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**Stephanie and
Sophie Velea**

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Stephanie Velea (left) and Sophia Velea (right) at the 2017
Northwest Chess Open. Photo credit: Duane Polich.

On the back cover:

David Zaklan at the 2018 BCC #17.
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Northwest Chess Open

By Duane Polich

The Northwest Chess Open was held on December 16-17 at the Seattle Chess Club.

A near-capacity field of 58 players participated in the event, with old stalwarts Vik Pupols and Ignacio Perez, who each have a few Washington State Championship titles under their belts, splitting the top two prizes with 4.5/5 points good for \$175 each.

They drew their game against each other in round four. Ignacio then knocked off Jonathon Molod, originally from Guam, who started the event unrated (but actually had a FIDE rating in the 1900s), with a nice Queen check which worked due to a pinned queen, thus winning a rook and mate soon to follow.

Brandon Jiang and Joseph Levine split the under 2000 prize with 4.0/5 points apiece, good for \$65. Sisters Sophie and Stephanie Velea split the under 1800 prize with 3.0/5 points each. Bulan Abdiev took the under 1600 prize of \$130 and Praneel Eswar, Ryan Min, Raj Ajmera, Kenneth Adkins and Austin Cluff split the under 1400 and 1200 prizes with 2.5/5 points, good for \$52 each.

A good time was had by all. The event was capably directed by Jacob Mayer and was hosted by Northwest Chess and organized by Duane Polich, publisher.

The event was a fundraiser for the magazine and about \$500 was raised, in part because of expenses covered by the Washington Chess Federation.

Thanks to all who played or helped with the event. Hope to see you at the next one.



*Ignacio Perez, Co-Winner of Northwest Chess Open, with WCF President Josh Sinanan.
 Photo credit: Duane Polich.*

Letters to the Editor

“The Knitting Lady” Follow up from Cleve

My Dear Mr. Roland,

I don't play chess so I have no dog in this fight. Yet I am at most chess tournaments and will best be recognized as the lady who sits on the side of the tournament room knitting while my husband plays. From my vantage point, I have witnessed assorted behavior. I am writing to say I believe Mr. Johnson does have a valid point. (January 2018, *Northwest Chess* Pg 6.)

I am the mother of two and now the grandmother of seven, all under the age of thirteen. I know it is rare for a child in this age bracket to sit for long hours quietly. There comes a time they simply must blow off steam and move around. So I step forward to say I too have experienced some of what Mr. Johnson addresses. Jumping jacks. Twirling. All while the round is going on. Kids running past me have actually kicked my knitting basket, unintentionally. (Apologies hastily given and accepted.) I'm not so sure the adults are 'grumpy' as frustrated. As Mr. Johnson points out, many of us have expended a great deal of time, money, and effort to attend these tournaments. You are right - the children wouldn't know that. But you Tournament Directors do. Would you eagerly return to an expensive restaurant where kids jump around or chat across your table?

I realize the younger players are our future. It is thus in any organization which hopes to grow and continue. Yet with that must come some sort of effort to instill proper etiquette pertinent to the situation. Where are the TD's, coaches or watching parents to usher restless young players to the anti-room? Is etiquette to be taught by other players from their boards during a game? Should I, the next time my knitting goes flying? I am not ignorant to the fact there is much to do before, during, and after each round and/or event. Yet it seems to me if you are hosting these tournaments, there should be some measure of effort to implement the 'official rulebook' beyond when to write your moves. If not you, then who?

Sincerely,

Deborah Petzal

“The Knitting Lady”

Dear Mr. Roland,

I received the January 2018 *NW Chess Magazine* today and I am grateful for your gracious response to my letter published therein.

I would be remiss if I did not follow up: since writing that letter I have played in two tournaments in the Seattle area and the behavior of all concerned was exemplary. It was like night and day compared to my tournaments from earlier in 2017. I have no complaints at all, and I enjoyed my games immensely. I plan to continue coming to Seattle (or Portland, or Spokane, or Boise!) to play chess in 2018!

I agree with you: it is exciting to see such a huge crop of young, chess-interested talent moving up the ladder. “Back in the day” there was no such interest among young people for chess, and it is good to see the current level of interest in chess among the kids. Surely, the future would someday hold a second American World Champion!

But you have given me an idea!: could somebody please send me a new hoodie, size XXL, in black or dark blue, that says: “Shhhh . . . Grumpy Old Man at Play!”

Many thanks!

Cleve Johnson

H.G. Pitre

Hey Jeff,

I was just composing a letter to you about the January *NWC* teaser and then maybe it got sent to you prematurely...

I wanted to say that I read Dave Rupel's article about the World Senior. I enjoyed it. I thought his game should have been a draw...

Cleve Johnson's issues have also been stated as it pertains to the Vancouver and Victoria scene recently in the BC chess organ. I hope he will continue to play and that we overcome the problem. The problem is a boon and a bane in the current tournament chess scene.

What I am really excited to say to you is that I feel GM James Tarjan's article is a gift to all *NWC* readers... He has shared a pathway to understanding how to play chess at a much higher level or standard. No wonder I have such a hard time playing against 1. c4...even against lower rated players...

Merry Christmas...

Hanniegn

Editor's Response to all three letters

I just want to thank you for your comments. It really helps me to receive feedback like this.

Cleve Johnson's original letter from January has sure hit upon a note that seems to resonate with many people.

I have known some great TDs in my lifetime. I do think a good TD expects a certain attitude and sees to it that certain things happen. If anyone is being disrespectful to others (no matter who or what class), it should be dealt with appropriately. But it also shouldn't happen in the first place.

Grisha Alpernas is one of my favorites in the area and Barry Eacker is another. I cannot imagine anyone misbehaving in a tournament directed by either of these men, to name just two (of many) great Northwest TDs.

I also find that each of us as players have a lot of influence in the way we conduct ourselves as players. Good behavior spreads. I guess the flipside to that is true too though...

I am also getting the sense that everyone is liking the January issue, and this pleases me because it is also one of my favorite issues.

**A subscription to
Northwest Chess
makes a great gift!**

PCC Winter Open

By Brian Berger

Portland, OR — December 9-10, 2017

Hoping to use the Winter Open as my stepping-stone for entering the 1700s once more, I (Brian “Just Glad To Be Here” Berger) became aware early on that it was to be more of a stumbling-block which caused me to tumble farther from my goal.

For some reason not entirely clear to me even now, I was given a full-point bye in the first round of the Open Section, a 15-player section I had hoped would steer me clear of those dreaded unrated and underrated players who thrive on the unwary higher-rated players who fail to take them seriously.

As it turned out, I might have been better off taking my chances in the Under 1800s, as my 1606 rating would have put me as fourth highest in this 17-player section—either way, on this day I was probably doomed to “suffer the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune,” no matter my choice. The end being, that after my one-point bye, I lost all my games and dropped 32 points in the process.

I was not alone in suffering the “agony of defeat,” as my friend Jerrold “I Just Want To Reach 1600 Before It’s Over” Richards (1307-1300—1.0/5), famed for being the companion of Morgan the Dog and known for trying to get off his floor more often than a punch-drunk fighter, also gained only one point on a mandatory bye, the balance of his games falling to his opponents.

Two brothers from California, Shaashwath Sivakumar (1896-1924—3.5/5) and Shaaketh Sivakumar (1686-1695—2.5/5) were on hand to compete in the Open Section (the lower-rated of the two causing me a loss in the fourth round), Shaashwath tying for U2000 honors with Brent Baxter (1983-1992—3.5/5), thus taking back \$29.25 to that heavily-taxed state, while Baxter probably kept more of his portion of the earnings.

A draw was also the result for



(L) Markus Woltjer vs Eric Erard. Photo credit: Brian Berger.

combined first place and second place money in this section, Phillip Seitzer (2071-2084—4.0/5) and Moshe Rachmuth (1896-1935—4.0/5) each finishing with 4.0/5, their winnings amounting to \$97 when rounded off, gaining them an extra 12 cents to go crazy with.

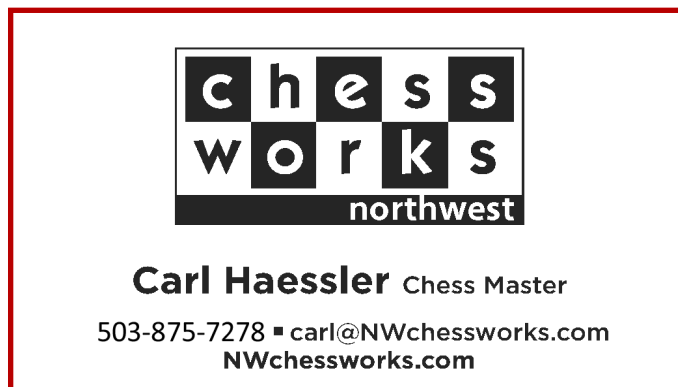
It was interesting to note that no Master showed for this tournament, a departure from recent tournaments at PCC when the field held at least two—leaving Steven Deeth, at 2095, the highest rated player in the Open, with Seitzer and Karl Cosner (2028-2001—1.5/5) the only other Experts. Perhaps the planets were not properly aligned, a sign I failed to note.

In the Reserve Section, Markus Woltjer (1623P-1743P—4.5/5), a provisional player with four games under his belt coming in, was the outright winner of the first place prize, upping his

provisional rating 120 points, while being paid \$77.50 to do it.

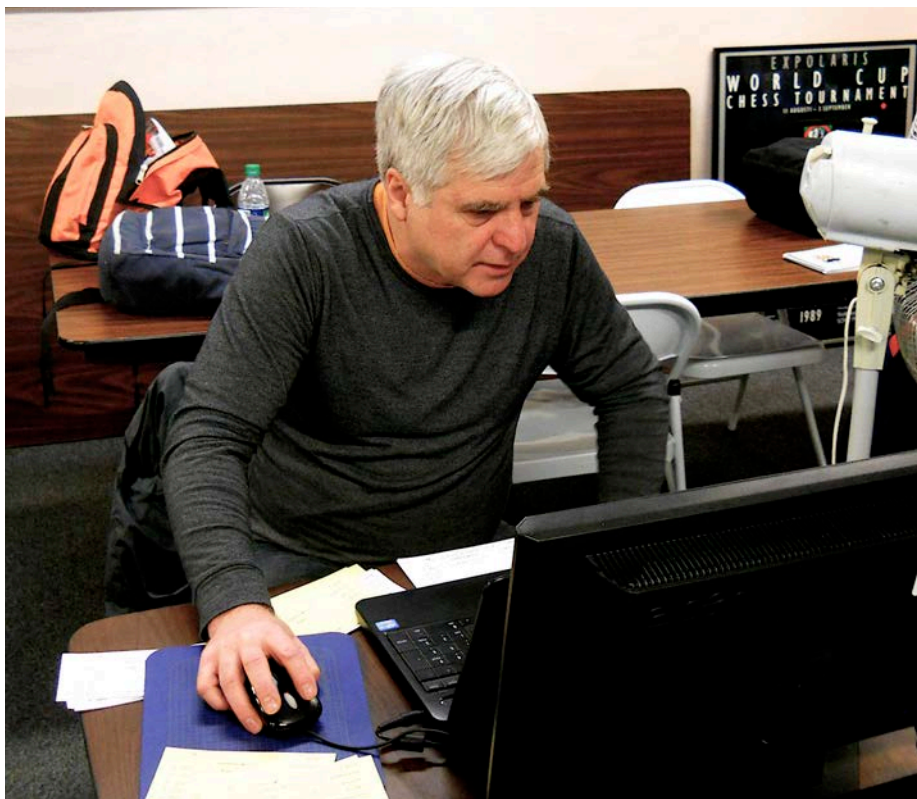
An Illinois player, William Dwyer (1700-1700—4.0/5), who was also the highest-rated player in this section, took clear second, and also took \$58.25 of the club’s money. Such a monetary incentive might have him booking flights to Oregon on a regular basis—or not.

Although Zoey Tang (1600-1634—3.5/5) and Eric “Mighty Mite” Erard (1668-1667—3.5/5) both scored 3.5, their ratings placed them out of the money for the balance of the prize money, the U1600 going to Fedor Semenov (1561-1557—3.0/5), and the U1400 being split between Neena Feldman (1317-1421—3.0/5) and Austin Tang (1303-1319—3.0/5) for a tie. Each of the above were due \$25.83, but might have received \$26 when rounded off. (It should be noted here that Feldman, who has for some time been showing





Some of the players. Photo credit: Brian Berger.



