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Happy New Year!

**CHESS NEWS AND FEATURES FROM
IDAHO, WASHINGTON, AND OREGON**

DeWayne Derryberry

Larry Parsons



2017 Western Idaho Open

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DeWayne Derryberry (Left) and Larry Parsons (Right) at
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On the back cover:

Gaby Dagher at the Western Idaho Open.
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What's in a logo?

Washington Chess Federation (WCF) unveils a new logo!! Congratulations to Josh Sinanan and the WCF for doing this. I know Josh has wanted one for a long time.

I have very fond memories of us making the Idaho Chess Association (ICA) logo back in 2006. For me, having the logo inspired so much to happen in the ICA that I don't think would have happened if not for the logo.

I know each of the three states in *Northwest Chess* is different, unique, and special. So whether or not the Oregon Chess Federation (OCF) does one too, only time will tell.

Logos can be put in so many places too. T-shirts, caps, websites, flyers, coffee mugs, business cards... you name it, and it can probably go there!

— Editor



Western Idaho Open

By Jeffrey Roland

Boise, ID—December 9, 2017

The 2017 Western Idaho Open was held December 9, 2017 at the Jordan Ballroom at Boise State University Student Union Building in Boise, Idaho. There were 41 players in attendance. Alise Pemsler was Chief Tournament Director, and Dian-Xiang Xu was the Chief Assistant TD. Additional TD credit was given to Jameson Tang and Adam Porth, but the bulk of the work was clearly a team effort by Alise and Dian, who worked fantastically together and ran a great tournament.

On this occasion, youth won out over experience, in that 12-year-old Kevin Xu (1768-1792—4.0/4) and 17-year-old Seth Machakos (1512-1606—4.0/4), both of Boise, tied for first with perfect scores. In the final round, Kevin defeated 63-year-old Dewayne Derryberry (1699-1716—3.0/4), Pocatello, and Seth beat 55-year-old Jeffrey Roland (1716-1718—3.0/4), Boise.

In his first showing in a tournament in over 2.5 years, 63-year-old, 18-time Idaho State Chess Champion, National Master Larry Parsons (2000-2000—2.5/4), Boise, played too. At the opening ceremony, ICA President Adam Porth presented the ICA Hall of Fame plaque to Larry Parsons, who was inducted at the Inaugural Hall Of Fame tournament held earlier this year in Twin Falls on August 26, 2017. Larry spoke briefly to the crowd and said he came to Idaho in 1973 and that chess is a great game.

The time control of this tournament was Game/60;d5, which created some interesting results as some players made blunders when they were short on time. But as everyone was under the same conditions, this was all good, fair, and fun!

There was a break for lunch after the first round, thanks to players enrolling online before the event, which made registration a breeze so the event started on time. The second round started promptly at 12:30 p.m. and the entire tournament was finished before 7:00 p.m. as advertised.

I personally enjoyed this tournament immensely as I got to reconnect to friends I hadn't seen in a while, and I enjoyed watching the kids in the tournament really get into this. In Idaho, participation in this event is one of the ways a student can qualify for the Idaho Scholastic Championships that happens in the Spring of 2018.



Kevin Xu. Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.



Seth Machakos. Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.

Larry R. Parsons (2000) –
 DeWayne Derryberry (1690) [A90]
 Western Idaho Open Boise, ID
 (R3), December 9, 2017
 [Ralph Dubisch]

1.d4 e6 2.c4 f5 3.g3 Nf6 4.Bg2 c6 5.Nf3
 d5 6.b3 Bd6 7.Ne5 Qe7 8.0-0 0-0 9.f3
 Bd7 10.Nc3 Be8 11.e4?!

While the idea of breaking the Stonewall center with f3/e4 has merit, the plan doesn't mesh well with the slightly under-protected knight on e5.



Position after 11.e4

11.Bb2 Nbd7 12.f4, or perhaps infinitesimally better for White.

11...fxe4?!

The counter 11...c5! takes advantage of that knight to introduce some favorable tension.

12.fxe4 Bh5 13.Qd3?!?

13.g4! Be8, when White will exchange e-pawns on d5, play Re1, and claim a small advantage. (Instead, Black can speculate: 13...Nbd7!? 14.gxh5 Nxe5



Analysis

(#Diagram-analysis after 14...Nxe5)

15.Bf4! (15.dxe5 Bxe5 16.Bb2 d4! and Black develops some serious compensation for the piece: 17.Nb1 (17.Na4 b5; 17.Ne2 Ng4) 17...Nxe4 18.Bxe4 Qh4+) But after 15.Bf4, Black has big problems: 15...Neg4 (15...Nfg4 16.dxe5 Bc5+ 17.Kh1 Nf2+ 18.Rxf2 Bxf2 19.Qg4±) 16.e5±)

13...Bxe5 14.dxe5 Ng4 15.Be3?!

15.Bf4 g5! 16.exd5 Qc5+ 17.Kh1 gxf4 18.gxf4 Qe3 doesn't give White enough for the piece, but there's still a contest. (18...Nf2+ 19.Rxf2 Qxf2 20.Qh3 Bg6 21.Rf1 Qd4 22.Ne2 is less clear for Black, despite the extra rook.)



DeWayne Derryberry (left), Larry Parsons. Photo credit: Adam Porth.

15...Rxf1+ 16.Rxf1 Nxe3

16...dxc4 17.bxc4 Nd7

17.Qxe3 dxc4 18.bxc4

18.Qd4 cxb3 19.axb3 Nd7 20.Qd6 Qxd6 21.exd6 Rd8 is a different, but also difficult, defensive problem for White.

18...Nd7 19.Qd4 Qc5 20.Qxc5 Nxc5



Position after 20...Nxc5

21.Bf3

White's position is pretty busted up in any case, but in general he should avoid exchanges, as the simplified positions tend to be easier for Black to win.

21...Bxf3 22.Rxf3 Rd8 23.Kg2 Rd2+ 24.Rf2 Rxf2+

Despite the previous note about exchanges, Black could consider 24...Rd4, picking off another pawn or two.

25.Kxf2 Nd3+

Black doesn't need to rush to capture the e-pawn. It's not like a king on d4 or f4 will actually defend e5 for long, so now may be a good time to start bringing up the king. 25...Kf7 26.Ke3 g5 27.Kd4 b6 28.Nb1 Nd7 29.Nd2 c5+ 30.Ke3 Nxe5

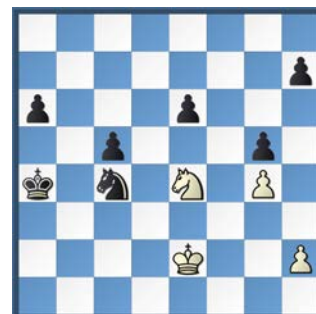
26.Ke3 Nxe5 27.Kd4 Nd7 28.e5 c5+ 29.Ke4 a6 30.a4

30.Kf4, followed perhaps by Ne4-d6, could confuse the issue.

30...Kf7 31.g4 g5 32.a5 b6 33.axb6 Nxb6 34.Kd3 Nd7 35.Ke4

Now Black is ready to reposition his king and make some progress with the extra a-pawn.

35...Ke7 36.Na4 Kd8 37.Nc3 Kc7 38.Na4 Kc6 39.Nb2 Kb6 40.Nd3 Ka5 41.Ke3 Ka4 42.Nf2 Nxe5 43.Ne4 Nxc4+ 44.Ke2



Position after 44.Ke2

44...h6

44...Kb4 wins more quickly, as White is too slow on the kingside. 45.Nxg5 a5 46.Nxh7 a4 47.g5 Ne5 48.Kd2 a3 49.Kc2 Nc4 50.Kb1 Kb3 51.g6 a2+ 52.Ka1 Ne3 53.g7 Nc2#

45.Nxc5+ Kb5 46.Nxe6 a5 47.Kd3

47.h3 a4 48.Kd3 a3 49.Nd4+ Kc5+

47...Ne5+ 48.Kc3 Nxg4 49.Nd4+ Kb6 50.Nf5 Nxh2 51.Nxh6 g4 52.Nf5 Nf1 53.Nd6 g3 54.Nc4+ Ka6 55.Ne5 g2 56.Nf3 Nh2 57.Ng1 Kb5

Now Black wins by switching his king and knight, a maneuver White can't match.

58.Kb3 a4+ 59.Kc3 Ng4 60.Ne2 Nf6 61.Kd2 Kc4 62.Kc2 Nd5 63.Ng1 Nb6 64.Kd2 Kd4 65.Kc2 Ke3 66.Kc3 Kf2 67.Nh3+ Kf1 68.Kb4 g1Q 69.Nxg1 Kxg1

A solidly planned and executed game by Black to score the big upset.

0-1

Letter to the Editor

Dear Mr. Roland,

This year, 2017, I am returning to the tournament chess scene after nearly 20 years away from the game. In fact, my first over-the-board game in 20 years occurred this past May in the first round of the Washington Open.

One reason I have not played for 20 years is the lack of a chess club or other skilled players where I live. Therefore, for me to play tournaments I have to plan for months in advance, and I typically have to budget \$500 to \$700 per tournament (fuel, lodging, meals, and entry fees). I also have to travel 4-5 hours, one-way, which means I'm on the road by 4:30 a.m. to travel to the tournament, and I get home usually around midnight on the return trips. As I write this I am preparing to leave in the morning at 5:00 a.m. for the WA Class Championships in Lynnwood. By the end of the weekend I will have a lot of time and money invested in the tournament.

But as I sit here writing this, I am near to not going at all. This boils down to one reason: the behavior of the kids who enter the tournaments.

When I was last playing regular tournament chess, it was very rare to see kids entered in "adult" tournaments. Today, they make up the bulk of every field. In my 17 tournament games in 2017 (so far) I've only played three adults. The average age of the remainder of my opponents has been around 7th grade. As I look at the field for my Class for this coming weekend, out of 23 entrants, only three are adults.

I don't mind playing these kids, except for two things: they are usually vastly under-rated, and many of them (and their parents) are rude and discourteous. I've already had more negative experiences in only three tournaments in 2017, than I had in ALL of my previous tournament experience in my lifetime.

If I lived locally to the tournaments, I probably wouldn't even be writing you. But given the investment that I am making in time and money to compete in these tournaments, I'd like to see more emphasis placed on reigning in the behavior and lack of courtesy that so many of these kids display. I suspect that I am not alone in this sentiment, and it makes me wonder how many other adults have

such mixed feelings about supporting the tournaments when they know that it's such a free-for-all.

For 2018, I intend to spend the extra \$\$ to "play up," just so I can avoid the juvenile atmosphere as much as possible, and so I can avoid the rating hits that come from playing and losing to under-rated kids who are performing 200-300 points above their class.

**Cleve Johnson
Pasco, Washington**

P.S. Here is just one example of several I could give you: In my last tournament at the Seattle Chess Club in October, I was playing a kid rated 1308, who played more like a 1608. At a critical juncture in our game the board next to us completed their game — a couple of elementary school kids with a host of friends looking on. When the game was over, all of them started loudly kibitzing the game in the tournament room while I'm trying to think my way through our position. I had to tell them three times to "take it outside" and I was ignored, and it wasn't until I lost my cool that they finally stopped. Then, I went on to make the losing move in a position that my engine tells me I was winning.

Why should I invest \$500, eight+ hours of driving, and three days of my time for more of that?!

I'll be there this weekend, but something needs to be done. Thanks.

Editor's Response:

Dear Cleve,

Thank you for sharing and for reminding us how important it is to be respectful at chess tournaments. Your experience is helpful and hopefully will address a change in the future.

While kids are usually less experienced and therefore more likely to fail in this quality at times, sometimes adults act badly too, even toward kids! There is a certain charm in the innocence and enthusiasm for chess that young players often have, and they do sometimes need encouragement and examples of the right way to behave, which usually come from the adults.

I liked what Andrei Botez said at this

year's Oregon Chess Federation's annual business meeting when giving his scholastic report. He asked the adults to be kinder and more encouraging toward the kids—to not be such a grump. I tried that the next round at the Oregon Open, and it works! There is more than one side to this, and there is room for improvement from everyone.

If the adults just stay away and don't attend the tournaments because they feel kids are disrespectful, loud, and underrated, it is not a good thing. I think most kids do not understand how hard it is for players to invest time and money to travel to these tournaments! The underrated thing will eventually fix itself as the kids' ratings begin to finally match their actual strength...so time and patience will resolve this aspect and that is not anyone's fault...ratings take time to become accurate reflections and skill levels constantly change both upwards and downwards... If kids stay away because of adults being mean and grumpy, not respecting them too... this is also bad. It goes both ways!

