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John Glenn at the 2018 Southern Idaho Open.
Photo credit: Adam Porth.

On the back cover:

Drew Machin (left) and Alex Machin (right)
on December 2, 2018. Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.

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From The Publisher's Desk

A happy 2019 New Year's greetings!

Another year went by quickly, but it was a good year for chess. Interest in our favorite game was rekindled with an American challenging for the world title for the first time since Bobby Fischer. Fabiano Caruana came tantalizing close to unseating the World Champion, but Magnus Carlsen knew what he was doing when he took the match to rapid tiebreaks.

Interest in chess throughout the Pacific Northwest remains strong, as several of our major events continue to have good turnouts. Several grandmasters from out of the area were able to participate in these events due to generous donations from numerous individuals and corporations. Scholastic chess continues to remain relevant as a fun way to learn critical thinking skills as thousands of kids learn the joys of the game. Here at *Northwest Chess* magazine, the official chess publication for the Washington, Oregon, and Idaho chess federations and associations, we continue to publish a first-class regional journal covering the people, places, events, games, and happenings of the chess scene in the Northwest. We maintain a website about upcoming chess activity, an online registration system, where to play chess at clubs, tournaments, etc., and we keep extensive historical records of chess in our region.

This year we hope to achieve our long-term goal of becoming an IRS 501(c)3 non-profit organization and look more at expanding our purpose and mission beyond informing and documenting chess-related activity in the three states. We plan to move more towards an educational role as well, by adding various e-magazines such as *Northwest Chess Kids* as we document scholastic chess-related activities in the area. Perhaps we will publish some e-books that will help you improve your game, give you tournament tips, history of the various chess personalities that have had an impact on chess in our area. To that end, the Board of Directors has established and adopted new bylaws to guide the organization that manages *Northwest Chess* magazine and upcoming endeavors as we become the **Northwest Chess Foundation** and solidify our purpose and mission in promoting chess throughout the Pacific Northwest.

Just the name of the organization will change and not the magazine. We continue to have a dedicated staff and board of directors and I would once again like to thank them for all their hard work and effort. We are always looking for more dedicated volunteers to help us in furthering chess in our area. So onward and upward into the New Year. Go Chess! Go *Northwest Chess*!

Duane Polich

Publisher

Jason Marr On Chess And Life

By Amanda Warren

Jason Marr is a California native now living in the Boise area. At an early age a friend taught him how to play chess, but he did not study the game seriously until more recently.

Jason and I initially met during an informal pub chess gathering, our subsequent conversations always flowing back to chess and its parallels to life. All of those he encounters either over-the-board or in a casual conversation will tell you that his humble, confident and controlled style of play is equally intriguing and inspiring.

Our interview took place over four months of over-the-board play and conversations during informal lessons. Each conversation revealed more of his passion for the game and its connection to both his past and present. He is articulate and unguarded, respected and appreciated, and is well liked amongst the players he has encountered. His passion for the game both inspired him and tested him; always making constant forward progress to improve.

He showed me that chess is more than sheer mental ability and that emotional strength and control is just as important to continue to grow and progress in the game. I was determined to know more beyond his mere proficiency and skill and he was kind enough to allow me to share it as his friend. His story is that of overcoming adversity, staying the course, and above all, gratitude for what chess has taught him along the way.

AW: In a broad sense, how do you view chess?

JM: Like the saying goes, “Chess is Life.” Playing the game has had a profound affect on me in most aspects of my life.

AW: Profound in what way?

JM: Chess is more than a game – it’s something that can really change your psyche. The difficulty of learning and the road to improvement forced me to think in a different way. It can show us our strengths and reveal our weaknesses, and gives us a chance to evaluate ourselves in order to work towards change.

AW: How did it reveal your strengths and weaknesses?

JM: Chess taught me a lot about the consequences of good/bad decisions, how to handle them, and how to be resilient in the face of adversity.



Jason Marr. Photo credit: Amanda Warren.

AW: Would you say you have experienced adversity?

JM: Many years ago, as a young man, I struggled with who I was, cared too much about fitting in. I faced a lengthy prison sentence and was sent to a different state, but once I decided to really focus on self-improvement things changed for the better.

AW: How did being in such a challenging environment shape your game?

JM: During over-the-board play, I’m generally a calm, confident yet quiet player, which helps me stay focused, ease the tension, and helps me make better decisions. I think for me, psychology

plays a huge role in chess.

AW: How can chess make a difference in the lives of inmates?

JM: Many inmates come to prison and they have plenty of time to fill their minds with grandiose plans of success when they’re released. They think that if they can dream it they can actualize it, but they fail to remember that their plans are missing real world experience, which they have not had while incarcerated. Unconsciously, they set themselves up for failure immediately upon release. They seek instant gratification and results, rather than an understanding of starting from the bottom and working their way up. Chess helps to build the skill of critical thinking, taking accountability for

your mistakes, being gracious in win and in loss and most importantly to not get overwhelmed.

AW: Anyone specific that shaped or inspired your game?

JM: During my time away, I came across another chess player who had a bit of book knowledge and enjoyed studying and practicing frequently. It was a wonderful opportunity for me to advance in my chess studies and really dig into openings and theory, as he would always be open to playing popular main lines, which provided me plenty of experience in a multitude of positions. We played for quite a few years and hundreds of games that helped us both grow in our play.

AW: In what ways do you control the internal and external dialogue that often distracts players?

JM: Self-talk and awareness of our thought processes are critical to playing at a high level, as is dealing with the physical reactions that occur during intense games. I don't consider myself to be an excellent chess player, but I do have a passion for the game and being well rounded is something I strive for.

AW: Do you have a personal playing style?

JM: Yes, but it's hard to define because I'm not sure my game fits into one category. I would like to think I'm a technical player who is also intuitive. Through my studies of chess, I was always seeking a thorough understanding of the game, especially with openings and tactics, but at the same time it was important to maintain a broad repertoire so as not to be surprised or find myself in uncomfortable positions. In general, as White, I'm a d4/c4 player with a preference for the Queen's Gambit and the English Opening. But I've experimented and feel confident playing the black side as well, such as the Queen's Indian, King's Indian, and the Grunfeld. As for e4 openings, I enjoy playing the Ruy Lopez (The Spanish), Breyer Opening, and Caro-Kann among others, but my favorite opening is the Sicilian Najdorf simply due to its complexities and difficulty to master. My in-game strategies are always fluid.

AW: What are your reactions to unplanned moves?

JM: Mentally, I may have a long-term goal in mind, but during play I think it's important to always remain flexible and reassess your position as the game progresses. In addition, I think it's pertinent to make strong multi-purpose moves, and maintain or gain the initiative however possible.

AW: At what point does your emotional control turn into action on the board?

JM: As we all know, chess is a game of stress and nerves, so doing my best to apply pressure when appropriate is a high priority for me.

AW: Does chess continue to inspire you today?

JM: Absolutely. I feel chess has allowed me to strengthen myself emotionally and bounce back from negative situations that can occur, during play of course, but most importantly in life! The parallels between chess and life are endless; it's such a unique and beautiful game and has become a vehicle for self-transformation for me. For that I'm eternally grateful!



Alex Machin (left) and Jason Marr (right) at the Pawns and Pints Chess Meetup of October 20, 2018. Photo credit: Amanda Warren.

2018 Oregon Class Championship

By Brian Berger

Portland, OR—November 3-4, 2018

November 3-4 saw the Oregon Class Championships being played out at the Portland Chess Club. It was billed as a four-round Swiss in five sections, those being Master/Expert (2000+), Class A (1800-1999), Class B (1600-1799), Class C (1400-1599), and Class D and below (under 1400), at a time control of 40/90, SD/30; increment 30. Prize money of \$2000 was based on a 40-player turnout, and the tournament was a qualifier for the Oregon State Championship, the Oregon Invitational, and for the OSCF State Championship.

Back in 2016, when the Oregon Class Championships was still being held at the Lloyd Center DoubleTree Hotel, a posh but expensive venue, it had been noted previously that attendance figures had been declining, and in that year they fell



Chief TD Micah Smith. Photo credit: Brian Berger.



Chief Assistant TD Mike Morris with Lennart Bjorksten in background. Photo credit: Brian Berger.

to the lowest ever—42 players. Cost to player ratio was not penciling out, and so it was decided to use the Portland Chess Club as a fallback venue, starting in 2017.

That first year at the club, with Grisha Alpernas as Chief TD, the player field fell to 35. It seemed that the change in venue was the right choice at the right time. But now there was a new restriction on attendance, no more than 50, due to the issue of the club's safe holding capacity. That restriction made pre-registration even more of a necessity, if for some reason the popularity of this event might generate the larger interest of earlier years, when an attendance of at least 60 could be expected (it was 57 in 2013).

Chief TD and Organizer this year was Micah Smith, supported by Assistant Chief TD Mike Morris and Assistant TD Lennart Bjorksten; all-told, about as substantial a crew of TDs that one could hope for. In the case of Bjorksten (2157-2160—1.5/4), a dark and wet night, combined with slippery leaves, made for a treacherous walk to his car, where on the way he lost his footing and ended up breaking an ankle, causing him to withdraw from his TD position, and also the tournament, where he had scored a win and a draw on the first day. A subsequent conversation with him assured me he was in little pain, and after a scheduled operation, would be laid up for about a month.

The tournament showed an increase of eight players this year, putting attendance at 43, that with family and friends also on hand, made for a just comfortable full house. The only drawback was that



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

Morgan the Dog had to be more vigilant about where he placed his tail amongst the many feet and chair legs, as he tends to get a bit blasé about this substantial extension, where in past tournaments one might hear what sounded like a startled “hound of the Baskervilles” send an ear-piercing wail bouncing off the walls when that particular appendage was stepped on.

And where Morgan the Dog is, so also is Jerrold “I Just Want To Reach 1600 Before It’s Over” Richards (1433-1368—1.0/4), who entered the Class C section of this tournament for what is now taking on the longevity of an ancient quest, that of one day becoming a B-player—a sort of “Golden Fleece” for Richards; a symbol of his chess prowess. But the success of that quest, even though enticingly close at hand at times (see the September issue of *Northwest Chess*) due to Morgan’s tireless efforts to instruct Richards in the finer points of the game, has thus far eluded him—a full point bye in this tournament reflecting the reason for his 1.0/4 score.

Not far removed from the travails of Richards’ quest to become a better player,



Registering . Photo credit: Brian Berger.



(L) Neena Feldman vs David Roshu. Photo credit: Brian Berger.

are those of my own—Brian “I’m Just Glad To Be Here” Berger (1552-1517—0.5/4). Entering the B Class with 52 newly gained points for tying for U1800 in the October PCC Club Championship, I was hoping to do better than the year



Brian Berger. Photo credit: Sanjay Nair.

before, when with a rating of 1617 (down from an all-time high of 1707) I managed to finish with a 2.0/4 score. Alas, as my Ratings History Graph shows, I was due for another one of those precipitous Graph lines that, when spaced chronologically, would indicate to a cardiologist that this patient was in dire need of emergency care.

Even though, statistically, by coming in as the lowest-rated in my section I was at a disadvantage to begin with, I felt sure (by many previous encounters with higher-rated players) I could snag a couple of wins while my opponents weren’t looking. Unfortunately every one of them had 20/20 vision, and were keenly aware of my bad move choices—thus the 0.5/4 score, and the sucking sound of many of my recently acquired rating points going down the drain; a scenario played out with increasing frequency of late.

Enough now of desperate old men seeking to bolster their egos with ratings beyond their reach, and more of what took place winning-wise in this tournament—


the first of which was Phillip Seitzer’s (2119—2136—3.5/4) domination of the Master/Expert section, where his three wins and a draw merited \$164 in first place prize money, and his being seeded into the Oregon State Championship. And one point behind were David Bragg (2206-2200—2.5/4) of Washington, Roshen Nair (1989-2004—2.5/4), and Konner Feldman (1885-1919—2.5/4), who split second, third, and first U2200, each earning \$66.97—a double bonus for Roshen was being seeded into the Oregon Invitational, on tiebreaks (Konner not a factor being a Washington resident), and for the first time reaching an Expert rating.

The Class A section saw Brent Baxter (1946-1965—3.5/4) of Washington become the overall winner, his three wins and a draw securing him the first place prize of \$164; trailed closely by second place winner Davey Jones (1766-1793—3.0/4), also of Washington, who made half of what Baxter won, that being \$84. And in third place was Kushal Pai (1718-1721—2.0/4), claiming for himself the last of the Class A prize fund, amounting to \$57.40.

