



\$3.95

November 2018

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



Matt Zavortink Owen McCoy
Oregon State Co-Champions

Northwest Chess

November 2018, Volume 72-11 Issue 850

ISSN Publication 0146-6941

Published monthly by the Northwest Chess Board.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Office of Record: Northwest Chess c/o Orlov Chess Academy 4174 148th Ave NE, Building I, Suite M, Redmond, WA 98052-5164.

Periodicals Postage Paid at Seattle, WA
USPS periodicals postage permit number (0422-390)

NWC Staff

Editor: Jeffrey Roland,
editor@nwchess.com
Games Editor: Ralph Dubisch,
chesscoaching@gmail.com
Publisher: Duane Polich,
publisher@nwchess.com
Business Manager: Eric Holcomb,
eric@holcomb.com

Board Representatives

David Yoshinaga, Josh Sinanan,
Jeffrey Roland, Adam Porth, Chouchanik Airapetian,
Brian Berger, Duane Polich, Alex Machin, Eric Holcomb.

Entire contents ©2018 by Northwest Chess. All rights reserved. Published opinions are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the editor or the Northwest Chess Board. Northwest Chess is the official publication of the chess governing bodies of the states of Washington, Oregon and Idaho.

Event Announcement Rates (Upcoming Events listings)

Grand Prix events: \$35 for three consecutive listings of the same event. \$25 for two consecutive listings of the same event. \$20 monthly for events held every month (may include dates for current month and next month).

Other events: \$20 for one listing. \$30 for two listings. \$35 for three listings. (Must be consecutive listings of the same event.)

Please arrange payment for ads and Grand Prix fees of \$1.00 per player with the Business Manager.

Advertising & Copy Deadline

Ads and submissions must be received by the 5th of the month for the items to appear in the next issue (e.g., **November 5 for the December issue; December 5 for the January issue**).

Submit all ads, donations, payments, changes of address & subscriptions to:

Business Manager, Northwest Chess
Eric Holcomb
1900 NE 3rd St, STE 106 PMB 361
Bend, OR 97701-3889
Eric@Holcomb.com
www.nwchess.com

**Judged Best Magazine/Newsletter for
2009 and 2014-18 by
Chess Journalists of America!**

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION (Data as filed on USPS PS Form 3526)

1. Publication Title: NORTHWEST CHESS. 2. Publ. No.: 0146-6941.

3. Filing Date: 10/8/2018. 4. Issue Frequency: Monthly. 5. No. of issues Published Annually: 12. 6. Annual Subscription Price: \$30.00. 7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication: c/o Orlov Chess Academy, 4174 148TH AVE NE BLDG I STE M, REDMOND, WA 98052-5164. Contact Person: Joshua Sinanan (board member), Telephone 206-769-3757. 8. Complete Mailing Address of the Headquarters or General Business Office of the Publisher: c/o Orlov Chess Academy, 4174 148TH AVE NE BLDG I STE M, REDMOND, WA 98052-5164. 9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor: Publisher: Duane Polich, 17317 Woodcrest Dr NE, Bothell, WA 98011-5443; Editor: Jeffrey Roland, 1514 S Longmont Ave, Boise, ID 83706-3732; Managing Editor: Eric Holcomb, 1900 NE 3rd St STE 106 PMB 361, Bend, OR 97701-3889. 10. Owner: Washington Chess Federation, c/o Orlov Chess Academy, 4174 148TH AVE NE BLDG I STE M, REDMOND, WA 98052-5164. 11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and other Security Holders owning of holding 1 percent or more of total amount of Bonds, Mortgages or Other Securities: None. 12. Tax Status: has not changed. 13. Publication Title: NORTHWEST CHESS.

14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below: September 2018.

15. Extent and Nature of Circulation:

	Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Total Number of Copies	913	908
b. Paid Circulation		
1. Mailed Outside-County Paid Subscriptions (PS Form 3541)	481	494
2. Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions (PS Form 3541)	318	314
3. Paid Distribution Outside the Mails (carriers, etc.)	0	0
4. Paid Distribution by Other Classes of Mail Through the USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail)	22	14
c. Total Paid Distribution	821	822
d. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution		
1. Outside-County (PS Form 3541)	0	0
2. In-County (PS Form 3541)	0	0
3. Mailed at Other Classes Through the USPS	55	48
4. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mail	9	20
e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution	64	68
f. Total Distribution	885	890
g. Copies not Distributed	28	18
h. Total	913	908
i. Percent Paid (15c/15f x 100%)	93	92

16. (not claimed) Electronic copy circulation - not available online until one month after publication. 17. Publication of Statement of Ownership will be printed in the Nov. 2018 issue of this publication. 18. Certified by: Name and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager or Owner: Eric Holcomb (Business Manager). Date: 10/8/2018.

On the front cover:

Matt Zavortink and Owen McCoy win the 2018 Oregon Closed State Championship. Photo credit: Josh McCoy.

On the back cover:

Students learning to play chess at Lakeland High School. Photo credit: Adam Porth.

Chesstoons:

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

Submissions

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

Jeffrey Roland, NWC Editor
 1514 S. Longmont Ave.
 Boise, Idaho 83706-3732
 or via e-mail to:
 editor@nwchess.com

Northwest Chess Knights

Please donate today to help Northwest Chess!

Patrons, 2014-2018

Dale R. Wentz, Stephen Buck, Murlin Varner, Jennifer Sinanan in honor of Josh Sinanan, Gerard Van Deene, Washington Chess Federation, Idaho Chess Association, Ralph Dubisch, Russell Miller, August Piper, Jr., Catherine Smith.

Subscriptions / Memberships

(State membership included for individual residents of Washington, Oregon or Idaho.)

		Rate
Adult	1 year	\$ 30.00
	3 years	\$ 80.00
Junior	1 year	\$ 24.00
	Age U/21 at expiration	2 years \$ 43.00
Scholastic	6 months	\$ 14.00
Senior	1 year	\$ 25.00
	Age 65 or over	3 years \$ 65.00
Additional Family Members	1 year	\$ 10.00
	Residing at same address	2 years \$ 18.00
		3 years \$ 25.00
Tournament/Trial	1 month	\$ 12.00
Canada	1 year	\$ 40.00
Foreign	1 year	\$ 60.00

Washington residents please add sales tax.



Table of Contents

Matt Zavortink and Owen McCoy	
Josh McCoy	Front Cover
USPS Statement Of Ownership	2
Ora Annette Buckendorf (1928-2018)	
Times News	4
Washington Class Championship (Full Page Ad)	
Lynnwood, WA Nov 23-25	5
68th Annual Oregon Open	
Brian Berger	6
September 2018 PCC Game 60	
Brian Berger	22
CJA Award For Best State Magazine	24
Oregon Closed State Championship	
Sarah McCoy	26
2018 Western Idaho Open (Full Page Ad)	
Boise, ID Dec 8.....	37
Washington Women's Championship	
Mary Kuhner	38
More Washington Women's Championship	
Anne-Marie Velea	40
Even More Washington Women's Championship	
Stephanie Velea.....	40
Northwest Chess Open (Half-Page Ad)	
Seattle, WA Dec 15-16.....	41
Washington Winter Chess Classic (Half-Page Ad)	
Seattle, WA Dec 26-30	42
2018 NW Chess Grand Prix Report	
Murlin Varner	44
Seattle Chess Club Tournaments	46
Upcoming Events	47
Students Learn To Play In Rathdrum, Idaho.	
Adam Porth.....	Back Cover

**Play over-the-board
Tournament Chess!**

Ora Annette Buckendorf

April 6, 1928-October 5, 2018

Source: Times-News, magicvalley.com

BUHL — Ora Annette (Fuller) Buckendorf was born April 6, 1928 in Anthony, Florida. Her parents were Clara Otha (Annesley) Fuller and Robert A. Fuller. The family then moved to Georgia, where Annette's sister Clarice was born.

In 1931 the family had moved to Weiser, Idaho, where her father's parents (John and Anna Powell Fuller) lived. There her brother Eugene was born. Annette's father worked mostly as a deliveryman, and briefly for the Union Pacific Railroad during WWII. Her mother worked as a housekeeper, laundress and later as a head cook at the Weiser hospital.

Annette graduated from Weiser High School in 1947. That fall, she attended Northwest Christian College and met Glen W. Buckendorf of Buhl there. They eloped and were married in Kelso, Washington, in June 1948. The couple moved to Buhl, where Glen worked for his father at Buckendorf Tire Service. Annette worked hard at home, helping to milk the dairy cows and giving loving care to her six children. She also was briefly employed as a waitress in a local restaurant.

In 1969, Annette completed her master's degree in English with a secondary education emphasis. She taught 23 years at Buhl Junior High School, and retired in 1991. She was an active member of the Buhl Christian Church and the Community Christian Church in Filer. Annette also volunteered her time at several retirement homes, playing the piano for residents. She enjoyed traveling with Glen to his many chess tournaments,

and played Bridge, Scrabble and other games with the "chess widows." Annette was the first Idahoan to receive the Honorary Chess Mates Award, given by the United States Chess Federation.

After Glen died in 2011, Annette led several Bible studies in her home and enjoyed her friends at the Moon Glo Village in Buhl. She suffered a stroke in 2013 and could no longer live on her own. Each of her children and several grandchildren took turns caring for her in their homes, where she enjoyed embroidering, quilting and doing 1,000-piece puzzles. Annette passed away on October 5, 2018.

Annette is survived by four of her children and spouses, Bill (Madeline) Buckendorf of Caldwell, Idaho; Barry (Mary) Buckendorf of Salt Lake City, Utah; Ben (Paula) Buckendorf of Boise, Idaho; Bart (Ronda) Buckendorf of Nampa, Idaho; 16 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. She is also survived by a sister, Clarice Ruberry of Portland, Oregon, and a brother, Eugene Fuller of Hermiston, Oregon. Annette was preceded in death by her parents, her husband Glen, her son Bob (Jolene) Buckendorf of Meridian, her daughter Betty (George) Wyant of Shoshone, Idaho; and daughter-in-law Patricia Buckendorf.

Her funeral service was held at 2:00 p.m. Wednesday, October 10, at Farmer Funeral Chapel in Buhl. Donations in Annette's name can be made to Samaritan's Purse, P.O. Box 3000, Boone, NC, 28607.



**Scrabble
queen,
married to
the king;
Nary a
bitterness
came
between.**

Barry Eacker



Washington Class Championships

A NW Grand Prix Event

November 23-25, 2018

\$10,000 Guaranteed Prize Fund

Entry fees listed as: Postmarked
By Oct 28 / By Nov 14 / At site

Master (2200+) EF \$150/\$160/\$170
Prizes \$700, \$500, \$400 U2300 \$250, \$150

Expert (2000-2199) EF \$140/\$150/\$160
Prizes \$600, \$375, \$300, U2100 \$200, \$125

Class A (1800-1999) EF \$130/\$140/\$150
Prizes \$450, \$300, \$200 U1900 \$150, \$100

Class B (1600-1799) EF \$130/\$140/\$150
Prizes \$450, \$300, \$200 U1700 \$150, \$100

Class C (1400-1599) EF \$130/\$140/\$150
Prizes \$450, \$300, \$200 U1500 \$150, \$100

Class D (1200-1399) EF \$130/\$140/\$150
Prizes \$450, \$300, \$200 U1300 \$150, \$100

Class E (1199&Below) EF \$120/\$130/\$140
Prizes \$350, \$200, \$150, U1000 \$100,
U800/Unrated \$100

Medal Only EF \$80 / \$90 / \$100
(Juniors Under age 21 only)
Rated players add \$65 to play up one class
only (can't play up two classes).
Free entry to GMs, IMs, and WGMs.
Reentry for 1/2 of your original entry fee.
Canadians may pay C\$ at par for entry fee.

Special Prizes

Top female (each class) \$50
Top senior 50+ (each class) \$50
Medals awarded to top two in each class.

Entries/Information:

Send entries to: Jacob Mayer
9502 44th Avenue NE
Seattle, WA 98115-2610
Phone: (206) 697-5625

Email: jvictormayer@yahoo.com
Josh Sinanan

Phone: (206) 769-3757

Email: wcf.tournaments@gmail.com
Make checks payable to
Washington Chess Federation.

Embassy Suites Seattle North/Lynnwood
20610 44th Avenue West
Lynnwood, WA 98036, Phone: (425) 775-2500

Online Registration at www.nwchess.com/onlineregistration
Pay by credit/debit or PayPal.

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

Rating: US Chess rated. Master/Expert/Class A/Class B sections also FIDE rated (except G/60 games). US Chess November 2018 rating supplement will be used to determine class sections. Higher of US Chess or foreign ratings used at TD discretion. Higher of US Chess or FIDE rating used for pairings and prizes in Master, Expert, Class A, Class B sections. Foreign ratings used for players with no US Chess rating. Unrated players may only win 1st, 2nd, 3rd prizes in Master section, or unrated prize in Class E. Medal-only may not win any cash prizes.

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

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

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

Miscellaneous: Current US Chess membership and WCF/OCF/ICA membership required in all sections. Other States Accepted. Memberships may be paid at time of registration. NW Grand Prix event. US Chess Grand Prix Points: 40. US Chess Junior Grand Prix. No Smoking. No Computers. Wheelchair accessible.

Hotel Info/Rates: \$144 Double, single or double occupancy. Call (425) 775-2500, request the Washington Chess Federation block. Group ID: 398894. Cut-off date for reservations at the discount is November 9, 2018 at 5:00 PM PST.

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

Oregon Open

By Brian Berger

Portland, OR—September 1-3, 2018

Once again, and this for the third time, \$10,000 in guaranteed prize money was offered as a lure to players to attend the 68th Annual Oregon Open, which took place in Portland at the Lloyd Center DoubleTree Hotel. Sponsored by the Portland Chess Club and the Oregon Chess Federation (and billed as a Northwest Chess, US Chess and US Chess Junior Grand Grand Prix event, and as a qualifier for the Oregon Championship, Oregon Invitational and OSCF State Championship), 168 players from Oregon, Washington, Idaho, California, Illinois, and as far away as Germany, took the bait—which was 17 players more than the previous year.

Organizer and Chief TD this year was the always affable Andrei Botez, who was replacing Grisha Alpernas, known for his organizing and superior TD skills. Rumor has it that a confrontation with a disgruntled player at last year's Open soured Alpernas' appetite for taking on the tournament this year. If true, that is a loss for Portland's chess community. Here's hoping that, in the near future, we will once again see this highly respected TD at our major tournaments.

Helping Botez to handle the large crowd of registries on the first day were Assistant Chief TD Micah Smith, Assistant TD Mike Hasuike, Assistant TD Michael Morris, and extra TD's Michael Lilly and



Registration time. Photo credit: Brian Berger.

Lennart Bjorksten, all old hands at getting and keeping things running without too many glitches. And just to make things more interesting crowd-wise was the Oregon Chess Federation Scholastic tournament being held at the same venue the first day, some players of whom would take advantage of the Open's two-day schedule starting on Sunday, which would merge later in the day with the larger tournament—an option for those who would find the three-day schedule inconvenient, and for those scholastic

players who might wish to attend.

The main difference between the two schedules centered around time controls: the three-day schedule had all six games at 40/120, SD/30, with a 10 second delay; in the two-day, the first three games were played at G/60 with a 10 second delay, merging in round four with the three-day schedule.

The Main Section format was a six-round Swiss, separated into three sections—Open, U2000, and U1600, with the tantalizing award of \$2000 for first place in the Open, \$1000 in the U2000, and \$500 in the U1600, with lesser prizes being offered for second and third place in each section, together with additional prizes for U2200, U1800, U1400, U1200 and Unrated.

Following much the same format as last year for the distribution of prizes in the U1600 Section Merged, a lower registration fee was offered to those under the age of 19 (\$25 if pre-registered) who chose to win trophies rather than cash. In the matter of GMs and IMs, free entry was offered for those who pre-registered, with the stipulation that \$105 would be subtracted from any winnings.

To shake some of the cobwebs loose for those whose games pushed the limits of the long time control, a Blitz side event was offered, starting at 3:30 on Sunday, to be played as a five-round double Swiss in one section (a total of ten games), with a time control of G/3, increment



(L) Abbie Wu vs Michael Moore. Photo credit: Brian Berger.



Carl Koontz looking over his position. Photo credit: Brian Berger.

2—a neuron-busting, cobweb-clearing, piece-grabbing, free-for-all, which drew 20 players and was officiated by Micah Smith, with the assistance of Lennart Bjorksten.

When the dust cleared, NM Owen McCoy (2213P-2305P—8.0/10) and NM Shunkai Peng (2242P-2282—8.0/10) split the first and second Blitz place prizes, amounting to \$55 each. Splitting the U2100/U1900 prizes were Eric Erard (1788-1744—6.0/10), Jack McClain (1704-1726—6.0/10), and Francisco Lopez (1633-1670—6.0/10), who each pocketed \$22. Yet another split occurred for the U1700 prize, with Alex Kaelin (1645P-1621—5.0/10) and Hung Le (1518P-1515P—5.0/10) each winning \$12.50 for their 50% scores. And lastly, keeping all of the prize money to himself, was Ian Vo (1492-1478—3.5/10), whose 3.5 score was potent enough to win the U1500, and \$20 to boot.

Forty-seven players threw their hats into the Open Section Merged, eleven of those being Masters, with one, Oregon's very own Grandmaster James Tarjan (2490-2491—4.5/6), being the top rated. Not a section for the faint of heart, nor one for easily bruised egos, one could almost see the smoke from overtaxed brains emanating from reddened ears, feel the tension in the air, and smell the sweat of anxious anticipation and heart-stopping doubt, as hour after hour mental faculties were put to the ultimate test.

Playing in all six rounds without a loss

and two draws, NM Matt Zavortink (2219-2254—5.0/6) was in the catbird seat after the final round, and \$2000 richer. What made the overall win much sweeter was Zavortink's last round game against GM Tarjan, where a draw sealed the deal, in what could have been a reversal of fortune had he lost against this very tough opponent. Last year Tarjan beat GM Vladimir Kramnik at the Isle of Man Open, and has been giving the competition fits ever since he returned to

competitive chess after a 30-year absence.

As it turned out, Tarjan ended up as one of six players who tied for second and third place monies, the others being FM Nick "The Raptor" Raptis (2414-2409—4.5/6), FM Anthony He (2350-2357—4.5/6), CM Seth Talyansky (2259-2266—4.5/6), and FM David Roper (2232-2247—4.5/6), who each turned in a score of 4.5/6, and walked away with \$300 apiece. One other player who tied for second was Daniel Shubin (1908-1998—4.5/6), who took out and drew some stiff competition, upping his rating by 90 points, but who also fell into the right rating group to take advantage of the U2200 first place prize of \$500.

Three others in the Open Section who claimed a portion of the prize money were NM Jason Yu (2203-2202—4.0/6), Joseph Levine (2186-2173—4.0/6), and Eric Zhang (2136-2153—4.0/6), who split second/third U2200, each receiving \$166.67 for their four-point effort. Although this last payoff completed the awarded prizes in this section, a number of players did quite well in substantially upping their ratings. Besides the above mentioned Daniel Shubin, Minda Chen (1930-1981—3.5/6) tacked on 51 points, Michael Moore (1916-1971—3.5/6) stuck on another 55 points, and Jack Woo McClain (1752-1835—3.0/6) raised his another 83 points.

The Under 2000 Section Merged held the second-highest player count, with 56 players eyeballing the \$1000 pot of gold being protected by a wee leprechaun with



Players in the main room. Photo credit: Brian Berger.



*Chief TD Andrei Botez addresses the players before the tournament.
Photo credit: Brian Berger.*

an eyepatch, who recently absconded with it from the end of a modest rainbow, and looked none too eager to let it go. But it was a lone player from Washington, Advait Vijayakumar (1897-1938—5.0/6), who wrestled the much guarded, golden prize from the tight grip of its keeper, and in the process, boosted his rating another 41 points.

Separated by only one-half point from the overall winner were six players who tied for second/third place: Steven Merwin (1983-1979—4.5/6) of Washington, Steven Witt (1924-1922—4.5/6), Kevin Xu (1893-1915—4.5/6) of Idaho, Zachary Zhang (1857-1898—4.5/6) of Washington, David Murray (1817-1858—4.5/6), and Sophie Velea (1798-1836—4.5/6) of Washington. Velea, with a starting rating of 1798, took the bigger payoff of \$500 for first U1800. As for the other five, they just had to be satisfied with \$200 each, and getting to see a live leprechaun reluctantly give up his pot of gold to Vijayakumar.

My own—Brian “I’m Just Glad To Be Here” Berger (1500-1500—2.0/6)—efforts in this section were less than stellar. As a matter of fact, you might call them “cellar,” given that that is where my rating happens to be at this time. Just when I think I have found the formula for winning chess, I am faced with the reality that I might be just a dreamer—not in the sense that I have high aspirations, but that I tend to nod off at critical moments; finding that when I awake, I’m likely to be missing a piece.

Not fighting sleep apnea were five other players in this section, all who tied for second/third U1800: William Holloran (1784-1792—4.0/6), Brian Lee (1756-1771—4.0/6, Zoey Tang (1737-1754—4.0/6), Stephanie Velea (1676-1762—4.0/6), and Havish Sripada (1688-1770—4.0/6), a performance that not only carried a \$100 award for each, but also added 86 and 82 points to Velea’s and Sripada’s rating respectively.



*Players receiving instructions before the tournament.
Photo credit: Brian Berger.*

Before I continue with the U1600 Section, it should be noted that Cleveland Johnson (1461-1540—3.0/6) of Washington, although not a prize winner, gave a fine-enough performance to up his rating 79-points, by securing two draws against a 1700 and an 1821 provisional player, and a win against a 1621-rated player.

Seeing as my above-mentioned choice to play in the U2000 was such a bust, I should have opted to join Jerrold “I Just Want To Reach 1660 Before It’s Over” Richards (1452-1386—3.0/6) in the Under 1600, a section that contained 65 players who were realistic in their expectations. But not even Morgan the Dog, who was such a help to Richards winning of the U1600 section of the recent Rose City Sectionals with a perfect score, was of any help in preventing Richards from spiraling once more towards his floor of 1300—and I was probably doomed no matter what section I had opted to play in.