Almost everyone agrees that tournaments are just better when more people attend. Players of all ages should always be kind and respectful of one another, to cherish and value those who come and play. This principle and attitude is actually expressed all throughout the official rulebook.

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

World Senior Chess Championship

By David Rupel

It was something of a fluke that I found myself playing in the FIDE sponsored 2017 World Senior Championship in Acqui Terme, Italy. A chance encounter with GM Jim Tarjan of Portland during September's Oregon Open prompted me to ask if he planned to play in senior events in future. That was the first I learned of this tourney and the rest is history.

Situated some 50 miles inland from Genoa in a mountainous region, Acqui Terme's main tourist attraction is its variety of hot springs. Alas, unlike Genoa, there were no palm trees and Acqui Terme's fall climate proved to be comparable to the northwest's.

FIDE divided the tournament into four separate sections, each awarding the title of world senior champion to the winner. The 166-player 65 and over section, which included yours truly, Tarjan, and IM Leon Piasetski of Vancouver, BC, was won by GM Evgeny Sveshnikov of Russia with a score of 8.5 of 11. The popular GM Julio Granda-Zuniga took the top prize in the 50 and over section with 9.5 of 11, a full point ahead of the field.

There were also corresponding women's tournaments. Former Women's World Champion Nona Gaprindashvili, 76, of Georgia, shared the best record with her compatriot, Tamar Khmiadashvili, each scoring 7.5 of 9 in the Women's 65 and over section.

A key factor in my continued interest in senior events was a recent epiphany that the cumulative sum of the ages of my opponents in the Under 2200 section of a California tourney was perhaps equal to or lower than my age. I made it to 68 during Acqui Terme.

I have nothing against playing youngsters. It is just that I find senior events quieter, less stressful, and more

civilized. Not that I was any better behaved when I was a kid! Moreover, I have long encouraged devotees of the royal game to try playing in Europe. This marked my eighth such trip abroad and ninth tourney. Typically, one round per day over nine to 11 rounds allows for preparation for one's opponent and, hopefully, higher quality chess. One comes to the board with clock and pieces in place. At game's end, an arbiter collects both score sheets and verifies the result.

Although prize funds in European events are typically modest, so are entry fees. In 2016, I won the Elo under 2000 prize in the international tournament in Majorca and was awarded 60 Euros (approx \$70). That may have covered my hotel expenses for one day. Still, I look forward to more European adventures.

Based on my experience in Acqui Terme, however, I am not quite as keen on recommending one try tournaments officially run FIDE. While the prize fund again was modest; entry fees and FIDE fees were not so modest. In addition to being awarded trophies, gold medals and the title of Senior World Champion, for their 11 days of work Sveshnikov and Granda-Zuniga each pocketed 1,200 Euros (about \$1,400).

The advance entry fee was 80 Euros while an additional fee of 70 Euros went to FIDE. In addition, all entrants were required to pay in advance a deposit of some \$300 for lodging and could reserve only a FIDE approved hotel. Upon arrival, one had to pay the balance of his board and lodging in advance. My room and half-board at the Hotel Valentino came to about \$90 per day.

Although the room was nice and the staff deserved high marks, dinner choices were limited and just so-so. Internet connections were poor. Tarjan and Piasetski, both veterans of FIDE run

events, elected to supply their own food.

Tarjan's score of 7.5/11 was good for 14th place and 150 Euros. Piasetski scored 6.5 while I had 5.5/11. At some point, a senior must admit that his or her peak playing days are in the past. My FIDE Elo was fairly well established at 2100 for more than a decade and I entered this tourney at 1985, about the median. Of course, all of my aging rivals in Acqui Terme were in the same boat.

My "pet" treatment from the black side of the Caro-Kann (1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 Qc7?!), put up feeble resistance against my first round opponent, GM Yuri Balashov, who, with a FIDE rating of 2437, began the tournament as number five. According to Chessmetrics, at his peak in July 1977 Balashov's play was equivalent to a rating of 2715 and he was ranked number 11 in the world.

As for the separate blitz event, I was dealt undoubtedly the weirdest ruling I have experienced to date. In my haste to find my board as the round three pairings were posted, I neglected to notice that the starting positions of my king and queen were swapped and it came to my attention only as I castled k-side on about move ten.

Had circumstances been reversed, I would have smiled and allowed my opponent to swap his king and queen. However, my opponent summoned the arbiter who ruled that since I had made an illegal move, I was forfeited.

Naturally, I bid the tourney adieu in a huff, to put it mildly. But after calming down the following day, I brought to the chief arbiter's attention article 7.2a of the FIDE Laws of Chess which states: "If during a game it is found that the initial position of the pieces was incorrect, the game shall be cancelled and a new game shall be played." And since that inconvenient fact seemed to cut no ice, it



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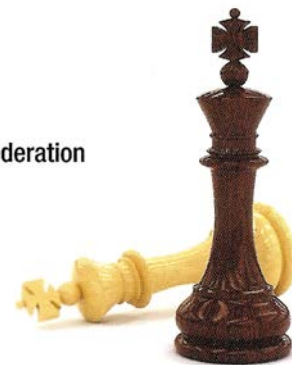
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dawned on me why the words arbiter and arbitrary share the same root. Curiously, I was also informed that had I instead moved my "queen" on e1 to e3, that would have been a legal move and not grounds for forfeiture!

I did manage to produce at least one good game in the regular event. Round four found me with the white pieces versus Moshe Gal of Israel.

David Rupel (1985) – Gal Moshe (2169) [A48]

27th FIDE World Senior CC +65
Acqui Terme (R4), November 10, 2017
[David Rupel]

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.b3 Bg7 4.Bb2 d5 5.g3

In one-round per day events where one's opponent has ample time for research, I often try something new. I have no games even resembling this system in the database.

5...0-0 6.Bg2 Bf5

I find I am in good company as Nakamura-Caruana continued 6...Ne4 7 0-0 c5.

7.0-0 Qc8 8.Re1 Ne4 9.Nbd2 c5 10.c3 Nc6 11.Rc1 Qd7 12.dxc5 Nxc5 13.Nd4 Bh3 14.Nxc6 bxc6 15.Ba3 Bxg2 16.Kxg2 Ne6 17.Nf3 Rfd8 18.Qc2 c5 19.Rcd1 Qb7 20.Kg1 Rac8 21.c4 Nd4 22.Nxd4 cxd4 23.c5 e5 24.Rb1 Qa6 25.Bc1 Qb5 26.b4 Qc4 27.Qb2 e4 28.Bg5! d3 29.exd3 Qxd3 30.Bf6 Bxf6 31.Qxf6 Qa3 32.Qb2 Qxb2 33.Rxb2 f5 34.f3 Kf7 35.Kf2 Ke6 36.Rd2 g5 37.Ke3 f4+ 38.gxf4 gxf4+ 39.Kd4 e3 40.Rb2 Rg8 41.a4 Rg5 42.b5 Kd7 43.a5 Kc7 44.Rc1 Re8 45.a6 Ra8 46.Re1 Rag8 47.b6+ Kb8 48.bxa7+ Kxa7 49.Rb7+ Ka8 50.Rxh7 Rb8 51.c6 Rb4+ 52.Kc5 Rc4+ 53.Kb5 Rc2 54.h4! Rb2+ 55.Kc5 Rc2+ 56.Kb6 Rb2+ 57.Kc7 Rg8 58.Rd7 Rd2 59.Kd6

[Diagram top of next column]

Wisely avoiding 59 Rd8+ where White has no better than a draw after 59.Rd8+ Rxd8 60.Kxd8 Rc2 61.c7 d4 62.c8Q+ Rxc8+ 63.Kxc8 d3 64.Rg1 d2 65.Kc7 Ka7 66.Kc6 e2 67.Rg7+ Kxa6 68.Rg8



Position after 59.Kd6

Ka7=

59...Rg6+ 60.Ke5 Rxc6 61.Rxd5 Rxd5+ 62.Kxd5 Rh6 63.Rh1 e2 64.Re1 Rxh4 65.Rxe2 Rh6 66.Re6 1-0

GM James Tarjan (USA) (2449) – FM Hans Singer (AUT) (2174) [A37]

27th FIDE World Senior CC +65
Acqui Terme (R11), November 18, 2017
[James Tarjan]

In the World Senior, my play was too uneven and blunder-ful to compete for the top prize. OK, anyway, I kept fighting to the end, trying to find my form and play some good chess. That is what one should do, and sometimes that is all one can do. The following game was played in the last round.

1.c4 c5 2.g3 Nc6 3.Bg2 g6 4.Nc3 Bg7 5.Nf3 e5 6.0-0 Nge7 7.a3 a5 8.d3 0-0 9.Ne1 d6 10.Nc2 a4

Black comes up with an unusual plan.

11.Rb1

On 11.Ne3 he plays 11...Nd4 and the exchange of a pawn for e-pawn did not at all appeal to me. Otherwise, Black controls the b3-square. So I instead hurry to open the b-file.

11...Bd7 12.b4 axb3 13.Rxb3 Na5

He must have envisioned this plan when he played 10...a4. His bishop comes to c6, opposing on the long diagonal. If White trades Bxc6 Black takes back with the pawn and White has lost his wonderful outpost on d5. However, the Na5 is on the edge of the board, and the Bc6 is

essentially playing a merely defensive role.

14.Rb1 Bc6 15.Ne3

Continuing what I started with Ne1 to c2: the whole point of course being to get an extra piece to the crucial d5-square.

15...f5 16.Ned5 Nxd5 17.Bxd5+

Basic chess wisdom is that the knight, not the bishop, belongs on the outpost square. However, if I play 17.Nxd5 he can make sense of his position with 17...e4! The knight on a5 suddenly has a role to play attacking c4. And also Black can think to play ...Bxd5 when White can only take back with the c-pawn, after which the d5 square is lost to White's pieces and the Bg2 is blocked by his own pawn. Nonetheless we could continue with this line: 18.dxe4 Nxc4 19.exf5 Rxf5 20.Qb3 Na5 21.Ne7+ Kh8 22.Nxc6 bxc6 23.Qc2 and perhaps White has somewhat the better chances. In any case this was not what I had in mind, which was to keep the d5-square in my hands, and later somehow take advantage of Black's awkwardly placed pieces.

17...Kh8 18.Bd2

Now I have time for this, and ...e4 does not work; at least not right away. It remains in the background as a way for Black to activate his bishop on g7.

18...h5 19.f3

I am playing to limit any kingside counterplay by Black. However, 19.f3 has the definite drawback of cutting off a possible retreat by my bishop on d5. Thus for example, with the pawn back on f2, a White plan would be to bring the bishop back to g2 and replace it on d5 with the knight, all properly timed to act against that ...e4 by Black. We shall see later other problems in having the Bd5 without any squares to go to. 19.h4!? is a thought here; I hardly need to worry about a Black ...f4 as it would give me yet another monster square in the center on e4.; Perhaps 19.Qc2!? finally connecting the rooks and thinking of that plan of Bg2 and Nd5.

19...Kh7 20.Qc1



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Especially after 18.f3, my plan has to be to play on the light squares and to make his bishop on g7 into a “bad” bishop, blocked by his own pawns. Hence this 20.Qc1, to prevent him from trading by ...Bh6.

20...Qe7 21.Kg2 Bf6 22.a4 Be8

Aiming to bring the Na5 back into the game. To discourage this I pile up on the b7-pawn.

23.Rb6 Qc7 24.Qb1 Bc6

So he goes back.

25.Qb2



Position after 25.Qb2

An odd, difficult moment in the game. I am certain this 25.Qb2 is not the best move in the position. Clearly I am playing to triple on the b-file. However, first of all, it is not clear what tripling on the file is actually going to accomplish. Secondly, by his next move Black forces me to sacrifice an exchange on b5. I have been eyeing this exchange sacrifice on b5 all along. If nothing else, it is a way to finally get rid of his light squared bishop and establish complete control of d5. But, aside from what happens if Black takes the rook on b5, there is also the question of what White has accomplished if Black simply leaves it there. One appealing idea is the Petrosian-like mysterious rook move 25.Rc1!? The point of this will be clearer if you peek ahead at how the game actually went. After 25.Rc1 Bd8 26.Rb5 Bxb5 27.cxb5 the R on c1 acts against Black’s ...c4.; Certainly a very sensible way for White to play is simply to bring his rook back: 25.Rb2 Then 25...e4? would be a tactical disaster for Black, for example 26.fxe4 fxe4 27.Rxf6 Rxf6 28.Nxe4

25...Bd8 26.Rb5

What if Black doesn’t take the rook, at least right away? Well, I’m not sure exactly, but in any case I can improve my position and make it better for me if he takes it later. As I pointed out above 27.Rc1 acts against a Black ...c4. Another idea is 27.Ra1. This is to take back on b5 with the a-pawn. Otherwise, if I take back with the a pawn, say, as in the game with 27.axb5, Black has 27...Nc6! bringing his errant knight back into the game. (We see again here the problem with 19.f3, blocking the retreat of the bishop on d5.)

