intended 22...Qg4?? fails miserably to 23.Be3!+- which I overlooked.

22...Bg4

Going for the same mating pattern, but in reverse.

23.Nxg4

With the right follow-up, this is best. However 23.Kg2!/? is the safer option, when I really didn't see how to continue the attack.

23...Qxg4

My new threat is ...Qf3+ winning a piece.

24.Rf1!?

Now things get really crazy. 24.Kg2! is now even better, and probably winning in fact, because I really can't do anything; we both missed that if 24...h4?? 25.h3+- traps my brave albeit foolish queen.

24...h4 25.Ne2 Qh3

This was the position I had been aiming for since move 19, and I thought it was totally winning. I'm threatening to take the rook and mate on g1, moving it allows ...Qf3#, and defending it with the queen allows ...Bxb2 winning the other rook which is trapped in the corner. Additionally, by now Naomi was down to under ten minutes to reach move 40, while I still had about 45. But, of course, things aren't nearly that simple.



Position after 25...Qh3

26.Bc2

Not only did I not see this defense at all, which was annoying enough, the computer finds something even better: 26.Qe1!! This looks crazy, but watch. 26...Bxb2 This is what I would have played, seemingly winning the rook. 27.Ng1! Not just hitting my queen, but also unveiling her own on e1. 27...Qc3 28.Qe6+ Kh8 29.Qh6+ Kg8 Now comes the killing shot. 30.Bxf5!! Ouch! 30...Rxf5 31.Qe6+ Kh8 32.Qxf5+- and Black is completely and utterly busted, because grabbing the en prise rook with 32...Bxa1 allows the amazing 33.Be5+!! with unavoidable mate to follow... wow! Luckily for me, this line is obviously very hard for a human to find at all over the board, even without the horrible time pressure that Naomi was in by now, but it still serves as a good reminder to never think a game is over until it is actually over.

26...Bxb2

Now we return to reality. I thought for a bit here but couldn't see anything better than simply taking the pawn.

27.Rab1 Rd8?!

My plan here was to go ...Ng7-h5, but it's a bit too slow.

28.Ng1

I think Naomi was down to about eight seconds before this move, whereas I still had over half an hour. So I just replied instantly to not give her any time to think and thus maybe force a mistake, knowing that I had plenty of time to handle any ensuing complications.

28...Qc3 29.Bxf5??

And what do you know, finally she cracks with the decisive error, probably missing my 31st move. The best move was 29.Bb3! with the same idea of a discovery against the b2-bishop, but keeping her own in the process. Still, I thought that after 29...Qxd2 30.Bxd2 Bd4 I would have decent chances in the endgame with the extra pawn, but the computer says White is significantly better here (+1.26), which seems like a bit much to me.

29...Rxf5+-

Now I knew I was winning, the rest is only technique really.

30.Qxb2

30.Rxb2 is no better as after 30...Qxc4 d5 drops with check, leaving a trivial win.

30...Qxb2 31.Rxb2 Nd3

Basically game, set, and match.

32.Rbf2 Nxf2+ 33.Rxf2 Nc7 34.Kg2

34.a4 is met with the cool 34...Na8! followed by ...Nb6 and capturing all White's queenside pawns.

34...b5 35.cxb5 Nxd5!?

Taking the other pawn might be objectively better, but I wanted to simplify as much as possible.

36.Bd2 Rxf2+ 37.Kxf2 c4 38.Ne2

38.Bxa5?! Ra8 wins at least the a- and h-pawns, and the game.

38...a4 39.Kf3 Rc8 40.Ke4 c3 41.Be1 Nb4

41...Re8+! would be even easier 42.Kf3 (42.Kxd5? c2! will win both pieces to stop queening.; and if 42.Kd3? Re3+ is game over) 42...Re3+ 43.Kf2 c2 44.Nc1 Re5, for instance, leaves White helplessly tied up, and I have all the time and moves in the world to finish it off.

42.Bxc3 Nxa2 43.Bf6 Re8+

There's no reason to allow her any counterplay with Kf5.

44.Kd3 Nb4+ 45.Kc4?

This gives up without much of a fight, but even 45.Kd2 is hopeless after 45...a3, ...Rb8/a8, ...Kf7, etc.

45...Rxe2

It didn't take much calculation to see that this is just easily winning for Black.

46.Kxb4 Rxb2 47.b6 Re2 48.Bd8

48.b7 only prolongs the agony. 48...Re8 49.Be7 Rb8 50.Bxd6 Rxb7+ 51.Kxa4 Kf7+ with White's king forever stuck on the a-file, there's obviously no way to hold.

48...h3

Now the h-pawn can't be stopped.

49.Kc3 Re8

I decided to play it safe, rather than get into the mutual queening situation (which was also winning), so here she resigned anyway. I figured there must be a forced mate after 49...h2, but I was just too lazy and tired to bother calculating it. In fact there's several, I'll just give one: 50.b7 h1Q 51.b8Q Qc6+ 52.Kd4 Qe4+ 53.Kc3 Rc2# Definitely not a perfect game by any means, but a win is a win. Kudos to Naomi of course, she played very well for a long time and resisted stubbornly right to the bitter end. I was obviously very happy with the good result, but it certainly didn't get any easier the rest of the way!