As was stated in the opening paragraphs, trophies were an option instead of cash prizes for some in the U1600 Merged Section. At least a couple of those players, I’m sure, are somewhat regretting not going for the cash, as their performance merited some big bucks—those being Davit Gabunia (1524P-1556P—5.0/6) and Egan Wong (1427-1458—5.0/6), who received trophies for their five points each. The third player with five points, Ethan Zhang (1468-1495—5.0/6), was left to pocket the first U1400 prize money in the amount of \$500, the same amount that the overall first place winner,

Fedor Semenov (1577-1612—5.5/6), also earned.

Just a half-point off were three players who split the second and third overall, and the second U1400 prizes: Michael Rabadan (1456P-1470—4.5/6), Nikhil Samudrala (1383-1415—4.5/6), and Suyash Mothukuri (1310P1430—4.5/6), each taking home \$266.67 and the memories of a tough, three-day brain-drain.

Two other splits occurred in this section. The first was for the third U1400 money (\$100 each), shared by Rohan Vora (1374-1406—4.0/6) and Ryan Lu (1415P-1420—4.0/6, and the other for first U1200, (\$150 each) divided between Pace Lykins (1090-1273—4.0/6) and Austin Liu (1178P-1257P—4.0/6).

Last to earn cash was Shreyas Singh (Unrated-856P—2.0/6), whose score was good enough to secure first in the Unrated category, the \$200 prize money giving him something to remember about his first rated tournament .

Besides the trophies won by Gabunia and Wong, two others scored the required number of points based on rating to also merit a trophy each: Vimal Adiraju (920-1068—4.0/6) and Ishaan Kodarapu (1239-1264—3.5/6).

A big hand should be given to the organizers and TDs who made this such an enjoyable experience for newbies and oldies alike—an experience that will, most likely, assure that next year’s “\$10,000 Guaranteed” will draw a similar, avid audience.

Games

**Moshe Rachmuth (1913) –
Matt Zavortink (2219) [B13]**

68th Annual Oregon Open
Portland, OR (R1), September 1, 2018
[Matt Zavortink]

**1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.Bd3 Nc6
5.c3 Qc7**

This slightly disruptive move has become popular in the last few years. Black prevents White’s bishop from reaching its desired f4 square and will meet the natural 6.Nf3 with ...Bg4, reaching a favorably flexible version of a reversed Queen’s Gambit exchange variation.

6.Ne2

Logical. White wants to play Bf4 and tempo the black queen.

6...Bg4 7.Qb3??

[Diagram top of next column]



(L) James Tarjan vs Alan Bishop.
Photo credit: Brian Berger.



Position after 7.Qb3

This natural looking move leads to some surprising complications and allows Black to effortlessly equalize. I was surprised to find out after the game that this move was played by Polgar against Karpov in 1992. 7.Bf4?! lets Black equalize immediately: 7...Qxf4 8.Nxf4 Bxd1; 7.f3 Bd7 8.Bf4 is a possible continuation. Now that White has played the weakening f3 Black can change plans with 8...e5 9.dxe5 Nxe5 10.0-0 Bd6 and achieve a great version of an IQP position.; 7.0-0 e6 8.Qe1! This is probably the strongest plan for White in this variation. The point is the following trick: 8...Nf6 9.f3 Bh5 10.Qh4 It’s difficult for Black to avoid damage to his kingside structure. In the game Tarjan - Dreev from the Pro Chess League Black came up with the bizarre 10...Rg8?!± to be able to recapture on g6 with the h-pawn.

7...Bxe2 8.Bxe2

8.Kxe2= seems like a reasonable alternative, but is obviously not what White should be aiming for in the opening.

8...Nxd4 9.Qa4+?



Position after 9.Qa4

Now White remains a pawn down for little compensation. 9.Qxd5! is surprising but clearly best. Now 9...Rd8! (9...Nc2+?? 10.Kd1 loses for Black due to the dual threats of Kxc2 and Bb5+; 9...Nxe2? is also inadequate due to 10.Qb5+ Qd7 11.Qxd7+ Kxd7 12.Kxe2 when White may be a hair better due to his faster development) 10.Bb5+ Nxb5 11.Qxb5+ Rd7 I assessed this continuation as perhaps a hair better for Black during the game, but the computer says it’s dead equal. I noticed that White will have to spend a tempo defending h2 after he castles and I play ...Bd6, but I failed to see that I will also have to spend a tempo defending a6 after White plays Be3.; 9.Bb5+? Nxb5 10.Qxb5+ Qc6 and Black keeps the pawn; 9.Bf4?! Throwing more wood on the fire. Black is extremely underdeveloped so I felt obligated to calculate some strange, aggressive moves like this. 9...Nxb3 (9...Qxf4?! 10.Qa4+ Kd8 11.Qa5+ The computer says Black is still slightly better but having my king

wander around in the center is obviously not appealing in a real game) 10.Bxc7 Now I don't have time to take the rook on a1 because of Bb5+ which happens to be mate, but I saw I could simply play 10... Kd7 and remain a healthy pawn up.

9...Nc6 10.0-0 Nf6 11.Bg5 Ne4 12.Be3 e6 13.c4

I felt slightly sloppy for allowing this move, which undermines my large center.

13...Bd6 14.cxd5

I wasn't expecting this and thought I was about to be two clean pawns up.

14...Bxh2+ 15.Kh1 exd5



Position after 15...exd5

16.Nc3!

A good move given the circumstances, just trying to develop as quickly as possible. 16.g3?? of course doesn't work due to 16...Bxg3 17.fxg3 Nxc3+ and I get the piece back on e2.

16...Nxc3 17.bxc3 Be5 18.Rd1

18.Bc5 Bd6

18...Rd8

18...0-0 19.Rxd5 Bxc3 I was intending to play this position but decided it was too risky. Surely Black is objectively better but White has a lot of practical compensation for the pawns.

19.Bf3

19.Bc5 This move is more interesting now that Rd1 and ...Rd8 have been played, but 19...Bd6 (19...Rd6?! looks extremely tempting but after 20.Bxd6 Qxd6 21.Rd3!± White simultaneously defends the c3 pawn and preempts ...Qh4+.) 20.Rxd5 Bxc5 21.Rxc5 0-0± seemed like a safe edge for Black.

19...0-0 20.Bxd5 Rd6!?

Trying to keep pieces on. 20...Bxc3 is best according to the computer, but after 21.Bxc6 bxc6 22.Qxa7 I was afraid the ending didn't offer enough winning chances.

21.c4 a6?!

Another sloppy move. I wasn't sure what to do with my f8 rook yet and wanted to defend a7. 21...Qe7 22.c5! and the white queen defends laterally.



(L) Viktor Pupols vs James Tarjan.
Photo credit: Brian Berger.

22.Rb1?



Position after 22.Rb1

Unfortunately for White this move greatly increases the power of

22...Qe7+ 23.f4

23.c5 doesn't work now since d5 is undefended.; 23.Kg1 Bh2+! 24.Kxh2 Qh4+ 25.Kg1 Rxd5 and ...Rh5 is coming next.

23...Rh6+



Position after 23...Rh6+

Now I play a lot of inaccurate moves and allow the white king to run around the board, but it doesn't matter too much.

24.Kg1 Bd4 25.Bf2 Qh4 26.Bxd4 Qh2+ 27.Kf2 Qxf4+ 28.Kg1 Qh2+ 29.Kf2 Nxd4 30.Ke3 Qe5+ 31.Kd3 Ne6 32.Kc2 Qe2+ 33.Kc3 Rg6 34.Rbe1 Rg3+ 35.Bf3 Qxg2 36.Qd1 Qxa2 37.Qd6 Qa5+ 0-1

Viktor Pupols (2204) –
James Edward Tarjan (2490) [D02]
68th Annual Oregon Open
Portland, OR (R2), September 1, 2018
[James Tarjan]

The most interesting of my games in the Oregon Open was the one with Zavortink. However, I think this one with Pupols was the best played on my part. Nothing special or exciting: the 99 percent of chess that, like life, is perspiration, rather than the one percent of inspiration. Black equalizes out of the opening in a position with plenty of play remaining. Perhaps some small inaccuracies on White's part, and Black gains a positional advantage. The positional advantage leads to the win of a pawn. Black succeeds in winning the endgame with the extra pawn. Thousands of games follow this well-worn pattern, but I always feel a sense of accomplishment if, against a formidable opponent as here, I am able to add one more to the pile.

1.d4 g6 2.g3 Bg7 3.Bg2 d5 4.c3 Nf6 5.Nd2 0-0 6.Ngf3

I suspect he planned 6.e4 but then thought better of it: 6...Nxe4 7.Nxe4 dxe4 8.Bxe4 Nd7 followed by ...c5 or ...e5.

6...b6

6...Nbd7

7.0-0 Bb7



Position after 8.Ne5

8.Ne5

8.a4!?!; 8.e4!?! probably even deserves an “!”, because it makes sense of White’s c3 and Nbd2 8...dxe4 9.Ng5.

8...Nbd7 9.Nxd7

Develops Black’s pieces and gives away any opening advantage. 9.Ndf3; 9.Nd3

9...Qxd7 10.Nf3

10.a4 here or at several other moments over the next moves.

10...Ne4 11.Ng5

11.Ne5

11...Nd6 12.Re1 h6

I thought I had to hurry with this but in fact 13.e4 is not really a threat. 12...e6.

13.Nf3 e6 14.Ne5

14.Bf4

14...Qe7 15.Nd3 Rfc8



Position after 15...Rfc8

16.e3?!

Now with White’s bishop passive, Black truly starts to have a slight advantage. Viktors was afraid of some ghost after 16.Bf4, but aside from Be5 or Qd2 there is the simple plan of taking Bxd6 producing a structure known to be practically impregnable, with the ‘bad’ bishop having been exchanged. Perhaps he was afraid of 16...Ne4, but after 17.f3 White is not worse.

16...c5 17.f4 Rc7 18.Bd2 Rd8 19.Rc1

The computer doesn’t like it, but I would play 19.g4 at some point around here, to at least feint some counterplay on the kingside, and to give the d2 bishop the



Isaac Vega contemplating his next move. Photo credit: Brian Berger.

hope of activating on g3 or h4.

19...Ba6 20.Nf2

20.Ne5

20...Qe8 21.Bf1 Bxf1 22.Rxf1 Rdc8 23.Rb1 b5

Is this the right way? It is the logical way, to play for the ...b4 break and force some concession.

24.Qe2 h5 25.dxc5

Viktors’ plan is the computer’s first choice but the position clarifies into a difficult defensive task for White.

25...Rxc5 26.e4 dxe4 27.Nxe4 Nxe4 28.Qxe4 Rd5 29.Be3 Qd7

I can triple on the d-file if need be and avoid any simplifying exchanges.

30.Qf3 Rd8 31.Rf2 Rd3 32.Rbf1 a5 33.Re2 b4 34.cxb4 axb4 35.Kg2 Bd4!

White already cannot avoid the loss of a pawn.



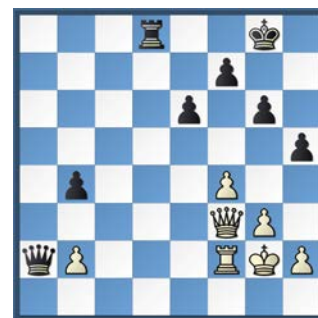
Position after 35...Bd4

36.Qe4

36.b3 does not help: 36...Bxe3 37.Rxe3 Rd2+ 38.Rf2 (or 38.Re2) 38...Qa7; So

I suppose 36.a3 to trade the queenside pawns, though he will face a hard task with his king exposed and all the major pieces on the board. And it gives Black a decision to make: whether to essay 36...b3.

36...Bxe3 37.Rxe3 Rxe3 38.Qxe3 Qd5+ 39.Qf3 Qxa2 40.Rf2



Position after 40.Rf2

40...Qb1

Doesn’t seem to matter but no doubt more logical is to centralize: 40...Qc4.

41.Qe2 Rc8 42.Qe5 Qd3

With White’s king exposed and Black’s safe, little doubt this should be winning.

43.Kh3 b3 44.f5

With ...Rc2 coming Black is breaking through, hence this desperate stab.

44...exf5 45.Re2 Qf3

The computer instantly sees that 45...Rc2 wins at once, but for a tired human it is reasonable to be careful and sure.

46.Qe3 Qg4+ 47.Kg2 f4 48.Qf3 Rc2 0-1

Matt Zavortink (2219) – Lawrence S. Cohen (2000) [A45]

68th Annual Oregon Open
Portland, OR (R2), September 1, 2018
[Matt Zavortink]

1.d4 Nf6 2.Bf4 d6 3.Nc3 Nbd7 4.Nf3 e6?!

Black's play was consistent up to this point but here he should try 4...c6, followed by a queen move to support the ...e5 advance.

5.e4 Nb6?!

Now I understood that Black is purposefully doing weird stuff.

6.Bd3 Bd7 7.Qe2 a6 8.0-0 h6 9.Bd2

Probably unnecessary. I want to play e5, but I don't want to be required to move my bishop in response to ...Nfd5 immediately after.

9...Be7 10.e5 Nfd5 11.Ne4 dxe5



Position after 11...dxe5

12.dxe5?

I played this instantly without thinking. I admit Black's opening succeeded in annoying me and I wasn't fully engaged at this point. Of course White is still significantly better, but 12.Nxe5 planning Qg4 is simply crushing.

12...Nb4

Of course Black should take this opportunity to snag the bishop pair and trade some pieces. Here I realized I needed to be more focused and my play improved a bit.

13.Bxb4

It seemed best to preserve the light-

squared bishop.

13...Bxb4 14.c4

A good move, keeping the b6 knight out of d5. A second point is that in the future I will be threatening c5, kicking the knight, followed by a3, winning a piece.

14...Be7 15.Rad1 0-0 16.Bb1 Qe8?



Position after 16...Qe8

Now White wins with a nice (but unsurprising) tactic:

17.Nf6+!

17.Qd3. Of course a move like this, forcing ...g6, is quite strong, but my move order is more accurate because it allows the queen to be posted on e4, where it has easier access to the kingside.

17...Bxf6

17...gxf6? 18.exf6 Black's pieces are so uncoordinated that he cannot prevent the simple Qd3 followed by Qh7 mate.

18.Qe4! g6 19.exf6

Now Black has no way to prevent the queen from invading on the dark squares.

19...Bc6



Position after 19...Bc6

19...Kh7 20.Qh4 (threatening Ng5+) 20...Rh8. During the game I saw 21.Rd4?! threatening 22.Qxh6+! (21.Bxg6+! is stronger: 21...fxg6 (21...Kxg6 22.Ne5+ and Black is getting mated) 22.Ng5+ Kg8 23.f7+) 21...Kg8+-. Black's rook is buried on h8 forever, among other issues.; 19...Qd8. This makes sense, so that the eventual Qxh6 can be met by ...Qxf6, preventing mate, but the black queen gets quickly overloaded after 20.Qh4 followed by 21.Ne5 and 22.Nxd7 (or 22.Ng4).

20.Qh4 h5

20...Nd7 21.Rxd7

21.Qg5 Kh7 22.Qxh5+ 1-0

Carl A. Haessler (2200) – Matt Zavortink (2219) [A00]

68th Annual Oregon Open
Portland, OR (R3), September 2, 2018
[Matt Zavortink]

1.Nf3 d5 2.b4

Haessler refuses to play normal chess, as always.

2...Nf6 3.Bb2 Bf5 4.e3 e6 5.c4

Purposefully provocative, tempting me to take on b4.



Position after 5.c4

5...c6

5...Bxb4 is probably fine for Black but I thought I was already slightly better without getting sucked into needless complications. I didn't seriously look at any of this during the game, but the computer variations below are entertaining: 6.cxd5! Qxd5= and Black's better development roughly compensates



Carl Haessler Chess Master
503-875-7278 ■ carl@NWchessworks.com
NWchessworks.com

for White's potential central superiority. (6...exd5? 7.Qa4+ Nc6 8.Nd4± Black has too many loose pieces.; 6...Nxd5? 7.a3! Be7 8.e4± and Black drops a piece due to 8...Bxe4 9.Qa4+)

6.Qb3 Nbd7 7.d4 a5 8.a3

Here I thought for around 25 minutes. White's plan is clear: he would like to play c5 and b5 when Black's queenside structure will be permanently weakened. However, White has revealed his strategic ambitions before he has completed his development, and Black has a number of promising continuations.

8...axb4

8...Qb6? White's position seems precarious enough that I spent some time calculating the following piece sacrifice: 9.c5 Bxc5 10.dxc5 Nxc5 Black has won two pawns for the piece, but I correctly found the counterintuitive 11.Qc3!± after which Black does not have enough compensation, for example: (11.Qd1? axb4∞) 11...Na4 12.Qd4 c5 13.bxc5 Qxb2 14.Qxa4+ Ke7 15.Qd4 Qc1+ 16.Qd1 Qb2 17.Nbd2+ Black finally runs out of threats and is lost.; 8...dxc4 9.Bxc4 Qb6 This was tempting since 10.b5? loses at least a pawn after 10...a4, but I figured White would play 10.bxa5 Qxb3 11.Bxb3 Rxa5 when Black may only be marginally better.

9.axb4 Rxa1 10.Bxa1



Position after 10.Bxa1

10...Qa8

A relatively simple continuation, forcing White to make an awkward move like Bc3 or Na3. 10...Qb6? I checked this version of the above piece sac as well. 11.c5 Bxc5 12.dxc5 Nxc5 13.Qa3!± and Black is busted.; 10...dxc4!? Stockfish demonstrates that Black can win a pawn by force. 11.Bxc4 b5 I briefly considered this variation during the game but didn't see the follow up. (11...Qb6 I looked at this move, but felt that White was doing fine after 12.b5= since Black no longer has the ...a4 push as in the similar variation above.) 12.Be2 Nd5 and White must drop the b4 pawn, although he retains some modest compensation since Black has relinquished his control of the center. Note that White cannot play 13.Bc3?? Bxb1 14.Qxb1 Nxc3+±



(L) Yu-Cheng Liang vs David Yoshinaga.
Photo credit: Brian Berger.

11.Bb2??

Played instantly. If 11.Bc3 I was just going to continue with normal moves. White's plan of c5 and b5 isn't very effective now that Black owns the a-file, for instance: 11...Be7 12.Be2 0-0 13.c5 b6!± Black threatens ...bxc5 followed by ...Rb8, when he becomes extremely active on the queenside.(13...b5!? Permanently stopping White's b5 and doubling on the a-file is also worth considering.)

11...Bxb1 12.Be2 Ba2 13.Qc2 Bxb4+ 0-1

Anthony Bi He (2351) –
Matt Zavortink (2219) [C03]

68th Annual Oregon Open
Portland, OR (R4), September 2, 2018
[Matt Zavortink]

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 Be7 4.e5 c5 5.c3

This has become topical in high-level games lately. I guessed Anthony might try this variation and had reviewed my notes the morning before the game. 5.Qg4 Visually this makes sense, exploiting Black's awkward king-side development, and this is what White often tried when 3...Be7 first became popular. However, Black's position is quite healthy after 5...Kf8 when the white queen may be subject to attack by the kingside pawns.

5...Nc6 6.Bd3 cxd4 7.cxd4 Qb6

7...Nxd4?? 8.Qg4 Nf5 9.Bxf5± revealing how 6.Bd3 indirectly defended d4.

8.Ndf3 Bd7

8...Nxd4?? 9.Nxd4 Qxd4 10.Bb5+±

9.Ne2 Nb4

The point of Black's development scheme is the following maneuver, which either trades or activates his bad light-squared bishop.



Position after 9...Nb4

10.Bb1 Bb5 11.0-0

11.a3?! Doesn't do anything since Black wants to play 11...Qa6 anyway.

11...Qa6 12.Re1 Nd3 13.Bxd3 Bxd3

Black has achieved a major strategic victory in removing White's good bishop while activating his own bad bishop. However, this has taken a lot of time and the king-side remains somewhat tangled. The computer generally gives White a small edge in these positions, but I think it may be over-valuing White's lead in development. I had previously analyzed 14.Nc3 but when reviewing this variation the morning before the game I saw that 14.Nf4 is now the computer recommendation, which of course was played.



Hard at work. Photo credit: Brian Berger.

14.Nf4 Be4 15.Nd2 Bg6 16.Nxg6 hxg6
17.Nf3



Position after 17.Nf3

17...Rc8

The first non-book move for me. There weren't any urgent threats so I decided to develop the rook before committing to a king-side development plan.

18.Bg5

I was somewhat happy to see this move since I thought my reply was basically forced.

18...Bxg5 19.Nxg5 Nh6

The knight obstructs the h-file so that I don't fall for any unstoppable Qf3-h3-h7# ideas after I castle.

20.Rc1 0-0 21.a3

An interesting moment. During the game I optimistically thought I could take over the c-file and be significantly better, but I became too fixated on this idea and overlooked some important nuances in the position.

21...Nf5

Now ...Rc4 will come with a tempo against the d-pawn. 21...Rc4. It took me a while to figure out that this natural looking move is actually terrible. 22.Rxc4 Qxc4 23.Re3! Nf5 24.Rd3 At first glance this position looks good for Black but

White can simply play 25.g4 followed by 26.Rc3 when he owns the c-file.; 21...Rxc1 22.Qxc1 Qc4 The computer also likes this continuation, which I did not seriously consider during the game, because I thought White could take and plant his knight on the d6 outpost. In reality White is too slow: 23.Qxc4 dxc4 24.Ne4? Nf5 25.Rd1 Rd8+

22.Qb3 Rc6?

A natural move that is quite bad. However, the path to an advantage for White is not intuitive at all and was missed by both players. 22...Rc4 with a slightly improved version of the 21...Rc4 variation above is the computer's choice.; 22...Nxd4?? The knight cannot stray too far from the kingside. 23.Qh3+-



Position after 22...Rc6

23.Qh3

23.Rxc6!! is the Stockfish move. 23...Qxc6 24.g4 Nh6 25.h3 Rc8 26.Re3 Now White is ready to take back control of the c-file with 27.Rc3 followed by 28.Qc2. Black can prevent this with 26...Qc1+ 27.Kg2 but must return the queen at some point to defend the queen-side, for instance: 27...b6 28.Qb5 Qc7 (28...Qc2?? 29.Rc3+-) 29.Rc3±

23...Nh6 24.Qe3 Nf5!?