Mike Janniro, Chief TD. Photo credit: Brian Berger.

marked improvement in her grasp of the game, gained a whopping 104 points!)

Lastly, the U1200 prize money went to Pierre-Hadrien Beauchet (1329-1311—2.0/5) and Patrick Morrissey (1018-1094—2.0/5) for tying, each receiving \$19.38 after the split.

Thanks go to Chief TD Mike Janniro and Chief Assistant TD Mike Morris, with additional help from Lennart Bjorksten, for a smoothly run tournament.

**Steven Deeth (2095) –
Moshe Rachmuth (1896) [D35]**
PCC Winter Open
(R5), December 10, 2017
[*Moshe Rachmuth*]

**1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Be7 4.cxd5 exd5
5.Bf4 Nf6 6.e3 Bf5?!**

Castling is the most common and most logical move. It was also my preparation but I forgot my preparation.

7.Qb3!

The white queen puts pressure on both b7 and d5 while the pawn on c7 is already weak. When Steven played 7.Qb3 I knew I had already been in this position in a couple of online games and had lost those



(L) Steven Deeth vs Moshe Rachmuth. Photo credit: Brian Berger.

games after 7...Qc8.

7...b6?!

7...Qc8 8.Nb5 (8.Nxd5? Nxd5 9.Qxd5 Bb4+) 8...Bd8 is playable according to the computer. After the game, Phillip Seitzer suggested 7...Bc8 which would also have been better than what I played.



Position after 7...b6

8.Bb5+?

White misses 8.Nb5 Na6 9.Qa4 c6 10.Qxa6 cxb5 11.Bxb5+

8...c6

Now the position is equal, according to Houdini, but I was still playing under the impression that I was lost.

9.Bxb8?!

9.Be2 b5 10.Bf3 Nbd7 11.a3 a5 12.h3 is fine for White.

9...cxb5 10.Bg3?

10.Be5 b4 11.Nce2

10...a6?

I was still in a state of shock, unable to see that the tide has turned in my favor. 10...b4 11.Nce2 Rc8 12.Qa4+ Qd7 13.Qxd7+

Kxd7 with advantage for Black in the queenless middlegame.

11.a3 0-0 12.Nge2 Qd7 13.0-0 Rac8 14.Nf4 Rfd8 15.Rfd1 Qc6?!

15...g5 16.Nfe2 Rc4

16.Rd2?!

Both sides play passive chess. The psychological reason is that we both guessed we had made many inaccuracies on the way to this position and lost our confidence. 16.Bh4 puts indirect pressure on the d5-pawn. 16...Be6 17.Rdc1 h6 18.Nce2 Qb7 19.Nxe6 fxe6 20.Qd1 Rc4 21.Bxf6 Bxf6 22.b3 Rxc1 23.Rxc1 Rc8 24.Nf4 and the only one who may win is White, due to the better pawn structure.

16...Qc4 17.Qd1?!

White would do better to exchange queens. At this point I started feeling better about the position and felt sure of myself enough to start moving pawns.

17...a5?!

but Houdini tells me it was too early for that. 17...Ne4 18.Nxe4 Bxe4 19.Nd3 Bxd3 20.Rxd3 Qc2 21.Rd2 Qxd1+ 22.Raxd1 b4 Only now. 23.axb4 Bxb4 24.Re2 Rc4 This is probably a draw but Black's active rooks and queen side majority allow the second player to play for a win.

18.Bh4 b4 19.axb4 axb4 20.Nce2 h6?!

I did not see the idea of 20...Bc2 with a small advantage for Black.

21.Bxf6 Bxf6 22.h3?!

White should not have allowed 22...Bc2. 22.b3 Qc6 23.Nd3 is equal.

22...Bc2 23.Qe1



Position after 23.Qe1

23...b3?!

This pawn moved four times in the game (a7-a6, a6-a5, a5xb4 and b4-b3.) All of the moves, except for axb4 were inaccuracies. Black allows White to bring the e2-knight back to c3. 23...Be7 24.Ra7 Bd6 25.Qa1 b3 This would have been almost winning for Black. I was afraid of giving counter-chances on the a-file.

24.Nc1?!

24.Nc3 Be7 25.Ra4 Qc6 26.Qf1 Ra8 27.Rxa8 Qxa8 28.Nd3 Rc8 also gives Black some advantage with the idea b6-b5-b4 but practically 24.Nc3 would give better chances than 24.Nc1.

24...Ra8 25.Rxa8?!

White loses the thread. 25.Ncd3 Ra2 26.Rc1 Be7 27.Qe2 and White still has chances.

25...Rxa8



Position after 25...Rxa8

26.f3?

The losing move. 26.Ncd3 Ra2 27.Qe2 Bg5 28.Kh2 Bxf4+ 29.exf4 (29.Nxf4 Rxb2) 29...Qxd4 30.Nc1 Qxf4+ 31.g3 Qa4 32.Rxc2 bxc2 33.Nxa2 Qxa2 34.Qxc2 and White still has some hope of drawing the endgame.; 26.Nce2 g5 27.Nh5 Be7 28.Nc3 Ra2 29.e4 dxe4 30.Qc1 Qa6 31.Nxa2 bxa2 32.Qa1 Bb3 and the idea Be7-b4 wins.

26...Ra1

Here White thought for over ten minutes and resigned. There is nothing to be done against the play R-b1xb2 and pushing the pawn forward. 27.Rf2 Bh4; 27.Kh2 Rb1 28.Rd3 Rxc1

0-1

Chess4Girls Strategy Session Report

By Shifa Somji

Chess4Girls held a chess strategy session with Grandmaster Greg Serper at the Bellevue Public Library on October 22, 2017. In an engaging session, GM Serper discussed his famous game against Ioannis Nikolaidis. The game was played in 1993 and is endearingly named “The Usurper.” The game highlights an aggressive style of play, one Chess4Girls would like to inculcate in all chess playing girls.

Here, I analyze some of the best positions from the game.

1. c4 g6 2. e4 Bg7 3. d4 d6 4. Nc3 Nf6 5. Nge2 Nbd7 6. Ng3 c6 7. Be2 a6 8. Be3 h5 9. f3 b5 10. c5



Even ten moves into the opening, White has a clear advantage. White’s pawns dominate the center and White pieces are far more active than Black pieces.

10. ... dxc5 11. dxc5 Qc7 12. O-O h4 13. Nh1 Nh5 14. Qd2 e5 15. Nf2 Nf8 16. a4 b4 17. Nd5



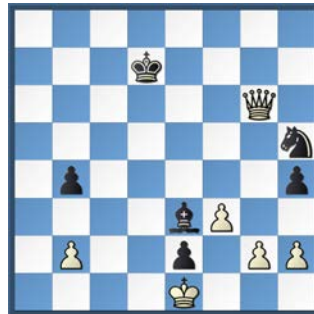
This Knight sacrifice, the first example of aggressive play in the game, further demonstrates White’s advantage.

17. ... cxd5 18. exd5 f5 19. d6 Qc6 20. Bb5 axb5 21. axb5 Qxb5 22. Rxa8 Qc6 23. Rfa1 f4 24. R1a7 Nd7

White’s rooks dominate the last two ranks of the board, highlighting the benefits of playing aggressively. Most of Black’s pieces are controlled simply by White’s rooks and queen and Black needs to tread cautiously.



Grandmaster Greg Serper for his game against Ioannis Nikolaidis in 1993.
Photo Credit: King County Library Staff.



The final position, 1-0.

While White won convincingly, the amazingly bold style of play made the game a memorable one.

Overall, the session was very insightful. Through Serper’s beautiful game, girls who attended the session learned about the power of an aggressive style of chess and how it can be incorporated to win tournament games. Chess4Girls hopes to host more sessions in the future.

In January 2018, Chess4Girls will host another strategy session, which will also be led by GM Serper. Like the first session, it will cover a bolder form of chess play. Chess4Girls’s third session in February will focus on women empowerment and what can women chess players do to succeed in a game that has been dominated by men. Shelmina Babai, a former Vice President at IBM and an Empowerment Speaker, will lead the third session.

December 2017 PCC Game 60

By Brian Berger

Portland, OR—December 30, 2017

The smiling face of Chief Assistant TD Mike Lilly was the first sight players saw as they opened the door to the Portland Chess Club, on a bright, December morning. It is a face members have seen less of, as Lilly has cut back on his volunteer hours due to un-retiring himself and reopening his law practice.

But this day he was there to give Chief TD Mike Hasuike a helping hand, perhaps expecting a large turnout due to the fact that there had not been any tournament activity at the club since the two-day Winter Open, three weeks earlier in the month, and that schools were not yet back in session.

As it turned out, neither reason given became an inducement for an increased audience, the final number of registries topping out at a very modest 19. Still, one could feel the enthusiasm in the air to get the games started—my own enthusiasm driven by the hope of doing well enough to push my rating back into the upper 1600s before the year ended.

Unfortunately, that enthusiasm I had felt was short lived, lasting only through the first game against a very determined Kyle Liu (1293-1289—1.5/4), a young player



(L) Abbie Wu vs Jason Cigan. Photo credit: Brian Berger.

who took me into the last seconds of the one hour +5 time control, his time finally running out.

From there, a mistake in the endgame of my second-round match with Michael Moore (1824-1824—2.5/4) started the shattering of any hope of reaching my above-mentioned goal before the year was out. And to compound that growing feeling of utter hopelessness, I somehow managed to drop my third round game to the man I consider a kindred spirit in the quest of rating gains, that being Jerrold “I Just Want To Reach 1600 Before It’s Over” Richards (1300-1384—2.5/4)—known mostly for his close relationship with that famous chess wizard, Morgan the Dog.

To Richards’ credit in this game, he avoided all of my tactical ideas, focusing on maintaining a one-pawn advantage he had achieved early in the opening, eventually extending that to a two-pawn advantage that could not be dealt

with. Sending me an email the next day, Richards was excited to let me know how in-control he felt during our match, expounding on his myriad attempts to improve his overall chess performance, writing:

“Trying to get better at any activity has its tough patches, which I have been slogging through for a year. But it has felt to me through this period as though I’ve been integrating maybe a couple of dozen essential chess-playing concepts... Well yesterday it felt to me in our game as though I was playing steady 1600 chess (using those concepts)—even 1700 for a bit there, all the way through a game! May not have felt that great on your side of the board, but I sure enjoyed it.” (As I believe Morgan did, for I was sure I had detected a smile spreading across his incisors).

The moral, of course, is that we all have encountered sticking points, some lasting longer than others, but a determined willingness to find the source of our

problem will likely payoff for geezers like Richards or myself—Brian “I’m Just Glad To Be Here” Berger (1560-1525—1.5/4)—as well as the younger guys/gals, if they can just fight through periods of discouragement. For Richards, this win, and one other over a 1293 player, gained him 84-points on his floor of 1300, and \$33.25 for winning the U1500 prize—his other half point coming from a requested bye in the fourth round.

The last rate-draining game of the day came for me at the hands of Chad Lykins (1344-1409—2.0/4), a player some 200-points lower in rating than myself, who managed to force a draw with some clever maneuvering of his white bishop and king, versus my black bishop and king, the pawns being blockaded. But since I was ahead on time, I stubbornly looked for a way to gain a tempo on him, which only made me seem like a bad sport—and for that, Chad, I apologize.

NM Jason Cigan (2235-2241—4.0/4) dominated a field whose nearest competitor was some 254 rating-points below him, winning all four of his games, and earning the \$57 first prize money—which, when averaged out over the course of the tournament, works out to somewhere near \$8 per hour! But I am sure he had more fun than if he had been flipping burgers.

And staying with Cigan, for those of you who might be following the tournament games of one of our youngest members, Abbie Wu (1598-1597—2.0/4), she was Cigan’s second-round opponent, and managed to take the game against this Master into its late stages, exhibiting some very mature maneuvering that I am sure surprised Cigan, as well as any onlookers (I managed to catch the last portion of the endgame). Although she was not in the money this time, she must have felt her efforts in this game was reward enough.

Tying for the U1800 prize and overall second were Ethan Wu (1981-1988—3.0/4) and Raj Kodithyala (1646-1657—3.0/4), the combined prizes when split



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filling each of their pockets with \$35.62.