26...Bxb5

He offered me a draw when he played this. I got a lot of these draw offers in this tournament, often at just the moment when my opponent’s position was starting to look good. Perhaps it is a perk of the grandmaster title, that sometimes the opponents are glad just to get a draw and can’t imagine anything beyond that. In round four I was a complete idiot not to take the draw when offered, as I stood worse in the endgame and resigned soon after.

27.cxb5

The problem with 27.axb5 is 27...Nc6! bringing his knight back into the arena, or, if I take it, simplifying the position. For the exchange sacrifice to make sense, I need to have that knight stuck out of play on a5.

27...Rb8

Here I believe Black’s best move is clear: 27...c4! to generate some kind of at least potential counterplay, and to open a file for his rook. Even after that, is White really worse? I wonder. Let’s look at a logical continuation: 28.Be3 cxd3 29.exd3 Rc8 30.Rc1 This position is certainly much better for Black than as the game went, enough to cast doubt on my timing of the exchange sacrifice. But the knight on a5 is still not yet back in the game.; 27...Nc6 must also be considered. But after 28.bxc6 bxc6 29.Bb3 despite having lost his precious d5 square, White really cannot be badly off, with two pieces for the rook and a passed a-pawn.

28.Ba2 Qg7 29.Nd5



Position after 29.Nd5

Uncertain what to do, Black has made a couple of random moves. And now finally I have got my knight where it belongs. And you will note a big point of 27.cxb5: it opened an alternative diagonal for my bishop, to move away and let the knight get where it wants to be. That is a real stallion: I don’t think you will see a stronger horse than that. It does not attack any specific targets, but simply sits in the center of the board surveying its domain. Note that 27...Nc6 is not possible because the rook on b8 is unprotected. With his next couple of moves, Black hastens his own demise. He should realize things are difficult for him and sit tight, not weaken himself by pushing his pawns. Hold on and leave it to White to try and figure out how to make further progress.

29...g5 30.h3 g4? 31.hxg4 fxg4 32.f4 b6 33.Qc1

Intending f5 without allowing Black’s problem bishop to escape with a subsequent ...Bg5.

33...Rb7 34.f5

I think we can state, unequivocally: now White’s position is winning. There is nothing left for Black than to throw the available pawns forward in some combination: ...c4, ...e4, and/or ...h4. But White will take them off, and little will be accomplished. My opponent studied the position a long time, and decided to fall on his own sword.

34...e4 35.dxe4 Qe5 36.Qc2 Re8 37.Bb1 Bf6 38.Bc3 1-0



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Washington State Spring 2018 Collegiate Chess Tournament



When:	Saturday January 20 th 2018	
Where:	Amazon Gatsby building (428 Westlake Ave N, Seattle, WA 98109) Parking at Amazon Dawson building (345 Boren Ave N, Seattle, WA 98109)	
Mode:	4 Round Swiss System – unrated – G/45 + 10 spm increment	
Sections:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 player team section • Tournament combined with Corporate Chess Tournament if less than 5 teams • Individual player section available with the Corporate Chess Tournament 	
Team rules:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4-player teams and up to 4 teams per company in the team section • Order of players in a team has to be in order of their ratings • The first named team has white on odd numbered boards • Scoring is done by team points (board points on tiebreaks) 	
Eligibility:	Following US Chess college eligibility requirements: http://www.utdallas.edu/chess/chess-team/eligibility-requirements.html	
Schedule:	08:00am – 08:45am	Sign in
	09:00am – 10:50am	Round 1
	11:00am – 12:50pm	Round 2
	01:00pm – 02:00pm	Lunch break
	02:00pm – 03:50pm	Round 3
	04:00pm – 05:50pm	Round 4
	06:00pm	Winner Ceremony
	Players will gather at a local restaurant for dinner after completion of the event	
Registration:	Please send your team or individual registraton to Florian Helff by Wednesday January 17th 2018. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please include a US Chess ID for a player if existing. • Individual registrations please include any type of rating (e.g. online platforms) to allow better pairing. 	
Contact:	Amazon Chess Club: Florian Helff – flohelff@amazon.com Washington Chess Federation: Josh Sinanan - joshsinanan@gmail.com	

Seattle Spring 2018 Corporate Chess Tournament



When:	Saturday January 20 th 2018	
Where:	Amazon Gatsby (428 Westlake Ave N, Seattle, WA 98109) Parking at Amazon Dawson building (345 Boren Ave N, Seattle, WA 98109)	
Mode:	4 Round Swiss System – unrated – G/45 + 10 spm increment	
Sections:	Two Sections: Team and Individual	
Team rules:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4-player teams and up to 4 teams per company in the team section • Order of players in a team has to be in order of their ratings • We will try to avoid same company pairings if possible • The first named team has white on odd numbered boards • Scoring is done by team points (board points on tiebreaks) 	
Eligibility:	Team Section: Active employees* Individual Section: Active or retired employees* and immediate relatives of players in the team section * includes contractors and interns	
Schedule:	08:00am – 08:45am	Sign in
	09:00am – 10:50am	Round 1
	11:00am – 12:50pm	Round 2
	01:00pm – 02:00pm	Lunch break
	02:00pm – 03:50pm	Round 3
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Contact:	Amazon Chess Club: Florian Helff – flohelff@amazon.com Washington Chess Federation: Josh Sinanan - joshsinanan@gmail.com	

Norman Friedman Memorial

By Adam Porth

Hailey, ID — October 14-15, 2017

The Norman Friedman Memorial tournament is an annual event held during National Chess Day every year and is enthusiastically supported by Joyce Friedman and family/friends of Norman Friedman of the Manhattan Chess Club, board member and co-founder of The Right Move Foundation in New York. Joyce and Norman Friedman settled in Ketchum, Idaho and continued to support chess in the community, and continue to do so in spirit and financially — \$750 in guaranteed prize money and scholastic trophies! This next year, the purse will be increased to \$1000!

On Friday night before the tournament main event, the Blitz tournament attracted 12 players including the top rated active player in the state, Cody Gorman. He was able to dominate the tournament with a perfect 14.0/14 points (seven double rounds). Gaby Dagher (11.0/14) loves blitz or fast chess, and drove up from Boise just for the Blitz Tournament. He won second place. Barry Eacker (10.0/14), Twin Falls, won third place. Trophies were provided to the winners.

Saturday proved to be a big day with the open and the scholastic tournaments both taking place. The Scholastic Tournament did not have many local players as the local schools would not distribute flyers. Despite this, fourteen players competed and were able to meet with Joyce Friedman, the tournament sponsor. Alise Pemsler was the Chief TD and kept the tournament flowing all day with drawings giving away pumpkins and other October treats. Quentin Van Law won first place overall with 4.5/5 points, Dylan Porth won second place with 3.5/5 points, and Darwin Porth won third place with 3.0/5 points.

Nearly half the Norman Friedman Open Section was represented by scholastic players and they made the



Andrew Kitterman (l), Jacob Nathan. Photo credit: Adam Porth.

older experienced players have to prove themselves. Most of the games that included an adult versus a scholastic player went full time, while scholastic versus scholastic games were like blitz. "They are tough," claimed Janos Fucsko

enthusiastically! He ended the tournament tied for third place (3.5/5 points).

Two of the top players in the state of Idaho were also on hand: Cody Gorman and Jacob Nathan. Cody played on Board One all tournament, however engaged in

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a four-way tie with Janos Fucsko, James Inman, and Desmond Porth by the end. Most people gathered to watch Jacob Nathan's games as his only loss was to Cody Gorman. Jacob won first place with 4.0/5 points. It is clear that Jacob Nathan is on the road to mastering the game as he approaches 2000 and continues to dominate the ICA tournaments by winning the last three!

On Friday, National Chess activities were also extended to the classroom. A mini-lathe fascinated students as they took "turns" making chess pieces. Instruction included the Elephant Trap and the Halloween Gambit, and other fun openings. The "Queen of Katwe" movie was shown and several students grabbed chess boards immediately afterward. I think many people are fascinated with chess culture and we at the ICA are striving to expand this.

2017 WA Challenger's Cup

By Josh Sinanan

The 2017 Washington Challenger's Cup took place October 28-29 at Seattle Chess Club and attracted 75 players in two sections, Open and Reserve U1800. Fide Master Steven Breckenridge from Gresham, Oregon, won the open section with a perfect 4.0/4 and took home the nearly \$700 first place prize. Joseph Truelson, a high school student from Bellevue, won clear second place with 3.5/4 points, defeating FM Ignacio Perez and drawing against LM Viktors Pupols along the way. As the highest finishing WA State resident, Joseph is seeded into the 2018 Washington State Championship — Congratulations to Joseph! In the reserve section, Alec Beck, a seventh grade student from Annie Wright School in Tacoma, captured clear first with 4.5/5 points. Half a point back were Munkh-Erdene Munkhbileg and Lorenzo Patton Jr., who tied for =second/first U1600. The tournament was directed by Fred Kleist, organized by WCF Tournament Coordinator Dan Mathews, and hosted by the Washington Chess Federation.



Josh Sinanan (L) and Steven Breckenridge. Photo Credit: Jacob Mayer.

2017 Challenger's Cup Scholastic

By Josh Sinanan

The 2017 WA Challenger's Cup Scholastic was held on November 4 at Chinook Middle School in Clyde Hill. 157 players took part in five sections: K-1 U800, 2-3 U800, K-3 Open, 4-6 U900, and 4-6 Open. Players scoring three points or more out of five games qualified for the Washington State Elementary Chess Championships. In the K-1 U800 section, Ayaan Kang, a Kindergartner from BK Play Academy, in Bellevue, scored a perfect 5.0/5! Alexander Lebedinsky finished in clear second place with 4.0/5. In the 2-3 U800 section, Neel Khilnani from Woodmoor Elementary was the champion with a perfect score of 5.0/5

points. Neel finished half-a-point ahead of Stephen Nguyen and Avni Murarka, who tied for second place with 4.5/5 each. In the 4-6 U900 section, Jeffrey Luo of Somerset Elementary School was the champion with 5.0/5 points. Five players tied for second place with 4.0/5 points apiece: Pariks Venkataraghavan, Gabriel Alexander, Shrirang Rathi, Holden Rominger, and Alansha Jiang. In the open sections, which were dual US Chess and NWSRS rated, Neeraj Harish from Einstein Elementary School was victorious in the K-3 section with a perfect 5.0/5, while Joseph Levine from Eastside Prep won the 42-player 4-6 section with the same score. The tournament was hosted by the Washington Chess Federation and directed by David Hendricks with assistance from Duane Polich and Chouchan Airapetian.



Carl Haessler Chess Master

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Oregon Class Championship

By Brian Berger

Portland, OR — November 4-5, 2017

This year the Oregon Class Championships were held at the Portland Chess Club, a considerably less posh venue than the Lloyd Center DoubleTree Hotel, where last year 42 players were in attendance—the reason for this year’s shift to a less costly playing area.

The move was a fortunate one, as this year’s attendance fell even lower than last, with 35 players—far less than the advertised limit of 50, the maximum the club is designed to hold. But because of the number of parents also present, the place seemed full nonetheless.

As has been the case in previous class championships, the highly competent Grisha Alpernas was once again in charge as the Chief TD, this time without the help of a supporting TD. But such is the expertise of Alpernas in these matters, the tournament ran like clockwork.

Last year, because of the lack of players to fill all the class designations, the C and B players were combined. This year was much the same, only it was the Class-C and Under players who were put into one section. And as I—Brian “I’m Just Glad To Be Here” Berger (1617-1611—2.0/5) had just recently clawed myself back in to the B-Class, I was glad not to face lower-rated players.

Unfortunately, playing in my own class came with a price, an additional



(L) Zoey Tang vs David Yoshinaga. Photo credit: Brian Berger.