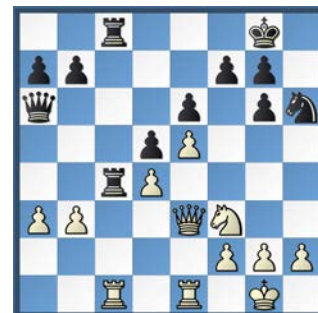
Played mostly because I wanted to see if he would offer a repetition, but also

mistaken because it allows White to enter a line similar to the note above with 25. Qd2 followed by Rxc6 and g4.

25.Qh3 Nh6 26.Qe3

I thought I still had chances to claim an advantage based on the c-file, so I played on.

26...Rfc8 27.Nf3 Rc4 28.b3



Position after 28.b3

28...Rc2?

Throwing away any winning chances. I thought my control of the c-file would be enough to claim an advantage but Anthony understood the balanced nature of the resulting position much quicker than me. 28...R4c6! This slow retreat was necessary if I wanted to continue. After White defends the hanging a-pawn Black can shift the queen to the c-file. 29.a4 Qb6+

29.Rxc2 Rxc2 30.Rc1 Qc6 31.Rxc2 Qxc2 32.h3

Only now did I realize that there isn't much to do. If I try ...Nf5 then Qg5 threatening Qd8+ followed by Ng5+ forces some kind of passive defensive move. My queen can never do anything productive, like take on a3, because if White's queen occupies the c-file I inevitably get checkmated on the back rank.

32...Kf8



Position after 32...Kf8

I was fantasizing about putting the king on e8, where it prevents the white queen from invading, and then playing ...Ng8-e7-c6, but it's not really possible. White can simply play g4 and meet ...Ng8 with Ng5, when ...Ne7 will lose to Qf4, hitting f7, so I'll have nothing better than to put the knight back on h6. Also it's not clear that I would have anything even if

my knight magically made it to c6, since White could then try other attacking ideas on the undefended king-side.

33.g4

White can't make progress either so he offered a draw, which I accepted.

1/2-1/2

Matt Zavortink (2219) – Shunkai Peng (2362) [A12]

68th Annual Oregon Open
Portland, OR (R5), September 3, 2018
[Matt Zavortink]

1.Nf3 d5 2.b3 Nf6 3.Bb2 Bf5 4.c4 e6 5.g3 h6 6.Bg2 c6 7.0-0 Nbd7 8.d3 Bd6?!



Position after 8...Bd6

I knew from playing this line as Black that this move is wrong, but I didn't know why. Obviously both sides must watch out for tactics involving a quick e4 followed by e5, winning a piece. I spent an embarrassingly long time thinking and failed to find the right move. I'd like to think I wasn't fully awake yet.

9.Re1?!

9.e4 right away is quite good after 9...dxe4 10.dxe4 Nxe4 11.Bxg7 Rg8 12.Bb2± but for some reason I didn't seriously consider this. (12.Bxh6?? Qf6+); 9.cxd5! is the correct way to punish Black: 9...cxd5 (9...exd5? and Black loses a full piece since the bishop on f5 is no longer defended by a pawn: 10.e4 dxe4 11.dxe4 Nxe4 12.Nh4+-) 10.e4 Bg4 (10...dxe4 11.dxe4 Nxe4 12.Bxg7 Rg8 13.Bb2± Compared to the variation after 9.e4, the inclusion of 9.cxd5 cxd5 has helped White, since the open c-file deprives the black king of any future shelter on the queen-side.) 11.exd5 Nxd5 (11...exd5 12.Re1+ Be7 13.Qe2± Black is unable to castle.) 12.Bxg7 Rg8 13.Bb2 and White is just a pawn up.

9...Bh7 10.Nbd2

10.e4 I was planning this when I played Re1 but got scared by 10...Bb4! 11.Nbd2 (11.e5! is the computer's suggestion. 11...Bxe1 12.exf6 Bxf2+ 13.Kxf2 Nxf6 14.Qe2 With a strange position in which White is perhaps slightly better.) 11...Nc5 when Black seems to be doing quite well despite lagging behind in development. I spent a long time looking at this position

and just couldn't find anything promising.

10...0-0



Position after 10...0-0

Here I felt extremely stupid, having burned around 30 minutes looking for a win that I couldn't find. I was also upset because I realized that by putting the bishop on d6 and getting away with it, Black had achieved an unnaturally good position that he shouldn't be able to reach. I wasn't sure what to do so I continued as if the bishop was on e7, which is definitely the wrong plan in the current position since Black's center is more mobile.

11.a3

I should probably play 11.e4, since my rook is on e1 and it threatens a fork, but I was more inclined to accept a solid yet passive position than to permanently weaken the d3/d4 squares.

11...a5 12.Ra2?! Re8

12...e5. I was quite concerned about this. 13.cxd5 cxd5 14.e4±

13.Qa1 Qe7?!

Too indecisive. 13...e5 was still a problem but there wasn't much to do about it. 14.cxd5 cxd5 15.e4±

14.Ne5

White naturally jumps at the chance to temporarily halt ...e5. Black can eventually break the blockade, but in the process some pieces will be exchanged, lessening the impact of any central advance.

14...Nxe5 15.Bxe5 Bxe5 16.Qxe5



Position after 16.Qxe5

16...Qc5

Played quickly. Black threatens ...Qxf2 followed by ...Ng4+, but it's not clear that

the queen is well placed here.

17.Qb2

I ultimately decided on this square for the queen after realizing there are tactics which justify pushing b4 on the next move. I spent some time thinking about 17.Nf3, since my knight may be thematically placed on c2 in the resulting reversed-Benoni structure. But Black has other options and it's not clear what Nf3 actually does. 17...Ng4 18.Qd4 Qxd4 19.Nxd4 e5 20.Nc2 d4=; I briefly considered 17.d4, but rejected it on general principle — it increases the scope of both of Black's minor pieces.

17...e5 18.b4

This move sets a positional trap, which to my surprise my opponent fell into.

18...axb4 19.axb4 Rxa2 20.Qxa2 Qxb4 21.Rb1 Qc5

21...Qe7 defends the b-pawn for the moment but lets White win d5.

22.Rxb7 Ng4



Position after 22...Ng4

I believe Black went into this line thinking that the attack on f2 was unstoppable, but missed

23.Qa7±

when suddenly White has a simple, risk-free edge. Now my opponent thought for a very long time. 23.e3? From far away perhaps this move seemed forced, when White's position disintegrates. 23...Bxd3±

23...Qxa7 24.Rxa7 e4

Black wants to reduce his losing chances by trading as many pawns as possible. Thankfully this endgame basically plays itself for White. I shouldn't exchange pawns on d5 because the c6 pawn is a nice target for my rook.

25.dxe4 dxe4 26.Rc7 Ne5 27.c5

27.Nxe4 Bxe4 28.Bxe4 Nxc4 29.f3 White will round up c6 and remain a pawn ahead, but this wasn't worth serious consideration as White has lost his main trump, the potential passed c-pawn.

27...f5

An ugly move, further restricting the bishop on h7, but it's hard to suggest

anything else.

28.f4

Simply dislodging the defender of c6.

28...exf3

28...Ng4 I thought this might be a good practical chance, possibly introducing some mating ideas, but White has ample defensive resources, and can even play a slow move like 29. Nf1 (keeping the knight out of e3), followed by h3, and then finally take on c6.

29.Nxf3!

29.exf3 f4 30.gxf4 Nd3 31.Rxc6 I thought this might be good as well, but Black has succeeded in activating his pieces, so the alternative seemed smarter.

29...Ng4

29...Nxf3+ 30.Bxf3 and the c-pawn is lost.

30.h3

30.Nd4 I looked at this but was concerned about 30...Rd8! 31.Rxg7+? Kh8! and White has to start finding weird moves just to hold.

30...Ne3 31.Nd4



Position after 31.Nd4

31...f4?

Black is getting slowly pressed and lashes out in an attempt to activate his pieces, but it quickly backfires. 31...Nxc6 is what I expected. During the game I thought White was winning but Stockfish finds some nice drawing resources. Below is just one sample line that I found particularly elegant. 32.Kxg2 Re4 33.Nxc6 (33.Rd7?! Re5! and now White's c-pawn is the one dropping.) 33...Rxe2+ 34.Kf3 Rc2 (34...Re4 is more accurate according to Stockfish, but less intuitive than getting behind the passed pawn immediately. I believe the main point is that now 35.Ne7+ does not win a tempo, since after 35...Kf8 the knight is attacked and must move again.) 35.Ne7+ Kf8 36.c6 Rc4 37.Ra7?! I saw this configuration of pieces (Ra7, Ne7) during the game and thought it would win, but in this position White should try something else since Black has the following brilliant defensive resource: 37...f4!! 38.c7 (38.gxf4 Be4+ wins the c6 pawn.) 38...Be4+ 39.Ke2 (39.

Kg4 f3! 40.c8Q+ Rxc8 41.Nxc8 f2 42.Ra1 Bg2=; 39.Kxf4 Bb7+ 40.Ke5 Rxc7=) 39...Rc2+= The white king gets stuck in perpetual check since 40.Kd1?? allows 40...fxc3! 41.c8Q+ Rxc8 42.Nxc8 g2-+

32.Bxc6 Re5

It makes sense to go after the c-pawn, but after

33.gxf4

the rook is actually trapped in the middle of the board. White will play 34.Rc8+ Kf7 35.Be8+ winning the rook regardless of whether it is on h5 or c5.

33...Rh5 34.Rc8+ 1-0

Stephanie Velea (1676) –

Steven E. Merwin (1976) [B01]

68th Annual Oregon Open (U2000)

Portland, OR (R6), September 3, 2018

[Steven Merwin]

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Nf6 3.d4 Bg4

The Portugese Variation.

4.Be2

One of several possible replies, but probably the most solid as it assures White a small advantage without risk. Still, Black always has ways to spice things up, which is why I have been playing the Portugese for many years (as have Mika Mitchell, H.G. Pitre, and several other Northwest players).

4...Bxe2 5.Qxe2 Qxd5 6.Nf3 Nc6



Position after 6...Nc6

7.Nc3!?

Not the best choice since at some point White would like the option to advance the c-pawn to c3 to protect the d-pawn or to c4 help advance it, and the text move simply prompts Black to move the Queen to an ultra-solid square. In fact, 7.c4 right away is correct according to GM David Smerdon in Smerdon's "Scandinavian," which is far and away the best book on this opening.

7...Qf5 8.0-0 e6 9.Rd1 Be7 10.Bg5?!

This move helps Black decide which way to castle, and the end result will be dual attacks on the Kings (which is what Black is hoping for with this opening). Safer would be 10.a3 when Black should

probably opt to castle short.

10...0-0 11.Bh4?!



Position after 11.Bh4

11...g5?!

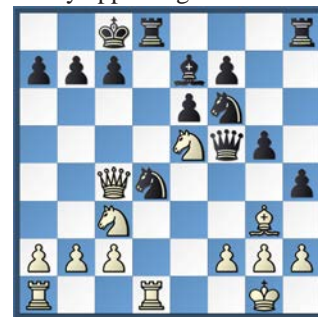
A common sacrifice in this opening, and I was counting on White replying with 12.Bg3 and then I would continue with a rapid attack. However, I overrated Black's position after 12.Bxg5! Nxd4 13.Rxd4 Rxd4 14.Nxd4 Qxg5 15.Rd1 Rg8 16.g3 h5, overlooking 17.Nxe6!

12.Bg3 h5 13.Ne5 Nxd4?

Overzealous on my part, as I underestimated the exposed condition of my king after White's reply. Much better, and safer, was 13...Nxe5 14.Bxe5 with an approximately equal game.

14.Qc4 h4

Before playing this move I spent considerable time trying calculate the enormous complications after White's best response and determined I had only two replies and was probably worse in each case. In retrospect, I should have played the move immediately since the only other reasonable continuation, 14...c5, is hardly appealing.



Position after 14...h4

15.Ng6!

White's best and essentially only move so no double exclamation point here, but not necessarily easy to see and a striking position nonetheless. White is threatening three black pieces (including a knight check which also picks up Black's queen) and oh by the way she is threatening mate in one, while simultaneously hanging two of her own pieces! I now spent much of my remaining time reanalyzing my only two game-saving moves, each with its own set of complications.

15...Rd7

The other try here is 15...Qc5, but I rejected it due to 16.Qxc5 Bxc5 17.Be5! (there is no time for Nxh8) fxg6 18.Bxf6 Nxc2 19.Rxd8+ Rxd8 20.Rc1 Rf8 21.Rxc2 Rxf6 22.Ne4 and White gains the exchange and will probably win.



Position after 15...Rd7

16.Nxh8?

White should simplify the position with 16.Nxe7+ Rxe7, and I was particularly worried about 17.Bd6! when I have to give up the exchange with 17...Nc6 18.Bxe7 Nxe7 and will need to fight just to hold the draw, similar to the end result after 15...Qc5. But, I thought 15...Rd7 offered more complications for White to wade through and decided to take the chance my opponent would go wrong. Fortunately, the hanging rook proved too tempting.

16...hxg3

Now White is technically lost but the complications are anything but easy, especially in view of the clock situation.

17.fxg3

There is nothing else, as 17.Rxd4 allows 17...Qxf2+ 18.Kh1 Rxd4 with a dominant position, while 17.Rf1 allows 17...Qh7 picking up the wayward Knight.



Position after 17.fxg3

17...Bc5?

A move which looks obvious, but after White's forced response the win is far from straightforward. I missed the simple win with 17...Ng4! 18.Rf1 Qh7 19.h3 Ne3.

18.Kh1 Ng4

A move too late, if White responds with the necessary 19.Rf1. Then 19...Qh7

20.h3 Bb6 21.Na4 and both sides have chances. But, my opponent erred here.

19.Rd2?



Position after 19.Rd2

19...Bb6?

And I erred right back. Instead, the stunning move 19...Nf3!! wins. Black threatens mate in one and White cannot take the offered piece, as 20.gxf3 allows 20...Qxf3+ 21.Rg2 Rd2 22.Qf1 Nf2+ 23.Kg1 Nd1+ and mate to follow. Perhaps even more aesthetically pleasing would have been 19...Nxh2!! 20.Qd3 Ng4! 21.Qxf5 Nxf5 and the threat of Nxg3 mate would force White to jettison material. Difficult lines to find for both players with such little time left. Fortunately, my "safety net in time pressure" move Bb6 proved just enough to win.

20.h3 Nf2+ 21.Rxf2

White correctly rejected 21.Kh2 which allows mate in three.

21...Qxf2

Now after all this chaos material is equal again, but Black's pieces are better placed and White can't address all the threats.

22.Qf1 Qxf1+ 23.Rxf1 Nf5 24.Rf3



Position after 24.Rf3

24...g4?!

Perhaps a bit too tricky here. The simple 24...Bd4 would have won a piece.

25.hxg4 f6 26.Ng6 Rh7+ 27.Nh4 Nxh4 28.gxh4 Rxh4+ 29.Rh3 Rxg4

This forced sequence has resulted in a won endgame for Black. The next eleven moves were blitzed off so that both players could make time control. Thanks goodness for the 10 second delay!

30.Rh6 Kd7 31.Kh2 f5 32.Rh5 Bf2

33.Nd1 Rh4+ 34.Rxh4 Bxh4 35.Ne3 Bf6 36.c3 Kc6 37.Kh3 b5 38.g4 f4 39.Nf1 Kd5 40.Nd2 e5

Black's connected passed pawns allowed a win after 16 more moves.

0-1

James Edward Tarjan (2490) –
Matt Zavortink (2219) [D41]

68th Annual Oregon Open
Portland, OR (R6), September 3, 2018
[James Tarjan]

1.c4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 c5 5.cxd5 Nxd5 6.e3 cxd4 7.exd4 Nxc3 8.bxc3 Qc7 9.Bd2 Nd7 10.Bd3 Be7

10...b6; 10...Bd6

11.0-0 b6 12.Ng5

Already this precise position is not in my database of games, though of course many games with the same structure. 12.Re1

12...Nf6 13.Qf3 Bb7

13...0-0?! is a thought, planning to trade queen for two rooks. But there are problems: 14.Bf4 (14.Nxh7!? Nxh7 15.Bf4) 14...Qb7 forced 15.Qh3 h6 16.Be5!

14.Qh3

14.Bb5+ is not convincing as White's bishop is then misplaced and Black's king is not so bad on f8: 14...Kf8

14...h6

14...Bd5!? but as Black played looks wiser.



Position after 14...h6

15.Rfe1

I considered barreling ahead with 15.f4 0-0 but didn't see a clear follow-up and the computer agrees; 15.Rae1 to later push the f-pawn or open the g-file but again the computer is not convinced and I didn't want to burn any bridges 15...0-0 16.Nf3 Bxf3 17.Qxf3 (17.gxf3!? with complications 17...Rfd8 (17...Bd6) 18.Kh1 Rd5) 17...Rfd8 18.Qh3 (18.g4)

15...0-0 16.Nf3 Bxf3 17.Qxf3

17.gxf3!? but again I didn't really believe it and didn't want to burn my bridges. At the board I saw both of Houdini's main lines: 17...Bd6 (or 17...Rfd8 18.Kh1 Rd5)

18.Bxh6 (18.Qh4!?) 18...Bf4 19.Bxg7 Kxg7 20.Qg2+ Kh8 21.Qh3+=

17...Rfd8

During the game I wasn't sure but in fact our play is logical. We have followed Houdini's first suggestions, and the general pattern of prior games, with White having a slight edge. However, this type of position is always double-edged, with Black having a solid structure and play against the hanging pawns. White wants to throw everything at Black's kingside, but as in the game, Black can defend. It should help White that ...h6 has been played.

18.Re3

18.a4 is the positional plan, to play a5, saddle Black with a weakness on b6, and equalize the pawn weaknesses as it were. But really, if White is going to get somewhere, he has to attack on the kingside in one way or another. I was hoping to do that carefully, without weakening my own structure in a way that would turn against me later. Probably it is right to throw in a4-a5 and otherwise hold the position as is.; Houdini's plan of 18.g3 and h4 is interesting, foregoing the rook lift but protecting squares on the kingside and keeping in hand a possible later g4 or h5.

18...Bf8 19.Rae1 Rac8



Position after 19...Rac8

20.Qe2

If 20.Qh3 Rd5

20...Kh8

At the board I didn't like this move for Black and the computer agrees. It seems to me that the king is not necessarily secure in the corner and might want the possibility of running the other way to f8. Just to show the tactical complexity that lies just under the surface, we can look at the line 20...Nd5 21.Rf3 Nxc3 22.Bxc3 Qxc3 intending to give queen for rook, bishop and pawn or, after 23.Ba6, give up the exchange for a pawn and a solid, superior pawn structure. But White has: 23.Qe4! g6 (23...Bb4 24.Qh7+ Kf8 25.Rxe6! wins) 24.Rxf7! Qxe1+ 25.Qxe1 Kxf7 26.g3 with the initiative because if 26...Rxd4 27.Bxg6+ All computer analysis: I saw none of this at the board.

21.Rf3

I was continuously looking for the right moment to push the kingside pawns, and this might be it: 21.g4

21...Qe7

I completely missed the point of this move, which is to defend the Nf6 so Black can play ...g6 and fianchetto his bishop.

22.Bb1

22.Rh3 would cross White's plan and after 22...Kg8 again consider 23.g4

22...Rd5 23.Qd3 g6 24.c4

But even so this is promising, with the possibility of d5.



Position after 24.c4

24...Rh5!

If he goes back "normally" to d7 or d8, Black is in trouble after Bc3 and d5. The rook on h5 protects the e5 square and allows Black to meet a White d5 with ...e5. Yes the rook is in danger of being trapped over there, or being stuck out of play, but especially in practical terms it is the right choice.

25.h3

The obvious move to guard the h2 pawn, to entrap the rook with g4, and to make luft.

25...Bg7 26.Rc1?

There is no easy breakthrough, and uncertain how to proceed, I totally lose the thread of the game. Straightforward play keeps White's advantage: 26.d5 e5 27.g4 Rh4 28.Bf4 The position remains very complicated, but it is Black who is under the gun. Then 28...Nxc4 is possible but after (28...e4 29.Qa3! is nice chess, one point being 29...Qxa3 30.Rxa3 Rxc4 31.Kg2 and the wayward rook on h4 is lost for insufficient material compensation) 29.hxg4 Rxc4+ 30.Kf1! the game goes on but White is for choice.

26...e5?

In a messy complicated position, we both weaken. Matt was getting short of time; I had plenty of time but simply did not see the lines. After some small move such as 26...Qd7, 26...Kg8, or 26...Rh4 chances are about equal.

27.g4

The practical choice would have been 27.Re3 with an advantage and no kingside weakening and hence no Black counterplay. For example 27...Qc7 28.Qe2! so that if 28...exd4 29.Re7 followed by taking on f7.

27...Rh4 28.Re1?

28.dxe5! with a clear advantage. Not so hard (in hindsight, of course, and with the computer running in the background) to see that after for example 28...Qxe5 (28...Nd7 29.Qd6) 29.Bc3 Qg5 30.Re1 Black's assembly of power on the kingside is a sham threat; he will end up sacrificing the knight, but without enough compensation.

28...e4 29.Qf1?

Much better is the computer's 29.Qa3! for example 29...Qd7 30.Bxe4 Rxc4 31.Ba8! is sweet, keeping the bishop on the long diagonal.

29...Qd7 30.Bxe4



Position after 30.Bxe4

I don't want to speak for my opponent, but as for myself, I realized I had lost the logic of the position and all I could do was make one move at a time, and hope for the best, in a terribly complicated middle game position.

30...Nxe4 31.Rxe4 f5! 32.Ref4 fxc4 33.Rg3

33.Qd3! =

33...Rxb3

33...g5 34.Rfxg4 Rxc4 35.Rxc4 Bxd4 and it is close to equal but if anyone is for choice it is Black.