Other winners were Michael Moore, Roshen Nair (1809-1806—2.5/4), Kushal Pai (1655-1644—2.5/4) Colin Liu (1663-1677—2.5/4) and Masaklazu Shimada (1558-1565—2.5/4), who all tied for third place, each carrying home a hefty \$5.70 when the prize was split 5-ways.



Jerrold Richards and Morgan the Dog.
Photo credit: Brian Berger.

Another Washington Class Game

This game would have gone in the last issue, but we were having trouble with getting past move eight due to a notation error. We present it here for your enjoyment.—Editor.

Steven Breckenridge (2406) –
Viktors Pupols (2200) [B15]
WA Class Championships
Lynnwood, WA (R1), Nov 24, 2017
[Viktors Pupols]

Once upon a time, time limits were 40/2,



Viktors Pupols (left) vs. Steven Breckenridge.
Photo credit: Josh Sinanan.

followed by 20/next hour, ad infinitum. This was a hardship on out-of-staters and the working class; the games might last until 5 a.m. Therefore the format was changed to sudden death. This hurt the endgame quality; and you can no longer win by opening traps. This seesaw game is an example.

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 b5 4.a3

This variation debuted at the 1968 Soviet Championship. Tal unhesitatingly played 4.a3. In Reno 2014, young Abhishek Handigol ventured 4.exd5 b4 5.dxc6 bxc3 6.Qf3. I was consoled by the fact that Tal had not played this; so it must be unsound! If Black is troubled by a pawn on c7, a check on c3 or e5 will capture it. The game went: 6...cxb2 7.Bxb2 Qb6 8.c7 Qxb2 9.Rd1 e6 10.c3 Bd6 11.cxb8Q Rxb8 12.Qc6+ and now ...Ke7 or even ...Bd7 win for Black.

4...dxe4 5.Nxe4 Bf5

The Classical variation with the extra moves a3 and b5 discourages White from 0–0–0. Steven rightly switches plans to play against Black's Queenside.

6.Nc3 e6 7.g4 Bg6 8.Bg2 b4 9.axb4 Bxb4 10.Nge2 Nf6 11.Bg5 Be7 12.Bxf6 Bxf6 13.b4 0–0 14.b5 Qb6

Maybe ...a5?

15.h4 h6 16.g5 hxg5 17.hxg5 Bxg5 18.Qb1

How to develop the Queenside. Maybe sac a pawn or the exchange; White is kind of loose too.

18...Nd7



Position after 18...Nd7

19.Ra6

Hoping for 19.Bxc6 Rac8 20.Bxd7 Rxc3 21.Nxc3 Qxd4



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19...Qd8

Forced.

20.bxc6

20.Bxc6 Nb8

20...Nb6 21.Qb3 Qe7 22.0-0 Rad8 23.Nb5 Nc8 24.Rfa1

24.c7 Rd7 25.Bc6 Black plans to sac the exchange with ...Rxc7 and have no more weaknesses.

24...Qf6 25.c7 Rd7

Black plans ...Bh5 and a7 is protected by the counterattack on d4.

26.f4! Bh4

A trick! If 26...Bxf4 27.Rf1 e5 (27...Bxc2 28.Qxc2 Be3+ 29.Kh2 Qh4+ 30.Bh3 is not enough.)

27.Qc4



Position after 27.Qc4

Protecting the c-pawn and threatening Nxa7.

27...Bh5!

The white queen has to guard both c6 and e2. If 28.Rf1 Bxe2 29.Qxe2 Nd6 is playable: 30.Rxd6 Rxd6 31.Nxd6 Qxd4+. Black might also play ...Bg4 and ...Qg6.

28.Rxa7!?

Another exchange sac, intending to keep the c7-pawn: 28...Nxa7 29.Rxa7

28...Bxe2! 29.Qxe2 Rxd4! 30.Qe5 Rxf4

Far better is 30...Bf2+ and then 31.Kf1 (31.Kh2 Qh4+ and 32.Bh3 is not a defense.) 31...Rxf4

31.Qxf6 Bxf6

It is too late for 31...Bf2+ 32.Kh2 Rxf6

and 33.Bh3 will be a defense.

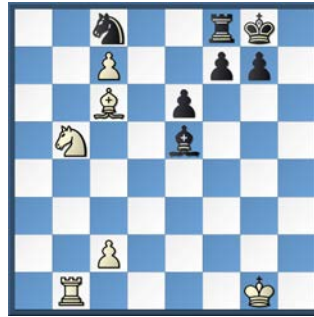
32.R7a4!

This was not a defense on move 30, but it is now.

32...Rf5 33.Rb1 Rc5 34.Ra6! Be5?

34...Rxc2 would avoid the following endgame. It is the c-pawn that is dangerous, not an extra piece. White winds up with: R+N vs. R is drawn, R+B vs. R generally so.

35.Rc6 Rxc6 36.Bxc6



Position after 36.Bxc6

36...g5?

Black did not see that after the natural 36...Nd6 37.Bd7 Nxb5 38.c8Q Rxc8 39.Bxc8 Na3 40.Rc1 Bf4 41.Rf1 Be3+ the c-pawn will fall.

37.Rd1 Kg7 38.Bb7 Bxc7

38...Bf6 does not work. 39.Bxc8 Rxc8 40.Nd6 Rxc7 41.Ne8+

39.Nxc7 Nb6

White has an endgame advantage, but it is not technically easy.

40.Rd6 Nc4 41.Rd7 Kf6 42.Ba6 Ne5 43.Rd1 Rh8 44.Nb5 Rh4 45.Bb7 Rc4 46.Nd4 Ng6 47.Ba6 Rc3 48.Rd2 Nf4 49.Ne2 Ra3 50.Nxf4 Rxa6

Now it is R+N vs. R and only the c-pawn matters. Black starts paying too much attention to it.

51.Nd3 Ke7 52.Nb4 Ra1+ 53.Kg2 f5 54.c3 Rb1 55.Nc6+ Kf6 56.Rc2 e5 57.c4 Rb6 58.Na7 Rb7 59.Nb5 Ke6 60.Kf3 g4+ 61.Ke3 Rh7

Threatens to pick off White's rook.

62.Rc1 Rh3+ 63.Kf2 Rb3?

63...f4 is stronger, and you can let the c-pawn run: 64.c5 Rh2+ 65.Kg1 g3 and the black pawns come first.

64.Nc7+



Position after 64.Nc7+

Here the scoresheet gets sketchy. Assume the position is: White: Kg1 Rc1 Ne3 Pc4; Black: Rb2 P e5 f5 g4; where is the Black King? Best case: on c5; then ...Rb4 draws. Worst case: not on c5; even then, a pawn is lost, but it should be the g-pawn, not the f-pawn, and the situation remains unclear. Fortunately, my other opponents were not as tough. Happy holidays, Vik.

1-0

December 2017 Seattle Masters

By Josh Sinanan

The December 2017 Seattle Masters took place December 9 at the Seattle Chess Club and attracted 18 players in two sections — eight in the Masters and ten in the Challengers. FM Anthony He from Sammamish, Washington won the Masters section with a perfect 3.0/3. Ignacio Perez, the Cuban speed chess legend himself, finished a full-point back in clear second place. US Chess Expert Stan Kitsis, who recently relocated from the Bay area, won the upset prize for his first round win over FM Tian Sang.

Two players tied for first in the Challengers section with 2.5/3 points each: Samuel Deng of Woodinville and



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USCF Life Master
5-time Washington State Champion
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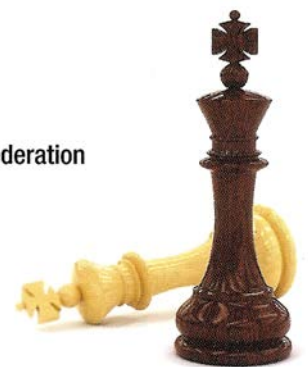
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(L) David Rupel vs Anthony He during round one of the Seattle Masters.
Photo Credit: Josh Sinanan

WCM Mary Kuhner of Seattle. WCF Tournament Coordinator Dan “The Man” Mathews and the underrated Alex Kaelin split third place honors. Kaelin also won the Upset Prize for his first-round win over a player nearly 300 points higher!

The tournament was directed by Fred Kleist, organized by WCF President Josh Sinanan, and hosted by the Seattle Chess Club and Washington Chess Federation.

Pan-American Intercollegiate

By Walter Borbridge assisted by Benjamin Mukumbya

Columbus, OH—December 27-30, 2017

Something was different about Northwest University this past 2017 fall semester. The makings of a brilliant chess team had all conveniently settled on the *University of Possibility*. It is amazing how the slogan of the school matches the events that brought four students to the Pan American Tournament.

Starting out on board one is Benjamin Mukumbya. Benjamin began to learn chess at the early age of six as a way to survive in Kampala, Uganda. His game play speaks for itself, as he has beaten a grandmaster.

Following Benjamin on board two is Phiona Mutesi. Her childhood has been featured by Disney in the live-action movie, *The Queen of Katwe*. She has become quite the chess celebrity, not to mention her outstanding skill in the game. Benjamin and Phiona became friends through chess. The game helped them survive in what is looked at as a third world.

Board three is covered by Walter Borbridge. Similar to Benjamin, Walter

picked up chess at the early age of five. Later on in middle school, he joined the Chess Club. There he grew in the competitive nature of the game, eventually placing in a few tournaments.

Taking up board four is Andy Uptain. He started playing chess earliest out of the team members at the age of three. At the age of seven, Andy joined a local chess club to improve upon his skills. He played off and on through his twelve years of grade school.

Who knows how the events played out so perfectly. Northwest randomly paired Benjamin and Walter as roommates. When Walter finally arrived at the dorm room, Benjamin had unpacked, leaving a chess board set up. Walter first moved

“1.e4”, then continued to set up his half of the room. Benjamin, followed by Elliott Neff (owner of Chess4Life and the team’s future coach), entered the room. Walter approached and said, “e4.” The first words spoken between the two “brothers” sparked the potential of a club. After they had searched around the campus, others with an interest in the game came around.

A few days into the semester Phiona, Benjamin, Walter, Evan Brozovich, and Scott Childress officially held the first Chess Club meeting, covered by the Seattle Times in a front page, above-the-fold lead article. Behind the club have stood the University’s President, Dr. Joseph Castleberry, and National Master Elliott Neff. Both gentlemen, who teamed up in bringing the Ugandan players to Northwest, had foreseen potential in each of the individual students for success. Months of practice went by. As November closed in, the strongest players approached the University with a desire to participate in tournaments as a team.

Training began almost immediately. Elliott modified his schedule so he could become the coach the team needed. Dr. Castleberry committed funding from the university. Session after session went by. After about a week, other students became aware that the members selected to join the team were not beatable on campus. By the time December 26 came about, the team was ready.

“Shake hands, let the games begin, and good luck to half of you,” the words of the announcer rang out as the attention of the room fell to the many tables. Hands from opposite sides were shaken, followed by a tap of the clock. Pawns and



Left to right: Dr Joseph Castleberry (president of Northwest University), Andy Uptain, Walter Borbridge, Phiona Mutesi, Benjamin Mukumbya, Elliott Neff (coach), Pan-American organizer/host Kelly Bloomfield. Photo courtesy of Elliott Neff.

knights opened, and the first tournament for the Northwest University Chess Team began.

The chess team needed to get their feet wet, and the Pan American tournament provided the perfect testing grounds. All team members played challenging games. Going into the first round every member had a strong desire to win, but they faced very strong opposition, including Benjamin who played a 2512 rated International Master on board one. The NU Chess Team put up a fight but ultimately went down with all 'learns.' The important lesson was that the only true opponent is ourselves. The decisions we make as individuals determine the outcome of the game. The mindset was never that we had to win six games — only the one game in front. That mentality creates no disappointment and no unrealistic expectations. Every game was the first game. There is never a last game.

A raging fire burned in the hearts as the games continued on. The positional stress of winning or learning pushed the games into fierce battle. No matter how crazy the idea, or how unbalanced the position, there was constant tension. Phiona played several games that proved intriguing. One match in particular, against Tecnológico Nacional de México's "A" team in Round

3, turned out to be interesting. Phiona played the black pieces, and the opening started off as the Italian Game.

**Moises Gonzalez Perez –
Phiona Mutesi (1710) [C53]**
2017 Pan-American Intercollegiate
Columbus, OH (R3), December 28, 2017

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.c3 d6

Instead of 4...d6, Black should play 4...Nf6 preparing to castle.