\$10 for playing up, as they were using only published ratings and not real time ratings—my last published rating being 1570. Even so, it was worth it to escape the beating I was apt to take playing in the lower classes—a well known fact as most of my readers know, by my many articles relating the upsets I have endured at the hands of these *SUPPOSEDLY*, lower strength players.

But playing with players within a 200-point spread also has its disadvantages, especially if you are at

the lower end of that spread. James Tsai (1665-1730—4.0/5) showed me that in the first round, in a hard fought game that nearly consumed the whole of the 40/90, SD 30, d10 time control used on the first day—a game in which I resigned, seeing no escape for my threatened king, surprising my opponent, who had not as yet seen what I had seen, but I was pretty sure would.

That win started Tsai on his way to winning the Class-B section (and me on my way to mediocrity once again) and \$180, held back from a perfect score by a loss to the ever smiling, nearly always fidgeting, and very young, Abbie Wu (1680-1699—3.0/5), who, if she ever settles down to a real *think*, could be a nightmare for any B or A player.

I will digress for the moment on who won what, to say that my miserable performance in the B-section at this tournament was trumped by my friend, David “Book Openings Are For The Birds” Yoshinaga (1717-1700—0.5/5), who managed to reach the nadir of his personal worst in any tournament ever attended, by losing every game played—that 0.5 being the result of a half point bye in the first round.

As a result, my own poor performance seemed less significant, knowing that a player once feared for his outrageous, out-of-book openings, was left scratching his head on how he went so wrong. Last seen, he was perusing the club’s collection of books on standard openings. (I now return to other wins in Class-B.)



(L) Michael Moore vs Sean O’Connell. Photo credit: Brian Berger.

Wu's win over Tsai, and a win and a draw against two other 1700+ players, led to a third place split with Alan Rhoades (1736-1736—3.0/5) and Zoey Tang (1572-1606—3.0/5), each of them receiving \$15. But in the process, Wu also gained nearly 20-points, placing her at her all time highest rating—at the cusp of 1700!

With a final score of 3.5-points, Kushal Pai (1580-1674—3.5/5) was the second place winner of this Class-B, nine player section, pocketing \$90, and adding a huge number of rating points—94 to be exact; which like Wu, also pushed him to his all-time high.

Jumping to the Master/Expert section, FM Steven Breckenridge (2411-2413—4.5/5) convincingly dominated the eight-player field, his nearest competition rating-wise being Lennart Bjorksten (2110-2105—2.5/5). His four wins and a draw secured him the first place prize of \$160, with Ethan Wu (1977-2000—3.0/5) snagging second place and an \$80 payoff—the added icing on the cake for Wu, being the raising of his rating to Expert—also an all time high for this young, aggressive player.

Obviously encouraged by the big payoffs this tournament offered, Lennart Bjorksten, Phillip Seitzer (2063-2071—2.5/5), and Jai Dayal (1946-1968—2.5/5) played their hearts out to tie for third place, that after the split of the prize money, saw each walk off with \$14. I'm not sure what this amounts to per hour



BERNARD COULD SMELL VICTORY IN THE AIR. UNFORTUNATELY, HE HAD A POOR SENSE OF SMELL.

played, but I hope they all have access to another income stream.

Konner Feldman (1777-1810—3.5/5) led the six-player Class-A section with three wins and a draw, his only loss coming at the hands of Andrea Botez (1890-1872—2.5/5). This feat propelled him to true A-player status, and lined his pockets with \$120. Lesser amounts went to Sean O'Connell (1822-1813—3.0/5) for taking second place (\$90), and to Botez and Roshen Nair (1785-1793—2.5/5) (\$15) for tying for third-fourth places.

That brings us to the last and most populated section—Class-C and Under, sporting a field of twelve players. Heading this who's who of want-a-be-better-knowns was Chad Lykins (1237-1344—4.0/5), whose four wins gained him the

\$120 first place prize and over 100 points in rating—evidence that he will soon be one of the better-knowns.

Mike Hasuike (1589-1561—3.0/5) and Arliss Dietz (1504-1500—3.0/5) split the second and third place prizes with their three wins, giving them \$45 each to squander on whatever. While Dashiell Shulman (1321-1349—3.0/5), Ethan Zhang (1303-1382—3.0/5), and Austin Tang (1267-1315—3.0/5) split the first-third U1400 money, amounting to \$70 each.

For those of you who are wondering if Morgan the Dog was in attendance at this important tournament—he was indeed, and brought along his pupil of long standing, Jerrold “I Just Want To Reach 1600 before It's Over” Richards. And while Morgan basked in the attentions of



Chief TD Grisha Alpernas.
Photo credit: Brian Berger.

his fans (one in particular, who sees that he gets his Wendy's treats of nuggets and fries), Richards tried once again to put into play what Morgan has been teaching him about chess—the outcome of which, once again, leaving him at his floor of 1300.

Morgan's disappointment in his companion's performance was somewhat lessened by the tastiness of said nuggets and fries—and so they departed, Morgan still licking his lips, and Richards licking his wounds.

Southern Idaho Open

By Adam Porth

Twin Falls, ID — November 11, 2017

The Southern Idaho Open was missing an important face and organizer due to surgery — Barry Eacker. Barry typically TDs the event which has a 12-year history and draws players from near and far. Despite this, the SIO, as it is known, attracted twenty-three players. The ICA has standardized all of the opens this year such that all events (EIO, SIO, WIO, NIO) all are true opens with no other sections, one-day event with class prizes, 4SS G/60;d5, and held in Autumn. The format seems to be welcomed by many as two-day events can be costly for chess players. The tournament includes four rounds that offer each opponent an hour with 5 second delay.

The tournament paid out 75% (i.e., it was based on 30 participants). Cody Gorman



Fred Bartell. Photo credit: Adam Porth.

won first place and \$75 handedly with a perfect 4.0/4! There was a five-way tie for second/third place: Gaby Dagher, John Glenn, Janos Fucsko, DeWayne Derryberry, and Samir Saltaga, each with 3.0/4 points. Those guys were able to buy a sandwich after splitting the money up!

The Southern Idaho Open is also the Veteran's Day tournament and two Vets participated in this year's tournament: Fred Bartell and Kevin Patterson. A heartfelt thank you was elicited as each player was honored and provided a red,

(white), or blue chess board. They also played with an American Flag gracing their table. It proved to be a special day for our chess playing friends.

PCC November 2017 Game 60

By Brian Berger

Portland, OR — November 18, 2017

More than just a few new faces were present as I entered the Portland Chess Club's front door to register for the November Game 60 tournament. In fact, at least a third of those present I had never seen before—an oddity for one who thought he knew (by sight) most of the Portland chess community.

From time to time at these events there would be a new face or two, but to see so many milling amongst the 37-players that finally made up the Open and Reserve sections was a first for me—and perhaps for Chief TD Mike Hasuike and Assistant Chief TD Lennart Bjorksten, as well.

Many of those new faces (mostly unrated or very low rated) ended up in the Reserve section, where one in particular, the winner of the first place prize of \$89, Dylan Wong (Unrated-1850P—4.0/4), achieved a provisional A-player status in his first rated tournament!—his only real competition turning out to be another unrated new face, Markus Woltjer (Unrated-1623P—3.5/4), who took the second place prize of \$51, and went home as a provisional B-player!

After this two-man unrated team



Kevin Patterson. Photo credit: Adam Porth.



(L) Liam Lancaster vs Pierre-Hadrien Beauchet. Photo credit: Brian Berger.

swept like a juggernaut through the Reserve competition, it was a wonder that the U1200 prize fell to a recognizable face, that being the \$51 earned by the young Pierre-Hadrien Beauchet (1290-1308—3.0/4) for his three wins; his only loss being to Woltjer.

Near the middle of this mostly provisional and unrated pack stood the undaunted visage of Jerrold “I Just Want To Reach 1600 Before It’s Over” Richards (1300-1300—2.0/4), who has been fighting “tooth and nail” of late to escape 1300 limbo. Alas, even the continual chess lessons and encouragement of Morgan the Dog failed

to up that number during this tournament, Richards once again leaving bent under the weight of that albatross of a rating, as he and Morgan sought the solace of their home in the Columbia Gorge—there to devise a new strategy.

I can’t say my own experience (Brian “I’m Just Glad To Be Here” Berger) in the Open section was any better. Fighting with “tooth and nail” can also apply to me in my continued effort to once again regain my all-time high rating of 1707, a task I am trying to accomplish without the help of Morgan the Dog—an asset I could sorely use.



(L) Eric Erard vs Austin Green. Photo credit: Brian Berger.



Chief Assistant TD Lennart Bjorksten. Photo credit: Brian Berger.

Just when I think I have zeroed in on what has been holding me back, I come to find I have deficits yet unaddressed, with no real game plan to rectify them—common to individuals who exhibit extreme laziness. But in spite of that character flaw, I have managed to just barely hold on to my B rating through putting up a ferocious fight when I am cornered, and just pure luck—I believe “luck” taking precedence in this matter.

And so it was mostly luck that I dropped only one point in this tournament (1611-1610—1.5/4), after losing my first two games to Moshe Rachmuth (1890-1896—2.5/4) and Isaac Vega (1761-1750—2.0/4), and by finally winning a game against a 1588 player, then taking a bye in the fourth round—just enough of a rebound to keep me a B player.

The Open section also had its new face, an NM from California, Austen Green (2249-2257—3.5/4), who tied with our own NM Matt Zavortink (2208-2213—3.5/4), by drawing with him in the last round, earning both a split of the first place money, amounting to \$66 each. Considering the cost of living in the sunshine state, it appears Zavortink got the better of the split.

No new face won the U1800 prize, as our own Eric “Mighty Mite” Erard (1636-1668—2.5/4), claimed that for himself with his two wins and a draw—Austen Green being his only loss. Edging closer to his all time high of 1713, by gaining 32-points, the young man also left with a bit of go-crazy cash—\$48 to be exact.

Whether we will see many of these new faces in future tournaments is hard to say, but if we do, our regulars now have an idea of what to expect.

Washington Class Championships

By Josh Sinanan

Each year during Thanksgiving weekend, many of the most devoted chess players from throughout the Northwest travel to Lynnwood, a popular shopping destination just North of Seattle. The reason for most is quite simple: to escape the hustle and bustle of the holiday season and immerse themselves in the world of chess for two or three straight days! The newly renovated Lynnwood Embassy Suites Hotel plays host to this grand event year after year and does a wonderful job making everyone feel at home while they engage in grueling mental competition over the course of the long weekend.

A strong attendance of about 180 players primarily from Washington, Oregon, and British Columbia took part in the 2017 Washington Class Championships November 24-26. The event was hosted by the Washington Chess Federation and organized by WCF Tournament Coordinator Dan Mathews and WCF President Josh Sinanan. Fred Kleist was once again the chief tournament director and Gary Dorfner was assistant TD, with additional support from Robert Allen, Murlin Varner, Jacob Mayer, Peter Watts, and Chouchanik Airapetian. Our intrepid vendor, John Dill, made the journey over from Spokane and brought with him a fantastic assortment of high-quality chess books and equipment.

In the 15-player Master Section, FIDE Master Steven Breckenridge (2406-2426 — 5.5/6) of Gresham, OR won clear first place with an undefeated score. Washington State Champion Roland Feng (2471-2476 — 5.0/6) finished in clear second place, a full point ahead of FM Anthony He (2313-2316 — 4.0/6) and CM Kyle Haining (2258-2253 — 4.0/6), who split third place honors. “Unkel” Vik Pupols (2200-2204 — 3.5/6) won the first U2300 prize as well as the Senior Prize, despite being over 30 years older than his rivals. Rounding out the prize winners in a big tie for second U2300 were Josh Sinanan (2281-2278 — 3.0/6), Ignacio Perez (2200-2200 — 3.0/6), David Bragg (2200-2207 — 3.0/6), Jason Yu (2138-2163 — 3.0/6), Brendan Zhang (2103-2097 — 3.0/6), and Eric Zhang (2056-2075 — 3.0/6). The Female Prize went unclaimed in the Master Section this time due to lack of qualified players, much to the chagrin of several male contestants who thought they should be in the running.

The 16-player Expert Section featured a tie for first place between the two undefeated winners: Benjamin Brusniak (1951-2014 — 4.5/6) of

Lynnwood and Sherry Tian (1817-1912 — 4.5/6) of Richmond, B.C. Paul Bartron (2065-2068 — 4.0/6), Addison Lee (1989-2001 — 4.0/6), and Oscar Petrov (1902-1924 — 4.0/6) tied for second/third/U2100 half-a-point back. WIM Naomi Bashkansky (2023-2022 — 3.5/6) and Joseph Truelson (2077-2062 — 3.5/6) tied for second U2100 to round out the overall prize winners. Sherry Tian added to her winnings by capturing the Female Prize and Paul Bartron took home the Senior Prize with him back to Tacoma.