0-1

**Daniel He (2293) –
Joshua Doknjas (2223) [B43]**
2017 Seattle Chess Classic
Seattle, WA (R8), August 20, 2017
[Daniel He]

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 a6 3.Nge2

I chose a very flexible move order to see what setup Black is aiming for before revealing mine. I can still go into an Open



*Neeraj Harish (L) vs August Piper and other reserve section players during the last round.
Photo Credit: Victoria Jung-Doknjas.*

Sicilian with d4 or Closed Sicilian with a kingside fianchetto.

3...Nf6

This move surprised me a bit because Nf6 without d6 first is usually unplayable in the Closed Sicilian because e5 forces the knight to retreat. However, in this case, I have played Nge2, which blocks the g4 square.

4.g3

I ultimately decided that if I play 4.e5 Ng4 5.f4 Nc6 6.Ng3 and Black has nothing to worry about. 6...d6

4...b5 5.Bg2 Bb7 6.d4

This move reveals that I'm going for an Open Sicilian setup combined with the kingside fianchetto. Ideas with Nd5 come to mind now, which would be quite annoying for Black.

6...cxd4 7.Nxd4 e6

So after all the move order commotion, I've managed to trick Joshua into a Kan, which I know he's not too familiar with.

8.Qe2 d6?!

How can such a natural pawn move be dubious? Black's pieces are very cramped, and I'm just waiting for the right moment to play the thematic Nd5 sacrifice, breaking open the e-file. And to make matters worse for Black, once ...Be7 is played, there are now ideas where I play e5. During post-game analysis, we agreed that 8...b4 9.Na4 d5 was a better option. It gives Black much more room, and my knight on a4 is misplaced, ruling out Nd5 tricks altogether.

9.0-0 Be7

[Diagram top of next column]



Position after 9...Be7

10.Re1?!

10.e5 Bxg2 11.exf6 Bxf1 (11...Bxf6 12.Kxg2 Bxd4 13.Qe4 wins a piece.) 12.fxg7 Bxe2 13.exd8Q+ Kxd8 14.Ncxe2 where White has knight and bishop for rook and pawn, which favors White. For some strange reason, I thought Black's knight was still on f6 and my pawn still on e4, so after the forcing line, Black can play b4 followed by Nxe4, so I dismissed 10.e5.

10...0-0?

Either Joshua didn't see e5 or he underestimated it, because now the line is even better for me because my rook is on e1 instead of f1, safe from the bishop!

11.e5! Nd5?

11...Bxg2 12.exf6 Bxf6 13.Nxe6 fxe6 14.Qxe6+ Kh8 15.Kxg2 is probably Black's best line, but he's still down a pawn. ...Nd5 saves the pawn (for now), but Joshua doesn't see what's coming next.

12.Nxd5 Bxd5 13.Bxd5 exd5 14.e6

Now I'm going after the d5 pawn. Once that's gone, it's basically game over.

14...Qc8

A nice try, but now I head over to the kingside...

15.Nf5 Nc6

15...Ra7 16.Qg4 Bf6 17.e7 and if 17...Re8, 18.Nh6+ and 19.Qxc8 forces mate.

16.Qg4 g6 17.exf7+

17.Bh6 is also an interesting line and more forcing than the move I played. Black is forced to give up the exchange due to 17...Re8 failing to 18.exf7+ Kxf7 19.Rxe7+ Rxe7 and forking the king and queen next move.



Position after 17.exf7+

17...Kxf7??

Losing on the spot. Joshua completely misses the Rxe7 idea. I was calculating beforehand that if 17...Rxf7 White wins the exchange with 18.Nh6+ Kg7 19.Qxc8

Rxc8 20.Nxf7; If 17...Kh8 I had planned 18.Rxe7 Qxf5 (18...Nxe7 19.Qd4#) 19.Qxf5 gxf5 20.Rd7 Rad8 21.Bg5 which wins at least a pawn and gets me a favorable endgame.

18.Rxe7+ 1-0

Jacob Mayer (1778) –
Jeffrey Yan (1797) [C18]
2017 Seattle Chess Classic
Seattle, WA (R4), August 18, 2017
[Jacob Mayer]

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e5 c5 5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.bxc3 Ne7 7.Qg4 0-0 8.h4

With this I start showing my lack of preparation against the French.

8...Qc7 9.Bd3 cxd4 10.cxd4

This is the first big mistake, after Qc3 the engine gives Black ~ -3.5. However Nf3 leads to some tricky lines which will be shown later in the game. 10.Nf3 Qxc3+ 11.Ke2 Qxa1 (11...Nf5 12.Bd2 Qc7+) 12.Bh6!