The Class B section was the only section won by a perfect score, when Will Holloran (1763-1846—4.0/4) aced all four of his games, collecting the \$164 prize money, and the bonus of a free entry into next year’s Class Championships. His third round game against Eric “Mighty Mite” Erard (1765-1785—3.0/4) could have told another tale had the young Erard, who was playing tough and cagy chess, managed a draw or win. As it was, Erard’s 3.0/4 score was sufficient to claim second place, and the \$82 that went with it. That left Stephen Buck (1734-1727—2.0/4) of Washington, and Yu-Cheng Liang (1570-1591—2.0/4), also of Washington, to split the third place money, each receiving \$28.70.

Another Washington player, and a provisional one at that, Larsen Winger (1363P-1521P—3.5/4), became the winner of the Class C section, his three wins and one draw earning him first place money of \$164, and a substantial





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(L) Roshen Nair vs David Bragg. Photo credit: Brian Berger.

158-points in rating! Both Neena Feldman (1461-1526—3.0/4) and Patrick Morrissey (1391-1465—3.0/4) showed final scores of 3.0/4 that merited their splitting the second and third place prize money, each pocketing \$69.70—Feldman upping her rating by 65 points, and Morrissey by 74 points.

Action in the Class D and below section ended with Cassandra Roshu (1348-1363—3.0/4) and Gregory Post (1182-1215—3.0/4) of South Carolina splitting first and second place, each receiving \$123. While the final prize money of the tournament went to Nick Major (1403-1360—2.0/4) of Washington, Sudarshan Gokul (1109-1121—2.0/4), and Victor Diego (1166P-1199P—2.0/4), for splitting third and first U1200/Unrated, their cut of the money amounting to \$39.64 each.

We wish Lennart Bjorksten a rapid recovery from his ankle surgery, and thank Micah Smith and Mike Morris for their part in making this a smooth running and fun tournament.



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

2018 November Third Weekend

By Jameson Tang

Boise, ID—November 17-18, 2018

The 2018 November Third Weekend was held at the Bergquist Lounge in the Boise State Student Union Building. It was a two-day team match between a team from Washington and a team from Idaho. There were five boards on each team, and the time control was G/90 plus 30 seconds increment per move. The main difficulty in holding this event was to find enough Idaho players to play as some boards had to be substituted over the two days.

The five players representing Washington included: Murlin Varner (1500), Michael Munsey (1359), Timofei Bolshakov (1317), John Hornickle (1309), and Stephen Weller (1070).

The players that represented Idaho included: Jameson Tang (1869), George Lundy III (1554), Anthony Harris (822P8), Josh Fishburn (1480P6), Lleyton Davis (873P6), and Kaylyn Davis (Unr).

Most of the play on the first day was hard-fought with some surprising results (Anthony Harris won vs Munsey and Lleyton Davis' first positive results in chess with two draws). The match was tight heading into the second day at 8-7 in favor of the team from Washington. Nevertheless, Team Washington scored enough points on the bottom boards to make up the 0.0/5 score on board one to win 14.5-10.5.

Many of the games were well played, but often ended up in completely different results due to fast play or time pressure. At the end of the day, the tournament was well-organized by George Lundy, and the newer players were able to get valuable experience against the veterans of the game. The Chess Club at Boise State University (CCBSU) loved hosting the event and wish to do such arrangements again in the future.

**Lleyton G. Davis (ID) (873) –
Murlin Varner Jr (WA) (1500) [C02]**
November Third Weekend
Boise, ID (R4), November 18, 2018
[Murlin Varner]

I have chosen this game because it is short, thereby giving me fewer opportunities for making embarrassing errors. I also have less opportunity to say something abjectly stupid.

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.Be3

5.c3 is more common. Maybe even better, but I can't tell you why.



Murlin Varner. Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.

5...c4

My computer tells me that I should have taken the pawn, but I wasn't eager to blow a hole in the middle.

6.Nc3 Bb4 7.a3 Ba5±

White is slightly better.

8.Rb1

And now, he's not.

8...Nge7 9.Be2 h6= 10.Qd2 Nf5

I'm thinking I'd like to move my pieces over to the kingside, since his are already there.

11.0-0 Bd7 12.Ne1 Bb6

He took a piece off of the pawn on d4, so I add one.

13.Nf3

Kind of makes 12.Ne1 a wasted move.

13...Qe7 14.Rbd1±

Seems like another wasted move. I could be wrong.

14...0-0=



Position after 14...0-0

I was thinking about all those white pieces to the kingside of the pawn wall, and

thought my king should avoid the area. Of course, that just moved my computer to say it was all equal again.

15.Rb1 f6±

Such a shock! My computer actually liked this move. I had decided I was finally in position to make that hole in the middle and let my forces pour through. Not that that ever works for me...

16.b4

What all my passive play has been waiting for, an error on the part of my opponent. I imagine he's thinking of 16...cxb3, which isn't bad for me, but he missed my better move.

16...fxe5-+

Here is the hole, but also a lure, and he takes the bait.

17.dxe5 d4



Position after 17...d4

I really expected a lot of bloodshed here with pieces and pawns flying off the board, and winding up with my advantage being a minor piece in exchange for a pawn or two. He, on the other hand, chose to make the quick end.

0-1



George Lundy (left) makes move in round two versus Stephen Weller.
Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.



Position after 28.Raf1

28...Rxb2! 0-1

**Murlin Varner Jr (WA) (1500) –
Jameson Tang (ID) (1869) [A23]**
November Third Weekend
Boise, ID (R1), November 17, 2018

1.c4 e5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.g3 d5 4.Bg2 c6 5.e3
Be7 6.cxd5 cxd5 7.Nge2 0-0 8.0-0 Nc6
9.d4 e4 10.a3 Bg4 11.h3 Bxe2 12.Qxe2
Rc8 13.f3 Bd6 14.g4 Re8 15.fxe4 Nxe4
16.Nxe4 dxe4 17.Bd2 Bb8 18.Bh1 Qd6
19.Rf4?

19.Rac1∞

19...Nxd4! 20.Qf2

20.exd4 e3! 21.Raf1 (21.Bxe3 Qxf4) 21...
exd2 22.Qxd2

20...Nb3 21.Rd1 Rcd8 22.Rxe4 Rxe4
23.Bxe4 Nxd2 24.Bc2 Qg3+ 25.Qxg3
Bxg3 26.Kg2 Be5 27.b3 g6 28.h4 Rd6
29.Kh3 Ne4 30.Rf1 Rd2 0-1



**Stephen Fredric Weller (WA) (1070) –
George Lundy III (ID) (1554) [A35]**
November Third Weekend
Boise, ID (R2), November 17, 2018

1.d4 g6 2.c4 Bg7 3.Nc3 e5 4.Nf3 cxd4
5.Nxd4 Nc6 6.e3 Nf6 7.Be2 0-0 8.0-0
a6 9.Bf3 Ne5 10.Be2 d6 11.Nf3 Nfd7
12.Nxe5 Bxe5 13.f4 Bxc3 14.bxc3 Nc5
15.Bf3 Bf5 16.Qd4 Rc8 17.Rd1 Bd7
18.Ba3 Bc6 19.Bxc5 dxc5 20.Qe5 Qc7
21.Bxc6 Qxe5 22.fxe5 Rxc6 23.Rab1 b6
24.Rd5 Re6 25.a4 a5 26.h3 f5 27.Kh2
f4 28.Rf1 fxe3 29.Rxf8+ Kxf8 30.Kg3
g5 31.Kf3 h5 32.g4 hxg4+ 33.hxg4 e2
34.Kxe2 Kf7 35.Ke3 Rh6 36.Ke4 Ke6
37.Rd3 Rh2 38.Re3 Rg2



Position after 38...Rg2

39.Kf3

39.Rg3! Rxc3 stalemate! (39...Re2+
40.Re3 Rxe3+ 41.Kxe3 Kxe5 42.Kf3
with no progress possible, thanks to the
doubled pawn's defense of d4.; 39...
Ra2 40.Rh3 Rxa4 41.Rh6+ Kd7 42.Rxb6
Rxc4+ 43.Kd5 Rxc3 44.Rb7+ Kd8 45.Ra7
is also a draw.)

39...Ra2 40.Re2 Rxa4 41.Rb2 Rxc4
42.Rxb6+ Kxe5 43.Rb7 e6 44.Rg7
Rxc3+ 45.Kg2 Kf4 0-1

**George Lundy III (ID) (1554) –
Timofei Bolshakov (WA) (1317) [D00]**
November Third Weekend
Boise, ID (R5), November 18, 2018

1.d4 d5 2.Bf4 e5 3.c3 Nf6 4.e3 c4 5.Nd2
Nc6 6.Be2 Bf5 7.Ngf3 e6 8.Bg3 Be7
9.Ne5 0-0 10.Ndf3 Ne4 11.Nd2 Nxg3
12.hxg3 f6 13.Nxc6 bxc6 14.g4 Bg6
15.f4 a5 16.Nf3 a4 17.a3 c5 18.Nh4
Qe8 19.f5 exf5 20.gxf5 Bf7 21.Bg4 cxd4
22.Qxd4 Bd6 23.Nf3 Rb8 24.Qd2 Qe4
25.Bh5 Bg3+ 26.Ke2 Qxf5 27.Bxf7+
Rxf7 28.Raf1

[Diagram Top Of Next Column]



Jameson Tang (left) enters games into PGN while George Lundy watches.
Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.

2018 Southern Idaho Open

By Barry Eacker

Twin Falls, ID—November 10, 2018

Forty-two players from four states (Idaho, Utah, Wyoming, and Oregon) descended on the Holiday Inn Express in Twin Falls, Idaho on November 10 to take part in the 2018 version of the Southern Idaho Open chess tournament and Veteran's Recognition Day. All veterans in attendance received free entry, an American flag to keep at their table and a red and white vinyl chessboard from Idaho Chess Association president Adam Porth of Rathdrum. The ICA is hopeful this board will assist in facilitating the recipients future chess prowess. In addition, all veterans were placed at the top tables for the duration of the event to further recognize and appreciate all that they have unselfishly sacrificed so we can selfishly participate as a family in the game of kings.

Expert (2039) Josep Maria Companyo of Jackson Hole, Wyoming and Class A (1907) Cody Gorman of Eagle both finished tied for first place with 4.0/4. Class A player (1810) John Glenn from Mountain Home took clear third place with a 3.5/4 score. The only blemish for Glenn was a mini-upset in round two when he was nicked for a draw by C-player (1500) Tom Booth of Caldwell. The double winner of the day was C-player (1478) Andrew Kitterman

of Boise, who participated in the U1600 prize while scoring 3.0/4 with his only loss coming against number one seed Companyo in round four. He also took the upset prize by virtue of his third round victory over A-player (1900) and Idaho Hall of Fame member Hans Morrow of Farmington, Utah. The prize was a very nice hardback 1973 edition of "The Grandmasters of Chess," donated by long-time player Brett Hamilton of Eagle. Brett also donated several issues of Chess Life for the players to enhance their learning. THANKS Brett! Very appreciative of Hank Harris of Boise for supplying the beautiful wooden board, pieces and Garde clock that resided on board one for the four-round event. Old school chess for sure. Love to hear the analog clock ticking away. We also live streamed round two of the Carlsen – Caruana World Championship match for the players to be distracted by. Draws in both rounds in London.

Forty-two players is, I believe, the largest turnout we have ever had for this event. It was great to have everyone participate, with some players driving almost 300 miles to play! Now that is dedication to playing chess! Something that could have been more palatable for the players would have been one more round to decide the prize race a little better, due to two 4.0 scores, eight 3.0 scores and twelve 2.0 scores. Lots of small payouts with multiple winners. We should perhaps consider a five round event in the future.

Many thanks to David Ahrens and the rest of the Holiday Inn Express staff for allowing us to use the great site and excellent facilities, and to all the players who took the time to participate in this tournament. Thanks, Adam, for driving nine hours from northern Idaho to not only play, but to be assistant TD. Also grateful to TD Jay Simonson of Idaho Falls for assisting on rules interpretation and taking care of the monetary end of things. Please say THANKS to the veterans in attendance once more: Fred Bartell, Hans Morrow, Zachary Fritchen, Jason Gold, Joshua Southwick and Jay Simonson.



Barry Eacker. Photo credit: Adam Porth.



Group shot showing most of the players. Chris Pentico (Left) and Hank Harris (right) are in the foreground. Photo credit: Adam Porth.

2018 Northern Idaho Open

By Adam Porth

Coeur d'Alene, ID—November 24, 2018

The concept of regional open tournaments is not new to Idaho, but it is many years since the North Region has had any ICA presence. In fact, Jeffrey Roland directed a North Idaho Open (NIO) in 2004 and 2006 attracted 18 players and 14 players, respectively. There are no previous records of a NIO. This year marked the third NIO and 12 players competed.