34.Rgxc4 Rh5

34...Rf3 =

35.Rxg6

35.Qd3 holding onto the passed d-pawn and I prefer White. My king is safe enough with those rooks in front of it.

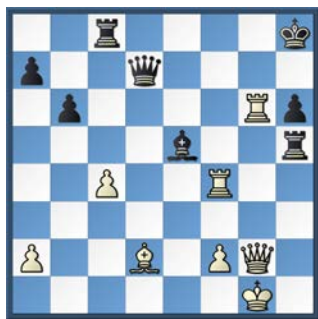
35...Bxd4 36.Qg2

But this is also dangerous to Black.

36...Be5?

The position is beyond both players and inevitably missed tactics slip in. Remarkably, Black has only one move: 36...Bg7! = The play around here, however embarrassing to the floundering

players, is something for a book of tactical exercises.



Position after 36...Be5

37.Qg4?

37.Qf3!! This would have been a nice one to spot. White wins: 37...Bxf4 (37...Qxd2 38.Rf8+) 38.Bxf4! Rh4 (38...Rh3 39.Qxh3! Qxh3 40.Be5+; 38...Rcc5 39.Be5+ Kh7 40.Qxh5) 39.Bg3! Rh3 40.Be5+ Kh7 41.Qxh3! Qxh3 42.Rg7+ Kh8 43.Rg3+ and wins: wonderful tactics.

37...Qxg4+ 38.Rfxg4 Kh7 39.Re6 Rc7 40.Kf1

I had sufficient time to contemplate my 40th move, but didn't even consider 40.Bxh6 winning a pawn. However, the position is still a draw because of White's weak queenside pawns, for example 40...Rhx6 41.Rxe5 Rg6 42.Rg2 Rxc2+ 43.Kxg2 Kg6 44.Re4 Rc5 45.a3 Ra5 46.Re3 Rc5 47.Rc3 Kf5.

40...Bg7

I was hoping for 40...Rg7?? 41.Rxe5 Rxe5 42.Rxg7+ Kxg7 43.Bc3 Kf6 44.f4 Even dumber things have happened after all, especially on the 40th move.

41.Rge4

The time control is reached, and the smoke has cleared into an even endgame. With all those rooks on the board, there is still play, and the opportunity to make mistakes. But realistically it is hard to see White's chances for more than a draw here. Black's outside passed pawn can become a factor: take all the rooks and bishops off the board and White can resign. And my queenside pawns are isolated. But OK, let's just keep playing chess, especially with first place on the line. Perhaps if I get my passed pawn up to f5, supported by my king, or if he blunders his h-pawn. My rooks are coordinated and his on h5 is still a bit misplaced perhaps.

41...Rh1+ 42.Kg2 Rd1

One can hope for 42...Ra1?? 43.Re7.

43.Be3 Bf8 44.Rf6

44.Rh4 looks like the way to at least keep trying but the position is a draw, and if White missteps he can lose to that outside passed pawn. 44...Rg7+ 45.Kf3 Rg6 46.Re8.

44...Bg7 45.Rfe6 Bf8 46.Rf4 Rd6



Position after 46...Rd6

Here I sensed, aside from the drawish look of the position, that at this point I was seeing less than my opponent, and I also noticed I was spending more time than he, in this the final time control to the ten second delay blitz finale. I decided to make a move and offer a draw, which was accepted.

47.Re8

In our brief discussion after the game, Matt pointed out the following variation. The fact that I had not considered it, but he had, lent evidence to my decision to call it a day. 47.Rxd6 Bxd6 48.Rf6 Rg7+ 49.Kf3 Rg6 I got this far and figured with the outside passed pawn only Black can have chances 50.Rf7+ This I hadn't considered 50...Rg7 51.Rxg7+ (51.Rf6 Rg6 52.Rf7+ Rg7 53.Rf6 with a draw by repetition would have been a tidy way to end the game) 51...Kxg7 52.Ke4 and we get to an endgame that still has play in it, with White's advanced king compensating for the outside passed pawn. With more time on the clock, and more chess strength, I should have gone for it as White has at least a draw but Black can go wrong: 52...Bc5? is a tempting error (But if Black does not trade bishops it will be a draw, even if he cannot get his king over in front of the f-pawn. Perfect accuracy is not required; here is one line: 52...Kg6 53.Kd5 (53.f4 h5 54.f5+ Kf6=) 53...Bf8 54.Ke6 h5 55.f4 h4 56.f5+ Kh7 57.f6 h3 58.Bf4 Kg6 59.f7 and the two players move their bishops back and forth before agreeing to a draw.) 53.Bxc5 bxc5 54.Kf5 One of those remarkably tricky king and pawns endgames. I lost one to Ipatov in the recent US Open. There he won with the outside passed pawn. But here White wins because of his advanced king. 54...Kf7 55.f3! Using zugzwang, White either wins Black's h-pawn or queens his f-pawn before Black queens his h-pawn. It is these deceptively simple positions that to me best display the beauty and depth of chess. (55.f4? is a draw).

1/2-1/2

And now, same game, different point-of-view:

James Edward Tarjan (2490) –
Matt Zavortink (2219) [D41]
68th Annual Oregon Open
Portland, OR (R6), September 3, 2018
[Matt Zavortink]

1.c4 e6 2.d4

2.Nf3 d5 3.g3 I believe this is Jim's normal choice, but he wants to avoid my home preparation against his Reti.

2...d5 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 c5 5.cxd5 Nxd5 6.e3

Before the game I had identified this line as a likely choice against my Semi-Tarrasch, but didn't look at it deeply enough.

6...cxd4

6...Nc6 Black can also continue in formulaic Semi-Tarrasch fashion: 7.Bd3 Be7 8.0-0 0-0 9.a3 Nxc3!? 10.bxc3 b6 with an approximately level position in which Black can make a few more "automatic" moves like ...Bb7, ...Qc7, ...Rfd8, and ...Rac8.

7.exd4 Nxc3!?

An uncommon move that I learned about due to the game Izoria - Shankland from the US championship. 7...Bb4 is much more common, reaching a typical IQP position that can arise from several openings.

8.bxc3 Qc7

Now we've reached a typical "hanging pawns" structure. Black's idea is that this version must be OK for him since ...Qc7 forces a passive move from White.

9.Bd2

9.Bb2 was played in the game I mentioned above, but it allows Black a nice trick. 9...Nd7 10.Bd3?! Ba3! and Black instantly equalizes.

9...Nd7 10.Bd3



Position after 10.Bd3

10...Be7!?

Too passive. This is a normal square for the bishop in the Semi-Tarrasch, but I should have recognized that we're in a different structure now. 10...Bd6 The bishop is much better placed here. Black has a great score from this position in my database.; 10...b6 Fianchettoing before

committing the dark-squared bishop is also good.

11.0-0 b6

11...0-0 This natural move runs into some trouble after 12.Qe2! when Black cannot develop normally: 12...b6? 13.Qe4 Threatening mate and the rook. White has the following resource to extract his queen from a8: 13...Nf6 14.Qxa8 Bd7 15.Bf4!+-

12.Ng5!



Position after 12.Ng5

Aggressive and terrifying. Here I became somewhat panicky since a lot of Black's natural moves lose immediately.

12...Nf6

12...Bb7? 13.Qh5± and I have to make some severe concessions on the kingside. Note that if my dark-squared bishop was properly developed on d6 this wouldn't be a big deal at all — Black could simply reply 14...Nf6 and the queen would defend f7.; 12...Bxg5?! 13.Bxg5 This was a way to bail out into a somewhat worse, possibly defensible position, but I'd rather not give up the bishop pair without a fight. Note that I can't take on c3 for a number of reasons, including the simple 13...Qxc3 14.Be4 Rb8 15.Bf4+- when my rook is simply trapped.; 12...h6? loses to the simple 13.Nxf7 Kxf7 14.Qf3+ and once again my rook on a8 is dropping.

13.Qf3 Bb7

13...0-0 I thought about trying to trap the white queen on a8 but White has a couple options. 14.Bf4! (14.Qxa8?! Bb7 15.Qxa7 Ra8 16.Bf4 Qc6 17.Qxa8+ Bxa8 18.Nf3 Even in this sub-optimal line White's extra material is probably more valuable than Black's activity.) 14...Qb7 15.Qh3 h6 16.Be5! I saw that I'm going to have to give material after 17. Bxf6 and then either 18. Be4 or 18. Nh7!

14.Qh3

Very strong and accurate play from White. 14.Bb5+ I spent a lot of time on move 12 calculating this, which forces my king to move. 14...Kf8 15.Qh3 White is threatening 16.Qxe6 but I have a number of defensive ideas including the simple 15...Kg8 when Black's position is solid. It will take several moves to activate my h8 rook, but White's pieces are also

somewhat scattered. I was expecting this line and thought I must be somewhat worse. To my surprise the computer thinks it is dead equal.

14...h6

I need to castle but must avoid getting checkmated on h7. Obviously I would prefer not to move the kingside pawns but I didn't see any good alternatives. 14...Nd5 I actually considered this move, planning ...Nf4, but didn't believe I could survive without castling as soon as possible. 15.f4!±

15.Rfe1

15.Nxe6 Naturally I spent some time worrying about this but decided Black is doing well. 15...fxe6 16.Qxe6 and I saw two defensive ideas: 16...Bd5 (16...Qc6 17.Bg6+ Kd8) 17.Bg6+ Kf8 18.Qh3 Bf7 In both cases it will take Black a few moves to untangle, but White has insufficient compensation.

15...0-0 16.Nf3

I was happy to have finally castled, but now I have to worry about Bxh6 as well as Ne5 when it looks like I'm going to get checkmated, so I thought my next move was forced, though undesirable. 16.Nxe6? This wins material but is horrible. 16...fxe6 17.Qxe6+ Rf7 18.Bg6 Raf8 19.Bxf7+ Rxf7+ White has given away his nice attacking pieces and activated Black's entire army.

16...Bxf3 17.Qxf3

17.gxf3 We both spent time calculating this. I was planning the play the second best line 17...Bd6 (17...Rfd8 The computer points out that of course this calm natural move is also fine for Black. 18.Bxh6? Qxc3 19.Qg2 Bf8±) 18.Bxh6 Bf4! 19.Bxf4 Qxf4 Black is down a pawn but has great compensation due to his dark square control and White's shattered structure.

17...Rfd8



Position after 17...Rfd8

Here I was relieved to have survived the first wave of White's attack, but I had burned way too much time, and now had only 25 minutes to make it to move 40.

18.Re3 Bf8

Trying to play quickly, I make a

number of paranoid defensive moves. I underestimated the resiliency of my position. 18...Nd5! I'm not sure what Jim was planning on this move. I thought he might be baiting me into this since after 19.Re2 c4 looks like it's coming next move. I failed to appreciate that Black can play 19...Bg5! and now White's attack is actually harmless: 20.Bxg5 hxg5 21.Qh5? Qxc3±

19.Rae1 Rac8 20.Qe2 Kh8?!

I spent too much time here and couldn't see anything good so I made another "defensive" move that probably just helps White. In many potential variations f6 and h6 are now captured with check so the king was probably just better on g8. 20...Nd5 21.Rf3 stopping ...Nf4, looked undesirable.

21.Rf3



Position after 21.Rf3

White threatens Bxh6 when the f6 knight hangs, so

21...Qe7

with the idea of playing ...g6 and ...Bg7, when I felt like my king would be well defended.

22.Bb1 Rd5?!

With 10 minutes for 18 moves I came up with a strange idea of putting my rook on h5, where it would defend the kingside. 22...g6 was more natural.

23.Qd3 g6 24.c4 Rh5 25.h3 Bg7



Position after 25...Bg7

26.Rc1

26.d5± I must be busted after some straightforward advance in the center like this, but at least my rook on h5 enables me to play 26...e5 when I can dream about ...Nd7 and ...f5 with a complex position.

26...e5?

I should get my queen off the e-file before I do this. After 26...Kg8 the computer considers the position roughly level.

27.g4

A good move, forcing my rook to strand itself on h4, but I was at least happy to see some kind of potential weakness in the white king-side.

27...Rh4

27...e4 I didn't play this because of the simple 28.Qa3 Qxa3 (28...Qd7? 29.Rxf6 and White wins material.) 29.Rxa3 Rh4+- I cannot survive this simplified position with my rook spectating on h4, even if it doesn't get captured immediately.

28.Re1

28.dxe5! Qxe5 (28...Nd7 I wanted this to work but it doesn't because of the simple 29.Qd6±) 29.Bc3 Qg5+- We both looked at this position during the game and thought Black was doing well, but the computer clearly demonstrates that White is just winning. 30.Re1 h5 What else? Black needs to try to attack the white king or else his rook on h4 is doing nothing. 31.Bd2 Qc5 32.g5! Rd4 If Black moves the knight instead then 33.Rxf7 and White is crashing through. 33.gxf6! Rxd3 34.fxg7+ Kxg7 35.Bxd3 White has way too much material for the queen.

28...e4 29.Qf1

29.Qa3! I didn't think this move was a big deal, but I failed to appreciate one key difference compared to the game continuation: 29...Qc7 30.Bxe4 Nxe4 31.Rxe4 and here 31...f5? fails because of 32.Re7!+-

29...Qd7

Getting the queen off the e-file and putting it where it eyes h2... Oh wait. In the stress of extreme time pressure I intended to play 29...Qc7 and accidentally did this instead, but it's better to be lucky than good and this move is probably stronger. 29...Qc7 My intended tactic doesn't even work: 30.Bxe4 Nxe4? 31.Bf4 and Black drops a piece. Hopefully I would have switched back to the ...f5 plan but who knows.

30.Bxe4 Nxe4 31.Rxe4 f5!

Breaking the rook out of its prison. I had seen this idea several moves ago and suddenly felt like I may be better, although in reality the position is close to equal.

32.Ref4 fxe4

Here I thought I was just winning a pawn and crashing through on the king-side, but I had about three minutes to make it to the time control, so I naively offered a draw.

White thought for five minutes and played

33.Rg3

which I had not considered at all.



Position after 33.Rg3

33...Rxb3

33...g5= I rejected this move, which is a lot safer than what I played, for reasons I cannot remember. Perhaps I was still fantasizing about attacking on the kingside, when in reality I should just be trying to take White's passed d-pawn and hold the resulting position.

34.Rgxe4 Rh5?!

34...Rf3!= is a strong computer move.

35.Rxg6

35.Qd3± I didn't consider this move. White should try to hold onto his passed d-pawn if he wants to win.

35...Bxd4 36.Qg2

36.Rfg4 I was anticipating this but don't recall what I was planning.

36...Be5?

After I played this I momentarily thought I was just winning. In fact this move loses but White must find an inhuman computer tactic.



Position after 36...Be5

37.Qg4?

37.Rfg4!? After the game I was wondering about this move, simply trying to mate on the g-file. I probably would have lost if this had appeared on the board. Black must find 37...Qd3!!= in order to keep the white queen out of g6 and threaten ...Bh2+. If I make it this far, then White must find (37...Qf5? just drops the h6 pawn 38.Rxb6+ Rxb6 39.Bxb6; 37...Qxd2?? 38.Rg8+ Rxe8 39.Rxe8+ Kh7 40.Qg6#; 37...Bh2+?? 38.Qxh2 Rxb2

39.Bc3+-) 38.Be1!! (38.Rxb6+?? Rxb6 39.Bxb6 Qd1+ 40.Qf1 Qxe4+-; 38.Rg8+?? Rxe8 39.Rxe8+ Kh7 40.Be1 Bh2+ 41.Kh1 Bg3+ 42.Kg1 Kxe8+) 38...Bh2+ 39.Qxh2 Rxb2 40.Kxb2 and now it's a ridiculous draw since Black cannot adequately defend h6: 40...Kh7 (40...Rc7?? 41.Rg3!+- preparing 42.Bc3+) 41.Rg7+ Kh8 42.R7g6=; 37.Qf3!! Threatening the h5 rook and Rf8+. What follows is pure computer analysis: 37...Bxf4 38.Bxf4! Rh4 (38...Rf5 I get mated quickly if my rook abandons the h6 pawn: 39.Qc3+ Kh7 40.Rxb6+ Kg8 41.Qh8+ etc.) 39.Bg3!! (39.Be5+? Kh7 40.Rg7+ Qxe7+ 41.Bxe7 Rg8!= (41...Kxe7?? 42.Qb7+-)) 39...Rh3 Again, Black must tend the h6-pawn. 40.Be5+ Kh7 41.Qxh3! Qxh3 42.Rg7+ Kh8 43.Rg3+ Kh7 44.Rxb3+-

37...Qxe4+ 38.Rfxg4 Kh7

I need to defend h6 and also I figured it was wise to get my king on a light square.

39.Re6 Rc7 40.Kf1 Bg7



Position after 40...Bg7

41.Rge4

I was extremely relieved to reach the time control and this presumably drawn position. Jim thought for roughly 2 minutes and then played this rook move, which scared me a lot, because it took me around 7 minutes to understand the point.

41...Rh1+

This move is fine but there were simpler options. 41...Rf7 This is probably the most straightforward. I'll put the other rook on f5 and then I can think about ...h5 followed by ...Bf8-c5, when it's hard to see how White will defend the f-pawn while keeping any play in the position.; 41...Rhc5 At first I thought this won a pawn, then I decided it lost to Bf4 and Re7, but the computer shows it is clearly equal as well. 42.Bf4 Rc8 43.Re7 Rxc4 44.Rxc4 Rxc4 45.Be5 Rg4 It's difficult to see that this defensive move is available from the initial position since so many pieces in the variation temporarily block the 4th rank. 46.Rxa7 Kg8=

42.Kg2

42.Ke2 Ra1 And now Re7+ Bc3 tactics don't quite work out since a2 hangs with check or a pin.

42...Rd1

42...Ra1?? 43.Re7 Rxe7 44.Rxe7 and I drop a piece to either 45.Bc3 or 45.Rxg7+ and 46.Bc3+

43.Be3 Bf8

I found this move quickly and really liked it. The bishop covers e7, supports ...Rd6, and allows the c7 rook to defend the h6 pawn via ...Rg7+ followed by ...Rg6

44.Rf6 Bg7 45.Rfe6 Bf8 46.Rf4

46.Rh4 Rg7+ 47.Kf3 Rg6=

46...Rd6

Trying to force some pieces off the board.

47.Re8

White offered a draw which of course I accepted. All I try to do is play normal moves, so I feel somewhat weird about drawing a grandmaster after my absurd rook maneuvering in the middlegame. 47.Rxd6 is the main line we were both calculating: 47...Bxd6 48.Rf6 and here I had two defensive ideas. 48...Rg7+ (48...Bc5 was my backup move, which should also draw. 49.Rxh6+ (49.Bxh6 Bd4= Black captures c4 next.) 49...Kg7 50.Bf4! I did not consider this, when Black must find some precise moves according to the computer. (50.Rh4 Bxe3 51.fxe3 Rc5 52.Kf3 Ra5 53.Rh2 Kf6= This shouldn't be too hard to hold.) 50...Rd7 51.Rc6 Rd3! Black temporarily sacrifices a second pawn but gets extremely active. 52.Rc7+ Kf6 53.Rxa7 Rc3 54.Ra4 Kf5 55.Bg3 Ke4= White's c4-pawn will be lost in a moment.) 49.Kf3 Rg6 50.Rf7+ While waiting for White's 47th move I noticed this subtlety, which freaked me out a bit, since (50.Rxg6 Kxg6 I originally calculated this which looked extremely straightforward since Black can play ...Bc5 next, when the outside passed pawn guarantees good chances in the ensuing pawn ending.) 50...Rg7 51.Rxg7+ Kxg7 52.Ke4 isn't quite as straightforward. 52...Kg6!= Just keeping the white king out of f5 before playing ...h5. I was calculating this when White offered the draw. (52...Bc5? Now I was intuitively suspicious of this idea since White's king can get more active: 53.Bxc5 bxc5 54.Kf5! and the computer agrees that White's one extra rank (compared to the 50.Rxg6 variation above in which Black's king would be on g6) shifts the evaluation from equal to lost.; 52...h5?! 53.Kf5 This also looked suspect.)

1/2-1/2



September PCC Game 60

By Brian Berger

Portland, OR—September 29, 2018

It had been a grueling couple of months for the Old Man—Brian “I’m Just Glad To Be Here” Berger (1552-1500—1.0/4)—who writes about the fortunes and failures of many who attend the monthly tournaments held at the Portland Chess Club. But recently (his last tournament), this same old man saw a divine ray of sunlit-hope cast away the shadows of a string of past losses, when he successfully tied for first place in the club’s monthly Tuesday Night Quads, upping his rating 52 points above his floor of 1500—a feat equivalent (for him) of an Olympic weightlifter adding another 52 pounds to his best lift.

Taking this as an omen of good things to come, he came to Game/60 with high expectations of upping his rating even more, only to be sorely disappointed. What he had deemed to be a sign of breaking out of a slump turned out to be another one of those cosmic jokes played on old men of a certain age, who still think they can compete with unrated and underrated youngsters, who turned out to be the most numerous of the tournament’s Lower Section. The result was an almost instantaneous loss of those precious 52 points won only a few days prior!

Surprisingly, the only other person that comes near to his record of ups and downs, Jerrold “I Just Want To Reach 1600 Before It’s Over” Richards (1386-1471—3.5/4), who like the mythical Phoenix has arisen from the ashes of self-immolation more times than most struggling older gentlemen (see the September issue of *Northwest Chess*), managed somehow to become the second-place winner in this very same section.

Having plummeted from a recent high of 1528 to a near-floor figure of 1386, Richards was not an opponent you would want to place your money on if you were a betting person. But he showed he could (possibly with the help of Morgan the Dog) rise once again from the ashes to hold his own against a field of mostly low-rated munchkins and a 1600 contender.

His reward for this effort kicked him up 85 points and placed \$48 in his pocket, enough money to assure that Morgan would not go hungry that evening.

That same 18-player Lower Section had Ethan Zhang (1495-1542—4.0) winning all four of his games, raking in \$84 and tacking on another 47 rating points. And it was an unrated player from

Washington, Timm DiStefano (Unrated-1506P—2.5/4), who won the U1200/Unrated money (\$48), propelling him to C-player, provisional status—and I’m guessing, a thirst for higher ratings and more money.