10...Qc3+ 11.Ke2 Nf5

At this point I had seen the rook sacrifice for the initiative on the black king and thought Ra2 would lead to a simple advantage for Black that would be easily convertible.

12.Nf3?? Qxa1 13.Bg5?!

I've already sacrificed one rook for the initiative, why not two?! Bringing the bishop to g5 and then to f6 poses great problems to Black's king, and since allowing the queen to retreat allows for a simple conversion for Black I decided to go for it!

13...Qxh1 14.Bf6 Qc1!!

After awhile he finds the best defense! Qc1 - Qh6 with g6 to prevent the attack.

15.Bxf5 Qh6 16.Bd3 g6?!

While this looks like a strong move, cutting my bishop off the h7 diagonal and blocking my queen, now the black queen is trapped. ...Nd7 would've been much better. 16...Nd7 17.Bg5 f5!! 18.exf6 Nxf6 19.Qg3 Qh5+

17.Bg5 Qh5 18.Qf4 f5 19.exf6

With this Black sees the first pawn sacrifice needed to let the queen escape, but he misses the second! e5 is critical at this point allowing g4 gives white a near equal compensation for the earlier rook sacrifices!

19...Nc6

19...e5 20.Qxe5 Nc6 21.Qxd5+ Kh8+

20.g4 e5 21.Nxe5 Bxg4+ 22.Nxg4 Nd8 23.f3! Nf7??

Northwest Chess Open

December 16-17, 2017

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

Format: 5 Round Swiss, one section.

Time Control: 40/90, SD/30, d0 (No Delay).

Registration: 8:30-9:15 a.m. on 12/16 or preregistered.

Rounds: Saturday: 9:30, 2:00, 6:30, Sunday 10:00 and 3:00.

Entry Fee: \$30 in advance, \$35 at door.

Prize fund: \$750 based on 35 entries.

1st \$150, 2nd \$100, 1st U2000 \$100, 1st U1800 \$100, 1st U1600 \$100, 1st U1400 \$100, 1st U1200 \$100.

Prizes Increased if over 40 entries.

Additional books and Northwest Chess magazine subscription prizes as entries permit.

Current USCF Membership is required, available at site or online at www.uschess.org.

State membership not required, but of course we want to sign you up.

This is a fund raising event for Northwest Chess magazine.

Byes: One half-point bye available in advance or by the end of Round 1.

Organizer - Duane Polich, Publisher NWC.

Entries: Make checks payable to Duane Polich.

Mail To: Duane Polich, 17317 Woodcrest Drive NE, Bothell, WA 98011.

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



Position after 23...Nf7

After ...Nf7 Black has given the advantage squarely to White. ...Ne6 leads to equality according to the engine, but I still think the position is incredibly double-edged with Black's queen stuck but White still down significant material. 23...Ne6 24.f7+ Rxf7 25.Qe5=

24.Qc7

Black's last, best hope is to harass the queen along the eighth rank, the white queen will scoop up the pawns on a7, b7, and d5. With the extra pawns the bishops are likely more valuable than the rooks but after ...Kh8, Nh6 essentially ends the game in favor of White.