I visited the Coeur d'Alene (CDA) Chess Club recently and spoke with Jim Maki about reviving the ICA in the North and he said, "We're just waiting," and indicated that we should put something together soon. So, three weeks later, the Northern Idaho Open was reborn! The original venue was scheduled for North Idaho College (where the CDA Chess Club plays on Fridays), but good help is hard to find sometimes and last week they said "Wait, we're closed for the holidays!" Zoinks! Principal Trent Derrick at Lakeland High School rescued the tournament and said we could play there.

Saturday, November 24 at 10 AM, 12 players from Washington and Idaho began play, with the World Championship commentators on the big presentation screen in the classroom. Kenneth Erickson (1810) emerged with a perfect tournament score 4.0/4 with Walter Van Heemstede Obelt (1599) winning second place and Jason Bennetch (1351) and John Weaton (1698) tying for third-fourth place. Payouts were 50% (based on 30).

Winners:

Kenneth Erickson \$25.00

Walter Van Heemstede Obelt \$12.50

Jason Bennetch \$10.00

John Weaton \$10.00

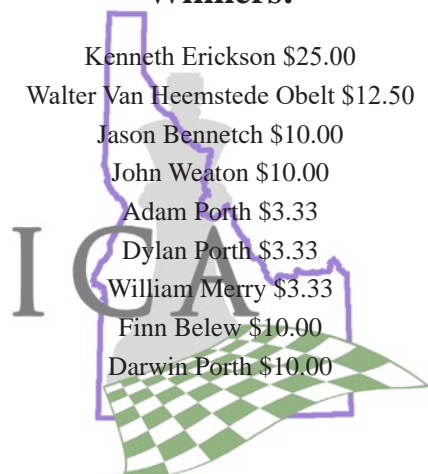
Adam Porth \$3.33

Dylan Porth \$3.33

William Merry \$3.33

Finn Belew \$10.00

Darwin Porth \$10.00



Walter Van Heemstede Obelt. Photo credit: Adam Porth.

PCC November 2018 Game 60

By Brian Berger

Portland, OR—November 24, 2018

Having just finished my last tournament (November's PCC Tuesday Night Quads) by not winning all three games (a sly way of saying I lost all three), I, Brian "I'm Just Glad To Be Here" Berger (1500-1555—2.5/4), had little confidence that my name would appear as a winner in any of the four games scheduled for the Portland Chess Club's November Game 60. But, as I have mentioned to *Northwest Chess* readers many times before, I tread the thin line that separates a player with no rating, from one who is lucky to have ANY rating—that line being my floor of 1500, apparently given to me when I used to know how to play chess, and which now keeps me from plunging into chess obscurity.

That Jerrold "I Just Want To Reach 1600 Before It's Over" Richards was not



(L) Michael Moore vs David Roshu. Photo credit: Brian Berger.



(L) Cassandra Roshu vs Abbie Wu. Photo credit: Brian Berger.

on hand for this tournament, accompanied by Morgan the Dog, was perhaps an omen that I might, this one time, avoid being in lockstep with a man who has shown a similar pattern of wins and losses—where the letter “O” before our names has almost become a permanent icon of our playing strength. And so it came to be that I found myself mostly choosing passable moves, as opposed to, “What kind of move was THAT?” moves,” allowing me to win two games (one from an 1818 player), and also manage a draw against a 1703 player. More about this a bit later.

As this tournament was played during the Thanksgiving weekend this year, the attendance was off from last year’s November Game 60, when the field held 29 players. Yet, in spite of bloated turkey tummies and holiday traveling, 21 stalwart chess enthusiasts chose to make this tournament a part of their mini-vacation, “must-do” itinerary. Limited to one section due to the less than needed 30 players (a requirement to run it in two sections), the first round would pit higher-rated players against lower-rated, where upsets can sometimes occur. And indeed, some did.

A case in point was my own win over Raj Kodithyala (1818-1802—2.5/4) in the first round, where I got incredibly lucky by picking off a central pawn early in the game, then somehow nursing a mild advantage into a winning endgame—this against a player who has shown growing

strength in most every tournament of late. Also, what could be considered an upset was my draw against Austin Tang (1703—1721—3.0/4), where I was able to keep an even distribution of power until the endgame. It was a game that should have ended in a draw much earlier, when unbeknownst to me, I had created the same position three times, something that Austin had called me on, but I failed to agree with. I would later discuss the position with the TD, who pointed out my error. Sorry about that, Austin.

Another example was a game between Abbie Wu (1743-1680—1.0/4) and Andrei Stancescu (1134-1289—2.0/4), where the disparity in ratings proved larger than my own game with Kodithyala, slightly over 600 points! Had this been the only upset for Wu this day, it would be an anomaly, but somehow she managed to lose her second game against Cassandra Roshu (1364-1430—2.0/4), a loss that proved a bit too much for a young player who has shown she can hold her own against players of up to Expert level, causing her to withdraw from the tournament. Thankfully, by the following day, on seeing her at a casual Sunday gathering of chess players, she seemed her old self (if someone 10 years old can be referred to as her “old self”).

Initially, Ryan Richardson (2083-2083) and Michael Moore (1949-1948—3.5/4) were the two highest rated of the playing field; but curiously, before things

got started, Richardson withdrew by telling Chief TD Mike Hasuike, “I gotta go.” So it was that Michael Moore was given a near clear path to first overall with its \$60 prize, finding a draw against Kushal Pai (1721-1711—2.5/4) his only impediment to a perfect score.

Tying for second and U1800/Unrated were Charles Smith (1811-1817—3.0/4) of Washington, and Austin Tang, each receiving \$38 of the split winnings. While Raj Kodithyala, Kushal Pai, Havish Sripada (1767-1764—2.5/4) and Brian Berger split third place, Berger donating his winnings of \$8 to the soft drink fund jar.

Last of the prize money went to Andrei Stancescu, Egan Wong (1542-1559—2.0/4), Cassandra Roshu, and Anisha Sripada (716-721—2.0/4), all having tied for U1500/Unrated and receiving \$9 each—Stancescu and Roshu also meriting substantial ratings bonus of 155 and 65 points.

Starting with January’s Game 60, the 30-player rule for having two sections will no longer be a requirement, and instead, two sections will be the norm (Open and U1650/Unrated)—an idea proffered by Micah Smith, as most who enter would like to know the format beforehand, and would also prefer a two section tournament. But for those who would like a greater challenge from the get-go, a \$5 extra entrance fee will get them in with the tougher crowd.



(L) Zoey Tang vs Havish Sripada. Photo credit: Brian Berger.

Western States Open Success

By Joshua Grabinsky

Reno, NV—October 19-21, 2018

On October 19-21, I competed in the Reno Western States Open Chess Tournament. Playing in the Open section, I was ranked at about the middle of the playing field. I scored 3.5/6 and was very pleased with that result. After the first round, all of my opponents were rated much higher than me. After winning against an expert in round one, I defeated an International Master. Then, I went on to draw a Grandmaster and a FIDE Master. After a loss to a strong master, I drew my final game to another master. I placed tenth out of the 34-player field, and both my US Chess and FIDE ratings increased. I've given three of my games which I thought were well-played and quite interesting below:

**Joshua Grabinsky (2218) –
Kim Steven Ruelan Yap (2498) [B41]**
Western States Open Reno, NV
(R2), October 19, 2018
[Joshua Grabinsky]

This game is a good positional example, where both sides were working behind their lines, trying to improve their positions. The tension continued to increase as White improved his position and then on move 41, the center opened up with e5. The opening was a Kan Sicilian, and it was a Maroczy bind formation. Though this kind of position has been played in many top games, it seems Black does not get that much out of it. Sicilian players regularly play cramped, passive positions, but this particular line is basically hoping for a break with ...d5 or ...b5, which is rather hard to do. 4... Nf6 may offer some more play for Black.

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 a6 5.c4 Nf6 6.Nc3 Qc7 7.Be3 d6 8.Be2 b6 9.f3 Be7 10.a4 0-0 11.0-0 Bb7 12.Qe1 Re8 13.Qf2 Nbd7 14.Rfc1



Position after 14.Rfc1

14...a5?

A positional inaccuracy, giving up the b5-square. It hurt him in the long run.

15.Ndb5 Qc6 16.Rd1

16.Nd5! Bd8 17.Rd1 Ba6 (17...exd5 18.cxd5 Qc8 19.Nxd6 Qb8 20.Nxe8 Nxe8 21.Bb5+- Stockfish) 18.Nxf6+ Bxf6 19.Rxd6+- Stockfish

16...Nc5 17.Rac1 Rad8 18.Kh1 Nfd7 19.Rc2 Ne5 20.Rcd2 Ba6 21.Bxc5 bxc5 22.f4 Ng6 23.g3 Qb6 24.Bf3 Bc8 25.h4 h6 26.Rd3 Nf8 27.Qd2 Rd7 28.Ne2 Red8 29.Nc1 Bb7 30.Nb3 Ra8 31.Kg2 Ra6 32.Qe3 Qd8 33.Qd2 Qa8 34.Qe3

34.Nxc5 dxc5 35.Rxd7 Nxd7 36.Nc7 (36.Qxd7 Bxe4 37.Bxe4 Qxe4+ 38.Kf2 Bxh4 39.gxh4 Qxf4+ 40.Ke2 Qxc4+ 41.Ke3 Qxa4 42.Rf1 Ra8 43.Rxf7 Qg4 44.Re7 Rb8 45.Re8+ Rxe8 46.Qxe8+ Kh7 47.h5 Qg1+ 48.Kd2 Qf2+) 36...Qf8 37.Nxa6 Bc6 38.Nc7 Qb8 39.Nb5

34...Qc8 35.Qe1 Qd8 36.Qd2 Bc6 37.Nc1 Qa8 38.Qe3 Qb8 39.Ne2 Rd8 40.Nec3 Nd7

40...Rd7 41.Qe2 Qd8 42.Kg1 Rb6 43.Bg2 Qb8 44.R1d2 Bf6 45.Kh2 Bd4 46.Nxd4 cxd4 47.Rxd4 e5 48.fxe5 dxe5 49.Rxd7 Nxd7 50.Nb5± Stockfish



Position after 40...Nd7

41.e5! Nb6

No better is 41...Bxf3+ 42.Qxf3 Nf8 43.exd6 Bxd6 44.Ne4 Be7 45.Rxd8 Bxd8 46.Nxc5 Rb6 47.Nb3+-

42.Bxc6 Nxc4 43.Qe4 Nxb2 44.exd6 Bf8 45.d7 Be7 46.Bb7 Rb6 47.Bc8 Bf6 48.R1d2 Nxd3 49.Rxd3 h5 50.Qc4 Qa8+ 51.Kh2 Be7 52.Qe4 Rxc8 53.dxc8R+ Qxc8 54.Nd1 Rb7 55.Ne3 Rd7 56.Nc4 Qd8 57.Ne5 Rxd3 58.Qxd3 Qa8 59.Qf3 Qxf3 60.Nxf3 f6 61.Kg2 Kf7 62.Kf2 Kg6 63.Nd2 Kf5 64.Nc4 Ke4 65.Nxa5 g5 66.Nc6 Bf8 67.fgx5 fgx5 68.hgx5 Kf5 69.Ke3 c4 70.Kd4 c3 71.Nxc3 Bd6 72.Ne4 Bc7 73.Ne7+ 1-0

The next round I faced GM Enrico Sevillano with the white pieces. I played a London system, hoping for a solid game, where it would be easier to achieve a draw.

I avoided 1.e4 for fear of sharp lines like the Sicilian, because I hadn't had all the theory refreshed in my mind. I was playing it safe, planning for a slight advantage, aiming ultimately for a draw.

**Joshua Grabinsky (2218) –
Enrico Sevillano (2508) [D02]**
Western States Open Reno, NV
(R3), October 20, 2018
[Joshua Grabinsky]

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Bf4 Nbd7 4.h3 e6 5.Nbd2 b6 6.e3 Bb7 7.Bd3 Bd6 8.Bxd6 cxd6 9.c4 dxc4 10.Nxc4 Qe7 11.0-0 0-0 12.Rc1 Rfc8 13.Ncd2 e5 14.dxe5

An alternative is 14.e4 Rxc1 15.Qxc1 exd4 16.Nxd4 Rc8 17.Qd1 Nc5 18.Bb1 d5 19.exd5 g6 20.Re1 Qd6 21.a3 Bxd5= Stockfish

14...dxe5 15.Bc4 e4 16.Nd4 Ne5 17.Be2 g6 18.Nc4 Nxc4 19.Bxc4 Rc7 20.Qd2 Rac8 21.Bb3 Ba6 22.Rxc7 Qxc7 23.Rd1 Qc5 24.Ne2 Qe7 25.Nf4 g5 26.Nd5 Nxd5 27.Bxd5 Bd3 28.Rc1 Rc5 29.Bb3 Qc7 30.Rxc5 Qxc5 31.f3 Kg7 32.fxe4 Bxe4 33.Kf2 Qf5+ 34.Kg1 Qe5 35.Qd7 Bg6



Position after 35...Bg6

36.Qd2?!