The Class A section featured the tournament’s first perfect score as Peter Watts (1990-2045 — 6.0/6!) of Lynnwood cleaned house and won every single game to capture clear first place. Olympia’s Brent Baxter (1928-1969 — 5.0/6) won five games and lost only to Watts to place clear second while Wenyang Du (1881-1918 — 4.5/6) finished half-a-point back in clear third. The U1900 prizes were closely contested and eventually split six ways between Garrett Casey (1940-1949 — 4.0/6), Travis Olson (1895-1906 — 4.0/6), Minda Chen (1829-1887 — 4.0/6), Paul Leblanc (1864-1872 — 4.0/6), Will Holloran (1839-1864 — 4.0/6), and Karthik Shaji (1812-1835 — 4.0/6). The special prizes were awarded to Minda Chen for the best Female and Brent Baxter for the top Senior.

It was a good weekend, to be “Frank,” in the Class B Section: Francisco Lopez (1660-1768 — 5.0/6) of Yakima and Frank Fagundes (1712-1749 — 5.0/6) of Marysville tied for first place. Tying for third/first U1700 a full point back were the following players: Robert Allen (1700-1709 — 4.0/6), Ralph Anthony

(1679-1692 — 4.0/6), Jason Zhang (1672-1690 — 4.0/6), Artjom Menkov (1662-1686 — 4.0/6), Daniel Qian (1655-1670 — 4.0/6), and Sophie Szeto (1417-1546 — 4.0/6), who also won the Female Prize. Unfortunately, there was no Senior Prize awarded in this section since those in the running chose not to disclose their date of birth.

In the Class C Section, Jasen Reeves (1632-1687 — 5.5/6) of Issaquah won clear first place with an undefeated score, giving away only a single draw to Harrison Toppen-Ryan. Hongning Wang (1420-1545 — 4.5/6) and Alison Xiao (1383-1520 — 4.5/6), each of whom finished a full point behind Reeves, shared second place. Melina Li (1586-1583 — 4.0/6) and Cleve Johnson (1484-1522 — 4.0/6) split third place honors, while Nolan Daniels (1436-1515 — 4.0/6) and Ryan Min (1311 — 1453 — 4.0/6) shared the U1500 prizes. The Female Prize was awarded to Alison Xiao and Cleve Johnson won the Senior Prize.

Harrison Keyser (1359-1477 — 5.5/6) of Sammamish won the tiny 13-player Class D section with a dominant point-and-a-half lead over the field. Varun Kumar (1377-1445 — 4.0/6) and Jeffrey Kou (1203-1266 — 4.0/6) shared second place. Three players tied for third place half a point back: Eric Jiang (1328-1331 — 3.5/6), Neena Feldman (1337-1317 — 3.5/6), and Giovanni Greco (1327-1277 — 3.5/6). Neena Feldman claimed the Female Prize and Giovanni Greco won the Senior Prize.

The giant 53-player Class E Section, which often feels more like a scholastic tournament, was won convincingly by



Brian Lee (L) vs Joseph Levine and other top boards of the 3-day Class A Section.
Photo Credit: Josh Sinanan.

2018 Washington State Championship

February 10-11, 17-19

Site: Microsoft Building 99 rooms 1915 and 1919: 14820 NE 36th St. Redmond, WA 98052

Format: Four invitation-only 10-player Round Robins by rating: Championship, Premier, Invitational, and Challengers. The field of each section will be determined by seeding and by the highest rated players to respond to this invitation based on the January 2018 US Chess rating list. All sections will be dual US Chess and FIDE rated. Fred Kleist will be the TD for all four sections.

Time control: 40/2, SD/30; d10.

Entry Fee: Championship/Premier: Free, Invitational: \$50, Challengers: \$25.

Schedule: Rounds 1-8: Feb. 10, 11, 17, 18 at 10 AM and 5 PM. Round 9: Feb. 19 (President's Day) at 5 PM.

Drawing of lots: Feb. 3th at 10 PM at Seattle Chess Club after the Seattle Masters. Attendance is optional, though encouraged.

Byes: Since this is a prestigious round robin, there will be no half-points byes or rescheduling of games allowed in any of the sections. All games must be played on site under TD supervision at the scheduled round times.

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

Championship: \$1500, Premier: \$1000, Invitational: \$500, Challengers: \$250

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

Brilliance Prizes: \$400 (\$100 for best game in each section)

The winner of the Championship section receives the title of Washington State Champion. Plaques awarded to the winners of each section.

Seeds: Championship: FM Nick Raptis (State Champion), IM Georgi Orlov (Open Champion), FM Roland Feng (Championship Runner-up), Joseph Truelson (Challenger's Cup Champion), Alikhan Irgaliyev (Premier Champion), TBD (Junior Closed Champion)

Premier: Vikram Ramasamy (Premier Runner-up), Timothy Moroney (Invitational Champion), WIM Naomi Bashkansky (President's Cup Champion), TBD (Junior Open Champion), Chouhanik Airapetian (Women's Champion)

Invitational: Eric Zhang (Invitational Runner-up), Samuel Deng (Challengers Champion)

Challengers: Vignesh Anand (Challengers Runner-up), TBD (WCF Nominee)

Registration: Please register online via [online registration](#) or reply to this email. If you are on the list of invited players, please confirm your ability to play on the website. See the list of invited players sorted by rating. To confirm or decline, just click on your name, then Modify, enter your password, then select your section. We typically have several high rated players decline, and many times we reach down into the 1800s. We will take the top 40 rated players who confirm by the deadline of Feb 2nd.

Questions?

Josh Sinanan WCF President
(206) 769-3757 joshsinanan@gmail.com



Class A Champion Peter Watts (L) and Josh Sinanan. Photo Credit: Duane Polich.

Miles Hamilton-Sommer (1063-1294 — 6.0/6!!) of Bellingham with a perfect score. Angela Chen (1141-1168 — 5.0/6) and Ryan Clark (1104-1165 — 5.0/6)

tied for second place a full point back. Derin Goktepe (1263-1269 — 4.5/6), Thiruvagasam Thirunavukkarasu (1105-1128 — 4.5/6), Neeraj Harish (1094-1119 — 4.5/6), and Nilay Bhoot (1026-1085 — 4.5/6) split third/U1000 honors. The U800/Unrated prize was shared between Andrew Uptain (unr-1075 — 4.0/6), Pranav Balaji (1118-1093 — 3.5/6), Christian Fobian (658-823 — 3.5/6), Brandon Freck (unr-977 — 3.5/6), Nelson Sun (753-878 — 3.5/6), Minh Pham (711-819 — 3.5/6), and Yajat Deshpande (568-674 — 3.5/6). Angela Chen won the Female Prize and Isaias Oregel took home the Senior Prize.

Fifteen players took part in the Washington Class Blitz Championships, which was held on Saturday night and directed by Senior TD Gary Dorfner. Dakota Dixon (2172-2190 — 6.0/8), Patrick Van Dyke (2157-2150 — 6.0/8), and Jason Yu (1925-1965 — 6.0/8) finished in a three-way tie for first place. Joseph Truelson (1604-1640 — 4.0/8) and Sherry Tian (1533-1608 — 4.0/8) split U1700 honors. Newcomers Zaan Dong (unr-1652 — 2.5/8) and Christopher Lawrence (1632-1626 — 2.5/8) tied for the Unrated Prize, while Giovanni Greco (1381-1362 — 1.5/8) took home the U1400 Prize.

The Washington Class G/30

Washington President's Cup

February 17-18, 2018

Highest Finishing WA resident in Open section seeded into the 2019 Washington Invitational

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

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

Time Control: Rd 1 G/60, d10, Rds 2-5 30/90, SD/30, d10.

US Chess February 2018 rating supplement will be used to determine pairings and prizes.

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

Prize Fund: \$1,500 (based on 60 paid entries).

Open: 1st \$300, 2nd \$200, 3rd \$120, 1st U1800 \$100, 1st U1600 \$100

Reserve: 1st \$210, 2nd \$160, 3rd \$110, 1st U1400 \$100, 1st U1200/Unrated \$100

Entry Fee: \$50 if postmarked or online by 02/14, \$60 after 02/14 or at site.
Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs, WIMs.

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

Rounds: Saturday 10:00 AM, 12:30 PM, 5:30 PM; Sunday 10:30 AM, 3:30 PM.

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

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

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

Entries: Make checks payable to Washington Chess Federation.

Mail To: Duane Polich, 17317 Woodcrest Drive NE, Bothell, WA 98011-5443. **Phone:** (206) 852-3096

E-mail: publisher@nwchess.com **Online Registration:** www.nwchess.com/onlineregistration



The festive parent waiting area during the Thanksgiving Scholastic. Photo Credit: Josh Sinanan.

Championship attracted only four players this time — probably since most players opted to play in the main tournament instead. Bruce Gregg (1796-1782 — 2.5/4) and Ryan Cho (1260-1299 — 2.5/4) drew against each other and won their other two games to split first place honors. The G/10 Championship, which was originally scheduled for Friday evening, was cancelled due to lack of players.

WCF Scholastic Director David Hendricks ran the Thanksgiving Scholastic on Black Friday, which attracted 132 players in five sections. This year's tournament had a clear winner in each section except for the 7-12 Open, in which four players tied for first. Please note that the ratings listed below are Northwest ratings.

Michelle Zhang (587-870 — 5.0/5), a first grader from Medina Elementary, won clear first place with a perfect score in the 28-player K-3 U800 section. She finished a full point ahead of second place finishers Hayden Jiang (529-728 —

4.0/5), Raymond Zhu (658-772 — 4.0/5), and Kenan Khatib (710-770 — 4.0/5).

The 22-player K-3 Open section also featured a clear winner: Edward Li (1390-1465 — 5.0/5), a third grader from Louisa Alcott Elementary. Mobius Williamson (1252-1371 — 4.0/5), Nikash Vemparala (1272-1352 — 4.0/5), David Xiao (1115-1274 — 4.0/5), and Shreshth Seth (1196-1292 — 4.0/5) tied for second place.

Alansha Jiang (812-1048 — 5.0/5), a fifth grader from Somerset Elementary, won the 28-player 4-9 U900 section. Three players tied for second place: Aaron Yu (852-957 — 4.0/5), Zack Bukovec (861-983 — 4.0/5), and Ethan Bolan (600-990 — 4.0/5).

Collin Qu (1478-1582 — 4.5/5), a fourth grader from Spiritridge Elementary, reigned supreme with an undefeated score in the 30-player 4-6 Open section. Sathvik Chilakala (1468-1497 — 4.0/5), Abhay Sankar (1341-1411 — 4.0/5), Yasemin Ela Goktepe (1389-1458 — 4.0/5), and Evan Li (1392-1424 — 4.0/5) tied for second place half-a-point back.

The 21-player 7-12 Open section featured four co-champions, each of whom scored 4-1: Anand Gupta (1600-1660 — 4.0/5) of Stella Schola Middle, Owen Xuan (1936-1925 — 4.0/5) of Decatur Elementary, Munkh-erdene Munkhbileg (1579-1600 — 4.0/5) of Shorewood High, and Wenyang Du (1100-1736 — 4.0/5) of Bellevue High.

Congratulations to all of the winners!

**Tim Campbell (1757) –
Brent Baxter (1928) [B01]**
WA Class Championships
Lynnwood, WA (R5), Nov 26, 2017
[Baxter;Brent]

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nf3 Bg4 4.Nc3 Qd6 5.h3 Bh5 6.d4 Nf6 7.Bg5 c6 8.Bxf6?!

This move, and the next one, seem too hasty just to be able to play d5.

8...exf6 9.g4 Bg6 10.d5 Be7 11.Qe2 0-0 12.0-0 Re8 13.dxc6?

Relieving the pressure. Bg2 and/or Nh4 is better.



Brent Baxter.

13...Qf4+ 14.Kb1 Nxc6= 15.Nd5 Qa4!

Rather than retreating, Black's queen goes on the attack. White's king is not as secure as it appears to be.

16.Nc3

16.Nc7 Nb4 is winning for Black due to the dual attacks on a2 and c2.

16...Qa5 17.Rd7?

Trying to get the queens off the board with 17. Qb5 is better.