Although the 17-player Main Section did not entice any Masters or Experts this time around, the field still held some tough, competitive contenders. Raj Kodithyala (1766-1839—3.5/4), a name coming up more often of late for his winning ways, was the overall winner, adding \$80 to his bank account and the right to be smug about it.

Just a half-point behind him were Chris Burris (1630-1714—3.0/4) and Zoey Tang (1752-1806—3.0/4), who split the 2nd/U1800 prize, each receiving \$46. Tang, a youngster who has shown improvement in almost every tournament, will now demand even more respect as an A-player—although this reporter must confess he has respected her playing ability from nearly the very beginning, when she showed him chess pieces in the right hands can seem to move in magical ways.

Aside from a late start (about a half hour) due to stragglers and pairing problems, Chief TD Mike Hasuike kept things running smoothly thereafter, assuring a fun afternoon for all.



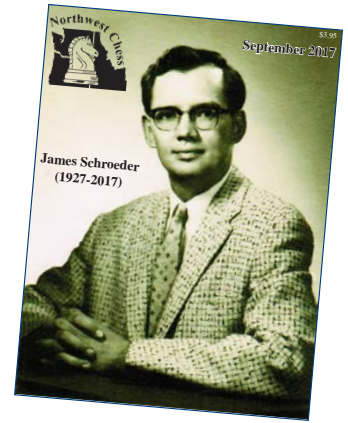
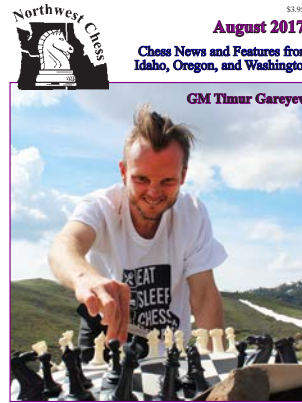
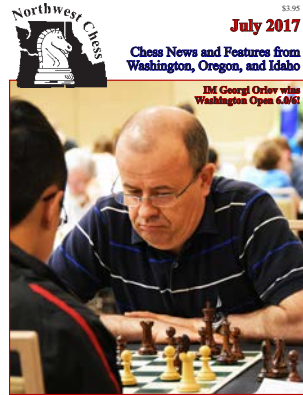
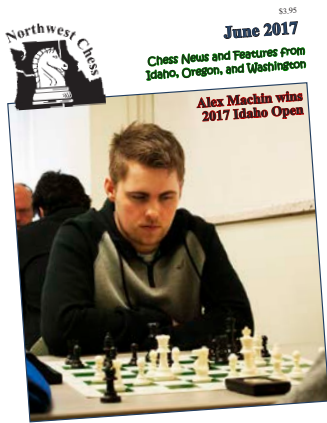
Chris Burris. Photo credit: Brian Berger.



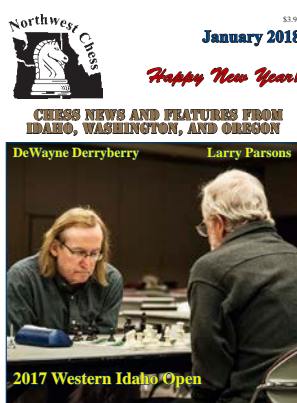
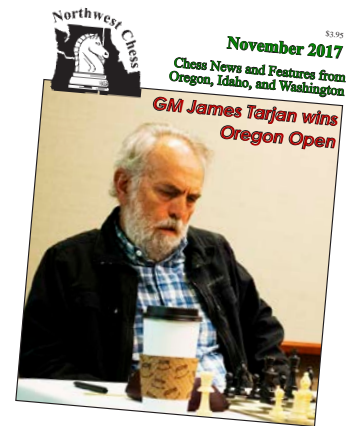
(L) Abbie Wu vs Radu Stancescu. Photo credit: Brian Berger.



(L) Eric Erard vs Andrea Botez. Photo credit: Brian Berger.



2018 Best Magazine/ Newsletter





Chess Journalists of America

is proud to present to

JEFFREY ROLAND

the 2018 Chess Journalist Award for

FIRST PLACE

The Top Four

Best Magazine / Newsletter

NORTHWEST CHESS MAGAZINE

Joshua M. Anderson

Chief Judge
Awards Committee Chairman



Oregon Closed State Championship

By Sarah McCoy

The 2018 Oregon State Championship, held under the auspices of the Oregon Chess Federation, took place at the Portland Chess Club on September 14-16 and 22-23. Originally scheduled for the month of February, this annual tournament had been postponed by several months and thus was greeted with an additional dose of anticipation. As the rules specify, the tournament was an invitational round robin of ten players who are among the best in the state, as determined by criteria set forth by OCF. Invitees include the reigning state champion, the highest scoring Oregon resident in the Oregon Open, the winner of the Oregon Junior Closed Tournament, and various other categories. This year's event was organized by Mike Morris and run by Mike Hasuike, with several assistant TDs including Greg Markowski, Mike Lilly, David Yoshinaga, and Mike Morris.

This year's field included a number of strong players. (Ten, to be exact!) FM Shunkai Peng, an eighth grader

from Portland, topped the field by rating at an impressive 2352. Three other junior players in the field were Joshua Grabinsky, Owen McCoy, and Gavin Zhang, all sophomores in high school. Matt Zavortink qualified by being last year's winner and was fresh off a victory at the Oregon Open. Zavortink ended up sharing the 2018 title with McCoy, each having finished with a score of 7.0/9. Both of their names will be engraved on the trophy that resides at Portland Chess Club. They also both qualify for the 2019 Oregon Closed (although Matt was already qualified both by rating and by virtue of winning this year's Oregon Open). A fun fact pointed out by Jason Cigan is that Matt and Owen have both won every Oregon Closed they've played in!

There was also an invitational tournament held in conjunction with the state championship, with Mike Lilly and Mike Morris serving as TDs. Winning with tied scores of 6.5/9 were Ryan Richardson and Karl Cosner. Ryan and Karl both qualify for the 2019 Oregon Closed. Roshen Nair, a seventh grader from Portland, finished with 6.0/9 in a tie for third with Steven Deeth. This puts Roshen only a few points away from becoming an expert.

**Carl A. Haessler (2200) –
Matt Zavortink (2254) [D00]**
Oregon Closed Championship
Portland, OR (R1), September 14, 2018
[Matt Zavortink]

This is my very messy first round game against Carl Haessler. I achieved a somewhat better position out of the opening before misplaying the middlegame, at which point we both commit several catastrophic blunders. I think I've learned a lot trying to determine what factors led me to make such terrible moves, and hopefully I can impart some of this knowledge to the reader.

1.d4 d5 2.Bg5

The "pseudo-Trompowsky." I don't know much about this opening but do have a couple lines prepared. I chose the solid one.

2...h6 3.Bh4 c6 4.e3 Qb6 5.Qc1 e5!

Made possible by the insertion of ...h6 and Bh4. The same idea works if White has defended the b-pawn with b3 instead of Qc1.

6.Nc3?!

Objectively this is a bit dubious and I should probably just take the free d4 pawn. I thought this is what my opponent



Standing (left to right): Gavin Zhang, Joshua Grabinsky, Shunkai Peng, Owen McCoy, Jason Cigan, and Matt Zavortink. Sitting (left to right): Corey Russell, Lennart Bjorksten, Carl Haessler and Mike Janniro.. Photo credit: Kristina Zhang.

wanted so instead I ignored it, figuring that in the inevitable French structure White's knight will be misplaced on c3. 6.dxe5? Qb4+-+

6...Nd7 7.Be2 Bd6

7...Ne7! is a bit stronger. After 8.Nf3 Nf5± White is probably losing d4 without getting the compensation he wanted.

8.Nf3 e4± 9.Nd2 Ne7

This is definitely the correct square for the knight, maintaining the option of pushing the f-pawn if White castles. Now the position resembles a reversed Guimard French. White can be happy that his bad bishop is outside of the pawn chain, but his knight on c3, queen on c1, and bishop on e2 will all require eventual repositioning.

10.f3 exf3

10...Nf5 was my original intention but I thought after 11.Bf2 exf3 White might have the additional option of 12.gxf3!?, although Black must still be better.

11.Nxf3 Nf5 12.Bf2 Nf6

Simply controlling e4.

13.Ne5

This is a good move that I didn't understand during the game. From this

point until about move 40 I get thoroughly and consistently outplayed. 13.e4 Trying to open the diagonal, doesn't work at all for a variety of reasons: 13...dxe4 14.d5 e3-+

13...Bxe5?±



Position after 13...Bxe5

I thought Black was much better after this move but it is in fact a mistake. The computer says the position is equal. 13...0-0± This simple move is the best. I'm not sure what White was planning here. Perhaps something aggressive like 14.g4

14.dxe5 Ne4 15.Nxe4 dxe4 16.0-0

When taking on e5 I assessed this position as better for Black since White's dark-squared bishop looks awful. However, this is a temporary problem which White

solves over the next several moves. Here I should probably castle but instead I went after the e5 pawn.

16...Qc5 17.c4!

A very strong move that I completely overlooked, gaining some space and preventing my knight from landing on d5. After I take on e5 White is able to activate his dark-squared bishop and has a more comfortable position. Trying to hold the pawn is the main idea I was calculating, but it doesn't work: 17.g4 Ne7 18.Bg3 Nd5±

17...Qxe5 18.g4 Ne7 19.Bg3 Qg5

19...Qe6 is probably stronger, when the position remains close to equal. I didn't play this because I thought White would simply maneuver a rook to d6 and I would have to move the queen again, however the computer shows that this isn't a big deal: 20.Qc3 0-0 21.Rad1 Qg6= Black is solid though White retains adequate compensation for the pawn.

20.Rf4?!

White should switch the move order and play 20.h4!± before Rf4, since I cannot put my queen on f6 at this moment. 20...Qg6 21.h5 Qg5 22.Rf4 and the game will forcibly transpose into the next variation unless I abandon the e4-pawn.



Standing (left to right): Ethan Wu, Jerry Sherrard, Kian Patel, Roshen Nair, Karl Cosner and Sean Tobin. Sitting (left to right): Ryan Richardson, Paul Shannon, Steven Deeth and Moshe Rachmuth. Photo credit: Mike Hasuike.

20...f5 21.h4 Qf6

21...Qg6 I was planning to play this, but saw 22.h5 Qg5 23.Qe1!± Threatening to trap the queen with Bh4. White's pieces are far too active and Black is still undeveloped.

22.gxf5 Bxf5

Here I was happy with my position. Black is one move away from castling and completing his development, when it's doubtful that White will have compensation for the pawn. Of course, Black's bishop is pinned, and it would be natural to move the queen off of the f-file as soon as possible. Before arriving at this position I spent some time checking to see if White has any direct way to take advantage of the pin.

23.Qd2

I thought this was a good, sneaky move. If I play ...Rd8 the queen will go to b4, where it maybe threatens to take on b7. Also I recognized that White may be able to play Qa5 in the future, adding another attacker to the pinned bishop. 23.Bg4?! doesn't work because of the counter pin: 23...Qg6 24.h5 (24.Qd1?? h5+) 24...Qg5 Now White can't even take on f5 since g3 hangs with check, so he'd have to play the miserable 25.Qd1 0-0±

23...0-0 24.Raf1

24.Bg4 I briefly checked this version of Bg4, which also seemed ineffective due to ...Qg6, though 24...Qe6!-+ is the stronger computer move.



Position after 24.Raf1

24...b6??

The first of many blunders. With ...b6 I wanted to keep the black queen out of a5, and prepare to meet Qb4 with ...c5, but this is no longer an important aspect of the position. Objectively ...b6 isn't that bad, but it deserves two question marks because it is the result of an extremely faulty thought process. After checking Bg4 for the last two moves, I simply stopped considering it. But, naturally, White played:

25.Bg4! Qg6

Blitzed without thinking. Black can insert 25...Rad8!± and reach an improved version of the variations below.

26.h5 Qg5 27.Qf2!

Now suddenly it dawned on me that the inclusion of Qd2 and Raf1 should have drastically changed my assessment of White's Bg4 idea. My bishop is re-pinned to the rook on f8 and White threatens Bh4, trapping my queen. I think the lesson here is that when you defend against a threat using a tactic, you have to constantly recheck the tactic after every move to make sure it still works.

27...g6??

A terrible, losing move. I saw that I would have to give up my queen after Bh4, so why didn't I just give it up without ruining my kingside pawn structure? I was very flustered after missing White's idea and should have taken a couple minutes to just walk around and calm myself down. In hindsight I was unable to accurately calculate even the most basic variations in this position. I spent seven minutes on this move but only recall looking at ... g6 and ...Bxg4. I've shown this game to a few people and they have all rapidly found the correct move.

I considered giving up an exchange with 27...Bxg4 28.Rxf8+ Rxf8 29.Qxf8+ Kh7 and am not sure why I didn't play this, as it's a lot safer than the game continuation. In order to keep his advantage White must find 30.Qf4! Qxh5 31.Qxe4+ Ng6± White must be better but Black can still put up a lot of resistance. (31...Nf5?? 32.Rf4+-); 27...Qxg4! I didn't even consider this obvious move. Black's position is totally fine after giving the queen in this way. 28.Rxg4 Bxg4 29.Qd2 Nf5 If anything Black may be slightly better, as there are a lot of targets in the White camp.

28.Bh4 Qxg4+ 29.Rxg4 Bxg4 30.Qg2



Position after 30.Qg2

30...Rxf1+?

Another bad move, trading pieces and easing White's task. My opponent was in time pressure and I was trying to play quickly, which is always a mistake. This is what I calculated when playing ...g6, and I didn't stop to check anything again. 30...Bf3 Is clearly stronger, when White's edge is rather modest. 31.Qh2 Nf5 32.hxg6 Kg7!± Black can still hope to hold this.

31.Qxf1

31.Kxf1 Looks like it wins a piece but doesn't due to 31...Nf5, threatening to take on e3, though of course White is still crushing.

31...Nf5?

Another bad move. 31...Rf8 This is better, when White should play the counterintuitive 32.Qb1!+- simply taking the e4 pawn. (32.Qg2 Bf3 33.Qg3 g5 I looked at this variation and thought that White could play 34.Bxg5?? which in reality fails for a number of reasons, such as 34...hxg5 35.Qxg5+ Kf7 and the e7 knight is defended.)

32.hxg6!

Exposing my king before I have a chance to play ...g5 and seal the kingside. Despite being in bad time pressure my opponent keeps finding extremely good moves.

32...Rf8

32...Nxxh4?? 33.Qf7+ Kh8 34.Qh7#

33.Qf4! Bh5

Everything is completely losing but it's necessary to remove the g6 pawn before White's queen invades on the seventh rank.

34.Qxe4 Bxg6 35.Qe6+ Kg7?

35...Kh7 36.Bf6 I wanted to avoid letting White's bishop get to f6 but the game continuation is even worse for me.

36.Be1 h5

Trying to avoid getting imminently mated on the long diagonal.

37.Bc3+ Kh6 38.Qe5

Threatening e4 followed by Qg7+. Also preparing a couple checks to safely make it to the time control without flagging.

38...Rf7 39.Qf4+ Kh7 40.Qb8 Kh6

We've made it to move 40 and Black's position is obviously lost. The computer says most of White's moves are around +6.

41.e4 Ne3



Position after 41...Ne3

I considered resigning but figured I should at least put this knight in the vicinity of my king with the vague hope of creating some kind of threat.

42.e5??

An absurdly bad move. Besides hanging the queen or bishop for free this is probably the worst move on the board. It's natural to want to push the passed pawn as quickly as possible, but for a brief moment it obstructs both of White's pieces and Black is able to get rapidly coordinated. Suddenly confronted with the possibility of salvaging half a point from this miserable position I felt much better, and my ability to calculate mysteriously returned. 42.Bd2 Rf1+ 43.Kh2 Rf2+ 44.Kg3 Rxd2 doesn't even work because White has 45.Qf4+ Kh7 46.Qxe3+- I saw this position and optimistically thought I might be able to hold, but it's probably just lost.; 42.Qh8+ Kg5 43.Qd4+- centralizing the queen, is the computer's choice, although the above variation looks a little more human.

42...Rf1+!

Black must get the move order right. 42...Be4? fails because of 43.Qh8+! Kg6 44.Qe8+- when White gets to play e6 before Black can generate any threats.

43.Kh2 Be4! =

Bringing another piece into the attack and taking away the f3 square from the white king (notice that this is the square through which it escapes in the below variations). Black threatens perpetual check with ...Rf2+/-Rf3+. Considering this position during the game I only calculated white queen checks, figuring that on any other move I had at least a draw. First, I saw that I could respond to checks by keeping my king on h6/g6/h7, when White has nothing more than a perpetual. I thought I might be able to mate White if he played a move that wasn't check, but couldn't find a way to do it since if my rook ever leaves the f-file the white king will be able to escape through f2 or f4. Eventually I started to wonder if I could hide my king on a square like h4 where it would also participate in the attack. In reality, White just needs to play any productive move and then the game should end in a draw by perpetual. However, to do this White needs to correctly calculate that he's not getting mated, as well as accept that he's not going to win. 43...Kg5! = also draws according to the computer; It's important to realize that there are no immediately strong forcing lines. 43...Rf2+?? 44.Kg3 Rg2+ 45.Kf3+- and Black runs out of checks.; 43...Ng4+?? 44.Kg3 Rg1+ 45.Kf3 Rf1+ 46.Ke2 Rf2+ 47.Ke1+- and again, there are no more checks.

44.Qh8+?

Technically this move is fine, as the game should still be a draw, but it's the start of a bad plan. White has fewer ways to draw after this move. 44.Bd2 This is probably the most straightforward way to draw.

Black's knight is pinned to the king so there are fewer lines to calculate. The only subtlety in this line is to realize that Black cannot take the bishop: 44...Rf2+ 45.Kg3 Rxd2?? (45...Rf3+=) 46.Kf4+- and White gets the piece back.; 44.e6 This also would have been fine. Now the white pieces are unblocked so Black should take the draw, as he can't play for anything more: 44...Ng4+?? (44...Rf2+ 45.Kg3 Rg2+?? 46.Kf4+-) 45.Kg3 Rf3+ (45...Rg1+ 46.Kf4+-) 46.Kh4+- The king is safe on h4!

44...Kg5!

The ambitious move, bringing my king closer to his.



Position after 44...Kg5

45.Qg7+??

Suddenly White is lost, as the black king decisively enters the attack! 45.Bd2 is still a draw though it's slightly different than the above version. 45...Rf2+ 46.Kh3! (46.Kg3?? Rg2+ 47.Kh3 Bf5#) 46...Rf3+= (46...Rxd2?? obviously fails to 47.Qf6#; 46...Bg2+ looks tempting but eventually the checks run out: 47.Kg3 Rf3+ 48.Kh2 Rh3+ 49.Kg1 Rh1+ 50.Kf2+-); 45.Kh3! = According to the computer this ridiculously counterintuitive move is the only other way to draw. I believe the point is that now the black king cannot advance into White's position. It looks like Black can drive White back to where he was, but after 45...Rf3+ 46.Kh2 Kg4 White can simply give perpetual check, as Black's rook on f3 gets in the way of his own king!

45...Kf5

The king must take an indirect path. I spent a while finding this maneuver on move 44. 45...Kh4?? 46.Qg3#; 45...Kf4?? 46.Qg3+ Kf5 47.Qxe3 h4 48.Qh3+-

46.Qh7+ Kf4 47.Qf7+ Kg4 48.Qg7+ Kf3 49.Qf7+

49.Qf6+ is slightly more resilient, but also loses: 49...Ke2 50.Qd8 h4! 51.Qd2+ Kf3+- With the same unstoppable threat as in the game.; 49.Qg3+ This is the main line that I calculated during the game, when my king becomes improbably safe on e2. 49...Ke2+- Now Black threatens ...Rh1# and the white queen is dominated, since any queen retreat on the g-file loses

to ...Rh1+ followed by ...Rg1+.

49...Bf5

White resigned since the only way to prevent ...Ng4+ followed by ... Rh1# is to give up the queen.

0-1

Owen McCoy (2203) –
Corey John Russell (2225) [C00]
Oregon Closed Championship
Portland, OR (R1), September 14, 2018
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 e6 2.d3 d5 3.Qe2 dxe4 4.dxe4 Nc6 5.Nf3 e5 6.c3 Nf6 7.Nbd2 Bd6 8.Nc4 0-0 9.Qc2 h6 10.Ne3

10.Be2 Development first can't be wrong.

10...Be6 11.Be2 Ng4 12.Nc4 Bc5 13.0-0 b5!?

It must have been very tempting to make that knight move around some more, but of course all pawn moves have pluses and minuses.

14.Ncd2



Position after 14.Ncd2

14...a6

14...Qb8! In addition to the direct defense of the b-pawn, the point is the queen has access to the a7-g1 diagonal. 15.h3? (15.Ne1∞) 15...Nxf2 16.b4 (16.Rxf2 Qb6-+; 16.Nb3 Bxb3 17.axb3 Nxe4+-) 16...Nhx3+ 17.Kh2 Nf4

15.b4

15.h3 Nf6±

15...Bxf2+?!

Corey likes to be moving forward.

16.Rxf2 Nxf2 17.Kxf2 f5 18.Bb2 g5



Position after 18...g5

White starts to feel the pressure of the oncoming pawns. But are the threats real?

19.Kg1

19.c4! so the attacked Knight, if attacked, can “retreat” to e5!

19...g4 20.Ne1 Qg5 21.Nf1 f4 22.Kh1 Rad8 23.a4 Ne7 24.axb5 axb5 25.Bxb5 h5 26.Bd3?!

A little passive. 26.Nd3 h4 27.Nc5 Bc8 28.Bc4+, perhaps.