Better is 36.Qd4 Qxd4 37.exd4 Be4 38.g3 f5 39.Kf2 Kf6 40.Bd1 h6 41.a3 Bc6 42.Bc2= Stockfish

36...h5 37.Kf2 h4 38.Qd4 Qxd4 39.exd4 f5 40.g3 hxg3+ 41.Kxg3 Bh5

Black offers a bishop trade (which would win for Black) and also aims at the a2-pawn with 41...Bf7! 42.Bc2 (42.Ba4? simply loses the pawn. 42...Bxa2 43.h4 gxh4+ 44.Kxh4 Kf6 45.Kg3 Bb1 46.Kf4 Ke6 47.Ke3 a5 48.Bb3+ Kd6 49.Bc4 Bc2 50.Kf4 Be4 51.Ke3 Bc6 52.Bb3 b5 53.Bc2 Bd7 54.Kd3 Be6 55.Ke3 a4 56.Kd2 f4 57.Bd1 Bd5 58.Kd3 f3-) 42...Kf6 43.a3 f4+ 44.Kf2 Bd5 45.Bd3 Ke6 46.Kg1 Kd6 47.Kh2 Bb7 48.Bf1 Bf3 49.Ba6 Be4 50.Bc4 Bf5 51.Bb3 b5 52.Kg2

42.h4 f4+ 43.Kg2 g4 44.Be6 Kf6 45.Bc8 Ke7 46.Bf5 Kd6 47.Be4 Bf7 48.a3 Ke6 49.Kf2 Be8 50.b4 a5 51.Kg2 Kf6 52.Kf2 Bd7 53.Kg1 axb4 54.axb4 Be8

Draw agreed.

In the post-mortem, both players analyzed this variation of going after the h pawn: 54...Kg7 The correct line is: 55.Bb7! (55.d5? b5! (55...Kh6?! 56.b5 Bxb5 57.Bf5 Kh5 58.d6 Kxh4 59.d7 Bxd7 60.Bxd7 f3 61.Kf2 Kh3 62.Bc6=) 56.h5 Kh6 57.Bg6 g3 58.Kg2 Kg5 59.Bf7 Bf5 60.d6 Bd7 61.Bd5 Kxh5 62.Kf3 Kg5 63.Be4 Bg4+ 64.Kg2 Kf6 65.Bc6 Ke6 66.d7 Ke7

67.Bxb5 Bxd7 68.Bd3 Kd6 69.b5 Kc5 70.Kf3 Bg4+ 71.Kg2 Be6 72.Bf1 Bd5+ 73.Kh3 Kd4 74.Bg2 Bxg2+ 75.Kxg2 Kc5 76.b6 Kxb6+) 55...Bf5 (55...Kh6 56.d5 Kh5 57.Bc6 Bf5 58.d6 Kxh4 59.d7 Bxd7 60.Bxd7 Kg3 61.Kf1 f3 62.Kg1 Kf4 63.Kf1 g3 64.Bb5 Ke3 65.Bc6) 56.Bc6 Kf6 57.Kf2 Bd3 58.Kg1 Ke7 59.Kg2 Kd6 60.Ba8 Bf5 61.Kf2 Ke7 62.Bd5 and I think White can hold to a draw.

1/2-1/2

In the final round, I played Black against a master rated about 60 points higher than me. This round's result would determine the prizes we each got. A win would be ideal. A draw would be acceptable. A loss would put me out of the money. My opponent played the Catalan: a strong, fighting opening. Jeffery Xiong chose this opening in the Armageddon game of the 2018 US Masters Champion. An Armageddon is the final game: White gets a minute or two extra time, but if it is a draw, Black wins. Xiong, though he drew and lost the tiebreak, felt that this was the best opening to fight for a win with white, in a must-win situation. We stayed in main theory until move nine when white played Rd1. We still were playing moves in the database (but I didn't know it at the time), though, until White's 14.Nd4 (14.exd5 had been played six times before). It was a very sharp, tactical game, calming down at move 22, or so. I did not know I was following theory after his 9.Rd1, which caught me off guard. I still managed to survive the opening, though, and I got a slight edge in the endgame.

**Eugene Yanayt (2274) –
Joshua Grabinsky (2218) [E05]**
Western States Open Reno, NV
(R6), October 21, 2018
[Joshua Grabinsky]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.g3 d5 4.Nf3 Be7 5.Bg2 0-0 6.0-0 dxc4 7.Qc2 a6 8.a4 Bd7 9.Rd1 Bc6 10.Nc3 Nd5

More popular is 10...Bxf3 11.Bxf3 Nc6 12.Bxc6 bxc6 13.Bg5 Rb8 14.Rac1 h6 15.Bxf6 Bxf6 16.Ne4 Rb4 17.Nc5 a5 18.e3 Qd5= Stockfish

11.e4 Nxc3

11...Nb4 12.Qe2 Nd3 13.Be3 Bb4 14.Ne1 Nxe1 15.Rxe1 b5 16.Red1 Qe8 17.d5 exd5 18.Nxd5 Bxd5 19.exd5 Bd6 20.Bh3 a5 21.Bf1 bxa4 22.Qxc4 Nd7 23.Qxa4 Ne5 24.Qxe8 Rfxe8 25.Ra2 Reb8 26.Rda1 Bb4 27.Bg2 Bd6± Stockfish

12.bxc3 b5 13.d5

13.Ne5 Bb7 14.Qb1 Nc6 15.Nxc4 bxc4 16.Qxb7 Na5 17.Qb2 Rb8 18.Qc2 Nb3 19.Rb1 Nxc1 20.Rbxc1 Qd7 21.Bf1 Ba3 22.Rb1 Qc6 23.e5± Stockfish

13...exd5 14.Nd4

14.exd5 Bb7 15.axb5 axb5 16.Rxa8 Bxa8 17.Nd4 Nd7 18.Nxb5 Qb8 19.Nd4 Bf6 20.Qf5± Stockfish

14...Bf6

14...Bb7 15.axb5 axb5 16.Rxa8 Bxa8 17.exd5 Nd7 18.Nxb5 Qb8 19.Nd4 Bf6 20.Be3 Ne5 21.Ra1 Qd8 22.Qe4 Re8 23.Nc2 h5± Stockfish



Position after 14...Bf6

15.Nxc6?!

15.exd5 Bb7 16.Nc6 Qc8 17.Ba3 Re8 18.Re1 Bxc6 19.dxc6+ Stockfish

15...Nxc6 16.Rxd5 Qe7 17.Bb2 b4 18.f4 Rad8 19.Rad1 Rxd5 20.Rxd5 bxc3 21.Bxc3 Nb4 22.Bxb4 Qxb4 23.e5 Be7 24.Bf1

24.Be4 g6 25.Kg2 Rb8 26.Rd4 Qa3 27.Kh3 Rb2 28.Qxc4 Qe3 29.Rd1 Rb4 30.Qxc7 Qe2 31.Rd8+ Bxd8 32.Qxd8+ Kg7 33.Qf6+ Kg8 34.Qd8+

24...c2 25.Bd3 h6

25...Rb8 26.Qd1 Qb6+ 27.Kf1 Qh6 28.h4 Qe6 29.Bc2 Qh3+ 30.Kf2 g6 31.Rd3 Rb4 32.Rxc3 Rxf4+ 33.gxf4 Bxh4+ 34.Ke2 Qxc3; 25...g6 is a better way to protect the h-pawn. And if White tries to use it as a quicker way to attack, Black is faster: 26.f5 Rb8 27.fxg6 (27.f6 c6 28.Rd7 Bc5+ 29.Kg2 Qg4 30.Rc7 Rb2+) 27...hxg6 28.Bxg6? Qb6++

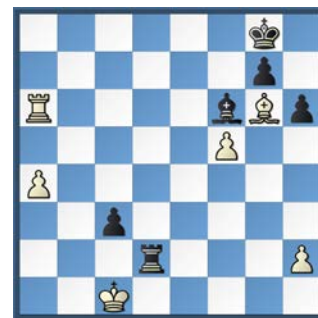
26.Kf1 Rb8 27.Rd7 Qa3

27...Qc5 28.Qe2 Rb4 29.e6 Kf8 30.exf7 Kxf7 31.Qa2+ Kf8 32.Bg6 Qc4+ 33.Qxc4 Rxc4 34.Bc2 Bd6 35.Rd8+ Ke7 36.Rb8 Rd4 37.Rb1 Ke6 38.Bb3+ Kf5 39.Rd1 Ke4 40.Rxd4+ Kxd4 41.Ke2 Ba3 42.h3 Bb4 43.h4 h5 44.Kd1 Kd3 45.Bc2+ Ke3 46.Bg6 Kf2 47.Bxh5 Kxg3 48.Kc2 Kxh4 49.Bg6 Kg3 50.f5 Kf4 51.Kd3 Ke5 52.Kc2 Kd4 53.Kb3 a5 54.Kc2 Stockfish 8 and White should hold a draw.

28.Rxc7 Bc5 29.e6 fxe6 30.Qe2 Qc1+ 31.Qe1 Qxe1+ 32.Kxe1 Bd4 33.Bg6 e5 34.Kd1 exf4 35.gxf4 Rf8 36.f5 Be5 37.Rc6 Rd8+ 38.Kc2 Bf6 39.Rxa6 Rd2+ 40.Kc1

As risky as it looks, white it seems can survive with 40.Kb3 Rb2+ 41.Kc4 Rb8 42.Kd3 Rd8+ 43.Kc2 Rd2+ 44.Kb3= Stockfish

[Diagram top of next column]



Position after 40.Kc1

40...Kf8?!

Both players missed a crushing move, due to the discovered attack: 40...Bg5! This move, which totally wins, was missed in time pressure. 41.Kb1 c2+ 42.Kb2 c1Q+ 43.Kxc1 Rd6+ 44.Kc2 Rxa6+ Stockfish

41.Re6 Be7 42.Rc6 Ba3+ 43.Kb1 Rb2+ 44.Ka1 Rxb2! 45.Rc7

Better is 45.f6 gxf6 46.a5 Kg7 47.Bd3 Rd2 48.Rc7+ Kf8 49.Rc8+ Kf7 50.a6 Rxd3 51.a7 Bb2+ 52.Kb1 Rd1+ 53.Kc2 Rc1+ 54.Kd3 Ra1 55.a8Q Rxa8 56.Rxa8 h5 57.Kc2= Stockfish

45...c2 46.Rc8+ Ke7 47.Rxc2

Better is 47.f6+ Kxf6 48.Bxc2 Bb4 49.Rc6+ Ke7 50.Bg6 Stockfish 8 and White has much better drawing chances.

47...Rxc2 48.f6+ Kxf6 49.Bxc2

This ending is very close. If White's king were one or two squares closer to the pawns, it could very well be a draw.

49...g5 50.Be4 Ke5 51.Bc6 Bb4

51...h5 or; 51...g4 gets the pawns moving and does not let them become blockaded by White's bishop, which happened later.

52.Kb2 Kd4

52...g4 53.Kc2 Kf4 54.Kd3 Bc5 55.Ke2 Kg3 56.Kf1 Kh2+ Stockfish

53.Bf3 Ke3 54.Bh5 Kf4 55.Kc2 g4 56.Kd3 Kf3

56...Bc5 57.Ke2 Kg5 58.Be8 Kh4 59.Kf1 Kh3 60.Bd7 h5 61.Be6 Kh2+ Stockfish

57.Kd4 Bd6

57...Kg3 58.Ke3 Bc5+ 59.Ke2 Kh4 60.Bf7 g3 61.Kf3 Kh3+ Stockfish

58.a5 Bc7 59.a6 Bb8?

59...Kf4! still wins for Black. 60.Kd3 Bb6 61.Ke2 Kg5 62.Be8 Kh4 63.Bd7 h5 64.Bf5 Kh3 65.Kf1 Kh2+ Stockfish

60.a7 Bxa7+ 61.Ke5 Bb8+ 1/2-1/2

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Washington Class Championships

By Josh Sinanan

The 2018 Washington Class Championships were held at the Lynnwood Embassy Suites over Thanksgiving weekend November 23-25. A strong attendance of about 170 players participated from throughout the Pacific Northwest. The event was hosted by Washington Chess Federation and organized by WCF Tournament Coordinator Dan Mathews and WCF President Josh Sinanan. Senior TDs Fred Kleist and Gary Dorfner directed the tournament with assistance from WCF Treasurer Robert Allen. WCF Interim Scholastic Director Jacob Mayer ran the Thanksgiving Scholastic on Black Friday, which attracted 120 players.