17...Bb4! 18.Qc4 Bxc3

Stockfish recommends Rac8, building up the pressure. But I saw a simple way to go into a won endgame.

19.Qxc3

Stockfish found 19.Bd3! Qb6 20.Qxc3 although after 20...Qxf2 Black is still better.

19...Qxc3 20.bxc3 Be4 21.Bg2 Bxf3 22.Bxf3 Ne5 23.Rd3 Nxd3 24.cxd3+

The rest is technique, which is often easier said than done. I tried to focus on being patient and limiting my opponent's counterplay.

24...Rac8 25.Kc2 b6 26.d4 Rc7 27.Kd3 Rec8 28.Rc1 b5 29.Bd5 Kf8 30.Bb3 Ke7 31.a4 a6 32.axb5 axb5 33.Rc2 Kd6 34.Ba2 Ra8 35.Bb3 Ra3 36.Rb2 Ra8 37.Rc2 Ra1 38.Re2 Rc1 39.Bc2 h6 40.Re8 Rh1 41.Re3 Ra7 42.Bb3 Ra3 43.Bxf7 b4 44.Kc2 Rxc3+ 45.Rxc3 bxc3 46.Kxc3 Rxh3+ 47.Kd2 Rf3 48.d5 Rxf2+ 49.Ke3 Rf1 50.Ke4 Re1+ 51.Kf5 Re5+ 52.Kf4 Rg5 53.Be6 h5 54.gxh5 Rxh5 55.Ke4 Re5+ 0-1

Miles Hamilton-Sommer (1063) – Ryan Clark (1104) [D07]
WA Class Championships
Lynnwood, WA (R4), Nov 25, 2017
[Miles Hamilton-Sommer]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 Nc6!?!±

Although I'm not prepared for it, the Chigorin leads to a normal edge for White in most cases.

3.Nf3 Bg4 4.Nc3 Bxf3 5.exf3 dxc4? 6.d5!± Ne5 7.Qa4+N

7.Bf4! Nd3+ 8.Bxd3 cxd3 9.Qxd3 c6 10.0-0

7...c6?

7...Qd7!±

8.dxc6?!

Again, I miss 8.Bf4.

8...Nxc6± 9.Bxc4 e6 10.Bf4

Finally, my bishop reaches its optimal square.

10...Bb4 11.Rd1C

Sacrificing structure for activity.

11...Bxc3+ 12.bxc3 Qa5!?

I'm fine with exchanging queens, but this idea is oddly reminiscent of my game in Round Three. It felt like playing vs. myself.

13.Qxa5 Nxa5 14.Bb5+ Nc6 15.Bxc6+ bxc6

And thus, our pawn structures are both weak.

16.Rd6↑ Ne7 17.Kd2

To prevent Nd5 where I thought I'd be forced to reply Bd2. (Be5 is ok too.) It's still better than the alternative. 17.Ke2 Nd5 18.Be5 f6 19.Bd4 e5 20.Bc5 Nxc3+ 21.Kd3 Nxa2 22.Ra1 wins for White.



Miles Hamilton-Sommer.

17...0-0 18.Kc2 Nd5 19.Bg3 h6?!

Making luft but letting me improve my rook.

20.Rd1 Rfd8 21.c4 Rxd6 22.Bxd6 Nf6?!± 23.Be5 Ne8 24.Rd7 f6 25.Bd6 e5 26.Kc3 a5 27.Bc7?! Ra7 28.Rd8 Kf7?! 29.Bb6

After exchanging inaccuracies, I'm still better.

29...Ra6 30.Bc5 f5 31.Rd7+ Kg6? 32.Re7 Nf6 33.Bd6?!

I'm still ahead here.

33...e4 34.Kd4± exf3 35.gxf3 Ng8?



Position after 35...Ng8

36.Rc7± Kf6 37.Kc5 g5 38.Rxc6 Rxc6+??

With the upcoming Bishop vs. Knight battle, this gives away all hope of counterplay.

39.Kxc6+-

There's no more play.

39...Ke6 40.c5 a4 41.Kb5 a3 42.Ka4 Nf6 43.Kxa3 Ne8 44.Bb8 Kd5 45.Ba7 Nc7 46.Kb4 g4 47.fgx4 fgx4 48.Bb6 Kc6 49.Bxc7 Kxc7 50.Kb5 h5 51.c6 h4 52.a3 g3 53.fgx3 hgx3 54.hgx3 Kc8 55.a4 Kb8 56.Kb6 Ka8 57.Kc5 Kb8 58.Kd6 Kc8 59.c7 Kb7 60.Kd7 Ka6 61.c8Q+ Ka7 62.Qc5+ Ka6 63.Qb5+ Ka7 64.Kc7 Ka8 65.Qa6#

I took the advantage early, and although there were many inaccuracies on both sides, I never let go. Ryan fought hard to the end and finished tied for second/third with this game his only loss.

1-0

Frank A. Fagundes (1712) – Jason C. Zhang (1672) [A11]
WA Class Championships
Lynnwood, WA (R6), Nov 26, 2017
[Frank Fagundes]

1.Nf3

Hoping my opponent isn't that familiar with these lines.

1...d5 2.c4 c6 3.e3 e6 4.Nc3 Bd6 5.e4

Surprisingly, this is the right move according to Stockfish.



Frank Fagundes.

5...Bb4 6.Qb3 Bxc3 7.Qxc3 Nf6 8.e5 Nfd7 9.d4

White has a fine center.

9...c5 10.cxd5 cxd4 11.Qxd4 Qa5+ 12.Bd2 Qxd5 13.Qxd5 exd5 14.Bb4

Trying to keep the Black King in the center.

14...Nc6 15.Bd6 Nb6 16.Rc1 Bg4 17.Bb5 Bxf3 18.gxf3

18.Rxc6 is better.

18...Kd7 19.Rg1 Rhg8 20.Bf1

Shifting the bishop to the h3-c8 diagonal is the right idea.

20...Rae8 21.Bh3+ Kd8 22.f4 Nc4 23.Kf1 h6 24.b3 Nd2+ 25.Ke2 Ne4 26.Ba3 g5 27.f3 Nf6 28.Kf2 Nd7 29.Rgd1 Nb6

Wasn't that Knight there like six moves ago?

30.Bd6 gxf4 31.a4

31...Rg5 is a better thought.

31...d4 32.b4 Nxa4 33.b5 Nc3 34.Rxc3 dxc3 35.bxc6 bxc6 36.Rb1 Re6 37.Rb8+ Kd7 38.Bxe6+ fxe6 39.Rxg8 c2 40.Rg1 1-0

Isaac Liu (940) –

Giovanni Greco (1327) [A02]

WA Class Championships

Lynnwood, WA (R1), Nov 24, 2017

[Giovanni Greco's computer]

1.f4 Nc6 2.e3 d6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.b3 e5 5.fxe5 dxe5 6.Bb5 Bg4 7.h3 Bxf3

Inaccuracy. A better move was 7...Bh5 8.g4 Bg6 9.Bb2 Nd7 10.d3 h5 11.gxh5 Bxh5 12.Bxc6.

8.Qxf3 e4 9.Bxc6+ bxc6 10.Qe2

Inaccuracy. A better move was 10.Qf5 Be7 11.Bb2 Qd5 12.Rf1 Rd8 13.g4 0-0



Giovanni Greco.

14.Rf2 Qxf5.

10...Bd6 11.Bb2 Qe7 12.d3

Mistake. The best move was 12.0-0 Be5 13.Bxe5 Qxe5 14.Na3 0-0 15.Qa6 Qc5 16.Nc4 Nd5.

12...Bg3+ 13.Kd2 Rd8 14.d4 0-0 15.Ba3

Inaccuracy. A better move was 15.c4 c5 16.Kc2 cxd4 17.exd4 e3 18.Rd1 Qe4+ 19.Rd3 Rfe8

15...Bd6 16.Bxd6 Qxd6 17.c4 c5 18.d5 c6 19.Nc3 cxd5 20.cxd5 Nxd5 21.Nxd5 Qxd5+ 22.Kc2

Inaccuracy. A better move was 22.Ke1 c4 23.Rd1 Qa5+ 24.Kf2 Qf5+ 25.Kg3 c3 26.Qc2 Qc5.

22...Rc8

Blunder. The best move was 22...c4 23.Rhd1 Qb5 24.Qe1 Rb8 25.Kb2 cxb3 26.a4 Qc6 27.Qc3.

23.Qb5

Inaccuracy. A better move was 23.Rhd1 Qe6 24.Rac1 c4 25.Kb2 cxb3 26.Rxc8 Rxc8 27.axb3 h6.

23...Qg5 24.g4 Qxe3 25.Rae1 Qd3+

Blunder. The best move was 25...Qg3 26.Qc4 e3 27.Re2 Qf3 28.Rhe1 Rce8 29.Qc3 Qxh3 30.Kb2.

26.Qxd3 exd3+ 27.Kxd3 Rfd8+ 28.Kc3 Rd4 29.Re7 Rf4 30.Rxa7 c4 31.bxc4

Inaccuracy. A better move was 31.b4 Rf3+ 32.Kc2 Rf2+ 33.Kc1 c3 34.b5 g6

35.b6 Rb2.

31...Rxc4+ 32.Kb2 g6 33.g5 Rce4 34.Rd1 Rf2+ 35.Kc3 Re3+ 36.Rd3 Rxd3+ 37.Kxd3 Rf3+ 38.Ke2

Inaccuracy. A better move was 38.Kc4 Rxh3 39.a4 Rg3 40.Ra5 Rg4+ 41.Kb3 Rg3+ 42.Kb4 Rg4+.

38...Rxh3 39.a4 h5 40.gxh6 Rxh6 41.a5 Rh2+

Inaccuracy. A better move was 41...Rh3 42.Kd2 f5 43.Rb7 Ra3 44.Rb5 f4 45.Kc2 f3 46.Kd2.

42.Kf1

Mistake. The best move was 42.Kd3 Kg7 43.Rb7 g5 44.Kc3 Rh3+ 45.Kb4 Rh2 46.a6 Ra2.

42...Ra2 43.Ra8+ Kg7 44.a6 Kf6 45.a7 Kf5 46.Kg1 f6

Blunder. The best move was 46...g5 47.Kf1 g4 48.Re8 Rxa7 49.Kg2 Ra2+ 50.Kg3 Ra3+ 51.Kg2.

47.Kf1 g5 48.Kg1 Kf4 49.Rf8 Rxa7 50.Rxf6+ Kg3 51.Rf1 g4 52.Rb1 Kh3 53.Rb3+ g3 54.Rb1 Ra2 55.Kh1 Rh2+ 56.Kg1 Rg2+ 57.Kh1 Rf2 58.Kg1 Rg2+ 59.Kf1

Blunder. The best move was 59.Kh1 Ra2 60.Kg1 Ra4 61.Rf1 Ra3 62.Rd1 Rb3 63.Rc1 Re3.

59...Kh2 0-1

Varun Kumar (1377) –
Roven Foxley (1242) [A34]

WA Class Championships

Lynnwood, WA (R1), Nov 24, 2017

[Varun Kumar]

1.c4 Nf6 2.g3 g6 3.Bg2 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.Nc3 Nxc3 6.bxc3

I wanted to take with the d-pawn, and go for an almost equal endgame, but decided to play safe.

6...Bg7 7.Nf3 e5

I had never seen this move before. When he touched the piece I felt he would play ...c6, but he played ...c5, and I got a good feeling. I was confident that this is not a good move. Hmm, engine disagrees though.

8.Qb3 0-0 9.0-0 Nc6 10.Ba3

I somehow calculated that there would be no way to save the pawn here.

10...Na5 11.Qb5 b6 12.d4 cxd4 13.cxd4 Bb7 14.e3

I was not happy here, I felt like I was losing the advantage completely. Now he has better position after ...Rb8, or something.

14...Re8 15.Rac1 Re8 16.Rxc8 Qxc8 17.Rc1 Bc6

I had 78 minutes left, and he had 61 minutes.

18.Qf1

I felt really bad here, since I had light square weakness. I wanted to play Qe2 and save the knight after he plays ...Qb7. But then I decided to play Qf1, and hope that we exchange the queens.

18...Qb7 19.Ne5

Forcing exchange.

19...Bxg2 20.Qxg2 Qxg2+ 21.Kxg2



Position after 21.Kxg2

I was not expecting he would exchange queens! I was happy.