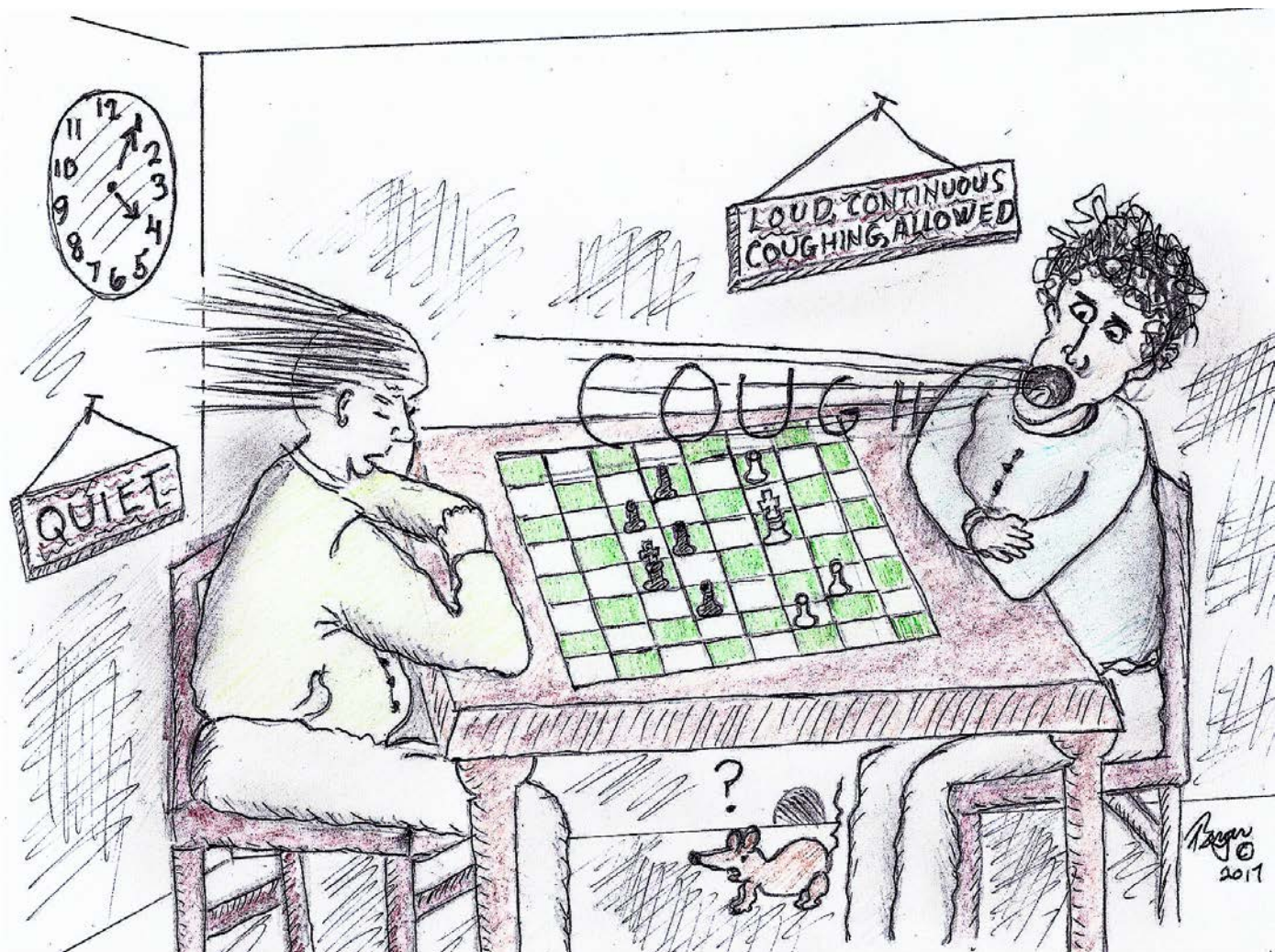
Reserve section co-champions Jacob Mayer (L) and Jeffrey Yan (R) with Josh Sinanan at the closing ceremony. Photo Credit: Wayne Su.

24...Kh8?? 25.Nh6 Rae8+ 26.Kd2 Qxf3 27.Nxf7+ Rxf7 28.Qxf7 Qf2+ 29.Kc3 Qe1+ 30.Kb2 Rg8 31.Bh6

Despite two rook sacrifices in the opening, Black's defense isn't easy to spot. White has strong attacking tendencies with both

bishops, queen, and knight pointed at the black king and the black queen very quickly gets trapped in the corner on h6 attempting to defend. Not a line I would likely repeat, but a very fun experiment.

1-0



Game From Recent Event

Brian Lange (1393) – James Inman (1827) [D16]
ICA Summer Classic
Boise, ID (R2), July 15, 2017
[Brian Lang
(James Inman where indicated)]

I've been going to the Boise Chess Club for a few months now and Jim has been kind enough to work with me on a variation to the Slav Defense as White. I had been playing the Geller Gambit (1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.e4?!) but struggled to hold the game together after Black plays 5...b5. He suggested playing the Alapin variation (5.a4!) and I was happy to be paired with Jim in the ICA Summer Open tournament to try out this opening with him in a tournament setting.

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.a4

The opening begins as a Slav Defense with 2...c6, but then becomes a Queen's Gambit Accepted (QGA) line with 4...dxc4. The Alapin Variation (5.a4) is meant to protect White's queenside from (5...b5) and returns focus to the middle of the board.

5...Bg4

This is the Steiner Variation and varies from the main line (5...Bf5). It is a more aggressive push for the bishop and threatens to pin the knight to its queen. This was a new move from Jim, so the opening jabs of the round were over, and it was time for the real battle to begin.

I didn't want to allow 6...Bxf3 and have doubled-pawns on f2 and f3 and pushing the knight to e5 seemed too early as it could lead to 6...Nbd7 and 7...Nxe5 and I once again have doubled-pawns on the e-file. 6. Ne5 is the better move as it attacks both the bishop on g4 and the pawn on c4, which isn't a bad place for the knight to end up. I went a more conservative route:

6.e3 e6 7.Bxc4 Bb4 8.0-0

Although I was eyeing 8.Qb3, which attacks the bishop on b4 and the pawn behind it on b7, it is easily parried with 9...a5 and leaves my queen and four other pieces stuck and cramped in the queenside corner. Castling was the best option for continued development and unpinning the knight on c3.

8...0-0 9.h3 Bh5 10.Be2

To unpin the knight on f3, I could play g4 or Be2. I did not want to follow up with 10.g4 as Black exposes the castled position with 10...Nxg4 11.hxg4 Bxg4.

The slight retreat of the bishop to e2 unpins the knight from the queen, puts it on a square with open diagonals (f1-a6 and d1-h5), and prepares for a discovered attack on the under-protected bishop on h4 with Ne5.