5.d4 exd4 6.cxd4 Bb6 7.0-0 h6

7...Nf6 is recommended by Stockfish and Komodo.

8.Nc3 Bg4

8...Nf6 is strong since it prepared castling and taking the king out of the center.

9.Be3

9.Bb5 pinning the knight on c6 would create unpleasant pressure for Black.

9...Nf6 10.h3 Bxf3

10...Bh5 retaining the pin was probably stronger as suggested by Stockfish.

11.Qxf3 Nxd4

11...Bxd4 was better than using a knight since it forces an immediate bishop exchange. 12.Bf4 Ne5 forking.

12.Qg3 Rg8 13.e5



Position after 13.e5

13...Nf5

13...Kf8 or Qe7 were seemingly strong since the king gets off the e-file that is yet to open. 13...dxe5 14.Qxe5+ Kf8 15.Rad1 c5 16.Na4 is unpleasant for Black.

14.Qf4

14.Qf3 is suggested since it keeps an eye on b7.

14...Nxe3 15.fxe3 dxe5 16.Qf2

Very passive. 16.Qg3 or 16.Qf3 seems more active.

16...Qe7 17.Rad1 c6

17...Qc5 would win another pawn for Black.

18.Kh1 Rd8 19.Qe2 Rxd1 20.Rxd1 Qc5 21.Rf1 Qxe3 22.Bxf7+?? Kxf7 23.Qc4+

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

Ke7 24.Rxf6 Qg1# 0-1

When Facing Oberlin College in the penultimate round, all team members performed admirably. A 4-0 win ensured the divisional title. Oberlin had taken home the Best Small College Division trophy the previous four years. Walter's game play squeezed the winner of the biggest upset award.

Walter Borbridge (357) –

Peter James Gabrielides (816) [A00]

2017 Pan-American Intercollegiate
Columbus, OH (R5), December 30, 2017
[Stockfish8]

1.Nf3 d5 2.d4 Bf5 3.Bf4 e6 4.e3 h6 5.Bd3
Bxd3 6.cxd3 Nf6 7.0-0 Nh5 8.Bg3 Nfg3
9.fxg3 Nd7 10.Qa4 c6 11.Nbd2 Bd6
12.e4 Qb6 13.Kh1 0-0-0 14.Rab1 Kb8
15.b4 Qc7



Position after 15...Qc7

16.e5

16.Qb3 Rc8 17.a4 g5 18.b5 cxb5 19.Qxb5
Qc6 20.Qxc6 Rxc6

16...Be7 17.Nb3 b5

17...a6 18.Nc5 Rdf8 19.Qd1 g5 20.a4 h5
21.b5 axb5 22.axb5

18.Qa5 h5 19.a4 Qb6 20.axb5 cxb5
21.Ra1 Rc8

21...Qxa5 22.Rxa5 a6 23.Rxa6 Kb7
24.Ra5 Ra8 25.Rc1 Rxa5 26.Nxa5+

22.Nc5 Bxc5 23.dxc5 Qb7 24.Nd4 Nxe5
25.Nxb5 Nc6 26.Qa4 Rhf8



Position after 26...Rhf8

26...Ka8 27.Nd6 Qxb4 28.Qxb4 Nxb4
29.Rxf7 a6 30.Nxc8 Rxc8 31.d4

27.Rfb1

27.Nd6 Qe7 28.b5 Ne5 29.b6 Nc6 30.Qb5
Nd4 31.bxa7+ Ka8

27...Rcd8 28.Nd6 Rxd6 29.cxd6 Ne5
30.Rc1 Rc8

30...Qb6 31.Rc7 a6 32.Qxa6 Qxa6
33.Rxa6 Rd8 34.Raa7 Rxd6 35.d4

31.Rxc8+ Kxc8 32.Qe8# 1-0

Washington Winter Classic

By Josh Sinanan

Seattle, WA—December 27-31, 2017

The Washington Winter Classic, a nine-round swiss tournament in two sections — Championship 1800+ & Challengers — was held at the Seattle Chess Club during the “holiday week” between Christmas and New Year’s. This was the second tournament of its kind in 2017 hosted by the Washington Chess Federation, which was designed to offer Northwest chess players a chance for strong, local competition during the holiday season. Though many have traditionally chosen to travel south to Las Vegas to play in the North American Open, others have expressed interest in having a similar, less expensive tournament closer to home. The upshot was the creation of the first annual Washington Winter Classic, which was formatted similarly to

SCC Membership Sale!

Beginning March 1st and ending on May 31st, Seattle Chess Club members will have the opportunity to renew their club memberships at an approximately 10% discount. New members, or those who were last members in 2015, will receive a 20% discount!

		Renew	New
Adults	1 year	\$130	\$116
	6 months	\$72	\$64
	3 months	\$45	\$40
Senior	1 year	\$99	\$88
	6 months	\$54	\$48
	3 months	\$31	\$28
Family	1 year	\$216	\$192
Students	1 year	\$76	\$68
	6 months	\$45	\$40
Pupils (K-6)	1 year	\$54	\$48



(L-R) WA Winter Classic prize winners Ignacio Perez, Anthony He, and Steven Breckenridge with WCF President Josh Sinanan.
 Photo Credit: Jacob Mayer.

the Seattle Summer Classic held in late August.

US Chess Senior Master Steven Breckenridge of Gresham, Oregon, captured clear first place in the Championship section with 7.0/9 points and took home the \$500 first-place cash prize. Steven started off slow taking two half-point byes before winning four games in a row, including victories over his nearest rivals FM Anthony He and SM Howard Chen, a three-time Washington State Champion who recently made his return to chess after completing his studies.

Steven's streak was eventually stopped by FM Ignacio Perez in round seven, who managed to win what was very close to a drawn Q vs. R+N ending. Breckenridge finished the tournament strong with wins over up-and-coming juniors Jason Yu and Joseph Levine in the final two rounds, winning his last game in style with a K+N+B vs. K checkmate! FMs Anthony He and Ignacio Perez tied for second place half-a-point back with 6.5/9, each winning \$325 for their efforts. The ageless Cuban also won the Senior Prize of \$125, adding to his winnings. Jason Yu, a sixth grader from Bellevue closing in on the master title, won the U2300 prize of \$250. Three players tied for second U2300/U2150/U2000:

Eric Zhang, Chouchan Airapetian, and Wenyang Du, each of whom won \$175. WIM Naomi Bashkansky and Joseph Levine captured first U2150/U2000 honors with 5.0/9 points and took home \$250 each. WCM Minda Chen, an eighth grader from Seattle, won the first U1850 prize of \$250 with 4.0/9 points and Advait Vijayakumar and Jeffrey Yan split second U1850 honors with 3.0/9 points apiece and each won \$87.50. Despite taking two half-point-byes in the final two rounds, Naomi still managed to win the Top Female Prize of \$125.

Davey Jones of Seattle, WA, won the 19-player Challengers section with 6.5/9 points and took home a check for \$300. Jones started the tournament strong as well, winning his first three games in a row, including a clutch victory over WCM Stephanie Velea, which turned out to have a major impact over the final standings. Davey's pirate-like rampage was eventually stopped in round four by one of the many strong princesses in the field, young up-and-coming Melina Li. Despite this setback, King Davey finished the tournament undefeated in his final four games, drawing two and winning two before his planned New Year's Eve bye. Half a point behind Davey were two players who tied for second and third place: WCF Tournament Coordinator

Dan Mathews and Stephanie Velea, the middle Velea sister, each of whom took home \$200 for their efforts. Juniors Melina Li and Anirudh Rajesh tied for first U1600/U1450 with 5.5/9 points each and won \$150 apiece. Alex Kaelin of Mercer Island and Alison Xiao of Bellevue tied for second place U1600/U1450 half a point back and each pocketed \$100. Angela "The Captain" Chen, a fifth grader from Seattle, won first place U1300, good for \$150 to add to her piggy bank. Rowan Foxley of Arlington, WA, won second Place U1300 for \$100 and Angela Agaian, daughter of the fabulous WFM Chouchanik Airapetian, won \$150 for first place U1150 by virtue of being the only player in her rating category courageous enough to compete. Rounding out the prize winners were WCF Stephanie Velea for Top Female and Frank Fagundes for Top Senior, each of whom won \$100 for their strong performance. Congratulations to all of the winners!

Upon completion of the last round, several players stayed for the awards ceremony and enjoyed refreshments courtesy of WCF to celebrate the New Year. A fun, impromptu 18-player blitz tournament for players and spectators alike was held to bring in 2018 doing what we all love to do best, PLAY CHESS!

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

7th Annual Reno Larry Evans Memorial

March 30 - April 1 & March 31 - April 1, 2018 3 Day or 2 Day Schedule

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Rooms: \$54.07 / 76.77 !!

Open Section (2200 & above) EF: \$159, (2000-2199) \$200, (1999/below) \$300
(GMs & IMs free but must enter by (3/2) or pay late fee at door.

Guaranteed (Prizes 1-7 in Open Section Gtd. plus 1/2 of all other prizes).
\$2,000 - 1000 - 800 - 600 - 500 - 300 - 300, (2399/below) \$1,000 - 500, (2299/below) \$1,000 - 500
(If a tie for 1st then a playoff for \$100 out of prize fund plus trophy).

Sec. Expert - (2000 - 2199) EF: \$159; \$2000 - 700 - 400 - 300 - 200

Sec."A" - (1800 - 1999) EF: \$158; \$1800 - 700 - 400 - 300 - 300.

Sec."B" - (1600 - 1799) EF: \$157; \$1700 - 700 - 400 - 300 - 300.

Sec."C" - (1400 - 1599) EF: \$156; \$1500 - 600 - 400 - 300 - 300.

Sec."D"/under - (1399/below) EF: \$150; \$1000 - 400 - 300 - 200, (1199/below) \$300

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

Wednesday 3/28 7:00 pm - GM Sergey Kudrin - Clock Simul. w/ complete analysis of YOUR Game (Only \$30!)

Thursday 3/29 6:00pm - 7:15 pm - Lecture by IM John Donaldson (FREE)

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

Saturday 3/31 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm - FREE Game/Position Analysis - IM John Donaldson

Main Tournament

Registration: Thursday (3/29) 5 - 8 pm. - Friday (3/30) 9 - 10 am. Saturday (3/31) 9 - 10 am.

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

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

PLUS! Complimentary Coffee and Coffee Cakes!

For more information: Call, Write or E-mail Organizer and Chief TD, N.T.D. Jerome (Jerry) Weikel, (775) 747-1405
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Aaron Grabinsky at Pan-American Intercollegiate

By Aaron Grabinsky

I just finished playing in the Pan-American Inter-Collegiate Team Championships in Columbus, Ohio! I played on the Webster D team and we didn't place very highly although our A-team won clear first, but I did quite well individually scoring 5.5/6 and tying for the top first board prize! My FIDE also made a significant leap toward 2400 (2359 to 2388). Anyway, I annotated all six of my games if you'd like them for your magazine. Sorry, don't have time to write an article...

**Jose Angel Estrada Perez –
Aaron Grabinsky (2359) [A34]**
Pan-American Inter-Collegiate Chess
(R1), December 27, 2017
[Aaron Grabinsky]

**1.c4 e5 2.Nc3 b6 3.Nf3 Bb7 4.e4 d6
5.Be2**

So far, I was not very impressed... :)

**5...Nf6 6.d3 e6 7.Bg5 Be7 8.0-0 Nbd7
9.Re1 h6 10.Bf4 g5!?**

Seemed to me that I should be able to punish his passive set-up.

11.Bg3 e5

Now that the center is closed, I am planning Nh5-f4 and a kingside attack. Hopefully... :)

12.a3 Nh5 13.Nd2 Nf4 14.Nd5



Position after 14.Nd5

14...Nf8??

Simply awful. 14...Nxe2+ 15.Qxe2 h5 16.f3 Nf8 followed by Ne6 is much better.

15.Qa4+

Duh.

15...Nd7 16.Bxf4 gxf4 17.Bg4±

This was depressing to say the least.

17...Bxd5

Probably should have preferred 17...Bc8 18.Qc6 Rb8 19.b4±

18.cxd5 Qc7 19.Nc4

19.b4!

19...Rd8

I have to be very careful 19...Rg8?

20.Nxb6!+-

20.Qc6 Rc8



Position after 20...Rc8

21.Qa4?!

Don't know why he didn't play Qb5 followed by a4-a5, but okay...