Three players tied for first place in the 16-player Master section: FM Roland Feng (2462-2456—4.5/6), NM Josh Sinanan (2263-2283—4.5/6), and

NM Jason Yu (2208-2241—4.5/6). FM Tian Sang (2391-2398—4.0/6) and FM David Bragg (2200-2225—4.0/6) finished half-a-point back to share =third/ U2300 honors. LM Viktors Pupols (2205-2200—3.0/6) and FM Ignacio Perez (2204-2200—3.0/6) finished on an even score to split =second U2300 as well as the Senior Prize. WIM Megan Lee (2297-2284—2.5/6) won the Female Prize.

Roshen Nair (2004-2061—5.0/6) of Oregon won the 15-player Expert section with an undefeated four wins and two draws. Self-proclaimed “RAR” Master Joseph Truelson (2161-2147—4.0/6), Alan Bishop (2000-2021—4.0/6), Jeffrey Yan (1825-1908—4.0/6) tied for second place a full-point back. A group of three youngsters: Vignesh Anand (2000-2002—3.5/6), Oscar Petrov (1870-1897—3.5/6), and Konner Feldman (1937-1931—3.5/6), tied for third place honors to round out the overall prize winners. Tacoma’s FM Paul Bartron (2068-2045—3.0/6) won the Senior Prize. Even Joseph Frantz (2055-2020—2.5/6) snuck into the money by finishing

second for those rated U2100.

In the 19-player Class A section, Joshua Lewis-Sandy (1919-1984—5.5/6) claimed first place honors and nearly broke expert. Nicholas Whale’s (1906-1937—5.0/6) re-entry turned out to be a good investment, as he finished in clear second place half a point back. Young Alec Beck (1810-1899—4.5/5) took clear third place, losing only to the tournament winner. WCM Sophie Velea (1772-1824—4.0/6) won first U1900 and the Female Prize. Four players tied for second U1900 half a point back: Advait Vijayakumar (1957-1948—3.5/6), Daniel Pogrebinsky (1841-1841—3.5/6), Daniel Qian (1782-1811—3.5/6), and WCM Stephanie Velea (1667-1710—3.5/6). WCM Mary Kuhner (1957-1933—3.0/6) claimed the Senior Prize.

Two players finished atop the standings in the 23-player Class B section: David Merrikin (1731-1780—5.0/6) and Harrison Toppen-Ryan (1641-1762—5.0/6). Yakima’s Francisco Lopez (1811-1827—4.5/6) and Tacoma’s Robert Allen (1700-1721—4.5/6) tied for third



Players from Classes B and C in the 2-day schedule of the WA Class. Photo Credit: Josh Sinanan.

place half a point back. Davey Jones (1793-1785—4.0/6) stashed his locker with more loot and booty by winning the U1700 prize. Redmond's Colin Smith (1629-1639—3.5/6) won the second Place U1700 prize while Langley's Brian Sullivan (1636-1589—2.5/6) took the Senior Prize with him back to Canada.

Youth prevailed in the 26-player Class C section as three juniors shared first place honors: Ethan Pogrebinsky (1424-1545—4.5/6), Jeffrey Kou (1356-1505—4.5/6), Isaac Liu (1316-1513—4.5/6). Half a point back in a three-way tie for the =third/first-second U1500 prize were Dave Juchau (1538-1545—4.0/6), Rajiv Galani (1471P20-1500—4.0/6), and Austin Cluff (1565-1566—4.0/6). Juchau also won the Senior Prize but had to show his ID since Fred tried to give it to Jerrold Richards instead! Lucky Angela Chen (1291-1273—2.0/6) was able to claim top Female honors since her only rivals competed for medal-only!

The tiny 17-player Class D section featured the tournament's only perfect score: Silas Lainson (1436P17-



(L) Oscar Petrov vs Roshen Nair during round one of the Expert section. Photo Credit: Josh Sinanan.



(L) Kevin Murphy vs Nathan Liu and other Class B players during round one. Photo Credit: Josh Sinanan.

1533P23—6.0/6) of Bellingham. A full point and a half back, two players tied for =second/third: Andrew Lebedinsky (1392-1436—4.5/6) and Erik Liu (1306-1395—4.5/6). Kirkland's Sonia Devaraju (1346-1342—3.5/6) won the Female Prize. Two rising junior players, Bertrand Wan (1308-1312—3.5/6) of Bellevue and Kevin Song (1219-1278—3.5/6) of Issaquah, split the U1300 honors.

Which now brings us to the massive 50-player Class E section, which could easily be mistaken for a scholastic tournament if not for the odd adult sighting. Youth was once again served as two junior players tied for first place: Ryan Clark (1171-1200—5.0/6) of Roy and Garam O'Brien (1079-1192—5.0/6) of Renton. Finishing in equal third half-a-point back were: Ted Shi (1092-1123—4.5/6), Sathvik Chilakala (1073-1142—4.5/6), Aditya Ramkumar (1047P15-1096P21—4.5/6), and Daniel Ye (907-1001—4.5/6). Aidan Moran (829P14-1099P20—4.5/6) captured top U1000 honors. Seattle's Scott Miller (unrated-1207P6—4.5/6), a chess Dad

playing in his first rated tournament, won the Unrated Prize. Iris Zhang (1037-1049—4.0/6) of Redmond won the Female Prize, while Marvin Wilbur (1167-1125—3.5/6) took a break from babysitting the youngsters and took home the Senior Prize.

Congratulations to each of the winners!

Josh Sinanan (2263) – Steven Breckenridge (2374) [D38]
 Washington Class Championships
 Lynnwood, WA
 (R2), November 23, 2018
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.c4 e6 4.Nc3 Bb4 5.Bg5 Nbd7 6.e3 c5 7.cxd5 exd5 8.Be2

8.Bd3 is slightly more popular, though the reason is not entirely obvious. On d3 the bishop is a target for the natural advance ...c4.

8...Qa5 9.0-0 Bxc3 10.bxc3 c4

10...Ne4 11.c4 Nc3 12.Qc2 Nxe2+ 13.Qxe2 dxc4 14.Qxc4± with slightly better coordination.

11.Qc2 Ne4 12.Rfc1 Nb6

A somewhat awkward novelty, opening the line for the c8-bishop, but clogging retreat routes for the black queen and allowing White to retain two bishops. The normal move here is 12...Nxc5, removing the bishop pair. 13.Nxc5 Nf6 and it's a game.

13.Bf4 Bf5

13...Na4?, attempting to win c3, runs into 14.Bxc4! Naxc3 15.Bd3, with the net result being the elimination of White's pawn weakness and the creation of one for Black — while still leaving White with the two bishops and placing the black knights in the inflexible situation of guarding each other. It's hard to see how Black can avoid material loss here.; 13...Qa4, however, seems a reasonable attempt to justify the previous knight move. White avoids the trade with 14.Qb2 and keeps a decent edge.

14.Nh4 Bd7 15.f3 Nf6 16.Nf5

16.Bd6 looks more accurate, preventing kingside castling and possibly retreating



(L) Tim Campbell vs Joshua Lewis-Sandy and other Class A players during round three. Photo Credit: Josh Sinanan.

to b4 with tempo if attacked. 16...0-0-0? (16...Nc8 17.Bb4 Qa4 18.Qxa4 Bxa4 19.e4!?±; 16...Qb5 17.Nf5 Bxf5 18.Qxf5 Qd7 19.Qe5+ Qe6 when White's two bishops, combined with play on the b-file and levers to undermine Black's mini central chain, should provide a long-term pull.) 17.Nf5±

16...0-0 17.Be5

17.Bg5 Bxf5 18.Qxf5 Nh5 19.Bh6 g6 20.Qc2±

17...Ba4 18.Ne7+

Forcing moves should generally be held until they yield an edge. Here White loses some options. Better 18.Qd2±, planning a route to the kingside after an e4 break.

18...Kh8 19.Qf5 Nbd7 20.Bxf6 Nxf6



Position after 20...Nxf6

White's plan of Bf4-e5xf6 ends up giving up the bishop-pair and improving the black knight. Here is White's last chance to prove there is something left in the tank.

21.Qg5?!

21.e4! Rae8 22.Nxd5 Bd7! (22...Nxd5?? 23.Bxc4+-) 23.Qg5 h6 24.Qd2 Nxd5 25.exd5 Qxd5∞

21...h6!

Black isn't waiting around for the mate threats, and instead efficiently drives away the queen.

22.Qf4 Bd7 23.Nf5 Nh5! 24.Qh4 Bxf5 25.Qxh5 Bg6

Black's bad bishop is now quite active in front of the pawns, and White will have difficulties defending e3.

26.Qg4 Rae8 27.e4 dxe4 28.Bxc4 Rc8 29.Bb3 Rxc3 30.fxe4 Rxc1+ 31.Rxc1



Position after 31.Rxc1

31...Qd2

And one of the white pawns will fall.

32.Rd1 Qe3+ 33.Kh1 Bxe4 34.d5 f5!-+ 35.Qg3 f4 36.Qe1 Rd8

36...Rf6! heading to g6, perhaps after ...Bxg2+.

37.Qxe3 fxe3 38.Kg1 e2 39.Re1 Bd3 40.Kf2 Re8 41.d6 Rd8 42.Bd5 Ba6 43.Rc1 Rxd6 44.Rc8+ Kh7 45.Be4+ g6 46.Bf3 Rd1 0-1

Josh Sinanan (2263) – Megan Lee (2325) [E01]
Washington Class Championships
Lynnwood, WA (R5),
November 25, 2018
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.Nf3 d5 2.g3 Nf6 3.Bg2 Nbd7 4.d4 e6 5.c4 c6 6.Nbd2 Bd6 7.0-0 b6

7...0-0 is common.

8.Qc2

8.e4!?

8...Bb7 9.e4 Nxe4 10.Nxe4 dxe4 11.Qxe4 11.Ng5!?

11...Qc7?!

Last chance to 11...0-0.

12.Qg4 Rg8?!

12...Kf8; 12...0-0-0! costs quite a few pawns for rather nebulous compensation, but it is an active try.

13.c5! bxc5 14.dxc5

Or 14.Be3!?

14...Bxc5 15.Bf4 Qb6 16.b4!



Position after 16.b4

16...Bxf2+?

A simple material count supports the Black plan of always moving forward, but a deeper look at the position shows just how essential the dark-square bishop is to Black's game. White's gambit play seems fully justified with the excellent 16.b4... if the scoresheet didn't read Sinanan one might assume the architect of this opening was actually former Washington Champion Ignacio Perez instead. Better, though not quite adequate, is 16...Be7±.

17.Rxf2 Nf6 18.Qh4 Ne4 19.Raf1 Nxf2

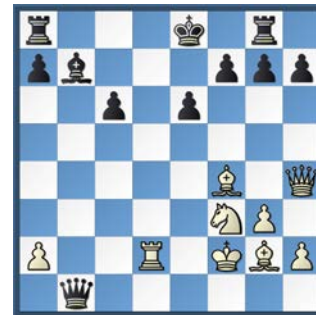
20.Rxf2 Qxb4 21.Rd2

Though the white rook does like the d-file, I have to be a little suspicious of overloading the f3-knight like this. 21.Qh5; 21.Nd2; and 21.Bf1 all have positive points in their favor.

21...Qb1+?

21...h6 is more challenging. Now White can interpose a bishop on e3 if checked on the a7-g1 diagonal.

22.Kf2



Position after 22.Kf2

22...f6

22...g5 23.Nxg5 Rd8 24.Rxd8+ (24.Re2 Rg6 25.Nxh7 Qb4 26.Nf6+ Rxf6 27.Qxf6+-) 24...Kxd8 25.Ne4+ Kc8 26.Qe7 Qb6+ 27.Nc5 Rd8 28.Kf3. Black is completely tied up, helpless to prevent ideas such as Qxf7xe6 or Bh3xe6.

23.Qh5+ Qg6 24.Qc5 Qf7 25.Ne5 Qc7

25...fxe5 26.Bxc6+

26.Nc4 Qe7 27.Bxc6+ Bxc6 28.Qxc6+ Kf7 29.Rd7 Qxd7 30.Qxd7+ Kg6 31.Qxe6

Cute mate in 5: 31.Ne5+ fxe5 (31...Kf5 32.Qd3#; 31...Kh5 32.Qd1#) 32.Qxe6+ Kh5 33.Qf5+ g5 34.Qxh7+ Kg4 35.h3#

31...h6 32.Qe4+ f5 33.Ne5+ Kh7 34.Qxf5+ g6 35.Qh3 h5 36.Nf3 1-0

Josh Sinanan (2263) – Ignacio Perez (2200) [E60]
Washington Class Championships
Lynnwood, WA (R6),
November 25, 2018
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.g3 g6 3.b3 Bg7 4.Bb2 0-0 5.Bg2 d6 6.d4 Nbd7 7.c4

7.0-0 e5 8.dxe5 Ng4 9.c4± This is the theoretical move order, though transpositions with the game line abound.

7...e5 8.dxe5 Ng4!?