10...Nbd7 11.Ne5



Position after 11.Ne5

Although I knew this move risked another doubled-pawn on the e-file, I didn't seem as worried about it as the subsequent exchange of bishops and knights would leave my queen on e2 (with open diagonals as before) and d1 to plant my rook with an open file. The pawn on e5 after the exchange also limits Black's mobility by closing the b8-h2 diagonal into the castled king and could later be followed by f4 for backup. I knew Jim wouldn't put up with a knight on an outpost square, so I knew an exchange was imminent.

11...Bxe2

I was expecting ...Nxe5 first and I almost immediately played 12.Qxe2 in response, but realized I could also take with 12.Nxe2. I wasn't happy with the knight on c3 as both squares forward (b5 and d5) were protected by black pawns and e4 was protected by the knight from f6. Capturing with the knight could provide a tempo towards moving it to a better location, like Nxe2 Ng3 or Nf4. This move gave me an opportunity to better the knight's future home.

12.Nxe2 Nxe5 13.dxe5 Qxd1?!

I was expecting 13...Nd7 with an immediate attack on the e5 pawn, even though it clogs up the d-file for the black queen. Jim knows my endgame needs work, so I believe this is his attempt to play against me and not the board. Trading queens simplifies the position and moves the game toward the end where I know Jim is much stronger.

(Inman: I chose 13...Qxd1 because I thought the position was better to head to endgame with 3 to 2 queenside majority and to play against the doubled e-pawns. I wasn't playing that specifically with you in mind. It was a decision based on the position not the opponent. However, I misjudged how much White benefited from the immediate seizing of d-file by the white rook. I thought I could neutralize

that but that turned out to be harder than I expected.)

14.Rxd1 Nd5 15.e4

Even with doubled-pawns on e4 and e5, the center looks strong for White with a rook on the soon-to-be-vacated d-file. The black knight has no safe squares to jump forward to and must retreat back to either b6, c7, or e7. I also saw that d7 was open for my rook and on a white square, which was safe from the black-squared bishop and had ripe attacks against the knight on c7 or e7.

15...Ne7

This was a good square as 15...Ne7 16.Rd7! Rfd8 17.Rxb7 loses a pawn for Black and attacks the bishop on b4. Moving the knight to c7 provides cover for the unprotected b7 pawn with 15...Nc7 16.Rd7 Rac8.

(Inman: After 15...Ne7 16.Rd7 Rfd8 17.Rxb7, Black does indeed lose a pawn. On the other hand, this may be a good investment to activate the black rook by 17...Rd1+ 18.Kh2 a5.)

16.Rd7 Rac8 17.Bg5

Moving the bishop was an obvious choice as it opens the rook on a1 prepares to defend and connect the rooks on the d-file. Going to g5 prevents Rd8 and if Black played f6, my doubled-pawn on e5 was ready to hit it.

17...h6 18.Be3

Probably the better square to begin with, but I ended up there anyway. Now I have open diagonals for the bishop and sights on the open a7 pawn.

18...Rfd8 19.Rad1 Rxd7 20.Rxd7 b6?

This protects against 21.Bxa7 but also uncovers the c6 pawn which will be attacked next. a5 or c5 looked better as they bring in support from the b4 bishop which has no obvious attackers against it.

21.Nd4!



Position after 21.Nd4

21...Kf8?

Black has an eye to remove the rook from its d7 position and prevent Ne7+ which forks the rook, but not moving the a7 pawn opens it up for another attack once Nxc6 happens. Bc5 is the best move as

it allows 22. Nxc6 Na6 (with discovered attack on the white knight) and some counter-play options, but requires some careful tactics to see it through. I don't think it is an obvious choice considering the other more immediate concerns Black is facing.

22..Nxc6 Ke8



Position after 22...Ke8

23.Rxc7?!

The best move was retreating the rook back to d1, but why? I saw the combination 23. Rxc7 Rxc7 24. Nxb4 Rc4! attacks the pawns on a4 and e4 and the knight at b4, so I knew I'd lose at least another pawn in the exchange. An exchange of rook + pawn and bishop + knight was basically even in points, but what about in position?

The white knight is very strong but isn't protected and open to a discovered-attack by the rook. The black knight is weak and can only move to a6 or a8.

The white rook is strong on the seventh rank and on an open file, but is being attacked by the king on e8 and can't be defended. The black rook is weak for now, but is on an open file once the knights move.

The white bishop is strong with open diagonals to both sides of the board and protected by the f2 pawn. The black bishop is strong too, but is unprotected and being attacked by the knight.

The white pawns are doubled on e4 and e5 creating a strong center position, but the pawns on a4, b2, and e4 aren't protected. Black is down a pawn, but they are well organized.

The white king is exposed on the bank rank and is not centralized for counter-play. The black king has a clear advantage and is playing an active role in its defense.