26...h4 27.Bc1 Qh5 28.Ra7 Ra8 29.Rxc7 Ra2 30.Bb2 Qf7 31.c4 h3 32.Qc3 hxc2+ 32...f3!? 33.gxf3 gxf3 34.Qxe5 Rxb2 35.Qg3+ Qg7 36.Rxe7 Qxg3 37.hxc3 f2 38.Nc2 Bg4∞

33.Nxg2 f3 34.Nge3 Qf6 35.Bb1



Position after 35.Bb1

And Black, presumably recognizing that rook retreats such as 35...Ra6 were hopeless: 36.Qxe5 Qxe5 37.Bxe5 Rf7 38.b5+; and sacrificing the rook back for the bishop achieved nothing: 35...Rxb2 36.Qxb2+, resigned. Or lost on time. The scoresheet doesn't say.

Surprisingly, the computer offers salvation: 35...g3!! 36.Qd2

a) 36.Bxa2?? g2+ 37.Nxg2 (37.Kg1 f2+ 38.Kxg2 Qf3#) 37...fxg2+ 38.Kxg2 Qf2+ 39.Kh1 Qxf1#;

b) 36.Nxg3 f2 37.Nef5 Nxf5 38.exf5 Bxf5 39.Bxf5 Qxf5 40.Rg7+! Kxg7 (40...Kh8?? 41.Nxf5 f1Q+ 42.Rg1 Qxf5 43.Qxe5+ Qxe5 44.Bxe5+ and White should be able to convert this ending.) 41.Nxf5+ Rxf5 42.Qxe5+! Rxe5 43.Bxe5+ Kf7 44.Kg2;

c) 36.hxc3?? is also bad: 36...Qh6+ 37.Nh2 Rxb2 38.Qxb2 Qxe3+;

36...g2+ 37.Nxg2 fxc2+ 38.Qxg2+ Ng6 39.Bxa2 Qxf1+ 40.Qxf1 Rxf1+ 41.Kg2 Rd1! and the placement of the king and bishops lined up along the second rank means Black will pick up a piece, as 42.Bc3 is met with 42...Rc1. The resulting endings, while still complicated, are objectively drawn, again according to Stockfish.

1-0

Mike E. Janniro (2040) – Owen McCoy (2203) [A16]
Oregon Closed Championship
Portland, OR (R2), September 15, 2018
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 g6 3.g3 Bg7 4.Bg2 0-0 5.d3 d6 6.e4 c5 7.f4 Nc6 8.Nf3 Ne8 9.0-0 f5 10.Be3 Nd4 11.Rb1 Nc7 12.Qd2 Nce6



Position after 12...Nce6

13.Ne2

13.b4 looks thematic.

13...a5

13...Nxf3+ 14.Bxf3 Nd4 15.Bxd4 (15.Bg2 fxe4 16.dxe4 e5) 15...cxd4∞

14.Nexd4 cxd4

14...Nxd4 15.Bxd4 cxd4 16.exf5 Bxf5 17.Ng5 Qd7 18.Rbe1±

15.Bf2 Qb6 16.exf5

16.Rfe1±

16...gxf5

16...Rxf5!?

17.Rfe1 Bf6 18.Re2 Nd8 19.b4 axb4 20.Rxb4 Qa7 21.Qb2 Nc6 22.Rb6 e5??

22...Qa3±

23.fxe5 dxe5



Position after 23...dxe5

24.c5?

24.Nxe5!! Bxe5 (24...Nxe5 25.Bd5+ Kg7 26.Rxf6 Kxf6 (26...Rxf6 27.Bxd4 is also utterly crushing.) 27.Bxd4 Qa3 28.Bxe5+ Kg5 29.h4+ Kh5 30.Bf3+ Kg6 31.Qb6+ and mates soon.) 25.Bxc6 bxc6 26.Rxe5+–

24...Qa3 25.Qxa3

25.Qb1∞

25...Rxa3 26.Ne1 Nd8

26...Kg7 27.Bxc6 bxc6 28.Rxc6 e4 29.Rxf6 Kxf6 30.Bxd4+ Kf7 31.dxe4∞

27.Bd5+ Kg7 28.Kg2?

28.Nf3 Rxd3 29.Nxe5 Rd1+ 30.Kg2 d3∞

28...Ra5

28...Rc3 29.Rc2 Rxc2 30.Nxc2 Be7∞

29.Rc2 Be7 30.Nf3 Rxc5 31.Rxc5 Bxc5 32.Rb5

32.Rb1∞

32...Bd6



Position after 32...Bd6

33.Nxd4?

Not sufficient.

33...exd4 34.Bxd4+ Kg6 35.Rb6 Nc6 36.Bc3 Rd8

36...Bc7

37.Bc4

37.Rb5 Re8; 37.Bxc6 bxc6 38.a4 Be6

37...Bc5 38.Rb1 Re8 39.h4 Re2+ 40.Kf1 Rc2 41.Be1 f4 0-1

Corey John Russell (2225) – Carl A. Haessler (2200) [A35]
Oregon Closed Championship
Portland, OR (R2), September 15, 2018
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.Nf3 c5 2.c4 Nc6 3.Nc3 g6 4.e3 Bg7 5.d4 d6 6.d5



Position after 6.d5

6...Bxc3+

6...Ne5 is often played here on move six...

7.bxc3 Ne5

... but is virtually unknown after the somewhat rare exchange on c3. 7...Na5 is the normal-ish move here, and apparently should be preferred.

8.Nxe5 dxe5 9.e4 Nf6 10.Bd3 0-0 11.Bh6
Re8 12.h3 Qa5 13.Qd2 Bd7 14.Rc1

Cautious. 14.f4 is already strong. For example: 14...exf4 15.Bxf4 b5 16.cxb5 Bxb5 17.c4 Qxd2+ 18.Kxd2 Ba6 19.e5±

14...Rac8?!

It seems better to complicate quickly with 14...b5, when 15.cxb5 (15.f4!? bxc4 16.Bc2 exf4 17.Bxf4) 15...c4 16.Bc2 (16.Bxc4 Nxe4 17.Qe2 Nd6±) 16...Bxb5 17.a4 Bd7 18.0-0

15.f4! Qc7?

15...exf4 16.Qxf4±



Position after 15...Qc7

16.g4

I'm not sure why Corey avoids the obvious 16.fxe5!, both here and on the next move. 16...Nh5 (16...Qxe5 17.Bf4 Qh5 18.e5+-) 17.g4 Ng7 18.Bf4+-;

a) 17...Ng3 18.Rg1 Nxe4 (18...Qxe5 19.Bf4 Nxe4 20.Bxe5 Nxd2 21.Kxd2+-) 19.Bxe4 Qxe5 20.Qf4+-;

b) 17...Qxe5 18.Qe3! Ng7 19.0-0 and Black is a wreck.

16...b5 17.cxb5

17.fxe5! bxc4 18.Bc2 and White wins a piece.

17...c4 18.Bb1

18.Bc2 Bxb5 19.0-0 Nd7 20.f5 Nc5 21.fxg6±

18...Bxb5 19.f5 Rb8 20.0-0 Nd7 21.fxg6 hxg6 22.Qf2 f6 23.Be3 Kg7 24.Bc2 Rh8 25.h4 Nb6 26.Rcd1

26.g5 Rbf8 White must have an edge, but exactly how much and what to do with it isn't so clear.

26...Nc8?

26...Rbf8 makes sense here, too.

27.g5 Qd8 28.d6! exd6 29.gxf6+

Or 29.Qg3

29...Kf7 30.Rd2 Qa5?

30...Bd7 sets a few more problems: 31.Qg3 Rb2 32.Rg2 Qg8 33.a4 Ra2 White is still on track to win, but there's work to be done.

31.Qg3 Bc6 32.Rg2 Rg8

[Diagram top of next column]



Position after 32...Rg8

33.Bh6

33.Qg5 aiming for h6 and h7 is also hard to meet.

33...g5 34.hxg5 Rg6 35.Qe3

35.Qh3

35...Rb2

35...Qb6

36.Bd1

36.Qh3

36...Qb6 37.Qxb6 Rxd2+ 38.Kxd2 Bxe4+ 39.Bf3 Bxf3+ 40.Kxf3 Nxb6 41.Ke4 Na4 42.Rf3 Nc5+ 43.Kf5 e4 44.Rf1 d5 45.Rb1 e3 46.Rb8

Most players would probably resign with Black here. Carl is much classier than that, though, and allows Corey the most picturesque win.

46...Rxb6! 47.gxh6 e2! 48.h7 e1Q!



Position after 48...e1=Q

49.h8N#! 1-0

Gavin Zhang (2015) –
Jason D. Cigan (2220) [A32]
Oregon Closed Championship
Portland, OR (R2), September 15, 2018
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.g3 c5 4.c4 cxd4 5.Nxd4

Black has several decent choices here.

5...Qc7

Perhaps the most popular is 5...d5 6.Bg2 e5 7.Nf3 (Or 7.Nb3 d4 8.0-0 Nc6) 7...d4 8.0-0 Nc6∞

6.b3 e5

Very reasonable, but most common here

is 6...Bb4+ 7.Bd2 Bc5

7.Nf3 d5 8.cxd5 Bf5



Position after 8...Bf5

9.Bb2?!

White can donate the extra pawn to accelerate development: 9.e4! Bxe4 (9...Nxe4 10.Bb5+ Nd7 11.0-0∞) 10.Bb5+ Nbd7 11.0-0 Bd6 12.Bb2

9...Bb4+?

9...Bxb1! 10.Qxb1 Bb4+ 11.Nd2 (11.Kd1 Ng4±) 11...Bxd2+ (11...Qa5 12.Qd3 Nbd7 also offers compensation.) 12.Kxd2 Qa5+ 13.Ke3 Qxd5 14.Bh3∞

10.Nbd2 Ne4?!

10...Nxd5 is probably only marginally better than the game.

11.Bg2 Nd7 12.0-0 0-0 13.Nc4 Bc3 14.Nh4 Bxb2 15.Nxf5 Bxa1 16.Bxe4 Nf6 17.d6 Qd7 18.Qxa1

18.Ne7+! Kh8 19.Bf5+-

18...Nxe4 19.Qxe5 Nf6 20.Nxg7 Ng4



Position after 20...Ng4

21.Qg5??

21.Qd4! f6 22.Nh5+-

21...f6 22.Qd5+ Kxg7 23.Na5?

23.f3 Nh6±

23...Rfd8?

Allows the white knight to become active. 23...Rae8 24.Rc1 Rc8

24.Nxb7 Re8 25.Rc1 Rac8 26.Nc5∞ Re5 27.Qd4 Qf5 28.d7 Rd8 29.h3 Nxf2

29...Nh6 30.g4 Rxc5 (30...Qg6!?) 31.Rxc5 Qxd7∞, but likely about equal.

30.Qxf2 Qxh3 31.Rf1 Kg8 32.b4 a5 33.a3 axb4 34.axb4

[Diagram top of next page]



Position after 34.axb4

34...Rf8?

34...Rg5 35.Ne4 Rg6 probably leads to a draw. 36.Qf5 Qxf5 37.Rxf5 Kf7 38.Nc5 Rxc3+ 39.Kf2 Rg5 40.Rxc5 fxc5 41.b5 Ke7 42.b6 Rf8+ (42...Rxd7 43.b7 could be riskier for Black.) 43.Kg3 Rf6 44.b7 Rb6 45.Kg4 h6 46.Kh5 Rb2.

35.Rd1 Rd8 36.Rd3 Rf5?!

36...Kf7 37.Rf3 Rxd7 (37...Qh6±) 38.Nxd7 Qxd7 39.Rxf6+ Kg7±

37.Qg2 Qh6 38.e3 Re5 39.Qa2+ Kh8 40.Qa5 Qf8 41.Qxd8 Qxd8 42.Nb7 Rxe3

42...Qxd7 43.Rxd7 Rxe3 44.Kf2 Rb3 45.Rd4

43.Nxd8 Rxd3 44.Nf7+ Kg7 45.d8Q 1-0

Matt Zavortink (2254) – Owen McCoy (2203) [A35]
Oregon Closed Championship
Portland, OR (R8), September 23, 2018
[Matt Zavortink]

Going into the penultimate round Owen and I were tied for first with 6.0/7. If either of us won the game we would clinch at least a tie for first. After achieving a crushing position in the opening I blundered horribly and found myself defending a difficult ending.

1.Nf3 e5 2.c4 Nc6 3.Nc3 g6 4.e3 Nf6 5.d4 cxd4 6.exd4 d5 7.cxd5 Nxd5 8.Qb3

Owen was already thinking quite a bit, which made me optimistic, since these positions can be quite tricky.

8...Nxc3 9.Bc4 e6 10.bxc3 Bd7

I really didn't like this move, although the computer thinks it's OK. In the line below starting with 10...Bg7, White eventually has to burn a tempo to avoid ...Na5 tricks, so it isn't as productive as it seems to make me move one of my pieces now. 10...Bg7 11.Ba3 Bf8 12.Bb2 Bg7 13.Ba3 Bf8 is the conclusion of many 2700-level games, although White can play on with 14.Bxf8 Kxf8 15.0-0 when the position is approximately level. Black's weak dark-squares compensate for White's weak structure.

11.Be2



(L-R) Matt Zavortink, Owen McCoy. Photo credit: Josh McCoy.

11.Bd3 is maybe a bit more active, but I saw some variations where my queen wanted the d3 square.; 11.Qxb7?? just loses: 11...Rb8 12.Qa6 Rb6 13.Qa4 Ne5 and I can't defend c4.

11...Qa5?!



Position after 11...Qa5

I think this is quite dubious. This move tactically defends b7, but the queen no longer protects any of the weak dark-squares.

12.0-0 Bd6

12...Bg7 13.Ba3± and it's hard to see how Black is ever going to castle.

13.Bh6

13.c4! is stronger according to the computer.

13...Rg8

I spent most of my time looking at 13...Qh5 14.Bg7 Rg8 15.Bf6 which is just miserable for Black. He can't win the h-pawn because after 15...Bxh2+ 16.Nxh2 Qxe2 17.d5! is just crushing.

14.Ng5

I was happy to find this move and thought I was close to winning. 14.Rfd1!± followed by d5 is the computer's suggestion.

14...Be7

14...Bf8! Black could try this, followed by hiding the king on g7.

15.f4?!

Objectively this move is fine but it's too committal. Obviously I have to be careful about my bishop getting stuck on h6 but I didn't see a way for Black to get to it. 15.Ne4 I also considered this move, which was much safer. If Black tries to trap my bishop with 15...g5 then I play 16.f4±; 15.h4! is the computer's suggestion, cementing the white pieces on the kingside without stranding the bishop on h6.

15...Nd8!



Position after 15...Nd8

A good practical defensive move. I completely overlooked this resource. Now Black can consider playing ... f6 followed by ...Nf7, winning the white bishop. Here I burned way too much time trying to find a move. I felt like White should probably be better after almost any reasonable move, but I wanted to make sure I got enough play in the event I lose the bishop.

16.Ne4

Vacating g5 for the bishop. 16.Rae1!? is probably what White should try. Now it seemed very risky for Black to try to win the piece, but I didn't see the correct follow up: 16...f6? 17.Nxe6! (17.Nxh7 This is the only move I looked at but I didn't think I had enough compensation after 17...Rh8 18.Nxf6+ Bxf6 19.Bg5 Bxg5) 17...Bxe6 18.Bb5+ Kf7 19.Rxe6! and White crushes.; 16.Bg4 I looked at this, which also seems fine.

16...Bc6

16...f6 17.f5! was the plan, when it seems like White gets enough play for the pawn.

17.Bf3 Rc8 18.Bg5?

I was already getting a bit short on time and was still concerned about my bishop getting trapped on h6. But this move just doesn't address Black's threat against the c3-pawn.

18...Bxe4

18...Bd5 19.Bxe7! Somehow I managed to find this absurd queen sacrifice, but not see the simple threat of taking on c3 as in the game. 19...Bxb3? 20.Bb4+

19.Bxe7?

Another bad move. I should leave the black king on e8 so that after ...Qxc3 I have a check on b5 or a4.

19...Kxe7 20.Bxe4 Qxc3



Position after 20...Qxc3

Suddenly Black is just a pawn up and I have no compensation. Perhaps on move 18 I saw this position and thought I would be able to keep the queen on the board, but it's not possible due to the threats of ...Qxd4+ and ...Qe3+, winning the e4 bishop. So instead I'm forced to go into a miserable ending.

21.Qxc3 Rxc3 22.Rac1 Rxc1 23.Rxc1 Kd7

Keeping my rook out of c7 and c8.

24.d5 exd5 25.Bxd5

Here I was somewhat optimistic about my drawing chances, since both of my pieces are active, and it's going to be hard for Black to move his knight without allowing me to take it and enter a rook ending. Unfortunately White's position is bit hard to play in time pressure; I must carefully position my pieces on active

squares in order to keep Black from getting active himself.

25...Re8 26.Kf2 Re7 27.g4

Unsure of what to do I figured I should try to trade as many pawns as possible on the kingside.

27...f6 28.h4 h6 29.Kf3

29.g5 It would be nice to be able to play this move, creating a permanent target for my bishop on g6, but it just loses a pawn: 29...hxg5 30.hxg5 fxg5 31.fxg5 Re5 32.Rd1 Kc7!-+

29...g5 30.hxg5

30.Be4! It's much better to play this before trading pawns, as in the game, since the f4 pawn keeps Black's rook out of e5.

30...hxg5 31.fxg5 fxg5 32.Be4 Re5 33.Bf5+?!

I wasn't sure what to do and my time was very low, so I just played some random checks. 33.Rh1! I should try to activate my rook on h7.

33...Kd6 34.Be4 Ra5 35.Rd1+ Ke7 36.Rd2 Ra3+ 37.Kf2 Nc6 38.Bxc6?

38.Rb2! Again, creating some threats with the rook is the right way to go.

38...bxc6 39.Rc2 Kd6 40.Rd2+ Kc7



Position after 40...Kc7

I made it to the time control without flagging. Unfortunately the rook ending is hard to hold since both of my pieces are extremely passive. This is an interesting ending to analyze but to really understand all of the details would require a lot more time than I've been able to spend on it so far. It's difficult to give meaningful comments but I'll try to show some of the computer lines I found interesting or helpful for understanding the position.

41.Rc2

I didn't see anything better to do than try to tie Black to the c6-pawn. Black advances his king as I expected, and the position should be completely lost.

41...Kd6 42.Rd2+ Ke5 43.Rc2 Kd5 44.Rd2+ Kc4 45.Rc2+ Rc3 46.Re2

Trying to go after the g5 pawn.

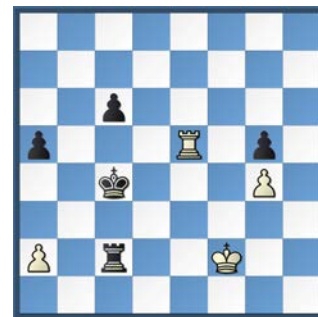
46...a5?

Now it becomes interesting again. Objectively the position is probably a draw, although it requires a lot of accuracy from White. I was afraid Owen would play 46...Kd4!, simply preventing any counterplay against the g5 pawn. Now Black can start pushing the queenside pawns and I'm essentially helpless.

47.Re5

47.Re4+ I spent some time considering whether to play this or Re5 and maybe chose incorrectly. 47...Kd3 I thought Black would play this, when I wasn't sure what I had accomplished, although in fact (47...Kb5 48.a4+ Kb6 This looked like a draw to me during the game, which I believe is true, although White must play extremely accurately. The problem is that if White captures g5, we reach a well-known theoretical draw, as the a and c pawns aren't enough to win.) 48.Re5! is now an easier draw, since the black king is slightly farther away from supporting the a-pawn. A sample computer line: 48...Rc2+ 49.Kf3 Rxa2 50.Rxg5 a4 51.Rc5 Rc2 52.Ra5=

47...Rc2+



Position after 47...Rc2+

48.Kf1?+

Kind of inexplicable. I thought I needed to keep my king close to the back rank to prevent any promotion tactics once Black's rook is in front of his passed a-pawn, but the king can still get to a safe square like g2 from f3. 48.Kf3! More intuitive and better. Now it should be a draw. Here's a long computer line: 48...Rxa2 49.Rxg5 a4 50.Rg8 a3 51.Ra8 Ra1 52.g5 a2 53.Kg2 Rd1 54.Rxa2 c5 55.Ra4+, putting the rook behind the passed pawn. 55...Kb3 56.Rg4 Rd7 57.g6 Rg7. Now White can bring his king over. 58.Kf2 c4 59.Ke2 c3 60.Rg3! Kb2 61.Rg2 c2 62.Kd3 Rd7+ 63.Ke4 Kb1 64.Rxc2 Kxc2 65.Kf5=.

48...Rxa2 49.Rxg5 a4 50.Ra5 Kb3 51.g5 Rd2 52.g6 a3 53.g7 Rd8 54.Ra7

Now this is a key moment for Black. White's idea is to check the black king from behind, and if it goes to the c-file, then attack the a-pawn. The correct winning plan is to trade the a-pawn for the g-pawn, when White's pieces are out of position and unable to reach any of the

standard K+R vs. K+R+P draws.

54...a2

54...c5 55.Rb7+ Kc2 56.Ra7 Rg8!
57.Rxa3 Rxc7+ and the position is lost, as my rook needs to be on the long side in order to effectively deliver checks. Without this resource there's nothing to prevent Black from simply pushing the c-pawn to reach a Lucena position.

55.Rb7+ Kc3 56.Ra7 Kb2 57.Rb7+

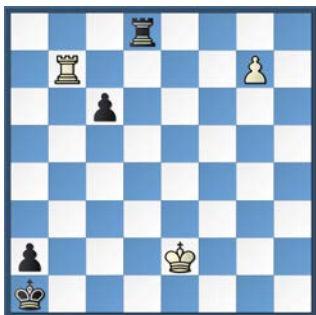


Position after 57.Rb7+

57...Ka1??

A really bad idea. Now the king gets stuck in the corner forever and Black cannot make progress. Black still could have traded pawns and entered a variation like the one above.

58.Ke2



Position after 58.Ke2

58...c5!