8...dxe5! 9.0-0 (9.Nxe5? Ng4 10.Nxg4 Bxb2 11.Nd2 f5 12.Ne3 Bxa1 13.Qxa1 doesn't look like a White winning attempt.) 9...e4∞ scores well for Black. 10.Ne1 (10.Ng5 Re8 has also been seen.) 10...Re8 11.Nc2 c6 12.Qd2 Qe7∞

9.Nc3 dxe5



Josh Sinanan having some fun at Lakeside Middle School Chess Club.
Photo Credit: Josh Sinanan.

I've always felt that if you're going to go to the trouble of pinning that e-pawn and attacking it with so many minor pieces, you may as well capture with one of them, instead of the pawn. Disclaimer: Theory and the engines don't strictly agree with me. 9...Ngxe5 10.Nxe5 Nxe5 11.0-0±

10.Qc2

10.e4!?

10...f5 11.h3

11.e4!?

11...Ngf6 12.0-0-0

12.g4!?

12...Re8?

12...Qe7∞; 12...e4 13.Nd4 Qe7 14.g4∞

13.e4

The Stockfish engine prefers 13.g4± here and several other places.

13...Nxe4 14.Nxe4 fxe4 15.Nd2 Qg5?!

15...e3 16.fxe3 Nc5 17.Ne4 Qe7 18.Kb1 Bf5 19.g4, and after a liquidation on e4, White's remaining pieces are better placed.

16.h4 Qh6 17.Kb1 Nf6

17...e3±

18.Nxe4 Bf5 19.Nxf6+ Bxf6 20.Bd5+ Kh8 21.Be4 Bxe4 22.Qxe4



Position after 22.Qxe4

This position is similar to the liquidation mentioned in the note to Black's move 15, except here White's pawns are sounder and the black queen, king, and bishop are all a bit worse off to varying degrees.

22...c6?

Black is in deep trouble anyway, but challenging for the d-file seems necessary. 22...Rad8

23.g4

23.Rd7+-

23...Qf8 24.h5 g5 25.Rd7+- Re7 26.Rhd1 Qf7 27.Qf5 Rf8



Position after 27...Rf8

28.Rxe7

28.Ba3! and Black would probably throw

in the towel immediately.

28...Bxe7 29.Qxe5+ Bf6 30.Qxg5 Bxb2 31.Kxb2 Qxf2+ 32.Rd2 Qf4 33.Qxf4 Rxf4 34.g5 b5 35.h6 Kg8 36.cxb5 cxb5 37.Rd7 a5 38.Rg7+ Kh8 39.Ra7 Kg8 40.Rxa5 Rf5 41.Ra8+ Kf7 42.Ra7+ Kg6 43.Rg7+ Kh5 44.Rxh7 Kxg5 45.Ka3 Rf2 46.Rb7 1-0

David Merrikin (1731) –
Colin Smith (1629) [E76]
Washington Class Championships
Lynnwood, WA (R4),
November 24, 2018
[David Merrikin]



1.c4 d6 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.d4 g6 4.e4 Bg7 5.f4 0-0 6.Bd3 Bg4 7.Qc2 Nc6 8.Qf2 e5 9.fxe5 dxe5 10.d5 Ne7 11.h3 Bc8 12.Bg5 Ne8 13.0-0-0 f6 14.Be3 b6 15.Qd2 Ba6 16.c5 Bxd3 17.Qxd3 f5 18.Nf3

I missed winning the knight with d6!

18...bxc5 19.Bxc5 Nd6 20.Kb1 a6 21.Ng5 Qd7 22.Ne6 Rfb8 23.Nxg7 Kxg7 24.Rhf1 fxe4 25.Nxe4 Rb5

[Diagram top of next page]

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Position after 25...Rb5

26.Ng5

26.Qc3!

26...Kg8 27.Bxd6 Qxd6

The pawn needed to recapture... this probably lost...? I had a decent little plus (except 8.Qf2... engines disliked that) til now but various engines say +2 from here on.

28.Ne4 Qb6 29.Qc3

This was what I had been aiming for the whole time (although engines say I should have already played it around move 26); opponent took almost an hour for the next two moves.

29...Nxd5 30.Qxe5

better than trying to win the knight? This time I at least saw it and passed... I considered both...

30...Rb8 31.Ka1

A couple subtle Hail Mary mating tactics otherwise; Ka1 saves my butt.

31...Rf8??

Now its mate in four or Q+N for R...but still mate in 11...sad I never got to use my brand new windmill...

32.Rxf8+ Kxf8 33.Rf1+ Kg8 34.Qe8+ 1-0

Washington Class Blitz Event

By Jacob Mayer

Despite being just a "side" event at the Washington Class Championships, this year's blitz tournament featured one of the strongest fields in recent memory! With 17 players, and an average rating over 1700 (including four masters), an exciting battle ensued for the top spot.

NM Kyle Haining took a break from his studies at the UW to school the rest of the competitors, finishing with 9.0 points and taking clear first! Kyle took 1.5 out of 2 in the last round against FM Steven Breckenridge, who would finish with 7.5 points in clear second. TD Jacob Mayer and Frank Fagundes finished with



The playing room at the Thanksgiving Scholastic.
Photo Credit: Josh Sinanan.

6.0 points and tied for first place U2000. Colin Smith would go on to win the U1700 prize with a score of 5.0 points.

The blitz event, Directed by Jacob Mayer and assisted by Gary Dorfner, was held at the Embassy Suites Lynnwood alongside the Washington Class Championships over the Thanksgiving holiday weekend.

the Washington Chess Federation. Congratulations to section winners: K-3 U800 – William Qian, K-3 Open – Alex (Jingran) Yang, 4-6 U900 – Soham Pendse, 4-6 Open – Tanush Bhatia, and 7-12 – Daniel Wilke.

And while we usually hand out numerous sportsmanship awards, I wanted to give special recognition to Harry Yang of Eastgate Elementary. Harry stayed till the end and cheered on loudly for every individual, team, and upset award winner. His positive attitude was definitely not overlooked and I hope he encouraged some of his fellow competitors to cheer on others, win or lose.

A Thanksgiving Scholastic To Be Thankful For

By Jacob Mayer

While some of Washington's top players were playing the Class Championship, some promising scholastic players participated in the Thanksgiving Scholastic at the Lynnwood Embassy Suites. This event was organized and directed by Jacob Mayer and



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North American Youth Chess Championship

By Mei Xu and Chen Zhou

Several players from Washington State attended North American Youth Chess Championship (NAYCC) held from November 16-21, 2018, at Puerto Nuevo, Baja California, Mexico. Among them, Bryce Tiglon won the first place in the U20 Open and bagged a GM norm. Anthony He won a Bronze medal in the same U20 open with an IM norm. Minda Chen played up and won the first place in the Female U16 section with a WIM norm and WFM title. Melina Li won the first place in the Female U12 section. Albert Li got sixth place in U10 and Rushaan Mahajan got ninth place in U12 section.

Puerto Nuevo is a beautiful coastal town 30 minutes to the south of the border between San Diego and Tijuana. NAYCC is open to players from Mexico, Canada and USA. In the U12 Female section, Melina came in as the 3rd highest rated player. But her chance steadily improved as the rounds progressed. She finally took 6.5 points out of eight games, beating the silver medalist by 0.5 point. Minda was favored to win U16 Female section

according to the beginning ratings, but she caught a cold there and lost her third round unexpectedly. She managed to regain her lead in the following rounds.

**Mayra Valentin De Dois Suraez –
Melina Li [C01]**

North American Youth Chess
Championship

Mexico (R5), November 19, 2018

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Bd3 Nf6 4.exd5 exd5
5.Ne2 Nc6 6.0-0 Be6 7.Bf4 Bd6 8.c3 g5
9.Bxg5 Bxh2+ 10.Kh1 Bd6 11.Nf4 h6
12.Nxe6 hxg5+ 13.Kg1 fxe6 14.Bg6+
Kd7 15.g3 Qf8 16.Kg2 Qh6 17.Bd3
Qh3+ 18.Kf3 Rae8 19.Ke2 Qg4+
20.Kd2 Qxd1+ 21.Kxd1 e5 22.Bf5+
Kd8 23.dxe5 Rxe5 24.g4 d4 25.Nd2
dxc3 26.bxc3 Ne7 27.Nc4 Rd5+ 28.Kc2
Nxf5 29.gxf5 Rxf5 30.Nxd6 cxd6
31.Rad1 Kc7 32.Rd2 Rh2 33.Kd1 Ne4
34.Rc2 Rxf2 35.Rxf2 Rxf2 36.Rxf2
Nxf2+ 37.Kd2 Ne4+ 38.Kd3 d5 39.Kd4
g4 40.Ke3 Nxc3 41.Kf4 Nxa2 42.Kxg4
Kc6 43.Kf4 Kc5 44.Ke3 Kc4 45.Kd2
Kd4 46.Ke2 Kc3 47.Ke3 d4+ 48.Ke4
d3 49.Ke3 Kc2 50.Kf4 d2 51.Ke4 d1Q
52.Ke5 Qd3 53.Ke6 Qd4 54.Kf5 Qe3
55.Kf6 Qe4 56.Kf7 Qe5 57.Kg6 Qf4
58.Kg7 Qf5 59.Kh8 Qg5 0-1



Melina Li. Photo courtesy of Mei Xu.

Washington President's Cup February 9-10, 2019

Highest Finishing WA resident in Open section seeded into the 2020 Washington Invitational

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

Format: 5 Round Swiss.

Two Sections: Open and Reserve (under 1600).

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

US Chess February 2019 rating supplement will be used to determine pairings and prizes. Foreign ratings used for players with no US Chess rating. Higher of US Chess or foreign ratings used at TD discretion.

Prize Fund: \$2,000 (based on 50 paid entries).

Open: 1st \$385, 2nd \$285, 3rd \$180, 1st U1800 \$125, 1st U1600 \$125

Reserve: 1st \$275, 2nd \$225, 3rd \$160, 1st U1400 \$120, 1st U1200/Unrated \$120

Entry Fee: \$70 if postmarked or online by 02/03, \$80 after 02/03 or at site. Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs.

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

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

Byes: Two half-point byes available, request before end of round 2. US Chess and WCF/OCF/ICA memberships required, other states accepted. Northwest Chess Grand Prix event. NS. NC. W.

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: jvictormayer@yahoo.com.

Online Registration: nwchess.com/onlineregistration.

Grandmaster Submission!

While no article or photos were submitted to *Northwest Chess* on this event, Grandmaster Tarjan submitted this game with notes to share with our readers. I find his games to be interesting and instructional.—Jeffrey Roland, Editor.

**James Edward Tarjan (2486) –
Francesco Rambaldi (2606) [A37]**

Pacific Northwest Chess Center Masters
Kirkland, WA (R5), November 12, 2018
[James Tarjan]

**1.c4 g6 2.g3 Bg7 3.Bg2 c5 4.Nc3 Nc6
5.Nf3 d6 6.0-0 Rb8**

Unusual, but White's opening scheme is slow (some would call it innocuous) and virtually any logical development plan by Black is playable.

7.Rb1 e6 8.d3 Nge7 9.Bd2 b6

Something like the Fischer system, but with the pawn on d6 rather than aggressively advanced with an early ...d5.

10.a3 Bb7 11.b4 0-0 12.e3

I wanted to believe that White has a slight edge here having achieved b4, but it didn't really turn out that way.

12...Qd7 13.Qa4

To pressure the queenside. 13.Qe2 is a reasonable option, keeping the queen in the center.

13...Ba8 14.Rfd1 Rfd8 15.Be1

Both players are eyeing the respective advance of their d-pawns, to gain control of the center.

15...Nf5 16.Ne4 Qe7

The queen moves out of the line of fire of White's rook on d1. Now Black is indeed looking at getting in ...d5. Aside from going backwards with 17.Nc3, the only plan that made sense to me was the double-edged one of pushing the g-pawn.

17.g4 Nh6

17...d5!? anyway is actually possible here.; What I was concerned about at the board was 17...Nh4 and it took me some time to convince myself I would be OK, with the bishop on e1 playing an unexpected role after White's f-pawn advances. For example 18.Nxh4 Qxh4 19.g5 d5 20.f4

18.g5 Nf5 19.Ng3 Ne5

The computer's suggestion of 19...cxb4!? is not logical at first glance but makes sense upon reflection, and after seeing how the game goes. The queenside will open in any case and Black anticipates it. 20.axb4 Ne5 21.Nxe5 Bxg2 22.Kxg2 dxe5 23.Ne4 h6 with an improved version

for Black of the game continuation, perhaps.