Rd1 preserves the current White advantages and provides time to regroup for the queen-side attack including Nxa7 or Nxb4. The exchange Rxc7 loses the rook's 7th rank, which would have happened anyway. It also loses its open file and Black is thrilled at winning the c-file with attacking changes on several open pawns. It seemed like a passive retreat, but based on all the factors, it was clearly the better move.

23...Rxc7 24.Nxb4 Rc4 25.Nd3 Rxa4 26.f3

Now Black has two queen-side pawns he can advance for promotion with only one white pawn in the way. The black rook is very powerful at this point and I was having "buyer's remorse" at my earlier exchange.

26...Kd7 27.Kf2 Kc6 28.Ke2

I felt a little better at this point having the king protecting the knight at d3 and more centralized. I'm also noticing that my king-side pawns are vulnerable to counter-attack if Black plays Ra1. I'm hoping I can trap the "monster" rook on the back rank and block the incoming pawns with my king, knight, and bishop.

28...a5 29.Bd2

I was planning on making a stand at b4 with the knight and bishop in support and playing b4 with the pawn.

29...Ra1 30.Bc3

This covers the b2 pawn and creates a discovered attack on the rook at a1 with 31. b4, but this is really just a façade because Black can play 31. ... Ra2+ to escape.

30...b5!

Black sees this is an empty threat and continues to march the pawns forward. Now the white king needs to commit to defending the queen-side and leaving the king-side pawns open to the "monster" rook.

31.Kd2 Rg1



Position after 31...Rg1

32.Ne1?!

This locks up the "monster" rook but I also had Bxa5! This was my chance to take one of the advancing pawns, but at the risk of releasing the rook to take Rxc2+ and further threaten the pawns on f3 and h3. I was content with locking up the rook and turning attention back to the queen-

side pawns.

32...b4 33.Bd4

Bishop can only move to d4, but is now attacking the rook at g1.

33...Rh1 34.b3 Kb5 35.f4 a4 36.bxa4+ Kxa4 37.Nd3

There's not enough material to stop the b4 pawn, so the knight needs to open the cage to defend the b2 square.

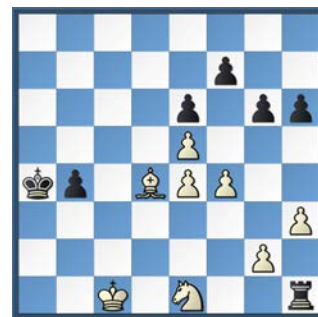
37...Rh2 38.Ne1

No choice as the g2 pawn is pinned and unprotected.

38...g6 39.Kc1?

I was kicking myself as soon as my hand left the piece. I just gave the black king access to the b-file with Kb3!

39...Rh1



Position after 39...Rh1

40.Bf2??

Putting my king in charge of blocking the incoming b-file pawn commits it to the queen-side and allows the black king to maneuver to the king-side and attack the remaining frontier of pawns on the board. I should have played Kd2 for a potential draw.

40...Ka3 41.Kb1 h5 42.Bg3 Kb3 43.Bf2 Rf1 44.Bg3 Kc3 45.Bh4 Kd2 46.Kb2 Rxe1 47.Bxe1+ Kxe1 48.Kb3 Kf2 49.g4 hxg4 50.hxg4 Ke3 51.f5 Kxe4 52.fxe6 fxe6 53.Kxb4 Kxe5 54.Kc4 Kf4

White resigns as nothing can stop the king from taking the remaining pawns and advancing his for promotion.

0-1

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The 2017 Neil Dale Memorial Northwest Chess Grand Prix

Murlin Varner, Administrator

mevjr54@outlook.com

On May 20, Steven Breckenridge hadn't earned a single Grand Prix point this year. Then came the Washington Open. He scored 35 points there, and another six points the next weekend at a tornado in Seattle. Since then, Breckenridge has been off to the races. He now has 182 points, having recently passed by August Piper, who had been leading all contestants since the beginning of the year. Breckenridge's most recent (at this writing) award being six points earned by winning the September Game/60 at the Portland Chess Club, by the time you read this the likelihood is that he will have surpassed 200 points, and well on the way to 300. Think of it, 182 points, all in a period of just over 4 months. You, too, can amass huge quantities of points in a short time. You just have to attend. (Winning some games helps, too.)

October should have added a lot of points to a lot of scores, since it had eight events, of which half had multipliers. Three of those events happened on the same weekend, one in each of our states. The Washington Game/60 Championship, the Portland Fall Open, and the Norman Friedman Memorial all carried 2x multipliers, doubling every players' score. The month ended, perhaps even after you received this magazine, with the Washington Challengers' Cup, with a 3x multiplier.

November will add three more multipliers to our list, with the Oregon Class Championships in Portland (November 4-5, 2x), the Seattle Chess Club Extravaganza (November 10-12, 2x) and the Washington Class Championships in Lynnwood (November 24-26, 5x). There are also five other events scheduled during November, including the regular monthly events in Seattle (2) and Portland (2), and the Southern Idaho Open in Twin Falls. As the year draws to a close, every event becomes very important, as any one of them might just be the one to clinch a prize. Go join in on the fun and maybe you can be like Steven.