21...f6 22.Nd3

I calculated for over 15 minutes here. I was certain that Nd7 would be a great move, but I was very scared that the knight could get trapped. Having the experience of past games, I almost always mess up—miss some move and then the piece gets lost and then game over. So I decided to play slow and solid. There was no weakness in my camp, so why not just play safe.

22...Kf7

Oh, this was surely a mistake. I thought so in the game. I was very happy that I had the c-file. My plan was to keep the file, block the knight on the rim, and maybe



Varun Kumar.

at some point take it to double the pawns.

23.Rc7 a6 24.Nb4

I have the pawn! It has happened several times with me that I go after pawns and let one pawn slip though finally becoming impossible to stop. Foxley decided to keep his potentially tricky queenside majority.

24...Ra8 25.Nd5 b5 26.Rxe7+

Now that I see, I realize that should have taken with bishop.

26...Kg8 27.Rc7

Back to c-file, I am not losing it.

27...Nc4 28.Bc5

I wanted to go to Be7, but again, I was so afraid of missing some tactics that I was playing very defensive and passive.

28...f5 29.Ne7+ Kh8



Position after 29...Kh8

30.Nd5

30.d5 Calculated this for long, but again was afraid that I might lose this pawn and then lose the race on the queenside.

30...Rd8 31.Nf4 Re8 32.Ne6 Bf6 33.Rc6 a5 34.Nc7 Rc8

Ah, here I thought I did good! I get his bishop for my knight and then my bishop + rook would win easily, but I totally missed the simple d5. I felt so bad!

35.Rxf6

35.d5 Bg7 36.Ne6 Rxc6 37.dxc6 Be5 38.c7

35...Rxc7 36.a3 Kg7 37.Ra6 Rd7 38.Kf1 Nd2+ 39.Ke2 Nb3 40.Rb6 Nxc5 41.dxc5 b4 42.axb4 axb4 43.Rxb4 Rc7 44.Rb5

I wanted to have control of the b-file and have the king come to c4 instead of the rook.

44...Kf6 45.Kd3 Ke5 46.Kc4 Ke4 47.h4 Kf3 48.Rb2 Ke4 49.Rd2

Oh this was nice! Cutting off the king.

49...Ke5 50.f3 Ke6 51.Kb5 1-0

Albert Li (1466) – Nolan Daniels (1436) [B78]
WA Class Championships
Lynnwood, WA (R3), Nov 25, 2017

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6



Nolan Daniels.

5.Nc3 g6 6.Be3 Bg7 7.f3 0-0 8.Qd2 Nc6 9.Bc4 Bd7 10.0-0-0 Rc8 11.Bb3 Na5 12.g4 Nc4 13.Bxc4 Rxc4 14.Bh6 Rxd4 15.Qxd4 Bxh6+ 16.Kb1 Qa5 17.h4 Bg7 18.Qd3 Rc8 19.Rde1 Nxd4 20.fxg4 Rxc3 21.bxc3 Bxc3 22.Re3 Qb4+ 23.Kc1 Qb2+ 24.Kd1 Bxg4+ 25.Rf3 Qb1+ 26.Ke2 Qxh1 27.Qxc3 Qg2+ 28.Ke1 Qxf3 29.Qxf3 Bxf3 30.e5 dxe5 31.Kf2 Bd5 32.a3 Kg7 33.Kg3 Kh6 34.Kh3 Kh5 35.c3 e4 36.a4 e3 37.Kg3 e2 38.Kf2 Bc4 39.Ke1 Kxh4 40.a5 Kg4 41.a6 bxa6 42.Kd2 h5 43.Ke1 h4 44.Kf2 h3 45.Ke1 h2 46.Kf2 h1Q 47.Ke3 e1Q+ 48.Kd4 Qd5# 0-1

Erik Liu (1099) – Angela Chen (1141) [A29]
WA Class Championships
Lynnwood, WA (R5), Nov 26, 2017

1.c4 e5 2.g3 Nf6 3.d3 Bc5 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.Bg2 d6 6.Nc3 0-0 7.Bd2 Be6 8.Rb1 a5 9.a3 Re8 10.Qc2 h6 11.Na4 Qd7 12.Nxc5 dxc5 13.b4 axb4 14.axb4 cxb4 15.Bxb4 Bg4 16.h3 Bxf3 17.Bxf3 Nd4 18.Qd2 Nxf3+ 19.exf3 Rad8 20.Ke2 Qc6 21.Qe3 e4 22.Kf1 exd3 23.Qc1 Qxf3 24.Bd2 Qxh1# 0-1



Angela Chen.

Northwest Chess

2017 South Central Regional Scholastic Tournament

By Adam Porth

Jerome, ID — December 2, 2017

Richard Black, math teacher from Jerome High School, contacted the Idaho Chess Association (ICA) and conveyed his administration's and school district's enthusiasm to support chess in Idaho by offering a location for tournaments. Last year ICA was able to run a scholastic team championship at Jerome High School, and this year they also hosted an ICA regional tournament which allows players and students to qualify for the state championships.

The ICA requires scholastic players to qualify for the state championships so that Idaho's representative to the Barber Tournament of K-8 Champions and Denker Tournament of High School Champions can be selected from a competitive field of players that have tournament experience. In order to qualify, players must score 3.0 points or higher, or win first, second, or third place in one of

the regional chess tournaments. Players are able to compete in any region, which allows for more mixing of chess players than a strictly regional tournament. It is at these tournaments where players are taught how to use a clock and what the tournament rules are. For the highly experienced scholastic players, these regional tournaments can be grueling, so we also offer exemptions to those that play in the ICA open chess tournaments that are held throughout the year.

The East Regional Scholastic Tournament held October 28, 2017 in Idaho Falls, had low attendance, probably due to Harvest and Halloween festivities taking place in many communities. However, 20 kids showed up to play—many were first-time tournament players. Jay Simonson, Tournament Director, did a great job of teaching families and players how to play properly, how to castle, and other etiquette. Hence, learning the basics of how to play tournament chess takes place outside of our state competition!

The importance of the state competitions is also conveyed by the nervousness and excitement of players and families as they strategize how to get into the tournament. Players that do not qualify are encouraged to attend other

chess events and regional competitions to improve their play. As of now, 75 players are qualified with the largest regional tournament yet to be played on February 10.

Of the 47 players in Jerome at the regional tournament, some secured their berth to the state competition. The big news at the tournament, however, was the excitement that the final game generated between Dylan Flukinger, Twin Falls, and River Shepard, Hailey. Time controls were G/60; d0 and their game was surrounded by all the players in the room, most with hands covering their mouths as they watched the game move into the endgame of pawns, rooks, knights, and kings. Knights exchanged off, then numerous pawns and finally the rooks — draw! Each player ended with 4.5/5 points.

Everyone ended the day a bit wiser and pleased with their performance as sections were combined as K-6th grade and 7th-12th grade. Players were from Meridian, Boise, Eagle, Twin Falls, Hailey, Jerome, and Bellevue. "It was nice to see the kids hanging out together and sharing information," quipped one parent, "players will recognize one another at State."



River Shepard (left), Dylan Flukinger (right). Photo credit: Adam Porth.

Coquille at National K-12 Championship

By Nancy Keller

Orlando, FL — December 8-10, 2017

Two Coquille chess players played in the National K-12 Grade Championships in the heartland of Disneyworld, Florida at the Disney Coronado Springs Resort this weekend. In the midst of over 1800 players from all over the nation, Josiah Perkins won ninth place in the 12th grade section and Joshua Grabinsky won second place in the ninth grade section.

Josiah Perkins started chess at the age of five. He studied chess through several internet sites, read chess books and attended many tournaments. Now in his last year of scholastic chess, he won ninth place among the most talented chess players in the nation, causing major upsets by beating players 200 and 450 rating points above him for the 12th grade competition. His US Chess rating raised from 1783 to 1891. It was a triumphal near-end for him scholastically but he is not done. There is still six more months of mostly state events ahead.

Joshua Grabinsky also started chess at age five, and through hard work also improved his skills. The talent seems to run in his family as two years ago, his brother Aaron won second place for 12th grade at this same tournament. Joshua did not place that year for seventh grade (Josiah also attended this event two years ago and did not place). However, Joshua made up for it this year as he won clear second. His US Chess rating from this tournament raised from 2136 to 2174. He is getting closer to becoming a National Master.

The two also made a great team as the day before the main tournament, they participated in a Bughouse tournament. This chess variant requires teams of two chess players using clocks with five-minute time limits. They won second place in in the Bughouse event. In another side event called Blitz (speed chess of five minutes each), Joshua won seventh place, Josiah won 16th place.

After the tournament, plans are to enjoy Disneyworld despite the arctic storm that brought cold weather to Florida. Then the fun will be getting four huge trophies home on the airlines! They will be returning December 13.

A subscription to
Northwest Chess makes a
great gift!



*Joshua Grabinsky (L) and Josiah Perkins with their 2nd and 9th place individual trophies and their 2nd place Bughouse trophies in the lobby of the Disney Coronado Springs Resort.
Photo credit; Nancy Keller.*

Seattle Super Masters

March 2-4, 2018



Site: Seattle Chess Club, 2150 N. 107th St. Seattle, WA 98133.

Format: A 5-round Swiss in two sections: Masters (2000+) and Challengers (1600-1999). Both sections will be dual US Chess and FIDE rated. The goal of this event is to provide an opportunity for strong local junior players seeking experience in preparation for national and international competition.

Entry fee: \$150 if postmarked or online by 5pm on 2/25, \$180 after or at site.

Free entry for GM/IM/WGM/WIM if registered by Feb. 16th. \$50 by 2/25, \$100 after or at site.

Schedule:

Friday 3/2	Check-in: 6:30pm, Round 1 (3-day): 7pm
Saturday 3/3	Round 1 (2-day): 10am (G/60, d/10) Round 2: 12:30pm, Round 3: 7pm
Sunday 3/4	Round 4: 10am, Round 5: 5pm, Closing Ceremony: 10pm or asap

Time Control: 90 minutes for the first 40 moves followed by 30 minutes for the rest of the game with an addition of 30 seconds per move starting from move one. Late Default: 60 minutes.

Rating: Higher of US Chess or foreign ratings used at TD discretion. All games will be dual US Chess and FIDE rated except for round 1 of the 2-day schedule, which will be US Chess rated only.

Prizes: (b/o 25 paid entries in each section)

Masters: 1st \$1000 gtd, 2nd \$600, 3rd \$400

1st U2400/U2200: \$300

Top Female: \$150

Top Senior (50+): \$150

Biggest Upset: \$150

Challengers: 1st \$800, 2nd \$600, 3rd \$400

1st U1900/U1700: \$300

Top Female: \$150

Top Senior: \$150

Biggest Upset: \$150

Byes: Two half-point byes available for rounds 1-5 if announced before the start of round 2.

Registration: Please register online at <http://nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration/>. The deadline to register is Thursday 3/1 at 10pm. Maximum of 60 players, please register early to guarantee your spot!

Chief Organizer: Josh Sinanan, WCF President, 206-769-3757, joshsinanan@gmail.com

Tournament Director: Fred Kleist, US Chess Senior TD, FIDE National Arbiter

The 2017 Neil Dale Memorial Northwest Chess Grand Prix

Murlin Varner, Administrator

mevjr54@outlook.com

Another year is over, and it turned out to be a good one. With six tournaments still to be played at this writing, we have set Grand Prix records in three categories and probably a fourth. We already have 788 people who have played in one or more Grand Prix events, 11 more than the record set just last year. Who knows, by the time the last of the December tournaments are complete, we may just pass the 800 mark. As I mentioned last month, we set a record of 22 multiplier events with the Washington Class (5x) Thanksgiving weekend, and the 4x Winter Chess Classic in Seattle the final week of the year will be the 23rd such event.

The points awarded category is also a new record, as fitting in a year with a record number of multipliers. With the first weekend of December surpassing the 29,000 point mark, the rest of December should push that record past 30,000 points. Entries are up, too, with the average entries per event sitting at 36.6 with those six events still to happen.

As for the money spots, many are still very unclear with just this handful of tournaments still to be contested. In Idaho, the lead in the top group is just 2 points, while Class C and Class D leaders are separated by a mere half point. That made the final event of the year in Idaho, the Western Idaho Open, a very significant event indeed.

Oregon still had three events at this writing, and many money spots were hanging in the balance. Three classes were upended a bit when Ethan Wu, Konnor Feldman and Abbie Wu all jumped up a class due to the final ratings adjustment in December. Arliss Dietz, who had been well behind Wu in Class C, inherited a first place he was probably never expecting. Meanwhile, in the Master and Overall lead, Steven Breckenridge has left the field in the dust in his rather remarkable drive toward 300 points.