20.Nxe5 Bxg2 21.Kxg2



Position after 21.Kxg2

21...dxe5

Here my software recommends 21...Bxe5 22.Nxf5 exf5 and claims an advantage for Black. When I briefly discussed the game with Rambaldi the next day, he said he had considered this and figured it to be merely equal. And looking at the position more carefully: Hurrah! This is a case where the human is right and the computer is wrong. Indeed there is no Black advantage to be seen after, for example 23.f4 Bg7 24.Bf2 Qb7+ 25.Kg3 Re8 26.Rd2 thinking Qd1 to bring White's queen to oppose on the long diagonal, when it will really be clear that White is OK.

22.Ne4

22.bxc5 first perhaps, but I wanted to get my knight back to the wonderful square e4 square ASAP, now that it cannot be chased away by ...d5. After 22.bxc5 one way for Black then would be 22...Nh4+ 23.Kf1 Qxg5 24.Qxa7 Qg4 with a possible draw by perpetual.

22...h6

Letting White's knight be on e4 for now and playing for an attack against the king. Black captures or exchanges the g5-pawn, then...Nh4 (with or without check), then ...f5 driving the beautiful knight away, and then finally attacks White's exposed king. At the board I couldn't believe this plan by Black should work; my sense was White comes first on the queenside. But the position is a complicated mess, and Black has possible improvements later. I thought he had to play 22...Nd6 23.Nxd6 Qxd6 with approximate equality.

23.bxc5 bxc5

Likely better is the immediate 23...hxg5 with the sort of position we used to call "unclear." The computer's evaluation hovers around equal. White's king has a more-or-less safe haven on f1.

24.Qc6

White advances on the queenside.

**24...hxg5 25.Ba5 Rdc8 26.Rxb8 Rxb8
27.Qxc5 Qb7 28.Qc7 Qa8**

Only after this move does the computer agree White is better. Instead 28...Qb3! and Black has enough attack to make a perpetual check, though both sides must navigate further complications: 29.Nxg5 most straightforward (White can also move the rook, though then it gets really messy. 29.Rd2 Nh4+ 30.Kh3 (30.Kf1? Nf3-/+) 30...Qb1 31.Nxg5 Nf5 32.Kg2) 29...Nh4+ 30.Kh3 Qxd1 31.Qxb8+ (31.Qxf7+? loses) 31...Bf8 32.Bb4 Qf1+ with perpetual check.

29.Kf1 Nh4 30.Ke2!



Position after 30.Ke2

30...Rf8?

He was getting short of time and did not see anything good to do. He needs to find a way to get at White's king. 30...g4! is the only logical try: 31.c5 Rc8 (31...Rb2+ 32.Rd2 Rb1 33.c6 Nf3 34.Rd1) 32.Qd7 This is strong for White, but only if he can calculate a long variation: 32...Rxc5 (Otherwise Black has nothing better than trading into a difficult endgame with 32...Qc6) 33.Nxc5 Qf3+ 34.Kd2 Qxf2+ 35.Kc3 e4+ 36.Kb3 the king runs to the queenside and survives 36...Qb2+ 37.Ka4 Qc2+ 38.Kb5 Qxd1 39.Qd8+ Bf8 40.Bb4 and in the end White wins.

31.Rb1!

The rook comes to the seventh and Black is running out of attacking ideas, while allowing the trade of queens is also getting hopeless.

31...Qe8 32.Nc5!

Blocking the last path of Black's queen on a4.

32...g4

I thought he might throw in 32...e4 but it doesn't help after 33.d4.

33.Rb7 Nf3 34.Nd7 Kh8 35.Rb8!

Always a chance for a mistake: 35.Nxf8?? Qa4 and believe it or not, the position is equal: White cannot quite mate with checks and Black gets at least his perpetual.

35...Qe7 36.Bb4 Qh4

Finally he gets his queen into the attack, but too late.

**37.Nxf8 Ng1+ 38.Kf1 Qxh2 39.Qxf7
1-0**

The Isle Of Mayer

By Jacob Mayer

Isle of Man, UK—October 21-28, 2018

A few months ago a friend (and coach, who shall remain nameless) mentioned how he and a friend decided to play the London Chess Classic on a whim, and that inspired me to try to find a chess adventure of my own. After Oregon GM James Tarjan had such a memorable tournament last year (he beat former world champion Vladimir Kramnik!) I really wanted to experience the event for myself. They had a U2100 section separate (but in the same villa) from the Masters section, and I would highly recommend the tournament for any like-minded chess adventure enthusiasts. The Villa Gaiety housed some of the world's top players and I got to meet and socialize with Super-GM's like Anish Giri and Maxime-Vachier Legrave, former world champions Viswanathan Anand and Vladimir Kramnik, Seattle Sluggers superstar Hikaru Nakamura, and so much more! During the awards ceremony I even got to play blitz with Nakamura, Super-GM Levon Aronian, and Nigel Short.

In round one I managed to salvage a draw, holding a losing position for six hours against English player Nick Burrows in an endgame that would impress all spectators. In round two I followed up with a quick draw against an underrated local player, still exhausted from the night before. In round three I played a wild game against new friend Brian Ireland (from England!) and missed a crazy mate in four and would go on to lose the game.

In round four I evened up my score again with a quick and simple win before running into a tough Icelandic junior in round five and lost a game where we ended up with seven pieces (and both Kings!) occupying the h-file before a nice tactic ended my chances. In round six, I had come all this way to the Isle of Man, and was scheduled to play the only other American in the section. I desperately needed a win with the black pieces to get back on even, and below is attached the game I played to prove that I was the best American (in the U2100 section at least).

Jay Carr –
Jacob Mayer [A53]
Isle of Man - Major Section
(R6), 10.2018
[Jacob Mayer]

Going into this game I had lost two of the last three, and was slated to play the only other American.

1.c4



Blitz with Hikaru. Photo courtesy of Jacob Mayer.

I had seen his prior games, he played queen pawn and English openings, I figured he was well versed in classical lines so I opted for an Old Indian (Black Lion) Initial Setup with the hope of catching him off-guard.

1...Nf6 2.g3 d6 3.Bg2 e5 4.Nc3 c6

After this he seemed a little perplexed, he clearly didn't have much experience with these structures with pawns on c6 and d6.

5.d4 Be7 6.e4 Nbd7 7.Nge2 a5 8.0-0 0-0 9.b3 Re8 10.h3 Bf8 11.g4?! g6?! 12.Be3 Bg7 13.Qc2 h5?! 14.g5 Nh7

Here I was expecting h4, and after exchanging on d4, claiming my knights outpost on c5 and re-routing my other knight through f8 and e6.

15.f4?

15.h4 exd4 16.Nxd4 Nc5

15...exf4 16.Bxf4 Nfg5 17.Bxd6?!

There's no need to snap back the pawn, by creating a battery with the queen, it saves a critical tempo before re-capturing the pawn. 17.Qd2 f6 18.Bxd6=

17...Nf8



Position after 17...Nf8

When he snapped back the pawn it opened up the d-file for the queen. After Nf8 I was expecting Bxf8, which would've continued with an edge for black after conceding the d4 pawn. But after e5, his dark square bishop essentially closes itself out of the game. And while the connected pawns are strong, the gaping hole left behind on h3 lead to a indefensible attack against the white king.

18.e5 Nxf3+



Position after 18...Nxf3+

19.Kh2??

After this his whole position crumbles rather quickly. 19.Bxf3 Bxf3 20.Rf2+ Nd7

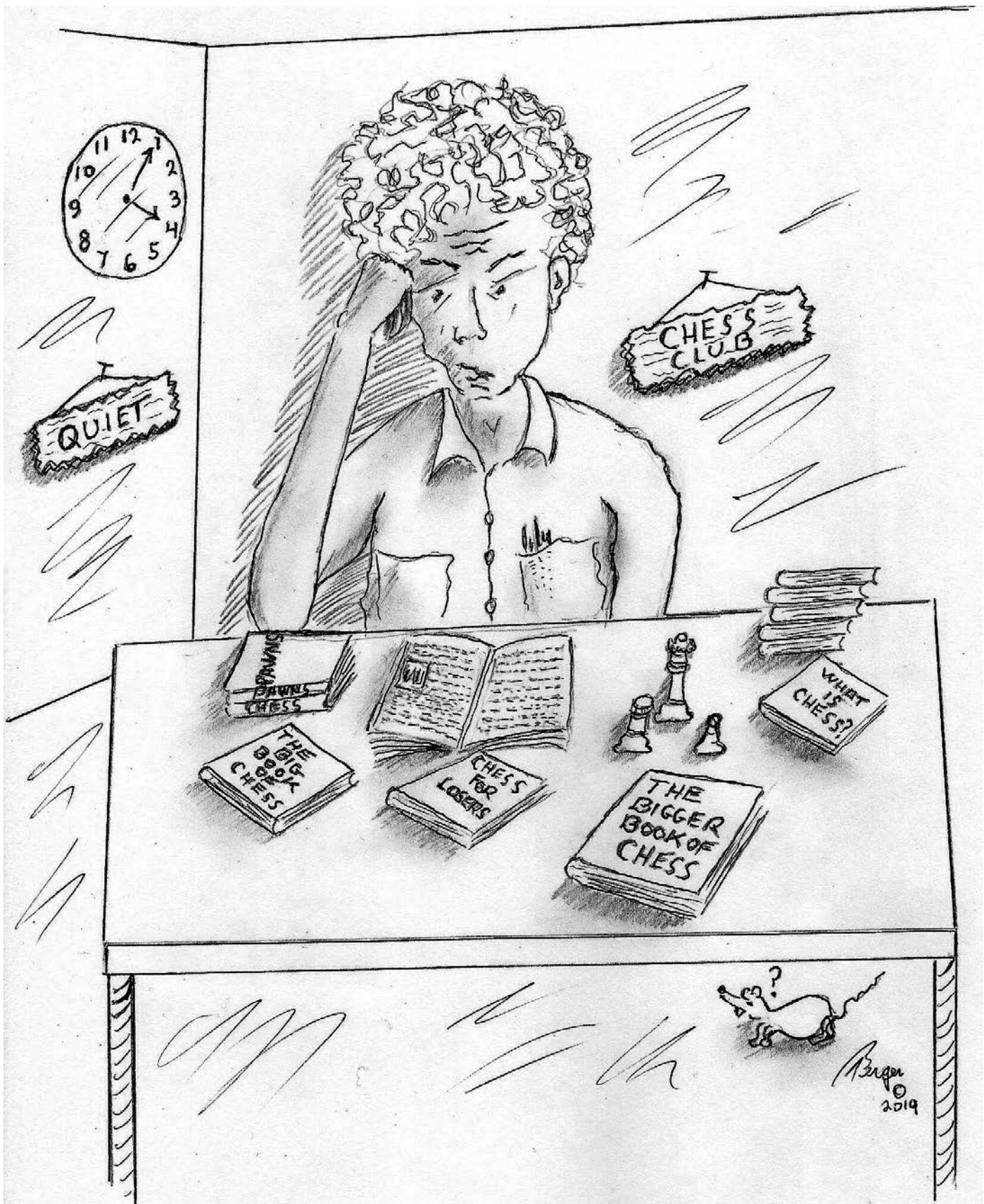
19...Qh4 20.Bxf3 Qxf3+ 21.Kg1 Bh6 22.Ne4 Be3+ 23.Rf2

23.Nf2 Bf5 24.Qd1 Be4+

23...Bf5 24.Nf4 Bxe4 25.Nxf3 Bxc2

My opponent attempts to salvage the position to be down just an exchange, but can't help but be down an entire rook, at which point he resigned. This win put me back on even (my goal before the tournament) with just one round to go!

0-1



ON THIS, HIS 10TH NEW YEAR'S DAY AS A US CHESS MEMBER, FELIX ONCE AGAIN RESOLVED TO BECOME A BETTER 300+ PLAYER.

The 2018 John Braley Memorial Standings Northwest Chess Grand Prix

Murlin Varner, Administrator

(mevjr54@outlook.com)

Well, another year is done. The statistics aren't, since this was written weeks ago, but you can't help yourself for 2018 at this point. If you are on the leaders list this month, and you played during December, you are likely still there. If you didn't play, someone may have passed you by, considering how close many of the contests still were when December started. If your name is not in the lists below, it is possible you could have moved yourself up into a top five position with a solid effort in December, but unlikely that you could make it to the top two. Therefore, our 34 cash winners' names are probably all within the 85 names listed below.

The December events included The Western Idaho Open in Boise, the SCC Quads, Northwest Chess Open and Washington Winter Chess Classic, all in Seattle, and three in Portland, the Portland Winter Open, the PCC Quads and the PCC Game/60. Only the Winter Chess Classic carried a multiplier, of 4x. (Contrary to what I said above, in some Idaho classes, an Idahoan who managed to play three times in December, including the 4x event, and did well, could move from obscurity into a top two position, since the totals are lower in Idaho. We'll see next month.)