All data below is current through October 1.

Northwest Grand Prix Standings

Idaho			Oregon			Washington		
last	first	pts.	last	first	pts.	last	first	pts.
Masters								
			1	Breckenridge Steven J	182	1	Perez Ignacio	119.5
			2	Cigan Jason D	162	2	Pupols Viktors	103.5
			3	Zavortink Matt	133.5	3	Sinanan Joshua C	88
			4	Tarjan James	42	4	Zhang Derek	86.5
			5	Haessler Carl A	36.5	5	Feng Roland	80
M/X/Class A								
1	Cambareri Michael E	43	1	Rachmuth Moshe S	104.5	1	Zhang Brendan	149
2	Dagher Gaby	36	2	Seitzer Phillip	75.5	2	Shubin Daniel	143.5
3	Inman James	34	3	Gatica Jose M	73.5	3	Yu Jason	140
4	Havrilla Mark A	31	4	Cosner Karl	70	4	Truelson Joseph	123
5	Buus Jarod N	29.5	5	Bjorksten Lennart	59.5	5	Ramasamy Vikram	117
Class B								
1	Wei James	54.5	1	Moore Michael	125.5	1	Levine Joseph R	159.5
2	Machin Alex J	53.5	2	Vega Isaac	106	2	Lewis-Sandy Joshua M	154
3	Xu Kevin	48	3	Holloran William T, III	85.5	3	Jiang Brandon	152.5
4	Roland Jeffrey T	42.5	4	Wu Ethan	76.5	4	Three Tied at	121
5	Derryberry Dewayne R	19.5	5	Murray David E	70			


Idaho			Oregon			Washington					
last	first	pts.	last	first	pts.	last	first	pts.			
Class C			Class B								
1	Geyman	Jonathan P	25.5	1	Tang	Zoey	110	1	Mayer	Jacob V	148
2	Weyland	Ron	25	2	Berger	Brian F	108	2	Reeves	Jasen	125
3	Machakos	Seth D	19	3	Feldman	Konner	104	3	Beck	Alec W	120
4	Zaklan	David A	18.5	4	Nair	Roshen S	97	4	Vijayakumar	Advaith	114
5	Jaroski	Jeffrey A	15.5	5	Hasuike	Mike L	91.5	5	Velea	Stephanie	112.5
Class D			Class C								
1	Merry	William A F	20	1	Wu	Abbie	146.5	1	Piper	August	175
2	Liu	James	14	2	Dietz	Arliss	84	2	Richards	Jerrold	136.5
3	Ang	Ching-E N	13.5	3	Kodithyala	Raj	80.5	3	Li	Melina	130
4	Lange	Brian	12.5	4	Fudalla	Ian	79	4	Strohbehn	Jon D	110
5	Porth	Dylan	9	5	Roshu	Cassandra M	75.5	5	Tien	Andy C	106.5
Class E and Below			Class D and Below								
1	Wei	Luke B	34.5	1	Tang	Austin	103	1	Gupta	Anand	116.5
2	Kitterman	Andrew N	18	2	Zhang	Ethan Y	83.5	2	Goktepe	Derin	103.5
3	Callen	Gregory D	17	3	Beauchet	Pierre-Hadrien	81	3	Hotani	Kabir	99
4	Belew	Finn C	11.5	4	Roshu	David L	79	4	Min	Ryan	90.5
5	Two Tied at		11	5	Feldman	Neena	78	5	Goktepe	Yasemin E	87.5
Overall Leaders, by State											
1	Wei	James	54.5	1	Breckenridge	Steven J	182	1	Piper	August	175
2	Machin	Alex J	53.5	2	Cigan	Jason D	162	2	Levine	Joseph R	159.5
3	Xu	Kevin	48	3	Wu	Abbie	146.5	3	Lewis-Sandy	Joshua M	154
4	Cambareri	Michael E	43	4	Zavortink	Matt	133.5	4	Jiang	Brandon	152.5
5	Roland	Jeffrey T	42.5	5	Moore	Michael	125.5	5	Zhang	Brendan	149
6	Dagher	Gaby	36	6	Tang	Zoey	110	6	Mayer	Jacob V	148
7	Wei	Luke B	34.5	7	Berger	Brian F	108	7	Shubin	Daniel	143.5
8	Inman	James	34	8	Vega	Isaac	106	8	Yu	Jason	140
9	Havrilla	Mark A	31	9	Rachmuth	Moshe S	104.5	9	Richards	Jerrold	136.5
10	Buus	Jarod N	29.5	10	Feldman	Konner	104	10	Li	Melina	130
11	Maki	James J	26	11	Tang	Austin	103	11	Reeves	Jasen	125
12	Geyman	Jonathan P	25.5	12	Nair	Roshen S	97	12	Truelson	Joseph	123

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☞ Nov 5, Dec 3 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.

☞ Nov 18, Dec 2 **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.

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!

November Rains: 11/3, 10, 17.