In Washington, we have mere four point leads in Experts and Class D, and a tie atop Class A. With the final event of 2017 being a 4x tournament in Seattle, very few leads are safe yet. This includes August Piper's Overall lead. Piper has lead everyone in Washington for 11 months, but never by a big margin. He surpassed the 200 point barrier, but four others in Washington have done the same, and a lot of points await in the waning weeks of the year.

Of course, all of that is in the past as you read this, or almost. If you are like me, an also-ran, 2017 is just a recent memory, it is time to look to 2018, which begins in Oregon with the Neil Dale Memorial at PCC. This is a 2x tournament. The Seattle City Championship in January is also a 2x event. There are five other single value tournaments in January, in Seattle, Portland, and Tacoma. Might as well get the New Year off to a good start.

All data below is current through December 6.

Northwest Grand Prix Standings

Idaho			Oregon			Washington		
last	first	pts.	last	first	pts.	last	first	pts.
			Masters					
			1 Breckenridge Steven J		281.5	1 Perez	Ignacio	186.5
			2 Cigan Jason D		162	2 Pupols	Viktors	176
			3 Zavortink Matt		150	3 Feng	Roland	115
			4 Tarjan James		42	4 Sinanan	Joshua C	113
			5 Haessler Carl A		41.5	5 Zhang	Derek	106.5
M/X/Class A			Experts					
1 Inman	James	45	1 Rachmuth	Moshe S	115.5	1 Yu	Jason	206
2 Cambareri	Michael E	43	2 Wu	Ethan	97.5	2 Shubin	Daniel	202
3 Dagher	Gaby	41	3 Seitzer	Phillip	94.5	3 Zhang	Brendan	189
4 Nathan	Jacob A	33	4 Gatica	Jose M	80.5	4 Lee	Addison	177
5 Havrilla	Mark A	31	5 Bjorksten	Lennart	79.5	5 Truelson	Joseph	171
Class B			Class A					
1 Wei	James	79.5	1 Feldman	Konner	156.5	1 Levine	Joseph R	214.5
2 Machin	Alex J	53.5	2 Moore	Michael	146.5	1 Jiang	Brandon	214.5
3 Xu	Kevin	48	3 Holloran	William T, III	142.5	3 Lewis-Sandy	Joshua M	198.5
4 Roland	Jeffrey T	42.5	4 Vega	Isaac	139	4 Velea	Anne-Marie	178
5 Derryberry	Dewayne R	24.5	5 Murray	David E	85.5	5 Tien	Sophie J	170

Idaho			Oregon			Washington					
last	first	pts.	last	first	pts.	last	first	pts.			
Class C			Class B								
1	Geyman	Jonathan P	25.5	1	Wu	Abbie	175	1	Reeves	Jasen	182.5
2	Weyland	Ron	25	2	Tang	Zoey	140.5	2	Mayer	Jacob V	173
2	Porth	Adam	25	3	Berger	Brian F	132.5	3	Beck	Alec W	172
4	Zaklan	David A	22	4	Hasuike	Mike L	111.5	4	Velea	Sophie	162
5	Machakos	Seth D	19	5	Nair	Roshen S	106	5	Velea	Stephanie	159
Class D			Class C								
1	Porth	Dylan	22.5	1	Dietz	Arliss	113	1	Piper	August	226.5
2	Liu	James	22	2	Fudalla	Ian	93	2	Li	Melina	190
3	Merry	William A F	20	3	Kodithyala	Raj	84.5	3	Richards	Jerrold	185.5
4	Ang	Ching-E N	17.5	4	Roshu	Cassandra M	83	4	Gupta	Anand	181.5
5	Bian	Raymond B	17	5	Lancaster	Carter D	52	5	Tien	Andy C	146
Class E and Below			Class D and Below								
1	Wei	Luke B	54.5	1	Tang	Austin	121	1	Goktepe	Derin	166.5
2	Kitterman	Andrew N	30	2	Feldman	Neena	119	2	Min	Ryan	162.5
3	Porth	Darwin A	22	3	Beauchet	Pierre-Hadrien	113	3	Hotani	Kabir	119.5
4	Shepard	River	20	4	Zhang	Ethan Y	111	4	Goktepe	Yasemin E	116
5	Callen	Gregory D	17	5	Roshu	David L	91.5	5	Ruff	Lois	114.5
Overall Leaders, by State											
1	Wei	James	79.5	1	Breckenridge	Steven J	281.5	1	Piper	August	226.5
2	Wei	Luke B	54.5	2	Wu	Abbie	175	2	Levine	Joseph R	214.5
3	Machin	Alex J	53.5	3	Cigan	Jason D	162	2	Jiang	Brandon	214.5
4	Xu	Kevin	48	4	Feldman	Konner	156.5	4	Yu	Jason	206
5	Inman	James	45	5	Zavortink	Matt	150	5	Shubin	Daniel	202
6	Cambareri	Michael E	43	6	Moore	Michael	146.5	6	Lewis-Sandy	Joshua M	198.5
7	Roland	Jeffrey T	42.5	7	Holloran	William T, III	142.5	7	Li	Melina	190
8	Dagher	Gaby	41	8	Tang	Zoey	140.5	8	Zhang	Brendan	189
9	Nathan	Jacob A	33	9	Vega	Isaac	139	9	Perez	Ignacio	186.5
10	Havrilla	Mark A	31	10	Berger	Brian F	132.5	10	Richards	Jerrold	185.5
11	Kitterman	Andrew N	30	11	Tang	Austin	121	11	Reeves	Jasen	182.5
12	Buus	Jarod N	29.5	12	Feldman	Neena	119	12	Gupta	Anand	181.5

Q: What's happening in February 2018?

A: State Championships in all three states!!

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

Seattle Chess Club Tournaments

Address
 2150 N 107 St, B85
 Seattle WA 98133

Infoline
 206-417-5405

seattlechess.club
 kleistcf@aol.com

Address for Entries
 SCC Tnmt Dir
 2420 S 137 St
 Seattle WA 98168

How to Find the SCC

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

Jan 7, Feb 4

Format: 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.

Sunday Tornado

Jan 20, Feb 24

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.

Saturday Quads

Jan 21

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

SCC Novice

WCF @ the SCC

Seattle Masters Series Jan. 6, Feb. 3

Clark Harmon Memorial Apr. 28-29

SCC Fridays

Typical Friday fare is one round of an ongoing tournament (free to SCC members, \$5 per night for others; no prizes) played at a rate of 40/90 followed by 30/60. Drop in for any round!

January Thaw: 1/5, 12, 19, 26.

Cabin Fever: 2/2, 9, 16, 23.

March Winds (Close Rtgs I): 3/2, 9, 16, 23, 30.

Seattle City Championship

January 12-14 or January 13-14

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

a Northwest Grand Prix event

Championship

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

Reserve (U1800)

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

EF: \$45 (\$35 for SCC mem., \$40 for mem. of other NW dues-req'd CCs) by 1/10 \$53 (\$41, \$46) at site; GMs, IMs, WGMs free.

EF: \$36 (\$26 for SCC mem., \$31 for mem. of other NW dues-req'd CCs) by 1/10, \$4 (\$35, \$40) at site. **Unrateds** free w/purch. 1-yr US Chess & WCF.

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

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

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

Upcoming Events

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

☞ **Jan 6-7** 2nd Annual Neil Dale Memorial Open, **Portland, OR.** <http://www.nwchess.com/calendar/TA.htm>

Jan 7 Boise Chess Club #17, **Boise, ID.** Site: 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!

Jan 20 Washington State Spring 2018 Collegiate Chess Tournament, **Seattle, WA.** (Full-page Ad page 10)

Jan 20 Seattle Spring 2018 Corporate Chess Tournament, **Seattle, WA.** (Full-page Ad page 11)

☞ **Jan 21/Feb 25** Portland CC Sunday Quads, **Portland, OR.** Site: Portland Chess Club, 8205 SW 24th Ave., Portland, OR - Map. 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 for January (**G/50;inc15 for February**), 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.

☞ **Jan 27** Bryan Black Memorial Open, **Tacoma, WA.** Site: Metro Parks Community Center, 3513 Portland Ave. E., Tacoma, WA. Format: 3 round Swiss. Time Control: G/90; d5. Entry fee: In advance \$25, at the door \$30; club members: in advance \$22, at the door \$27. Prize fund: \$190 b/10; 1st \$50, 2nd \$45, top half & bottom half. Rounds: 10:00, 1:30, 5:00. Reg.: 9:00-9:45. US Chess and state memberships required. NS, NC, W. One half-point bye available. Entries/Info.: Gary J. Dorfner, 8423 E. B St., Tacoma, WA 98445. Phone: (253) 535-2536 or email garychess@aol.com.

☞ **Jan 27/Feb 24** Portland CC Game in 60, **Portland, OR.** Site: Portland Chess Club, 8205 SW 24th Ave., Portland, OR - Map. 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, 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.

Feb 3 Idaho Open Blitz Championship, **Boise, ID.** 8SS double game, Time Control: G/5, d0. Section: Open. Site: Jump, 1000 West Myrtle Street, Boise, ID. US Chess and ICA membership req'd, OSA. EF: \$25 (U18 & 60+, \$20, >80, IM, FM, GM free), Special family rate, \$40, Register Online. Late fee \$5 onsite. Rd Times: 11 am continuous until 5 pm. 1/2 pt bye Rds 1-5 only. 1st rd must notify TD before rd is paired, all others before rd 2 is paired. \$\$ (based on 30) 1st - 3rd place Overall plaques. Details: idahochessassociation@gmail.com, Online registration at www.idahochessassociation.com.

Feb 10-11, 17-19 Washington State Championship, **Redmond, WA.** (Full-Page Ad page 19)

☞ **Feb 17-18** Washington President's Cup, **Seattle, WA.** (Half-Page Ad page 20)

☞ **Feb 17-19** Idaho Closed State Chess Championship, **Twin Falls, ID.** 6SS, Time Control: 30/120, d5, SD/60, d5. Section: Open. Site: Hampton, 1658 Fillmore St, Twin Falls, ID. Call for Chess Rate, 208-734-2233. Idaho Residency req'd, US Chess and ICA membership req'd. EF: \$30 (U18 & 60+, \$25), Special family rate, \$50, Register Online. Late fee \$10 onsite. Rd Times: 2/17 9 am, 4 pm, 2/18 10 am, 5 pm, 2/19 8 am, 3 pm. Business meeting 9 am 2/18. 1/2 pt bye Rds 1-5 only. 1st rd must notify TD before rd is paired, all others before rd 2 is paired. Prizes: 1, 2, 3 Overall; 1, 2 Classes A - E, Top Junior, Senior, Unrated, Woman. Details: idahochessassociation@gmail.com, Online registration at www.idahochessassociation.com.

Feb 23 IM John Donaldson Simul, Lecture and Blitz Tournament, **Spokane, WA.** <http://www.nwchess.com/calendar/TA.htm>

☞ **Feb 24-25** The 26th Dave Collyer Memorial, **Millwood, WA.** 5SS, Rd. 1: G/90, d5; Rds. 2-5: G/115, d5. Millwood Presbyterian Church Community Center, 3223 N. Marguerite, Millwood, WA 99212 (I-90 Exit 287; north on Argonne Road to light at Euclid; turn left, two blocks). EF: \$28 if received by 2/23; \$35 at door; under 19 \$5 less. Telephone entries accepted (pay at door). \$\$GTD: \$350-225-125. Ex \$100; A; B; C; D; E/Unr: \$100-\$70; Biggest Upsets: \$100-\$50 (non-provisional ratings). One prize per player except for biggest upset. Reg.: Feb. 24: 9:30-10:30 am. All registrants must check in by 10:40 unless a first-round bye was granted. Rds.: 2/24: 11-2:30-7:00; 2/25: 10-2:30 or ASAP. One 1/2-point bye available if requested by end of prior round; Sunday bye must be requested by end of round 3. Director reserves the right to use class pairings in final round. ENT: Spokane CC, c/o Kevin Korsmo, 9923 N. Moore, Spokane, WA 99208-9339. Info/updates: www.spokanechessclub.org, or call (509) 270-1772. NS, NC, W. Misc.: IM John Donaldson Simul, Lecture and Blitz Tournament Friday Feb.23 in Spokane; see NWC or club website for details.

Mar 2-4 Seattle Super Masters, **Seattle, WA.** (Full-Page Ad page 27)

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