If all the results are in by early January, AND if all the fees have been paid or promised, then February's issue will have the final results and prize amounts. If not, we will just have to keep you on the edge of your seat until March (figuratively speaking, of course, since I do expect you to walk around from time to time during February.) Meanwhile, there's always the 2019 contest to consider.

2019 will be my 17th year keeping these records. During that time, there was only one year where I spent much time on the charts myself. In 2011, I managed to finish second in my class. Now that I am retired, I am thinking I will try to do it again in 2019. Care to join me? Our year will open with the Third Annual Neil Dale Memorial in Portland on the 5th and 6th, with a 2x multiplier. Also on that weekend is the SCC Saturday Quads. On the following weekend, we have the 2x Seattle City Championship. The third weekend you have your choice between the SCC Sunday Tornado or the PCC Sunday Quads. The final weekend brings the monthly Game/60 in Portland. If life and my wife tolerate it, I hope to play at least two and maybe all four weekends. (I do not know if I will be able to match my friend August Piper's participation level – he has competed 31 times in 2018, through the end of November — but I am going to give it a shot.)

Data below current through December 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	234.0
			2	Peng	Shunkai	69.0	2	Yu	Jason	197.5
			3	Grabinsky	Joshua	60.0	3	Perez	Ignacio	182.0
			4	McCoy	Owen	59.5	4	Breckenridge	Steven J	141.0
			5	Zavortink	Matt	54.0	5	He	Anthony B	132.5
Experts										
			1	Nair	Roshen S	137.5	1	Levine	Joseph R	209.0
			2	Seitzer	Phillip	86.0	2	Truelson	Joseph	192.5
			3	Richardson	Ryan	82.5	3	Anand	Vignesh	185.0
			4	Bjorksten	Lennart	78.0	4	Velea	Anne-Marie	175.0
			5	Gatica	Jose M	70.5	5	Zhang	Eric M	154.5
Class A										
			1	Tang	Zoey	208.5	1	Fagundes	Frank	224.5
			2	Vega	Isaac	196.0	2	Beck	Alec W	199.0
			3	Moore	Michael	176.5	3	Vijayakumar	Advait	183.0
			4	Kodithyala	Raj	145.0	4	Jiang	Brandon	163.0
			5	Feldman	Konner	130.5	4	Yan	Jeffrey O	163.0
M/X/Class A										
1	Cambareri	Michael E	65.0							
2	Machin	Alex J	62.0							
3	Presutti	Michael J	47.0							
4	Xu	Kevin	44.5							
5	Inman	James	37.0							
Class B										
1	Roland	Jeffrey T	53.5							
2	Wei	James	52.0							
3	Machakos	Seth D	30.5							
4	Rainey	Samuel W	30.0							
5	Derryberry	Dewayne R	27.0							

Idaho			Oregon			Washington					
last	first	pts.	last	first	pts.	last	first	pts.			
Class C			Class B								
1	Kitterman	Andrew N	50.0	1	Tang	Austin	208.0	1	Gupta	Anand	203.5
2	Zeng	Forrest	22.0	2	Sripada	Havish	117.5	2	Min	Ryan	188.0
3	He	Justin	20.0	3	Wu	Abbie	115.0	3	Goktepe	Derin	178.5
4	Felice	Louis V	15.0	4	Roshu	David L	96.0	4	Velea	Stephanie	171.0
5	Weyland	Ron	13.5	5	Berger	Brian F	95.5	5	Buck	Stephen J	160.5
Class D			Class C								
1	Porth	Adam	36.5	1	Beauchet	Pierre-Hadrien	227.5	1	Piper	August	228.0
2	Shepard	River C	31.0	2	Dietz	Arliss	126.0	2	Richards	Jerrold	179.5
3	Leifeste	Bryce	27.5	3	Wong	Egan	125.0	3	Singh	Saket	161.0
4	Merry	William A F	23.0	4	Roshu	Cassandra M	107.5	4	Chen	Aiden	137.0
5	Ang	Ching-E N	22.5	5	Morrissey	Patrick W	105.5	5	Johnson	Cleveland R	126.0
Class E and Below			Class D and Below								
1	Wei	Luke B	25.0	1	Kodarapu	Ishaan K	92.5	1	Henderson	Doug	205.5
2	Wang	William J	24.5	2	Adiraju	Vimal	63.0	2	Li	Edward	178.0
2	Olson	Otto W	24.5	3	Lykins	Pace	55.0	3	Li	Emma	141.0
4	Leifeste	Jef	24.0	4	Sripada	Anisha	54.0	4	Johar	Mudit	135.5
5	Belew	Finn C	20.0	5	Midson	Tony	51.0	5	Liu	Isaac Y	134.5
Overall Leaders, by State											
1	Cambareri	Michael E	65.0	1	Beauchet	Pierre-Hadrien	227.5	1	Pupols	Viktors	234.0
2	Machin	Alex J	62.0	2	Tang	Zoey	208.5	2	Piper	August	228.0
3	Roland	Jeffrey T	53.5	3	Tang	Austin	208.0	3	Fagundes	Frank	224.5
4	Wei	James	52.0	4	Vega	Isaac	196.0	4	Levine	Joseph R	209.0
5	Kitterman	Andrew N	50.0	5	Moore	Michael	176.5	5	Henderson	Doug	205.5
6	Presutti	Michael J	47.0	6	Kodithyala	Raj	145.0	6	Gupta	Anand	203.5
7	Xu	Kevin	44.5	7	Nair	Roshen S	137.5	7	Beck	Alec W	199.0
8	Inman	James	37.0	8	Feldman	Konner	130.5	8	Yu	Jason	197.5
9	Porth	Adam	36.5	9	Dietz	Arliss	126.0	9	Truelson	Joseph	192.5
10	Shepard	River C	31.0	10	Wong	Egan	125.0	10	Min	Ryan	188.0
11	Machakos	Seth D	30.5	11	Sripada	Havish	117.5	11	Anand	Vignesh	185.0
12	Rainey	Samuel W	30.0	12	Wu	Abbie	115.0	12	Vijayakumar	Advait	183.0

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 SCC Tnmt Dir
 2420 S 137 St
 Seattle WA 98168

Jan 5, Feb 2

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

Saturday Quads

Jan 6

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

SCC Novice

Jan 20, Feb 24

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.

Sunday Tornado

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.



As of December 5th, the SCC online registration system was still having difficulties. To register for the City Championship in advance, you may have to resort to the U.S. Postal Service.

Seattle City Championship

January 11-13 or January 12-13

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

a Northwest Grand Prix event

Championship

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

EF: \$45 (\$35 for SCC mem., \$40 for mem. of other NW dues-req'd CCs) by 1/9 \$53 (\$41, \$46) at site; GMs, IMs, WGMs free.

Reserve (U1800)

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

EF: \$36 (\$26 for SCC mem., \$31 for mem. of other NW dues-req'd CCs) by 1/9, \$4 (\$35, \$40) at site. **Unrateds** free w/purch. 1-yr US Chess & WCF.

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

Reg.: Fri. 7-7:45pm, Sat. 9-9:45am. **Rds:** Fri. 8, Sat. (10am@ G/60;d5)-12:30-6:45, Sun. 11-5.
Byes: 2 (Sun. rds, commit at reg.). **Misc.:** US Chess & ICA/OCF/WCF memb. req'd. NS. NC.

Upcoming Events

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

♣ **Jan 5-6** 3rd Annual Neil Dale Memorial Open, **Portland, OR**. Site: Portland Chess Club, 8205 SW 24th Ave, Portland, OR 97219. One section, 5-round Swiss, round 1: G/60;d10, rounds 2-5: G/120;d10, one half point bye is available if requested before round one, US Chess rated. On-site reg: 9-9:45am, Rds: 10am, 12:45pm, and 5:30 on Saturday and 10am and 2:45pm on Sunday. Rds 2, 3 and 5 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: \$45, \$35 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 (\$1500 b/50): Open: 1st-\$300, 2nd-\$200, 3rd-\$125, U2100, U1900, U1700, U1500, U1300/Unrated: 1st-\$100, 2nd-\$75. Upset bonus prize (the player with an established rating who beats a higher rated player by the largest rating difference)-\$50. Qualifier for the Challengers section of the 2020 Oregon Closed and qualifier for the 2019 OSCF State Championship. More info., including info. about Neil, at pdxchess.org, (503) 246-2978.

Jan 19 ICA MLK Blitz Championship, **Boise, ID**. 8SS double game, Time Control: G/5; d0. Section: Open. Site: BSU, SUB, Boise, ID. US Chess & ICA/OCF/WCF mem req. EF: \$30 per player. Discount for online registration. Rd Times: 11 am continuous until 5 pm. 1/2 pt bye Rds 1-5 only. 1st rd must notify TD before rd is paired, all others before rd 2 is paired. \$\$ (based on 30) 1st - 3rd place Overall plaques and top scholastic. Details: idahochessassociation@gmail.com, Online registration at www.idahochessassociation.com, (208)450-9048.

♣ **Jan 20/Feb 24** 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.

♣ **Jan 26/Feb 23** Portland CC Game in 60, **Portland, OR**. Site: Portland Chess Club, 8205 SW 24th Ave., Portland, OR. Two sections-Open and U1650, 4-round Swiss, G/60;inc5, one half point bye is available if requested before round one, US Chess rated. On-site reg: 9-9:45 am. Rds: 10am, 12:30pm, 2:45pm, 5pm. 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 (Add \$5 play-up fee if play up. 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 (\$300 b/30) (any play-up fees are added to the prize fund). Open section: 1st-\$60, 2nd-\$40, 1st U1850/unrated-\$35; U1650 section: 1st-\$60, 2nd-\$40, 1st U1450/unrated-\$35, 1st U1250/unrated-\$30. OSCF State qualifier. More info at pdxchess.org. Phone: (503) 246-2978.

Feb 9-10 and 16-18 OR State Championship and Invitational, **Portland, OR**. <http://www.nwchess.com/calendar/TA.htm>

Feb 9-10 and 16-18 WA State Championship, **Redmond, WA**. <http://www.nwchess.com/calendar/TA.htm>

♣ **Feb 9-10** President's Cup, SCC, **Seattle, WA**. (see Half-Page Ad page 24)

♣ **Feb 16-18** Idaho Closed State Chess Championship, **Twin Falls, ID**. 6SS, Time Control: 30/120, d5 SD/60, d5. Section: Open. Site: Hampton, 1658 Fillmore St, Twin Falls, ID. Call for Chess Rate, 208-734-2233. Idaho Residency req'd, US Chess and ICA membership req'd EF: \$30 per player, Register online for discount. Rd Times: 2/16 9 am, 4 pm, 2/17 10 am, 5 pm, 2/18 8 am, 3 pm. Business meeting 9 am 2/17. 1/2 pt bye Rds 1-5 only. Maximum 1-half point bye, Rounds 1-5, commit before round is paired. 0-point bye round 6. Prizes: 1, 2, 3 Overall; Classes B - E, Top Expert, Class A, Junior, Senior, Unrated, Woman. Details: idahochessassociation@gmail.com, Online registration at www.idahochessassociation.com, (208) 450-9048.

Feb 22 IM John Donaldson Simul & Lecture, **Spokane, WA**. <http://www.nwchess.com/calendar/TA.htm>

♣ **Feb 23-24** The 27th Dave Collyer Memorial, **Millwood, WA**. The Spokane Chess Club and the Gary Younker Foundation, in memory of former presidents Dave Collyer and Gary Younker, proudly present the 27th Dave Collyer Memorial tournament. Location: Millwood Presbyterian Church Community Center, 3223 N. Marguerite, Millwood, WA; I-90 Exit 287, north on Argonne Road to light at Euclid, turn left, two blocks. Format: A computer-paired, five-round Swiss System event. Registration: 9:30-10:30, Feb. 23. Rounds: 11-2:30-7; 10-2:30 or ASAP. Time control: Round 1: G/90,d5; Rounds 2-5: G/115,d5. Entry fee: \$28 if received by 2/22, \$35 at the door; under 18 \$5 less; cash or checks only. Telephone entries accepted (pay at door). All registrants must check in by 10:40 unless a first-round bye was granted. \$1,800 GUARANTEED prize fund. Class prizes based on at least 5 per class; classes may be reconfigured if less than five class entries. Only one prize per player (excluding biggest upset). NS, NC, W. One 1/2-point bye available if requested by end of prior round; Sunday bye must be requested by end of round 3. Director reserves the right to use class pairings in final round. PRIZES: First \$350, Second \$225, Third \$125; Class Prizes: Top Expert \$100; \$100 first, \$70 second in A, B, C, D, E/Unr. Biggest Upsets: \$100 & \$50 (non-provisional ratings). Entries: Spokane CC, c/o Kevin Korsmo, N. 9923 Moore, Spokane, WA 99208-9339. For information please call (509) 270-1772. Check website for updates: spokanechessclub.org. W.

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