Package Express: 12/1, 8, 15.

Patzer's Challenge: 12/22.

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!} Dec. 9
 Northwest Chess Open Dec. 16-17

Scrabble @ the SCC

Seattle Scrabble Club Tnmt. Nov. 4

10th SCC Extravaganza!!

November 10-12, 2017

A two-section, seven-round Swiss with a time control of **G/90; d5** (Two-day option – rounds 1 & 2 @ G/45; d5). The prize fund of **\$1000** is based on 60.

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

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

Entry Fee: \$43 by 11/9 (\$32 for SCC members, \$38 for members of other dues-required CCs in WA, OR, & BC), \$51 at site (\$38 for SCC members, \$45 for members of other dues-required CCs in WA, OR, & BC).

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

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

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

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

Upcoming Events

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

☞ **Nov 4-5 Oregon Class Championships** (<http://www.nwchess.com/calendar/TA.htm>)

Nov 5 Boise Chess Club #16, Boise, ID. All About Games, 7079 W. Overland Road, Boise, Idaho 83709. 4SS, US Chess Rated, Game/30 + 30 second time increment per move. Jeffrey Roland will be Chief TD. Please register by e-mailing jroland@cableone.net. Email pre-registration is appreciated to speed up registration. Doors open at 8:30 a.m. Registration will be from 8:30-9:00 a.m. First round «should»/»could»/probably will start promptly at 9:00 a.m. Those coming late may get a first-round half-point bye. 90-minute break for lunch taken after round 2. Estimated time for end of tournament is 7:30 p.m. Entry is Free!

☞ **Nov 11 Southern Idaho Open & Veteran's Tournament, Twin Falls, ID.** 4SS, Time Control: G/60; d5. Section: Open. Site: Holiday Inn Express, 1554 Fillmore St, Twin Falls, ID. US Chess & ICA/OCF/WCF mem req. EF: Veterans free, \$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.

☞ **Nov 12/Dec 17 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. Phone: (503) 246-2978.

☞ **Nov 18/Dec 30 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. Phone: (503) 246-2978.

☞ **Nov 24-26 Washington Class Championships, Lynnwood, WA.** (See full-page ad page 13)

Dec 2 Bend Holiday Quads & Novice Tourney, Bend, OR. Site: Whispering Winds, 2920 N.E. Conners Ave., Bend, OR 97701. Format: Open Quads sections (U.S. Chess rated, 3-RR or bottom section may be 3-SS) and Novice (not rated, limited to unrated or U800 who have never won a prize in a previous Novice Tourney, 4-SS, one ½-pt. bye available). TC: G/60; d5. Entry Fee: \$15 (Open), \$10 (Novice). Reg.: 8:30-9:00. Rounds: 9:30, 12:30, 3:00, 5:30 (Novice only). Prizes (Open): \$40 first place in each section. U.S. Chess membership prize(s) available in Novice section. Entries/Info: Paul Shannon, NTD, 60958 Targee Dr, Bend, OR 97702, email countdune@netscape.net. Misc: U.S. Chess memb. req'd. in Open Quads sections, W, NS, NC. Lunch available at site for \$10.

☞ **Dec 9 Western Idaho Open, Boise, ID.** 4SS, Time Control: G/45; d5. Section: Open. Site: BSU Student Union Building, Boise. US Chess mem req. ICA Mem req. OSA. EF: \$25 (U18 & 60+ \$20, >80, IM,FM,GM free), family rate \$40. Register Online. Late fee \$5 onsite. Check in: 9:00-9:30 a.m. Rd. times: continuous starting at 10:00 a.m. (Rds 2-4 will start ASAP). Byes: Max. one half-point bye, Rounds 1-3, commit by round 2. 0-point bye round 4. \$\$ (based on 30): 1st - 3rd place \$100, \$75, \$50 & 1st place (\$50) for U1800, U1600, U1400, U1200, U1000, Unr. Sponsored by ICA, www.idahocheessassociation.com. Register Online at <http://www.idahocheessassociation.com/register-online>. Online registration preferred. Online Registration closes 24 hours before event start time. TD: Alise Pemsler & Adam Porth.

☞ **Dec 9-10 Portland Winter Open, Portland, OR.** Site: Portland Chess Club, 8205 SW 24th Ave, Portland, OR 97219. Two sections-Open and Reserve (U1800), 5-round Swiss, 40/90,SD/30;d10, two half point byes available if requested before round one, 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: \$35, \$25 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 (\$650 b/40): Open: 1st-\$150, 2nd-\$100, 1st U2000-\$75; Reserve: 1st-\$100, 2nd-\$75, 1st 1600, 1st U1400, 1st U1200/unrated-\$50 each. OCF Invitational Tournament and OSCF State qualifier. More info. at pdxchess.org, (503) 246-2978. Note: Details also valid for 2018 Portland Spring and Summer Opens.

☞ **Dec 16-17 Northwest Chess Open, Seattle, WA.** (See half-page ad page 24)

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