I don't think either of us realized it during the game, but ...c5 is actually the only move that doesn't lose! 58...Rg8?? 59.Kd2 c5 60.Kc2+ Now the c-pawn provides a shield for the white king, and Black can't really prevent the white rook from coming to the first rank to deliver checkmate. 60...Re8 Now there are a number of study-like wins, such as: 61.Rd7 Re2+ 62.Rd2 Rxd2+ 63.Kxd2 Kb1 64.g8Q a1Q 65.Qg6+ Ka2 66.Qa6+ Kb1 67.Qd3+ Ka2 68.Qc4+ Kb2 69.Qc2+ Ka3 70.Qxc5+ Ka2 71.Qd5+ Ka3 72.Qa5+ Kb2 73.Qb4+ Ka2 74.Kc2+--

59.Rb5 c4 60.g8Q

The white king needs to come help trap the black king in the corner. I had never seen this version of this endgame, in which Black has an extra c-pawn, but it was fairly easy to see that it wouldn't matter. If the pawn was on any other file

it would be a win for Black.

60...Rxc7 61.Kd2 Rg2+ 62.Kc3 Rg1
63.Kc2 Rb1 64.Rc5 Rb2+ 65.Kc1 Rb4
66.Kc2 Rb2+ 67.Kc1 Rb1+ 68.Kc2 c3
69.Rxc3 Rc1+ Draw agreed. 1/2-1/2

Carl A. Haessler (2200) – Owen McCoy (2203) [B20]
Oregon Closed Championship
Portland, OR (R9), September 23, 2018
[Owen McCoy]

1.e4

was played about 40 minutes after the round started. (Because Carl arrived at the game late, of course.)

1...c5 2.Na3?!

Well, I should have expected as much coming from Carl. Luckily, I remembered Sveshnikov's recommendation for Black here.

2...Nc6 3.Bb5 Qc7 4.Nf3 Nf6 5.Qe2 a6
6.Bxc6 Qxc6 7.d3N

7. e5 was played in the only other game to reach this position (Black went on to win), but I think this is an improvement as there's no reason to open the long diagonal for Black's light-squared bishop.

7...e6 8.0-0 Be7 9.Bg5 h6 10.Bh4

Carl was moving very quickly whereas I was annoyed that I hadn't refuted his opening yet. I didn't want to allow e5 followed by the swap of bishops so instead of the sounder 10...b5 I ventured

10...g5!?

Did I mention that I was tied for first with Matt going into the last round? To be clear, I would not recommend playing this way with the state championship on the line!

11.Ne5 Qc7 12.Bg3 d6 13.Nec4 e5

This is undesirable but I can't allow him to play e5 himself and open the game.

14.c3

Carl is logically trying to open the center with d4 and possibly f4-pawn breaks.

14...b5

To solve my development problems I decided to push more pawns!

15.Ne3 Be6 16.Nf5 Bxf5 17.exf5 Qd7

I decided to go after the f5-pawn. Stockfish says I am okay and recommends 17...h5!? 18.h3 and then the completely insane 18...0-0-0!

18.d4 cxd4 19.cxd4 e4

The point of my play. I will now win the pawn while keeping the center closed, but Carl still has counterplay.

20.f4 g4 21.Nc2

If I take the pawn immediately then Carl gets some initiative for it. I decided that another pawn move was the way to go!

21...h5!? 22.Bh4 d5

I had second thoughts about taking the pawn because it actually gets in the way of his pieces. I opted to stabilize e4, but then again, this is four consecutive pawn moves when my king is still in the center...

23.Ne3

Optically, Carl has placed his pieces on good squares whereas my position feels a bit overextended. I was proud and also a bit amused to find the following regrouping maneuver.



Position after 23.Ne3

23...Ng8!

Of course the solution to my development problems is to un-develop my knight. :)

24.Qf2?

Incredibly, I now have the advantage. The alternatives were: 24.Bxe7 Nxe7 25.f6 Nf5 26.Rac1 Rh6 27.Rc5 Nxe3 28.Qxe3 Rxf6 29.Rfc1 where Stockfish gives Black a sizable advantage but things are by no means clear.; 24.f6!? Bxf6 25.Bxf6 Nxf6 26.Rac1 Rc8 27.Rxc8+ Qxc8 28.Qd2 with approximately even chances.

24...f6!?

It looks ugly, but now White's bishop is out of play and the f-pawns are fixed. I am threatening to unravel soon.

25.a4 b4 26.Rfc1 Nh6 27.b3 Nxf5?!

Perhaps inaccurate. The pawn isn't going anywhere and actually its removal gave him counterplay later. 27...Kf7 was superior, followed perhaps by 28.Rc2 Rac8 29.Rac1 Nxf5 30.Nxf5 Qxf5+--

28.Nxf5 Qxf5 29.Rc6

Now Carl is able to triple on the c-file.

29...Kf7 30.Rac1 Rbc8 31.Qc2 Rxc6
32.Qxc6 Ra7?

Now in moderate time trouble, I wasn't keen on giving him a passed pawn and opening lines against my king. Nevertheless, 32...Rd8! was correct. 33.Qxa6 Qxf4 34.Re1 Bd6 35.Bg3 Qd2+--

33.Bg3 e3 34.Qc2 Kg6?!

34...Kg6; 34...Qxc2 35.Rxc2 Kg6 was a way to try to win. 36.Re2 Kf5 37.Rxe3 Rc7 Carl and I assessed that White should be able to hold this but Stockfish gives Black a winning advantage.

35.Qc6 Kf7 36.Qc2 Kg6?!

If you miss something once, you're likely to miss it the second time too.

37.Qc6 Kf7?



Position after 37...Kf7

And of course Carl wrote down 38.Qc2 and claimed a draw, which was correct. I wasn't at all disappointed by this result partly because I considered myself lucky to survive the opening and partly because I didn't think much of my chances to win from the final position. However, it appears that I was mistaken on both accounts! I then had to hold my breath in suspense while I waited for Matt's game to finish. Fortunately, I didn't have to wait long as Matt offered a draw upon seeing the result of my game, meaning that Matt and I became 2018 Oregon Co-Champions. Anyway, this was a fun game to cap off one of the best tournaments I've ever had. Too bad I only get to keep the title for five months until I have to defend it again. :)

1/2-1/2

Corey John Russell (2225) – Lennart Bjorksten (2169) [C56]

Oregon Closed Championship
Portland, OR (R9), September 23, 2018
[Corey Russell]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Bc4

This is my first game with this line for me. It was the last round, I wasn't in the running for first, what the heck let's play fun gambit chess! My chess student Rob was quite pleased as this is the opening he uses. This turned out to be a great choice, as my opponent had just started taking up 1. ... e5, and of course didn't bother to study such an obscure side line...

4...Nf6 5.0-0 Bc5 6.c3 d5 7.exd5 Nxd5 8.Re1+

[Diagram top of next column]

This is the key position. How Black responds here will greatly affect the rest of the game. What might be best is 8...



Position after 8.Re1+

Be7, giving back the pawn and resulting in a position quite similar to the Petroff. It's probably equal. The line Lennart chooses keeps the pawn, but White get initiative and compensation for his pawn. In the post-mortem, my opponent thought 8...Nde7 could hold but actually it doesn't: 8...Nde7 9.Ng5! O-O 10.Qh5 gets advantage with double attack on h7 and f7.

8...Be6 9.Ng5 Qd7 10.Nxe6 fxe6 11.Qh5+

This is the move Black missed. Lennart now sees he can't do 11...g6? 12.Qxd5! wins!

11...Kd8 12.Bg5+ Kc8! 13.Nd2 dxc3 14.bxc3 Na5

This was a critical decision for me — how to respond? I mustn't let him take the c3-pawn, but if I choose passive moves, pressure on f2 could be huge — how to respond?

15.Bb3!

This move prevents ...Nxc3 (15...Nxc3?? 16.Bxe6 would win) and also if the bishop gets taken, White keeps his initiative by getting a tempo on the c5 bishop. In addition, this allows a follow up tempo of c4 which also saves the c-pawn.

15...Nxb3 16.Nxb3 Bd6 17.c4 Nf6 18.Qh4

Fritz 16 says instead 18.Bxf6 gxf6 19.Rad1 would lead to a clear advantage to White. I saw that line but I had an idea with the text in case Black put his Bishop on e7 (which he didn't, so ended up moot)

18...Re8 19.c5 Bf8 20.Rad1 Qf7 21.c6!



Position after 21.c6

21...b6

Black realizes the white c-pawn was immune: 21...bxc6?? 22.Bxf6 Qxf6 23.Qa4 with follow up moves (depending on Black's response) to Q a6 or c6 or Na5 or Rab1.

22.Bxf6 Qxf6 23.Qxf6 gxf6 24.Rd7 Bb4 25.Red1

Imprecise. Fritz pointed out 25.Re4 is far superior, keeping pressure on e6 as well as a free tempo on the hanging bishop on b4.

25...e5 26.Rxh7 Bd6 27.Rd5 Kd8 28.Rf7

My opponent pointed out during the post mortem (and Fritz agrees) that 28.Rd7+ is far superior, e.g., 28.Rd7+ Kc8 29.Rf7 Rf8 30.Rxf8 Bxf8 31.Rd7 and Black just has too many problems and not enough moves to solve them all.

28...Rh8 29.g3 Ke8 30.Rxf6 Ke7 31.Rg6 Rag8 32.Rxg8 Rxg8 33.f3 Ke6 34.Rd3 a5 35.Kg2 a4 36.Nd2 b5 37.Ne4 b4 38.h4 Rb8 39.Rd1

It is quite helpful for White's rook to be on the first rank. For example, it allows this variation: 39. Rd1 b3 40. Nxd6 b2 41. Nb7 and wins.

39...a3 40.Nxd6 cxd6 41.Rc1 d5 42.h5 Kd6 43.c7 Rc8 44.h6 b3 45.axb3 Rxc7 46.Ra1! Ra7 47.b4 d4 48.g4 Ke6 49.b5 Kf6 50.b6 Ra8 51.b7 Rb8 52.Rxa3 Rxb7 53.Ra6+ Kg5 54.Kg3 Rd7?

Black's fate is sealed after this. 54. ...Re7 was the only way to resist.

55.Re6 d3 56.h7

White's point is 56...d2 57.h8(Q) d1(Q) 58.Qh5 is mate.

56...Rxh7 57.Rxe5+ Kf6 58.Rd5

White is not only going to be up two pawns, but two connected pawns. It is reasonable to resign against a master in such a position, so Lennart does so. This was a fun game for me, hope you all enjoyed it as well.

1-0





"Play in the Western Idaho Open or else..." Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.



2018 Western Idaho Open

Northwest Chess Grand Prix!

Student Union Bldg.

Boise State University, 1910 University Dr.,
Boise, Idaho

sponsored by the Idaho Chess Association and the BSU Chess Club

Sat., Dec. 8th

(US Chess Rated, Open Section)

4SS G/60; d5

check-in: 9:00-9:30 am

Round Times: Sat. 10:00 am, 12:30 pm, 3:00 pm, 5:30 pm

Prizes:

- **Open Section** 1st - 3rd place \$100, \$75, \$50 & 1st place (\$50) for U1800, U1600, U1400, U1200, U1000, UNR. (based on 30).

Registration: \$30 per player. Discount for registering online. Scholarships available. ICA & US Chess Required. Other state affiliates accepted. Over 80, IMs, FMs, GMs free.

Games: Chess sets and clocks not provided. No Insufficient Losing Chances rule.

TD: Alise Pemsler & Jeff Roland

Byes: Maximum 1-half point bye in any round, must commit before round 2 is paired.

Details: idahochessassociation@gmail.com, or idahochessassociation.com, (208)450-9048.

**By entering the tournament, permission is given to the organizers to use photos for publicity and news on the world wide web, newspapers, and literature.

Washington Women's Championship

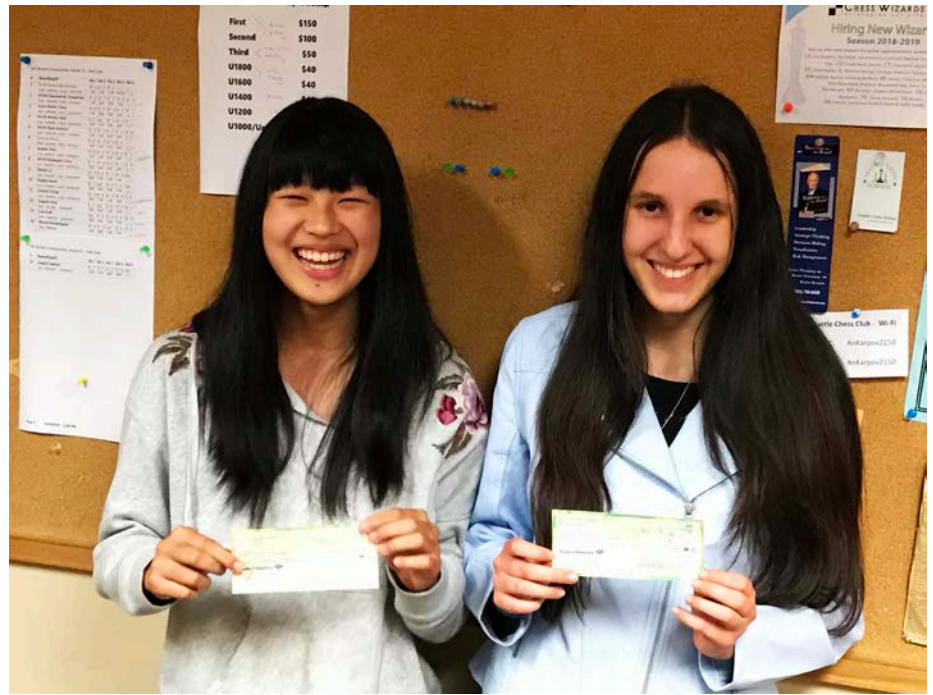
By Mary Kuhner

I entered this event with high hopes but low expectations; it falls at an awkward time in the academic year, and last year I had a disastrous tournament. I was the fifth seed, nearly two hundred rating points from the top; but I felt that I might have an outside chance at the title.

The first round had no upsets, leading—as I had predicted before the tournament—to my being paired with WIM Naomi Bashkansky in round two. In our three previous games I'd been Black in Dutch Defenses, and had managed just one draw. I finally had White, but chose to play Bird's Opening, a color-reversed Dutch, to maximize my chance to use what I'd learned from the previous games. Naomi surprised me with an early f5 advance, leading to a clogged position in the center; both of us missed winning chances in the ensuing complex struggle, leading to a drawn rook endgame.

In round three I managed to concoct a winning attack from a probably losing position versus Oregon player Andrea Botez. Naomi, perhaps overpressing to make up for the previous round's draw, lost to WCM Minda Chen and withdrew from the tournament, and WFM Anne-Marie Velea held defending champion WFM Chouchanik Airapetian to a draw. This meant that my 2.5 points put me in a tie for first with Minda, Anne-Marie, and Chouchanik. Unfortunately in round four Chouchanik dispatched me in a brutal French Winawer, while Minda and Anne-Marie drew. I was out of the running at that point, with the big question being whether Chouchanik, who was leading by half a point, could defend her title against Minda.

In round five I played WCM Stephanie Velea, who had beaten me in last year's event; she played an opening novelty (see game below) and got a very



(L) Minda Chen and Anne-Marie Velea, 2018 WA Women's Co-Champions!
Photo Credit: Josh Sinanan.

promising position, only to fall to another sudden attack. When that game finished I wandered over to check out Chouchanik and Minda, and ended up staying at the club, glued to the board, until it was over. At the point where I saw the game, Chouchanik had a whole suite of positional advantages—advanced pawns, unsafe enemy king, trapped enemy pieces. Minda, however, had an extra queen for a piece and a few pawns. Both were playing on the 30 second increment, and would continue to do so for another 15-20 minutes. Minda got down to single-digit seconds at least twice: Chouchanik was constantly making threats and would not let her build up time on her clock. With tremendous coolness under pressure, Minda sacrificed the exchange and crept her h-pawn forward; the exposed position of Chouchan's king prevented her from pressing her own attack, and in the end she was down two queens and had to resign.

Anne-Marie defeated the dangerous

Sophie Tien in her last game, so the final result was a tie between Minda and Anne-Marie for first place. A match later in the year will decide which one is seeded into the Premier section of the State Championship. Beating two Experts made Minda an Expert herself, with Anne-Marie not far behind at 1985. Chouchanik and I tied for 3rd-4th. Clearly in this event Age and Treachery were not quite enough to overcome Youth and Skill....

I did not play either of the new Co-Champions, but I had the strange distinction of beating both their little sisters (Angela Chen and Stephanie Velea). Here is my game with Stephanie. Time pressure was an issue here, and perhaps in a majority of the games in the event—women players often go in for aggressively tactical play, and G/90 hardly seemed enough to unravel the complications. While there were more draws in this event than in past Women's Championships, most of them were fights to the bitter end, though the game between



Join Us Today!

- Premium Center Classes
- Private Chess Lessons
- After School Clubs
- Rated Tournaments
- Chess Camps
- Workbooks & Materials

LEARN LIFE | IMPROVE CHESS | HAVE FUN

KIDS@CHESS4LIFE.COM | 425-283-0549 | WWW.CHESS4LIFE.COM

Supporting and promoting chess related activities throughout Washington State since 1946.



Josh Sinanan
President
joshsinanan@gmail.com

(206) 769-3757
4174 148th Ave NE, Building I, Suite M, Redmond, WA 98052

the two Co-Champions was agreed drawn relatively early and without significant bloodshed.

**Mary Kuhner (1926) –
Stephanie Velea (1762) [B50]**
WA Women's Championship
Seattle, WA (R5), September 16, 2018
[Mary Kuhner]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.c3 Nf6 4.Bd3 Bg4

Played instantly: I felt pretty certain that this was prepared analysis, probably prepared just for me.

5.Be2

The novelty has its desired effect; I choose a weak and craven reply.

5...Nc6 6.d3

6.d4 cxd4 7.Nxd4 Bxe2 8.Qxe2 does not lose the e-pawn but White does not play the Alapin only to end up in an Open Sicilian with a stupid pawn on c3.

6...e6 7.Nbd2 Be7 8.0-0 0-0 9.Re1 d5 10.e5

Now we get a French-like position with Black's bishop outside the pawn chain, which must be good for Black. My only comfort is that I don't think Stephanie really likes the French.

10...Nd7 11.d4 Rb8

Throughout the early middlegame Stephanie was playing in a very purposeful way; I wondered if she had explored these positions with a coach or training partner.

12.a3 b5



Position after 12...b5

I figured that I was worse here, and after

casting around for some way to avoid being rolled up on the queenside, decided I'd better just move pieces rightward and see if I could scare up an attack.

13.Nf1 b4

13...Bh5 preserving the bishop could be considered here.

14.axb4 cxb4 15.Bf4 bxc3 16.bxc3 Qc7

This puts her queen on a line with my bishop, which increases the tactical possibilities for both sides. Sacrifices in the center are beginning to be in the air.

17.Ng3 Rb7 18.Bd3

Continuing the theme of "point things at the king."

18...Rfb8 19.h3 Bxf3 20.Qxf3 Nf8

"With a knight on f8 it can never be mate." — Bent Larsen

21.Nh5 Ng6 22.Qg4 Rb3 23.Bd2 Qb6

Threatening to capture on d4, exploiting the loose piece on d3; I hurry to protect it. 23...Nb4 is an even better way to exploit the loose bishop.

24.Re3 a5 25.f4!?



Position after 25.f4

I had seen various combinations involving a sack in the center at earlier moves, but here my vigilance deserted me.

25...Nxd4! 26.Kh1

26.cxd4 Qxd4 hitting the Ra1 and Bd3 is pretty much game over.

26...Nb5?!

Stephanie is down to 8 minutes here, and it is tempting to retreat with the booty, but apparently Rb2 or Nf5 are better.

27.f5 exf5 28.Bxf5 Qc7?



Position after 28...Qc7

The losing move. 28...Nc7 is critical to discourage the e6 thrust. I don't think either of us realized just how big a threat e6 really is; once White gets that in, Black's position rapidly falls apart.

29.e6 fxe6

Two minutes; she is playing on the increment from here on out.

30.Bxg6

30.Rxe6 is apparently even better.

30...hxg6 31.Qxg6 Bf6

31...Bc5 32.Nf6+ Kf8 33.Rf1 is just as bad.

32.Nxf6+ Kf8 33.Rf3 Nd6 34.Nxd5+ Kg8 35.Nxc7 R3b6 36.Qxe6+ Kh7 37.Rf4 Nf7 38.Qxf7 Rh6 39.Rg4 Rg8 40.Bxh6 a4 41.Qg6+ Kh8 42.Bxg7+ Rxg7 43.Qxg7# 1-0

**Chouchanik Airapetian (2009) –
Minda Chen (1981) [B37]**
WA Women's Championship
Seattle, WA (R5), September 16, 2018
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 g6 5.c4 Bg7 6.Nf3 d6 7.Be2 Nf6 8.Nc3 0-0 9.0-0 Re8 10.h3 Bd7 11.Be3 Rc8 12.Rc1 b6 13.b3 Qc7 14.Bd3 Qb8 15.Bb1 Na5 16.Qd2 Bc6 17.Rfe1 Rcd8 18.Bg5 Ba8 19.Nd5 Bxd5?!

Positionally this is at least as bad as allowing White to take on f6.

20.exd5 Nb7 21.Nd4 Qc7 22.Nc6 Ra8 23.Re2 e5 24.f4 exf4 25.Rxe8+ Rxe8



Sri Chess Academy
"Two Eyes and 64 Squares"

20405 123rd Ave NE
Bothell WA 98011

Classes are also available in Naperville, Illinois

We train kids with age groups 6 and above.
Monday to Friday 6:30pm-8:00pm
Saturday and Sunday 9am-9pm
Contact: Sridhar Seshadri, Ph 425-492-4176
Email: SSheshadri@srichessacademy.com

FIDE Grandmaster Emil Jozsef Anka

Intl. Arbiter, Univ. Degree Chess Coach, USCF Tourn. Dir.

Grandmaster Camps, Private lessons,

Group lessons, After School Clubs

Chesssport
.com

gm.emilanka@chesssport.com, gm.emilanka@gmail.com

Kirkland, WA, www.chesssport.com (360-255-9392)



**Strategy.
Satisfaction.
Success.**



(L) Naomi Bashkansky vs Stephanie Velea at the start of round one.
Photo Credit: Josh Sinanan

26.Qxf4 Nd7 27.Rf1 Ne5 28.Nxa7 Qc5+ 46.Bxf6 Rxb4 47.Be7+ Kg8 48.Bc2 Rb2
49.Nd4 Rxa2



Position after 28...Qc5+

29.Qf2??