21...Rb8 22.Qxd7+?

Again, Qb5 was much better, followed by a4-a5 and I didn't have a good plan.

22...Qxd7 23.Bxd7+ Kxd7



Position after 23...Kxd7

24.Rac1?

No clue what this is about. 24.b4!± this should be obvious. White is still clearly better.

24...Bd8= 25.b4?

Poor guy! Now this is simply too late.

25...b5± 26.Nd2 Bb6

It's clear Black is finally taking over.

27.bxc5?!

Another poor decision. 27.Kf1 is better.

**27...Bxc5 28.Nb3 Bxa3 29.Ra1 b4
30.Na5 Bb2 31.Rab1?**

31.Ra4± It's still no fun for White though...

**31...Bc3-+ 32.Rec1 Rbc8 33.Nc6 Ra8
34.Na5 Rc5 35.Nb3 Rb5 36.Rc2 a5
37.Nc1 Rbb8 38.Ne2 Bd4 0-1**

**Aaron Grabinsky (2359) –
Denis Kadric (2502) [B06]**
Pan-American Inter-Collegiate Chess
(R2), December 28, 2017
[Aaron Grabinsky]

**1.e4 d6 2.d4 g6 3.Nc3 a6 4.Be3 Bg7
5.Qd2 b5 6.Nf3 Bb7 7.a3 Nd7 8.d5
Ngf6?!**



Position after 8...Ngf6

8...c5! Maybe this is better, as it becomes impossible after my next move.

9.Nd4!

Putting the clamp on!

9...0-0 10.f3 Ne5 11.a4?!

Unfortunately, I underestimated Black's dynamic potential. 11.0-0-0 is better.

11...b4 12.Na2 a5 13.Bb5



Position after 13.Bb5

13...Qc8?

13...e6! 14.dxe6 d5!± and Black's pieces spring to life. My knight on a2 is particularly sad.

14.c3

Now I'm fine.

**14...e6 15.Nc6! Bxc6 16.dxc6 d5 17.Bd4
Nc4 18.Qe2**



Position after 18.Qe2

18...bxc3?

After a fairly long think, my opponent errors.

19.Nxc3± Nh5

here, and at subsequent points I continually missed the strong move 0-0-0!

20.Bxc7?

20.0-0-0±

20...Nf4 21.Qc2± Kxg7?

21...Ne3 22.Qd2 Nexg2+ 23.Kf2 Kxg7 24.Rag1 Qd8 25.exd5 Qh4+ 26.Kf1± was evidently better, but I'm not so sure.



Position after 21...Kxg7

22.g3+ Nh3 23.Bxc4

23.Qg2! I saw this, but... 23...e5 24.exd5 Nd6 25.Bf1!+- I missed this fairly simple move. ./ 25...Ng5 26.h4

23...dxc4 24.Kf1?±

Fortunately I'm still better. 24.0-0-0!+- so simple, yet I never considered it!

24...e5 25.Kg2 Ng5 26.h4 Ne6 27.Nb5

This is still quite good for me though.

27...Rd8 28.Rad1 Nd4 29.Qxc4 Qa6?

A blunder! Finally, I was able to capitalize and he never came back. 29...Rb8± still looks pretty depressing.

30.h5!



Position after 30.h5

Unsurprisingly, this is game over. Black's position is simply horrible.

30...g5

30...Nxc6 if Black ignores me, I calculated this nice line. 31.hxg6 hxg6 32.Rh7+! Kxh7 33.Qxf7+ Kh6 34.Rh1+ Kg5 35.Rh5+! (35.f4+ mates too.) 35...Kxh5 (35...gxh5 36.Qg7#) 36.Qh7+ Kg5

37.Qh4#

31.h6+ Kg6

Hard to suggest something better at this point. 31...Kg8 32.Qc1! f6 33.Qc4+ Kf8 34.Rxd4 Rxd4 (34...exd4 35.Qe6 needs no comment.) 35.Qc5+ Kf7 36.Nxd4+- and Black doesn't even have Qe2+... ;) ; 31...Kh8 32.Qxf7+-; 31...Kf8 32.Qc5+ and Qxe5 next.

32.f4

The end is near!

32...Qb6 33.fxg5 Nxb5 34.Qe2!

Qf1 was also good enough.

1-0

PanayOtis Tsialas (2057) – Aaron Grabinsky (2359) [C16] Pan-American Inter-Collegiate Chess (R3), December 28, 2017 [Aaron Grabinsky]

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e5 b6

This turned out to be a poor opening choice.

5.Qg4 Bf8 6.Bb5+ c6 7.Ba4 a5 8.a3 Ne7 9.Nce2 Ba6 10.e3

I thought letting my bishop to d3 wasn't so good, but White still has an edge.

10...Bd3 11.Nf4 Bf5 12.Qe2 h6 13.g4 Be4 14.f3 Bh7 15.Nh5 Qc7

If 15...Nd7 16.Bxh6 concerned me. 16...gxh6 17.Nf6+ Nxf6 18.exf6+ turns out I was scared for no reason.

16.f4 Nd7 17.Be3 Be4 18.Nf3 f5 19.h3 Kf7??+-



Position after 19...Kf7

Wrong way king! 19...b5 20.Bc2 Nb6 and trying to castle long is much better.

20.Ng3 b5 21.Bb3 g6 22.Nxe4 fxe4

22...dxe4 23.Nh4+- is really bad.

23.Nh4

Here I could feel that loss coming rather quickly. :(

23...a4 24.Ba2 Bg7?

24...Ke8 25.f5 gxf5 26.Rf1 f4 27.Bxf4 Kd8± is better, but not so easy to see. It's clear that my king needs to run though.

25.f5!



Position after 25.f5

Of course! this should be the end, but somehow... :)

25...g5 26.fxe6+ Kxe6 27.Nf5

No comment needed. I'm completely lost.

27...Bxe5

Desperation.

28.dxe5 Nxe5 29.Nd4+ Kd7 30.0-0-0 Qd6

I'm just clawing to barely survive at this point.

31.Rhf1 Raf8 32.Kb1 N5g6? 33.Nf5! Nxf5 34.gxf5

Yep, it's rapidly getting worse.

34...Ne7 35.Bd4 Rh7 36.f6 Ng6



Position after 36...Ng6

37.Bc5!

Ouch! I was in pain to say the least. :)

37...Qxc5 38.Qxe4 Kc7

Sad, but what else? 38...Rg8? 39.Bxd5 and I can give up right now.

39.Qxg6

Computer says - 4.35...

39...Rhf7 40.Rf5 Qe3 41.Ka1 Qxh3 42.Re1 Qh4 43.Re2 g4

Was thinking "maybe if I could just get rid of that f6 pawn, I'll only be a piece down for a few pawns. That's doable."

44.Bb1?

44.Re8! was quite decisive.

44...Rxf6 45.Qg7+ Kb6 46.Qe7 g3

That g3 pawn is my only sliver of hope.

47.Re6 g2 48.Rxf6

If this doesn't look bad, I don't know what does.

48...Rxf6



Position after 48...Rxf6

Gets mated, but who cares at this point. 48...Qxf6 49.Rxf6 Rxf6 50.Qg7 Rf4 51.Qxg2 was best according to the computer. I'm only -14, lol

49.Rxf6??

Yes!! 49.Qd8+ is fairly simple. 49...Ka6 a) 49...Kc5 50.Qd6+ Kb6 (50...Kc4 51.Qxc6+ Kb3 52.Qxb5+ Qb4 53.Qxb4#) 51.Qxc6+ Ka7 52.Qc7+ Ka8 53.Re8#; b) 49...Kb7 50.Re7+ Ka6 51.Qa8+ Kb6 52.Qa7#; 50.Qa8+ Kb6 51.Qxc6+ in all lines, White easily gets Qxc6+ and mates.

49...Qxf6 50.Qxf6 g1Q

This is probably the most hopeful position I've had in over 25 moves!

51.Qxh6 d4 52.Qf6 dxc3 53.Qxc3 Qd1

White really missed his opportunity. This is not easy at all.



Position after 53...Qd1

54.Qd3 Qe1 55.Qd4+ Kb7 56.Qd7+ Kb6 57.Qd8+ Kb7 58.Qd7+ Kb6 59.Ka2 Qf1 60.Bd3 Qd1 61.Qd4+ Kb7 62.Qd7+ Kb6 63.Qd4+ Kb7 64.Qc3 Qf3 65.Kb1 Qd1+ 66.Ka2 Qf3 67.Qg7+ Ka6 68.Qd7 Kb6 69.Qd4+ Kb7 70.Qe4 Qd1 71.Bc2 Qf1

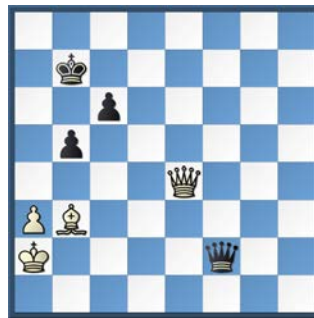
After trying in vain for so long, White pretty much resigns himself to the draw.

72.b3? axb3+ 73.Bxb3 Qf2+

[Diagram top of next column]

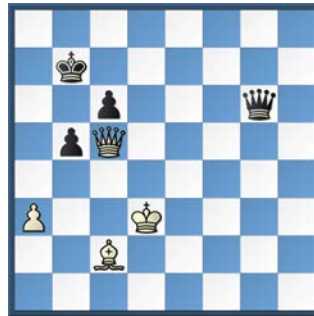
I was pretty confident I would escape with a draw at this point.

74.Bc2 Qf7+ 75.Kb2 Qf6+ 76.Kb3 Qf7+ 77.Kb4 Qf8+ 78.Kb3 Qf7+ 79.Kc3 Qf8 80.Qb4 Qf6+ 81.Qd4 Qf7 82.Kb4 Qe7+



Position after 73...Qf2+

83.Qc5 Qe1+ 84.Kb3 Qe6+ 85.Kc3 Qf6+ 86.Kb4 Qf4+ 87.Kc3 Qf6+ 88.Kd3 Qg6+



Position after 88...Qg6+

89.Ke3??

Played with confidence and around 35 seconds on the clock. We had 30 second increment though.

89...Qg1+

Miracles do happen! Thank you God!

0-1

Aaron Grabinsky (2359) – Darwin Yang (2495) [B15]

Pan-American Inter-Collegiate Chess (R4), December 29, 2017 [Aaron Grabinsky]

1.e4 c6 2.Nc3 d5 3.Nf3 g6 4.d4 Bg7 5.h3

5.e5 Bg4 6.h3 Bxf3 7.Qxf3 e6 Theory has Black doing more than fine here and I didn't feel like going for a complicated, closed middlegame against a stronger player. It didn't help that I generally like to play these structures with Black!

5...dxe4 6.Nxe4 Nd7 7.Be2 Ngf6 8.Nxf6+ Nxf6 9.0-0

Maybe Bf4 first was better in view of his next move.

9...Qc7 10.c4 0-0 11.Qc2 Bf5 12.Bd3 Bxd3 13.Qxd3 Rfd8

[Diagram top of next column]

14.Qe2

I was maybe playing over-solidly up to this point, but there's not too much going on in the position anyway.

14...c5 15.dxc5 Qxc5 16.Be3 Qc7 17.Bd4



Position after 13...Rfd8

Nh5 18.Bxg7 Nxd7 19.Rfd1 Ne6 20.b3 a5 21.Rac1 b6 22.Qe5 Rxd1+ 23.Rxd1 Rd8 24.Rxd8+ Qxd8 25.Qe3 Qd1+ 26.Kh2 Qd6+ 27.Kg1 Qd1+ 28.Kh2 Qd6+ 29.Kg1 Qd1+

Overall, not too much to say. A rather boring game, but that's fine with me when I'm playing a Grandmaster!

1/2-1/2

Saumik Narayanan (1874) – Aaron Grabinsky (2359) [E11]

Pan-American Inter-Collegiate Chess (R5), December 29, 2017 [Aaron Grabinsky]

1.d4 e6 2.c4 Bb4+ 3.Bd2 a5

Spur of the moment decision, but I had played it before. :)

4.Nf3 Nf6 5.Nc3 d6 6.e3 Nc6 7.Be2

Seems a little passive.

7...0-0 8.0-0 e5 9.a3 Bxc3 10.Bxc3 Ne4 11.Qc1

Thought Be1, preserving the bishop pair was better.