White apparently overlooked the tactic.
29.Kh1±

29...Nf3+! 30.gxf3 Bd4 31.Bh4 Bxf2+
32.Bxf2 Qc7?!

32...Qa5, transferring to d2, is quickly decisive.

33.Nc6 Nd8 34.Nd4 Qd7 35.Kg2 Qe7
36.f4 Qf6 37.Kf3 Nb7 38.b4 Ra8 39.Re1
g5 40.f5 Qh6 41.Kg2 Kf8 42.Nf3 Qh5
43.Re4 Ra3 44.Be3 Ra4 45.Bxg5 f6

49...Qd1!-+

50.f6 Kf7

50...Qd1-+

51.Rg4 Ke8 52.Kg3 Ra3+



Position after 52...Ra3+

53.Nf3??

53.Kf2! Ra2 54.Kg3 and Black will have to try something else.

53...Rxf3+!

Now Black is winning again.

54.Kxf3 Qxh3+
55.Rg3 Qf1+
56.Ke3 Qe1+
57.Kf3 Qc3+ 58.Kf4
Qxc2 59.Rg8+
Kd7 60.Rg7
Qxc4+ 61.Ke3
Qc5+ 62.Ke4
Qc4+ 63.Ke3
Qc3+ 64.Kf4 Qe5+
65.Kg4 h5+ 66.Kh4
Qh2+ 67.Kg5 Qe5+
68.Kh4 Qxd5
69.Rg5 Qh1+
70.Kg3 h4+ 71.Kg4

h3 72.Kf5 h2 73.Rg4 Qf3+ 74.Kg5 h1Q
0-1

More Washington Women's Championship...

By Anne-Marie Velea

The Washington Women's Championship was a very fun event for me.

I enjoyed playing chess against the strongest female competition in Washington. It was a great get together of girls and women who are serious about improving in chess.

I am very happy that I had the chance to participate in this event and become Washington Women's Co-Champion with Minda Chen.

I would like to encourage the female players that could not come this year to come and play in this tournament next year. It is a nice tournament to play in even if you are not from Washington State as you will meet many women and girls like you who are serious about improving and moving their game forward.

My favorite game from this tournament was my last round game. I liked it because I was in a must win situation and I played a very good game and won.

Even More Washington Women's Championship

By Stephanie Velea

The Washington Women's Championship is always a fun, memorable experience. This year, I enjoyed playing against some of the top female players in Washington. Though it wasn't one of my best tournaments it really got me thinking hard with every second, move by move!

For those of you that enjoy a good challenge, I recommend playing in the Washington Women's Championship. Chess is a game of strategy, a game of beauty. Be the next chess champion!

Orlov Chess Academy
IM Georgi Orlov
2540 US Chess

Offers time-tested program,
challenge and quick progress!

Chess Camps, Tournaments
Chess Classes, Private Lessons

info@chessplayer.com
www.chessplayer.com
(206)-387-1253

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



2018 WA Women's Championship players: (L-R) Melina Li, Chouchan Airapetian, Naomi Bashkansky, Angela Agaian, Mary Kuhner, Meera Shanmugam, Stephanie Velea, Felicity Wang, Minda Chen, Angela Chen, Anne-Marie Velea, Sophie Szeto, Sophie Tien & TD Fred Kleist. Not pictured: Andrea Botez, Lois Ruff. Photo Credit: Josh Sinanan.

Northwest Chess Open

December 15-16, 2018

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

Format: 5 Round Swiss, one section.

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

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

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

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

Prize fund: \$750 based on 35 entries.

1st \$150, 2nd \$100, 1st U2000 \$100, 1st U1800 \$100, 1st U1600 \$100, 1st U1400 \$100, 1st U1200 \$100.
Prizes Increased if over 40 entries.

Additional books and Northwest Chess magazine subscription prizes as entries permit.
Current US Chess Membership is required, available at site or online at www.uschess.org.

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

This is a fund raising event for Northwest Chess magazine.

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

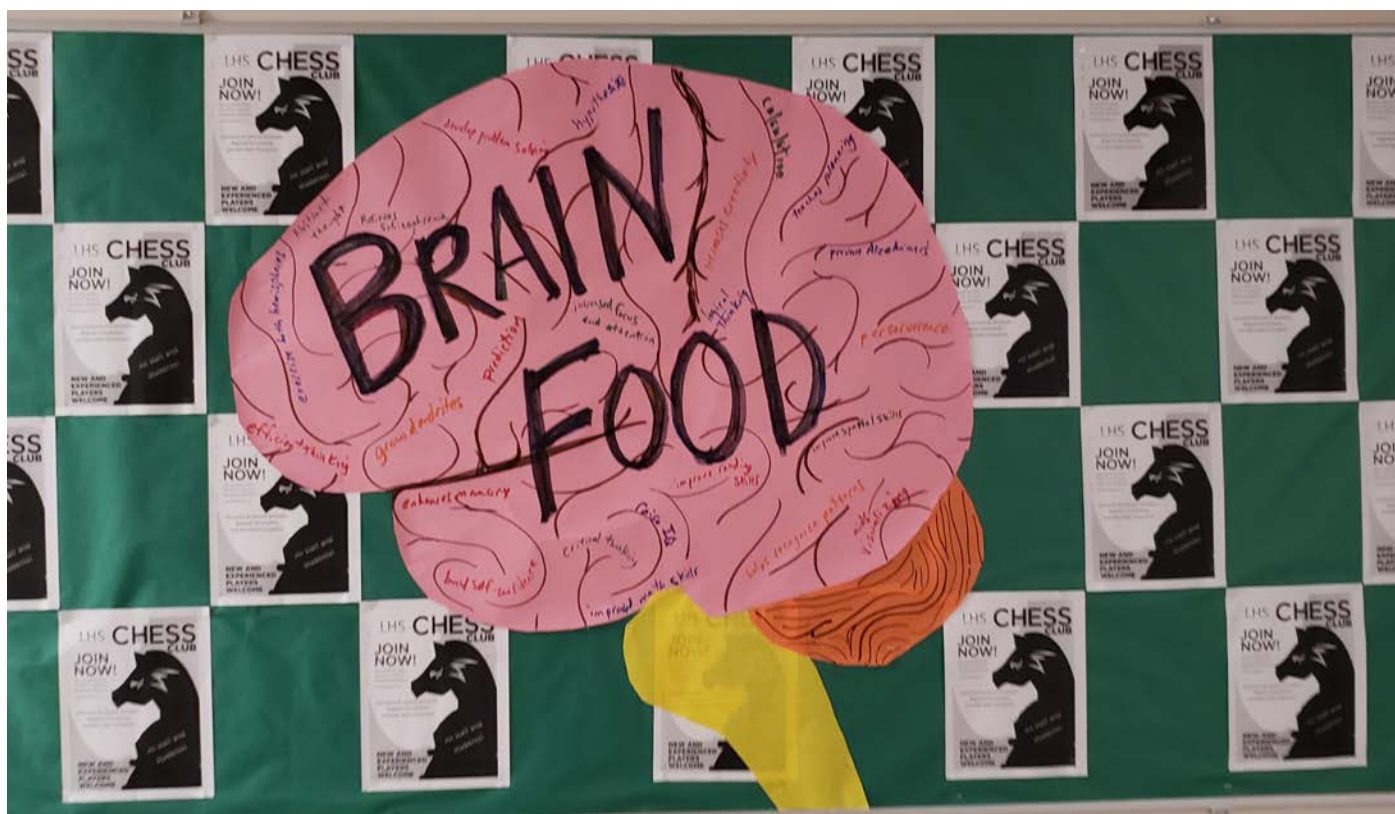
Organizer - Duane Polich, Publisher NWC.

Entries: Make checks payable to Northwest Chess

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

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

Co-Sponsored by Washington Chess Federation



Hallway display at Lakeland High School Chess Club, Rathdrum, Idaho. It shows the good things chess does for your brain.
 Photo credit: Adam Porth.

Washington Winter Chess Classic

December 26-30, 2018

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

Format: 9-Round Swiss in two section: Open and Reserve (under 1800). Both sections dual US Chess & FIDE-rated.

Time Control: 40/90, SD/30, +30. US Chess December 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: \$6,000 (all prizes based on 60 paid entries).

5 Female and 5 Senior 50+ minimum required per section for those prizes to be awarded.

Open: \$750-600-500-400 1st-2nd-3rd-4th, \$300 1st U2200/U2000/U1800, \$125 Top Female, \$125 Top Senior 50+.

Reserve: \$500-400-350-300 1st-2nd-3rd-4th, \$200 1st U1600/U1400/U1200/U1000, \$125 Top Female, \$125 Top Senior 50+.

Entry Fee - Open: \$210 if postmarked or online by 12/16, \$260 by 12/23 at 5:00 PM.

Entry Fee - Reserve: \$160 if postmarked or online by 12/16, \$210 by 12/23 at 5:00 PM.

\$50 additional for players rated below 1600 playing in the Open Section

Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs, WIMs, 2400+ USCF.

Rounds: Wednesday 12/26: 6:00 PM, Thursday 12/27, Friday 12/28, Saturday 12/29, Sunday 12/30: 10:00 AM, 5:00 PM.

Closing Ceremony: Sunday December 30 at 10:00 PM or asap, refreshments available.

Byes: Two half-point byes available, request before end of round 2. **Late Default:** 60 minutes.

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

Trophies Plus Grand Prix Points: 20. US Chess Junior Grand Prix event. Northwest Chess Grand Prix event. NS. NC. W.

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

Mail To: Jacob Mayer, 9502 44th Avenue NE, Seattle, WA 98115-2610. **Phone:** (206) 697-5625.

Email: vjctormayer@yahoo.com. **Online Registration:** nwchess.com/online/registration.



WHEN FARMER BROWN OFFERED HIS THANKSGIVING TURKEY A FIGHTING CHANCE, HE NEVER THOUGHT IT WOULD COME TO THIS!

The 2018 John Braley Memorial Northwest Chess Grand Prix

Murlin Varner, Administrator

(mevjr54@outlook.com)

The standings below show very few changes. September was a quiet month, with the exception of the Oregon Open, which was included in last month's standings. That left just seven events, one with a 2x multiplier, to impact our standings for this issue. There were 195 entries in those seven events, with almost a third (60) coming from that one multiplier event, the Seattle Fall Open. In most cases, the money is still up for grabs with just three months to go. Take a look, for instance, at Washington's Class A, where the top five are only separated by four points or Oregon's overall leaders where two point separate the top three. Couple that with the great opportunities in October and November, and a determined player could make a big surge in the standings.

October had seven events and over half had multipliers. These included a 2x in Portland, and 3x events in Boise and Seattle (2). If you made an effort to get to some of these events last month, the standings in the December magazine may see you moving up. The biggest drawback to maximizing your opportunity in October was that three of the four multiplier events were held on the same weekend (National Chess Day weekend).

November offers eight more events, including three with multipliers. These are the 2x Seattle Extravaganza!, November 9-11, the 3x Oregon Class, November 3-4, and the 6x Washington Class, November 23-25. It's especially nice that these are on different weekends, meaning you could hit two or even all three if you so desired. The results of your efforts in November will be reflected in the standings published in the January magazine.

Players from outside our region help us in the Grand Prix, because their entries provide the same dollar towards the prize fund that ours do. The difference is that they are not competing for prizes. So far this year, 51 players from outside our three state area have played in Grand Prix events. The largest contingents come from Montana and Canada, but we have had players from as far away as Guam, Singapore and Germany. The outside player with the most points so far this year is a former Washington player, H. G. Pitre, with 62 points. Pitre is a Californian resident these days.

All data is current as of October 1.

2018 Memorial Northwest Grand Prix Standings

Idaho			Oregon			Washington		
last	first	pts.	last	first	pts.	last	first	pts.
			Masters					
			1	Tarjan James	84.0	1	Pupols Viktors	167.5
			2	Breckenridge Steven J	82.0	2	Yu Jason	158.5
			3	McCoy Owen	59.5	3	Perez Ignacio	137.0
			4	Zavortink Matt	54.0	4	He Anthony B	132.5
			5	Grabinsky Joshua	49.0	5	Roper David	81.0
M/X/Class A			Experts					
1	Cambareri Michael E	65.0	1	Richardson Ryan	82.5	1	Levine Joseph R	209.0
2	Machin Alex J	45.5	2	Bjorksten Lennart	73.5	2	Zhang Eric M	124.5
3	Xu Kevin	44.5	3	Gatica Jose M	70.5	3	Mahajan Rushaan	124.0
4	Inman James	37.0	4	Seitzer Phillip	59.5	4	Truelson Joseph	106.0
5	Presutti Michael J	31.0	5	Zhang Gavin	55.0	5	Chen Minda	89.0
Class B			Class A					
1	Roland Jeffrey T	35.5	1	Vega Isaac	150.5	1	Vijayakumar Advait	144.0
1	Wei James	35.5	2	Moore Michael	146.5	2	Fagundes Frank	142.5
3	Rainey Samuel W	30.0	3	Holloran William T, III	84.5	3	Velea Anne-Marie	142.0
4	Geyman Jonathan P	23.5	4	Nair Roshen S	82.0	4	Kaelin Alex	142.0
5	Derryberry Dewayne R	22.0	5	Hosford Michael J	81.0	5	Beck Alec W	140.0

Idaho			Oregon			Washington					
last	first	pts.	last	first	pts.	last	first	pts.			
Class C			Class B								
1	Kitterman	Andrew N	30.0	1	Tang	Zoey	170.5	1	Gupta	Anand	154.0
2	Weyland	Ron	13.5	2	Tang	Austin	168.5	2	Tang	Richard O	125.0
3	Owen	Gary	10.5	3	Kodithyala	Raj	126.0	3	Velea	Stephanie	121.5
4	Mason	Dusty G	9.5	4	Wu	Abbie	103.5	4	Min	Ryan	116.5
5	Pentico	Christopher	6.0	5	Sripada	Havish	100.0	5	Buck	Stephen J	115.5
Class D			Class C								
1	Merry	William A F	23.0	1	Beauchet	Pierre-Hadrien	169.0	1	Piper	August	172.5
2	Porth	Adam	20.5	2	Dietz	Arliss	118.5	2	Goktepe	Derin	151.0
3	Leifeste	Bryce	14.0	3	Wong	Egan	99.5	3	Richards	Jerrold	132.5
4	Shepard	River C	13.5	4	Morrissey	Patrick W	82.5	4	Wang	Felicity	108.5
5	Ang	Ching-E N	10.5	5	Zhang	Ethan Y	80.0	5	Johnson	Cleveland R	102.0
Class E and Below			Class D and Below								
1	Wei	Luke B	25.0	1	Kodarapu	Ishaan K	79.0	1	Henderson	Doug	137.0
2	Belew	Finn C	16.0	2	Adiraju	Vimal	63.0	2	Li	Edward	119.0
3	Porth	Darwin A	15.0	3	Lykins	Pace	55.0	3	Singh	Saket	94.0
3	Geyman	Josiah B	15.0	4	Midson	Tony	51.0	4	Ruff	Lois A	92.5
5	Olson	Otto W	11.5	5	Sripada	Anisha	44.5	5	Chen	Angela Z	88.5
Overall Leaders, by State											
1	Cambareri	Michael E	65.0	1	Tang	Zoey	170.5	1	Levine	Joseph R	209.0
2	Machin	Alex J	45.5	2	Beauchet	Pierre-Hadrien	169.0	2	Piper	August	172.5
3	Xu	Kevin	44.5	3	Tang	Austin	168.5	3	Pupols	Viktors	167.5
4	Inman	James	37.0	4	Vega	Isaac	150.5	4	Yu	Jason	158.5
5	Roland	Jeffrey T	35.5	5	Moore	Michael	146.5	5	Gupta	Anand	154.0
5	Wei	James	35.5	6	Kodithyala	Raj	126.0	6	Goktepe	Derin	151.0
7	Presutti	Michael J	31.0	7	Dietz	Arliss	118.5	7	Vijayakumar	Advait	144.0
8	Rainey	Samuel W	30.0	8	Wu	Abbie	103.5	8	Fagundes	Frank	142.5
8	Kitterman	Andrew N	30.0	9	Sripada	Havish	100.0	9	Velea	Anne-Marie	142.0
10	Wei	Luke B	25.0	10	Wong	Egan	99.5	10	Kaelin	Alex	142.0
11	Geyman	Jonathan P	23.5	11	Holloran	William T, III	84.5	11	Beck	Alec W	140.0
12	Merry	William A F	23.0	12	Tarjan	James	84.0	12	Three Tied At		137.0

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

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

☞ Nov 17, Dec 8 Saturday Quads☞
Format: 3-RR, 4-plyr sections by rating. **TC:** G/120; d5. **EF:** \$9 (+\$7 fee for non-SCC). **Prizes:** Free entry for future quad. **Reg:** 9:00-9:45 a.m. **Rds:** 10:00-2:15-ASAP. **Misc:** US Chess, WCF/OCF/ICA memb. req'd, OSA. NS, NC.

☞ Nov 18, Dec 16 Sunday Tornado☞
Format: 4-SS. **TC:** G/60; d5. **EF:** \$18 (+\$7 fee for non-SCC). **Prizes:** 1st 35%, 2nd 27%, Bottom Half 1st 22%, 2nd 16% (\$10 per 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.

WCF @ the SCC
 Seattle Winter Classic Dec. 26-30

Wednesdays
 are for casual play,
 from 7:00 pm to 11:00 pm

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.

Tentative SCC 2019 Weekend Schedule

- Novice:** Jan 6, Mar 31, Jun 30, Oct 6.
- Quads:** Jan 5, Feb 2, Mar 2&30, Apr 27, May 18, June 29, July 20, Aug 17, Sep 7, Oct 5, Nov 2, Dec 7.
- Tornado:** Jan 20, Feb 24, Mar 24, Apr 14, May 12, Jun 9, Jul 7, Aug 18, Sep 15, Oct 13, Nov 17, Dec 15.
- Seattle City Championship** 11-13 Jan. **Seattle Spring Open** 15-17 March
- SCC Adult Swiss** 6-7 April **Emerald City Open** 21-23 June
- Seafair Open** 26-28 July **Seattle Fall Open** 20-22 Sept.
- SCC Extravaganza** 9-11 Nov.

11th SCC Extravaganza!!

November 9-11, 2018

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

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

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

Entry Fee: \$43 by 11/7 (\$32 for SCC members, \$38 for members of other dues-required CCs in WA, OR, & BC), \$51 at site (\$38 for SCC members, \$45 for members of other dues-required CCs in WA, OR, & BC).

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

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

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

Upcoming Events

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

♣ **Nov 3-4 Oregon Class Championships, Portland, OR.** Site: Portland Chess Club, 8205 SW 24th Ave, Portland, OR 97219. 4-round Swiss in 5 sections, 2000+, 1800-1999, 1600-1799, 1400-1599, U1400. Players may play up only one class. One, 1/2 bye is available if requested before rd 1. 40/90,SD/30;inc30, US Chess rated. Rds: 10am and 3:45pm each day. EF: \$50 if you pre-reg. by Nov 1, \$65 on-site. Add \$10 if you play up. US Chess and OCF/WCF/ICA memberships are required (OSA). Limited to the first fifty players. Pre-reg at nwchess.com by Nov 1. On-site reg: 9-9:45am. Prizes (\$2000 b/40): 1st-\$200, 2nd-\$100, 3rd-\$70 in each section. The 2000+ also has a \$75 U2200 prize and the U1400 section also has a \$75 U1200/unrated prize. Any player who goes 4-0 wins free entry into next year's OR Class. Any scholastic player who scores at least 2.5 will be able to select a trophy. Qualifier for the OR State Champ, OR Invitational, and OSCF State Champ. More info. at pdxchess.org, (503) 246-2978.

♣ **Nov 10 Southern Idaho Open & Veterans Day Tournament, Twin Falls, ID.** 4SS, Time Control: G/60; d5. Section: Open. Site: Holiday Inn Express, 1554 Fillmore St, Twin Falls, ID. Call for Chess Rate, 208-734-2233. US Chess & ICA/OCF/WCF mem req. EF: Veterans free, \$30 per player. Discount for online registration. Check in: 9:00-9:30am. Rd. times: 10:00 am, 1:00 pm, 3:00 pm, 5:00 pm. 1/2 pt bye avail: Max 1, Notify TD before Rd. 2 is paired. \$\$ (based on 30) 1st - 3rd place Overall \$100, \$75, \$50. \$50/class: U1800, U1600, U1400, U1200, U1000, unr. Details: idahocheessassociation@gmail.com, Online registration at www.idahocheessassociation.com, (208) 450-9048.

♣ **Nov 18/Dec 16 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.

♣ **Nov 23-25 Washington Class Championships, Lynnwood, WA.** (Full-page Ad page 5)

♣ **Nov 24/Dec 29* Portland CC Game in 60, Portland, OR.** Site: Portland Chess Club, 8205 SW 24th Ave., Portland, OR. 4-round Swiss. If there are less than thirty players it's played in one section. If there are at least thirty players it's split into two sections at the mid-point of the field based on rating except that both sections will start with an even number of players if possible. G/60;inc5, one half point bye available if requested before round 1, US Chess rated. On-site reg: 9-9:45 am. Rds: 10am, 12:30pm, 2:45pm, 5:00pm. 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. **(*Note: There are some changes to the PCC G/60 TA beginning in December.)**

♣ **Dec 8 Western Idaho Open, Boise, ID.** (Full-page Ad page 37)

♣ **Dec 8-9 Portland Winter 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. Note: Same details are valid for Spring, Summer and Winter Opens unless otherwise announced.

♣ **Dec 15-16 Northwest Chess Open, Seattle, WA.** (Half-page Ad page 41)

♣ **Dec 26-30 Washington Winter Chess Classic, Seattle, WA.** (Half-page Ad page 42)

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

Periodicals Postage
PAID
Seattle, WA



Students learning to play chess at
Lakeland High School in
Rathdrum, Idaho.