11...Nxc3 12.Qxc3 Bg4 13.Rfe1 Qf6 14.Rad1



Position after 14.Rad1

14...e4

I kind of have to if I am going to play for anything! That's the problem with playing 1800s... :(Got to go all out and try anything to get an imbalance!

15.Nd2 Bf5 16.Nf1 Bg6 17.Ng3 Qg5

Planning an h-pawn assault.

18.f4 exf3 19.Bxf3 Rfe8 20.Rc1 h5 21.c5 h4 22.Nf1 h3 23.Ng3 Re7



Position after 23...Re7

24.Qd2

24.cxd6 cxd6 25.Bxc6 bxc6 26.Qxc6 Rae8 looked like very good compensation to me. The computer agrees.

24...Rd8 25.Qf2 d5 26.Nf1 Rde8 27.Rcd1 Be4

Here I was happy to have outplayed him pretty bad from move 17. Black is clearly better.

28.Qg3 Qh6 29.Kf2

Was rubbing my hands together at this point... :)

29...hgx2 30.Kxg2 Bxf3+ 31.Qxf3 Re4 32.Qf2 R8e6 33.Kh1



Position after 33.Kh1

33...Qh3?±

Ugh, a horrible missed chance. 33...Rg4!+- 34.Ng3 Rf6 35.Qg2 Rfg6 36.Kg1 Ne7-+ and White will be crushed in style. 37.Kf1 Qh4 38.Ke2 Rxg3 39.hxg3 Rxg3 40.Qf2 Qg4+ 41.Kd3 Qe4+ 42.Kc3 Rg2 and that's it!

34.Ng3 Rg4 35.Rg1 Qh4?=-

Losing all my advantage. 35...Ne7!±

36.Rdf1



Position after 36.Rdf1

36...Rf6??

Nooooo! So careless. I can't be this oblivious, especially with so much rating on the line! This guy is only 1800!

37.Qg2?

Wew! Close call! 37.Qxf6!+- gxf6 (37...Qxf6 38.Rxf6 gxf6 39.Nh5 Rxg1+ 40.Kxg1 Kf8 41.Nxf6 Ne7 42.Kg2+- is just depressing.) 38.Nf5 Rxg1+ 39.Rxg1+ Qg5 40.h4 Qg6 41.h5 Qg5 42.Rxg5+ fxg5 43.Kg2+- is also a pretty one-sided knight endgame.

37...Rfg6 38.Qf2 Nd8 39.Qf3 c6 40.Nf5 Rxg1+ 41.Rxg1 Qf6 42.Rxg6 fxg6 43.Nh6+ Kf8 44.Qxf6+ gxf6 45.Ng4 Ke7

This is equal, but ultimately I had slightly better endgame technique than he did... ;)



Position after 45...Ke7

46.Kg2 Ne6 47.Nf2 Ng5 48.Nd3 Ke6 49.h4

I don't like this. the pawn is weaker on h4 than it was on h2.

49...Ne4 50.Kf3?

50.a4= was the only move to keep the balance. Definitely tricky for White to defend.

50...Kf5 51.b4??

51.a4 was again necessary.



Position after 51.b4

51...a4-+

After this, I never let go.

52.Nb2 Nc3 53.Nd3 g5 54.hxg5 fxg5 55.Nf2 Nb5 56.Nd3 g4+ 57.Ke2 Nc3+ 58.Kd2 g3!

Now I was having fun. :)

59.Nf4 Nb1+ 60.Ke2 Ke4 0-1

Aaron Grabinsky (2359) – Mike Ivanov (2248) [B15] Pan-American Inter-Collegiate Chess (R6), December 30, 2017 [Aaron Grabinsky]

1.e4 g6 2.Nc3 Bg7 3.d4 c6 4.Nf3 d5 5.h3

Same opening as a couple rounds earlier against GM Darwin Yang.

5...Nf6 6.Bd3 dxe4 7.Nxe4 Nxe4 8.Bxe4 Nd7 9.0-0 0-0 10.Re1 e5 11.c3

At least keeping some tension. 11.dxe5?! Nxe5 12.Qxd8 Nxf3+ 13.Bxf3 Rxd8 is not how you play for a win with White!

11...exd4 12.Nxd4 Nc5 13.Bf3



Position after 13.Bf3

13...Ne6

Funnily enough, this square is probably just bad for the knight. The light square bishop never really came into the game.

14.Nb3

Of course not 14.Nxe6? Bxe6= with an easy draw.

14...a5? 15.a4!

Not sure what Black was thinking, but a5 will now be a permanent weakness, and indeed, it eventually falls.

15...Qf6 16.Be3 Rd8 17.Qc1 Bd7 18.Bg4

Black is experiencing some annoying problems.

18...Re8

18...h5 19.Bxe6 Bxe6 20.Bg5+-



Position after 18...Re8

19.Qd2

Notice how the poor black knight is on such an awful square!

19...h5 20.Bf3

20.Bxh5? gxh5 21.Qxd7 Red8 22.Qxb7 Rab8+ oops!

20...Re7

lol, Black's pieces are forming a something of a trapezoid. Not recommended in chess! :)

21.Rad1±

Black's already most uncomfortable, and now he cracks.

21...Qh4?!



Position after 21...Qh4

22.Bb6±

That a5 move earlier is coming back to haunt him.

22...Rae8 23.Re4

Such domination!

23...Qf6 24.h4

I was just enjoying myself here, preventing Ng5. 24.Qd6 right away though was better.

24...Kh7?

24...c5! is the computer's choice. 25.Bxc5 (25.Nxa5? Nd4! 26.cxd4 Rxe4 27.Bxe4 Bxa4= and some how I guess Black is escaping.) 25...Nxc5 26.Nxc5 Bf5 27.Rxe7 Rxe7 28.Nxb7 Qxh4±

25.Nxa5 c5 26.Qd6 Bc8 27.Qg3?

Again, very careless of me... 27.Rde1!+-



Position after 27.Qg3

27...Nf8?

In time trouble, my opponent misses his chance. 27...Nd4! 28.Rxe7 Nxf3+ 29.Qxf3 Qxe7∞ Black evidently has sufficient compensation for the pawn.

28.Rxe7 Qxe7 29.Nc4 Ne6 30.Nd6 Rf8 31.Ne4 Bh6 32.Qe5+-

My opponent got no more chances after this.

32...Bf4 33.Nf6+ Kh6 34.Nd5 Qxh4 35.Nxf4 Nxf4 36.Bxc5 Rg8 37.Be3 g5 38.Rd6+ Ng6 39.g3 Qxa4 40.Qxg5+ 1-0

January 2018 Seattle Masters

By Josh Sinanan

The January 2018 Seattle Masters took place January 6 at the Seattle Chess Club and attracted 16 players in two sections — five in the Masters and 11 in the Challengers.

FM Ignacio Perez, from Capitol Hill, Washington won the Masters section with an undefeated 2.5/3. Ignacio was luck to draw his first round game with US Chess Expert Addison Lee, who was awarded the upset prize for his efforts and finished in clear second place half a point back. “Unkel Vik” Pupols took home third place honors with two hard-fought draws against young prodigies Aaryan Deshpande and Addison Lee.

In the Challengers section, Bellevue High School Junior Wenyang Du won clear first place with a perfect 3.0/3! Wenyang finished a full point ahead of a slew of players who tied for second-

third: Brandon Jiang, Joshua Lewis-Sandy, Anne-Marie Velea, and Sophie Velea. The youngest Velea Sister, Sophie, was awarded the Upset Prize for her last round victory over a player rated nearly 200 points above her rating!

The tournament was directed by Fred Kleist, organized by WCF President Josh Sinanan, and hosted by the Seattle Chess Club and Washington Chess Federation.



(L) Josh Sinanan and Wenyang Du. Photo Credit: Jacob Mayer.

From The Business Manager:

Please note that the new membership/subscription rates are now in effect. They are posted on the inside cover of the magazine and on the Northwest Chess website. Thank you.



A Piece of Idaho Chess History!

Mark McAllilster give us this photo that he originally posted on Facebook just before Christmas.

“I happened across your website tonight, and thought I’d say hello. My grandfather, Mel Schubert, was responsible for organizing this Association in 1947, and was its champion in 1948. Here he is in 1946 in the Twin Falls farmhouse where both he and I grew up, with his wife Jayne, my one-year-old mother Sherry, and his chessmen that have been passed down to me.”

In another posting he gave even more details:

“In 1947 my grandfather, Mel Schubert, came to Boise and played 16 simultaneous games of chess against the YMCA Chess Club, winning nine and tying one. It was 16 because he agreed to take all comers, and 16 came.

He is credited with bringing Chess to Idaho by breathing life into the Twin Falls Chess Club in 1946 with games in a basement room of the Rogerson Hotel.

In 1947 he created the Idaho Chess Association, and was responsible for it being sanctioned by the United States Chess Federation. He directed and played in the first Idaho State Chess Tournament, and was the State Champion in 1948 before taking a position as a professor of speech and drama at Idaho State College in Pocatello, where he continued to play First Board for the Pocatello team in regional tournaments for many years.”

12th Annual Grand Pacific Open

Over C\$5,000 GUARANTEED Prize Fund; FIDE rated

Easter Weekend, March 30-April 2, 2018

Location: Hotel Grand Pacific, 463 Belleville St, Victoria, BC

Round Times: Friday 6:00pm, Sat. 12:00 / 6:00pm, Sun. 12:00 / 6:00pm, Monday 10:00am

Sections: Premier (FIDE and CFC rated); U2000; U1700; U1200; (all CFC rated)

Entry Fees: C\$80 by Feb.19, C\$90 by Mar. 26, C\$100 onsite. Discount C\$20 in U1200 section.

Prizes: over C\$5,000 guaranteed.

Registration: on line at www.grandpacificopen.pbworks.com or by cheque payable to Victoria Chess. Mail to Paul Leblanc, 1012 Spiritwood Place, Victoria, BC V8Y 1C6

Transportation: Clipper jet boat from Seattle and Coho ferry from Port Angeles both dock across the street from the playing site. Round times are set up to match the sailing schedule.

Misc: All equipment provided. C\$109 room rate at Hotel Grand Pacific 1-800-663-7550 (rate code “APRIL18CHESS”). See website for further details and side events.

2018 BCC #17

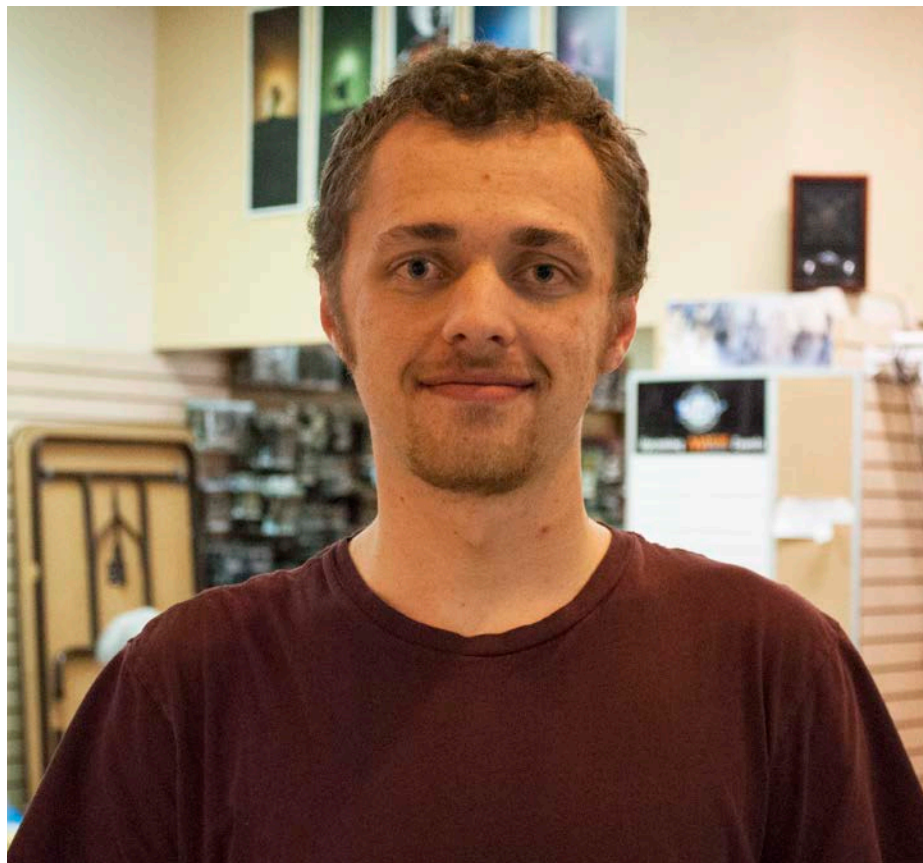
By Jeffrey Roland

Boise, ID—January 7, 2018

The 2018 BCC #17 chess tournament was held Sunday, January 7, 2018 at All About Games on Overland Road in Boise, Idaho. The tournament was a four-round Swiss System event with a time control of Game/30 plus 30 seconds per move and was dual-rated, affecting both Regular and Quick US Chess ratings. Entry was free, no prizes other than a victory pose photo taken of the first-place winner and the enjoyment of a one-day tournament. Fifteen players, with ages ranging from 12 to 72 years old, attended the event and had an average age of 30.73. Jeffrey Roland was the tournament director.

Cody Gorman, 22, (1912-1933—4.0/4), Eagle, won the tournament with a perfect score gaining 21 US Chess rating points. This makes Cody's fourth BCC tournament win—he won BCC #2, BCC #13, BCC #14, and now BCC #17. While Cody was the highest-rated player in the tournament, victory was by no means a sure thing, as several of the top players do take turns winning BCC events, but on this occasion, Cody had his way in every game, no doubt in part because he has been very active lately, playing in every event he can find locally.

Orlando Maldonado, 40, (1717P-1740P—3.0/4), Boise, was second place and was the only other undefeated player, scoring two wins and two draws. This was our first time seeing



Cody Gorman. Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.

this new (to us) player who seemed to really enjoy the event. In fact Orlando's attitude of cool laid-back confidence brought him some unexpected results—

a draw in a game with Alex Machin that he should have lost (Alex seemed almost stupefied at the end), and Jarod Buus was left wondering, "where's my extra piece?" and had to draw a game he should have won. Being the "new kid on the block" does have some advantages in that he was a wildcard and brought a new intrigue to our club event. His last US Chess rated tournament before this one was when he played in the 35th Annual Green Bay Open back in 2011 in the state of Wisconsin.

Chris Amen, who has won more BCC events than any other player nearly missed the boat on this one. Chris forgot about the date of this event and learned it was happening with the "almost live" coverage given to it on Facebook by the postings from myself. He came down and joined the tournament with a retroactive first-round bye, which is something we always allow if the player arrives before round two is paired. After all, why not?

BCC wishes to thank All About Games for hosting the event, and I would personally like to thank the players, who recorded all their moves so well, and who even assisted me when I needed clarification on inputting some games into the tournament's PGN file (I input three of the four rounds right there at the event, saving only the fourth round to do at home later.)



L-R: Jarod Buus, Justin Siek, David Zaklan, James Inman (seated), Andrew Kitterman (seated), Tom Booth, Alex Machin. Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.

David Zaklan (1386) –
Tom R. Booth (1535) [D37]
2018 BCC #17 Boise, ID
(R4), January 7, 2018
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.d4 e6 2.c4 d5 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 Be7
5.Bf4 c6 6.e3 0–0 7.Be2 Nbd7 8.0–0 a6
9.c5 a5 10.a3 Nh5 11.Be5 Nhf6 12.Bg3
Re8 13.h3 Nf8 14.Ne5 N8d7 15.b4 Nxe5
16.Bxe5 axb4 17.axb4 Bd7 18.b5 Ne4
19.Nxe4 dxe4 20.b6 Bf6



Position after 20...Bf6

21.Bc7

White's opening has been a rousing success. Here 21.Ra7! is a standard exploitation of the advanced outpost on the open file.

21...Qc8 22.Qc2 Bd8

22...Rxa1 23.Rxa1 e5 24.dxe5 Bxe5
25.Bxe5 Rxe5±

23.Bxd8 Qxd8 24.Qxe4 Qf6 25.Bd3 g6
26.Ra7 Rab8 27.Rfa1

27.Ba6! Bc8 28.Bc4

27...e5 28.d5

28.dxe5 Qxe5 29.Qxe5 Rxe5 30.Ra8±

28...cxd5 29.Qxd5 Bc6

[Diagram top of next column]



Position after 29...Bc6

30.Qd6?

30.Qc4±

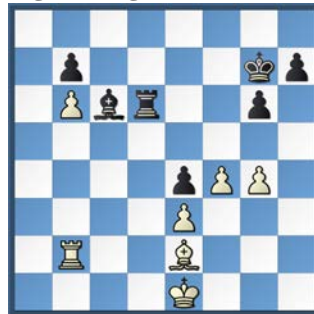
30...Qxd6 31.cxd6 Red8 32.Bf1 Rxd6
33.Ra8 Rxa8 34.Rxa8+ Kg7 35.Ra1 Be4
36.f3 Bc6 37.Rb1 e4

37...Rd2±

38.f4 f5 39.Kf2 Ba4

39...Rd2+

40.Be2 Rd2 41.Ke1 Rd6 42.Rb2 Bc6
43.g4 fxg4 44.hxg4



Position after 44.hxg4

44...Kf6?!

44...g5 45.f5 Rh6

45.g5+ Kf5?

45...Ke7± The black king has no targets on the kingside, and would find pure bishop endings painful sitting on f5. Staying in range of the b-pawn, however, limits White's options.

46.Kf2

46.Rd2±

46...Rd8

46...Ke6±

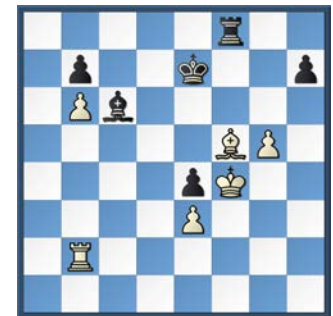
47.Kg3 Ke6 48.Bg4+ Ke7 49.f5

Or 49.Rh2±

49...gxf5 50.Bxf5 Rg8

50...Rf8 51.Rf2 Rf7 52.Kf4 Bd7 53.Kxe4 is also difficult for Black.

51.Kf4 Rf8



Position after 51...Rf8

52.Rf2

52.Rh2+±

52...Bd7 53.Kxe4 Bc6+ 54.Kf4 Bd7
55.e4 Bb5 56.Rh2 Rf7 57.Rxh7 Rxh7
58.Bxh7 Kf7 59.g6+ Kg7 60.e5 Bd3
61.Kg5 Bc4 62.Kf4 Bd3



Position after 62...Bd3

63.e6??

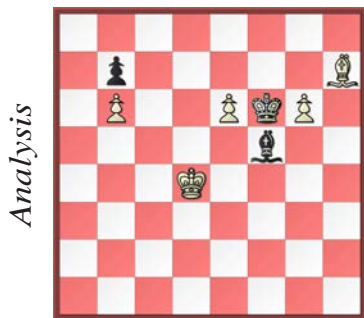
Many moves win here for White, but the plan of bringing the king to the d-file side of the passed e-pawn is very clear and straightforward, with the added benefit of being unstoppable. 63.Ke3 Bb1 64.Kd4 Ba2 65.Kc5 Bb3 66.Kd6 Bc2 67.e6 and everything is under control.

63...Bxg6??

Black misses his big opportunity. 63...Kf6! draws, as the white king cannot advance and the bishop is frozen on h7. Black can blockade on e7 or hide the king in the a8-corner as needed. For example: 64.e7 (64.Ke3 Bf5 65.Kd4



Tom Booth (left), David Zaklan. Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.



Analysis

(#Diagram-analysis after 65.Kd4)

65...Ke7! Not the only move, but the point is to not take the e-pawn here. (65...Kxe6?? 66.Bg8+ Kf6 67.Kc5 and White wins.; 65...Bxe6?? 66.g7!! Kxg7 67.Ke5 Bh3 68.Be4+-) 66.Ke5 Bc2 and now 67.Bg8 (67.Kd5 Bd3 makes no progress, and something like; 67.Kf4 Bxg6 68.Bxg6 Kxe6 69.Be4 Kd6 70.Bxb7 Kc5 eliminates the last pawn.) 67...Bxg6 68.Bf7 Bc2 69.Bh5 Bb3 70.Bf3 Bxe6 71.Bxb7 is a draw.) 64...Kxe7 65.Ke5 Kd7 66.Kd5 Bxg6! 67.Bxg6 Kc8 and there will be no digging that king out of his hole.

64.Bxg6 Kxg6 65.Ke5 Kg7 66.Kd6 Kf8 67.Kc7

Wins, of course, but 67.Kd7 seems a bit more immediate.

1-0

Jarod Buus (1824) – Orlando Maldonado (1717) [B45]
2018 BCC #17 Boise, ID
(R2), January 7, 2018
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nc6 5.Nc3 Bb4 6.Be3 Nf6 7.Bd3 Ne5 8.0-0 Nxd3 9.cxd3 0-0 10.a3

10.e5!?

10...Ba5 11.Bg5 h6 12.Bh4 g5 13.Bg3 Kg7?!

13...d6∞

14.Bd6 Rh8 15.e5 Ne8 16.Ne4 Nxd6 17.Nxd6



Position after 17.Nxd6

17...Qb6??

17...Bb6 18.Qh5 Qf8 (18...Rf8 19.N4f5+; 18...Rh7 19.Qxf7+ Kh8 20.N4b5) 19.Ne2 18.Qf3 Rf8 19.Qf6+ Kg8 20.Ne2?



Orlando Maldonado (left) vs. Jarod Buus. Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.

20.Nf3 Kh7 21.Nxf7

20...Kh7?

20...Qxb2 21.Qxb6 Qxe5 22.Nc4 Qxe2 23.Qxg5+ Kh7 24.Nxa5 Qxd3, but White has overwhelming compensation for a pawn.

21.b4

21.Nxf7 Rxf7 22.Qxf7+ Kh8 23.b4+-

21...Qd8 22.bxa5 Qxf6 23.exf6 Kg6 24.f4 b6 25.Nxc8?!

This knight is much too nice to give away for the undeveloped bishop. 25.fxg5 hxg5 26.axb6 axb6 27.Rac1 Ba6 28.Rf3+-

25...Raxc8 26.fxg5 hxg5 27.axb6 axb6 28.Rfc1

28.Rab1!?

28...Kxf6 29.d4 d5 30.Ng3 Rxc1+ 31.Rxc1 Ra8 32.Rc3 Ra4 33.Ne2 Kf5 34.Kf2 f6 35.h3 e5 36.Ke3 b5 37.g4+ Ke6 38.Rb3 f5 39.gxf5+ Kxf5 40.Ng3+ Kf6 41.dxe5+ Kxe5 42.Kf3?

42.Ne2

42...Rf4+ 43.Ke2 Ra4 44.Ke3 Rc4 45.Ne2 Rh4 46.Kd2 g4 47.hxg4 Rxg4 48.Rxb5 Kd6

48...Ra4 49.Rb3

49.Rb4 Rg8 50.Nc3

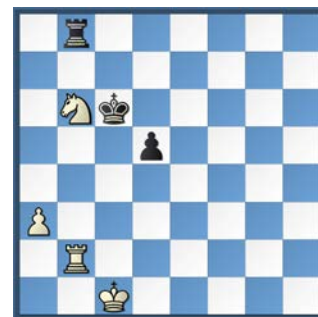
50.a4 Rg2 51.Kd3 Ke5 52.Rb5 Rg5 53.Nc3

50...Rg2+ 51.Kc1 Kc5 52.Na4+ Kc6 53.Rb6+ Kc7 54.Rb5 Kc6 55.Rc5+ Kd6 56.Rc2 Rg8 57.Nb6 Rb8 58.Rb2 Kc6

[Diagram top of next column]

59.Nxd5??

Attempted fancy play lets White down. 59.Na4 Ra8 60.Rb4



Position after 58...Kc6

59...Rxb2 60.Ne7+ Kd7 61.Kxb2 Kxe7 62.Kb3 Kd7 63.Kb4 Kc6 64.a4 Kb6 65.a5+ Kc6 66.Ka4 Kc5 1/2-1/2

Chris Amen (1741) – James Inman (1814) [B12]
2018 BCC #17 Boise, ID
(R2), January 7, 2018
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 Bf5 4.Nf3 e6 5.Be2 c5 6.0-0 Nc6 7.Be3 cxd4 8.Nxd4 Nge7 9.Bb5 Rc8 10.c4 a6 11.Bxc6+ bxc6 12.Qa4 Bd3 13.Rc1 Bxc4 14.Na3 Bb5 15.Qc2



Position after 15.Qc2

15...Nf5

The 2017 Neil Dale Memorial and the 2018 (Name Yet to be Determined) Memorial Northwest Chess Grand Prix

Murlin Varner, Administrator

mevjr54@outlook.com

February is the month the standings take a hiatus. I just finished entering the last of the 2017 tournaments, and none of the 2018 ones are done yet. Most of the money is in from the organizers, but not all. It would be premature to post final standings until all the fees are received. Three times in the past ten years, we've had to back out a tournament for non-payment of Grand Prix fees, and such an action can impact the winners' list. Therefore, I wait until all the financials are squared away. Check back in the March issue for the final results and prize amounts.

As for the 2018 version, it kicked off January with seven events in Seattle, Portland and Tacoma. Included in that list were two events with 2x multipliers, the Neil Dale Memorial, which should be in its last round as I type this, and the Seattle Chess Club Championship to follow a week later. Looking forward, another seven events mark the February calendar.

February is the month for state championships in Oregon and Washington, which usually results in a dead weekend or two. This year, it is the second weekend that has nothing to offer in the Grand Prix. The first weekend has only the Seattle Chess Club Tornado on February 4. The weekend of the seventeenth offers two events, the Idaho Closed State Championship in Twin Falls, open only to Idaho residents, and the Washington President's Cup in Seattle, with a 2x multiplier. The final weekend of February has four different events for your chess-playing pleasure. On Saturday, there are the monthly Quads in Seattle and the monthly G/60 in Portland. Sunday has Quads in Portland. But the big one of the month is the two-day, triple multiplier, David Collyer Memorial in Millwood, WA (a community just east of Spokane). There should be something there to satisfy your Grand Prix points-cravings. Enjoy your month, and play lots of chess. See you next month with all the 2017 winners.

43rd Annual Keres Memorial

C\$5,000 GUARANTEED Prize Fund, FIDE rated

Victoria Day Weekend, May 19-21, 2018

Location: Executive Plaza Hotel, 7311 Westminister Hwy, Richmond, BC

Round Times: Sat. 12:00 noon / 5:00, Sun. 10:00 / 5:00, Monday 10:00 / 3:00

Sections: Premier (CFC & FIDE rated), U2000 (CFC rated), U1600 (CFC rated)

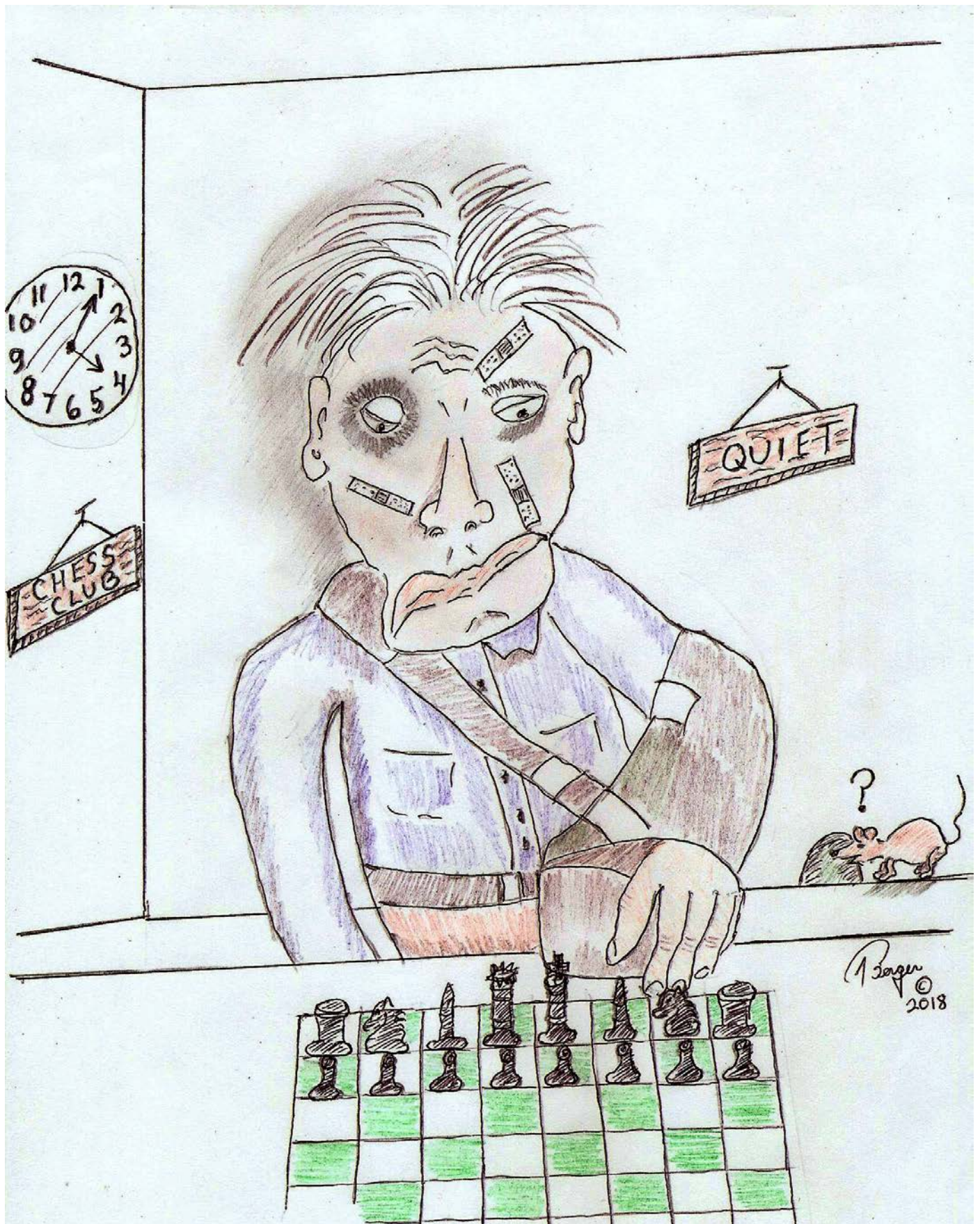
Time Control: Game in 100 minutes plus 30 second per move increment.

Entry Fees: Premier & U2000: C\$90 by Apr. 16, C\$100 by May 14, C\$115 onsite. **U1600** C\$55 by Apr. 16, C\$65 by May 14, C\$80 on site. CFC tournament or regular membership required.

Prizes: C\$5,000 Guaranteed

Registration: on line at www.keresmemorial.pbworks.com

Misc: All equipment provided. C\$149 room rate at the Executive Plaza 1-800-663-2878 (rate code "Keres Memorial Chess Tournament"). See website for further details.



EVERYONE AT THE CLUB COULD TELL THAT, ONCE AGAIN, FELIX'S CHESS COMPUTER HAD BEAT THE STUFFING OUT OF HIM.

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

Please note the many new dates, as the SCC has scrambled its schedule to accomodate the WCF.

New Dates 

WCF @ the SCC

Seattle Masters Series Feb. 3, Mar. 2-4

WA President's Cup Feb. 17-18

Kings versus Princes V Mar. 16-18

Clark Harmon Memorial Apr. 28-29

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.

Feb 4, Mar 11 *New Date*

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

Feb 24, Mar 10 *New Date*

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

March 30-April 1

Join the SCC Team(s) at the Larry Evans Memorial. We will compete against teams from San Francisco, Reno, Sacramento, and elsewhere!

SCC Team in Reno!

Apr 22

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

SCC Novice

SCC Fridays

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

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

March Winds (Close Rtg5 D): 3/2, 9, 16, 23, 30.

April Showers: 4/6, 13, 20, 27.

Seattle Spring Open

March 24-26 or 25-26

A two-section Swiss (4 rounds – Open, 5 rounds – Reserve) with a time control of 40/120 and SD/60 with a 5-second delay (two-day Reserve schedule – Round 1, G/60; d5). The prize fund of \$1000 is based on 52 paid entries, 6 per prize group.

a Northwest Grand Prix event

Open		Reserve (U1950)	
First	\$220	First	\$120
Second	\$160	Second	\$80
U2100	\$100	U1750	\$70
		U1550	\$60
		U1350	\$50
		Unrated	\$20

Plus Score Pool – \$120

Entry Fees: \$36 if rec'd by 3/22 (\$26 SCC memb., \$31 memb. of other dues-required CCs in the NW), \$45 at site (\$35 SCC memb., \$40 memb. of other dues-required CCs in the NW). **Unrated**—Free with purchase of 1-yr US Chess & 1-yr WCF. **Add \$1 to any EF for 2-day schedule.**

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

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

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

Miscellaneous: US Chess & WCF membership req'd. No smoking.

Upcoming Events

♣ denotes 2018 Northwest Grand Prix event; for Seattle Chess Club events see page 30

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: idahocheessassociation@gmail.com, Online registration at www.idahocheessassociation.com.

Feb 17-18 Washington President's Cup, **Seattle, WA.** (Half-Page Ad page 13)

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: idahocheessassociation@gmail.com, Online registration at www.idahocheessassociation.com.

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

Feb 24/Mar 31 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, 2:30pm, 4:30pm. Players who have a game go around the full time can request extra time off before the next round. EF: \$20, \$15 for PCC members (pay by cash or check payable to Portland Chess Club). US Chess and OCF/WCF/ICA memberships are required and can be purchased during registration (OSA). Prizes: If one section (\$200/b20): 1st-\$60, 2nd-\$40, 3rd-\$30; 1st U1800/unrated, 1st U1500/unrated-\$35 each. If two sections, upper section (\$150/b15): 1st-\$70, 2nd-\$40, 1st U1800/unrated-\$40; lower section (\$150/b15): 1st-\$70, 2nd-\$40, 1st U1200/unrated-\$40. OSCF State qualifier. More info at pdxchess.org. Phone: (503) 246-2978.

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 ½-point bye available if requested by end of prior round; Sunday bye must be requested by end of round 3. Director reserves the right to use class pairings in final round. 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.

Feb 25/Mar 18 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/50;inc15, US Chess and NWSRS rated. On-site reg: 9-9:45am, Rds: 10am, 12:30pm, 3pm. Rounds 2 and 3 can be started earlier if both players agree. Players who have a game go long can request extra time off before the next round. EF: \$15, PCC members \$10, \$5 discount for each additional family member who lives in the same household (pay by cash or check payable to Portland Chess Club), free entry for players who are playing in their first US Chess rated tournament. US Chess membership is required and can be purchased during registration. Winner of each section receives \$10 discount on the entry fee to one of the next three PCC Sunday or Tuesday Quads. If there is a six or seven player Swiss, the runner-up receives \$5 discount. Bonus scholastic awards: trophy for winning section with 3 points; smaller trophy for winning or tying for first with 2.5; medal for winning or tying for first with 2 or 1.5. OSCF State qualifier. More info. at pdxchess.org. Phone: (503) 246-2978.

Mar 2-4 Seattle Super Masters, **Seattle, WA.** (Full-Page Ad page 16)

Mar 24-25 Portland Spring Open, **Portland, OR.** Site: Portland Chess Club, 8205 SW 24th Ave, Portland, OR 97219. Two sections-Open and Reserve (U1800), 4-round Swiss, G/90;inc30, one half point bye is available if requested before round one, US Chess rated. On-site reg: 9-9:45am, Rds: 10am and 2:45pm each day. Rounds 2 and 4 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: \$35, \$25 for PCC members (pay by cash or check payable to Portland Chess Club). US Chess and OCF/WCF/ICA memberships are required and can be purchased during registration (OSA). Prizes (\$650 b/40): Open: 1st-\$150, 2nd-\$100, 1st U2000-\$75; Reserve: 1st-\$100, 2nd-\$75, 1st 1600, 1st U1400, 1st U1200/unrated-\$50 each. OCF Invitational Tournament and OSCF State qualifier. More info. at pdxchess.org, (503) 246-2978.

Mar 30-Apr 1 7th Annual Reno Larry Evans Memorial, **Reno, NV.** (Full-Page Ad page 17)

Mar 30-Apr 2 12th Annual Grand Pacific Open, **Victoria BC (Canada).** (Half-Page Ad page 23)

May 19-25 43rd Annual Keres Memorial, **Richmond BC (Canada).** (Half-Page Ad page 28)

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