



Northwest Chess

The logo consists of a white chess knight on a pedestal, set against a black silhouette of the Northwest region. The knight is facing right and is positioned on a pedestal with three curved lines on its base. The map of the Northwest region is shown in black, with the knight and pedestal in white.

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From The Editor's Desk

Welcome to my 77th issue as your editor! Over the past seven years, I have discovered that it is the April issue that is what we tend to call the “State Championship” issue. Usually, I just put the standard victory-pose pictures of each state champion on the cover, and while that all looks nice, there comes a time when an editor wants to try something different.

I find myself often looking at past issues of past editors, admiring the work of my predecessors (I have also been involved in the scanning project that helps to preserve and make these available), so I have a genuine appreciation of the talents that have been involved in the magazine over the 73-year history of our publication.

I always was almost jealous of Ralph Dubisch (in a good way, of course) because he got the benefit of Philip Peterson’s photographs which are absolutely stunning. Ralph and I have a humorous understanding that his front covers were his hallmark, perhaps my back covers are mine—actually, I think what my contribution to the editorial history is yet to be determined as I keep evolving, learning, and hopefully getting better. This month, I really wanted to do something different and thought, why not ask, and well, sometimes asking is all that it takes! I told Phil (via Ralph) my idea and kind of what I wanted done, but left much of the specifics up to Phil and his photographic genius and artistry.

Phil was more than happy to take the challenge! He spent quite a while on this... in fact, the front and back covers, usually one of the first things to get done for me, this month were about the last thing to finish! They were “plain white” (like the Beatles’ White Album) until the last day, but I think it was worth the wait!

Another thing I want to point out in this issue was that there is nothing in it on the Oregon Closed State Championship. This is because nobody turned in an article. I do not know why not. Last year, the coverage on the Oregon Closed (and also Oregon Open) was so fantastic that we even made the issue 48-pages to present it in all its glory (the November 2018 issue with fine contributions by Brian Berger, James Tarjan, Matt Zavortink and Owen McCoy which really showcased Oregon!), although now that I think about it, there hadn’t been an Oregon Closed article last year either until I persuaded Sarah McCoy to write one at the last minute.

When Jason Cigan, the winner of this year’s Oregon Closed State Championship, learned that there was no article on the Oregon State Championship, he graciously volunteered to write one himself. Jason, quite rightly, pointed out to me that if someone wins the NBA Championship, the players shouldn’t be the ones writing the story! I completely agree!! The Oregon State Championship is important and should be honored with an article and coverage. But I can’t create things out of thin air, and as I’ve said on page two of every issue (I don’t think many people read page two, but hopefully they read page three!), everyone is welcome to submit articles, games, photos, etc.—that’s how we get the material to put into the issues. That is the strength, in my opinion, of *Northwest Chess*. Members/readers/fans support the magazine with contributions of material. At any rate, I wanted to explain why you don’t see the Oregon Closed this month, but look for coverage next month.

I hope you will enjoy this issue as much as I do. It was very rewarding to me to produce. It was a lot of fun.

— Jeffrey Roland, Editor.

2019 Idaho Closed State Championship

By Jeffrey Roland

Twin Falls, ID—February 16-18, 2019

Jacob Nathan (Idaho Falls) and Kevin Xu (Boise) each with 5.0/6 points captured the Idaho State Chess Championship title at this year's Idaho Closed that was held at the Hampton Inn in Twin Falls. Jacob Nathan had a slightly better Solkoff tie-break, plus Jacob beat Kevin in their individual encounter, giving him the bigger plaque, but both players are recognized as equal co-champions. For the record-books and future Idaho chess historians, Kevin's exact age on February 18, 2019 was 13 years plus 250 days, counting his birthday as one day and February 18 as another day. This makes Kevin the youngest Idaho State Chess Champion in history. Jacob Nathan at 15 would have become the youngest in history if not for Kevin being 13 here. Caleb Abernathy was 16-years-old in 2011 and that may have been the record at that time; further research of that was always needed to confirm, but there is no question about this year's record.

Eighteen-time Idaho State Champion Larry Parsons (Boise) was third place overall with 4.5/6 points. In the final game between Parsons and Xu, spectators got to witness a very fine and historic game.

Other prize winners were Caleb Kircher 3.5/6 (first class A), James Wei 4.0/6 (first class B), Jarod Buus 4.0/6 (Second Class B), Tom Booth 4.0/6 (first class C), Desmond Porth 3.5/6 (second class C), Bryce Leifeste 3.5/6 (first class D), Adam Porth 3.5/6 (second class D), Aleksandr Vereshchagin 3.0/6 (first class E), Darren Su 3.0/6 (second class E), Michael Presutti 4.0/6 (top senior), and Forrest Zeng 3.0/6 (top junior).

There were a total of 34 players in attendance at this year's event. Barry Eacker was Chief Tournament Director, and Adam Porth was Assistant Tournament Director. Jeffrey Roland and Jay Simonson were also on-hand in an official capacity in case there were rules questions, but none ever came up.

There was an annual business meeting where the following officers were elected:

Adam Porth, President (two-year term 2019-2021), Richard Nathan, Vice President (two-year term 2019-2021), Jay Simonson, Treasurer (two-year term 2019-2021), Alise Pemsler, Secretary (two-year term 2019-2021).

The following appointees that have served in 2018-2019 but needed to be



(L) Jacob Nathan, Kevin Xu, youngest Co-Champions in Idaho Chess History.
Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.

affirmed at this meeting were Jeffrey Roland, West Regional Trustee (one-year to take the two-year term to 2020), Barry Eacker, South Regional Trustee (one-year to take the two-year term to 2020), Adam Porth, North Regional Trustee (one-year to take the two-year term to 2020), and Jay Simonson, East Regional Trustee (one-year to take the two-year term to 2020).

Other events at the annual business meeting will hopefully be covered in another article, as there is a pretty major piece of news about ICA and *Northwest Chess* that needs to be reported, but I would like to point out in closing this article that next year's Idaho Closed will be held in Boise, Idaho (if possible, and every effort will be made to make it so.)



The ICA logo could be seen on everything from ICA President Adam Porth's leg tattoo to the new coffee mugs that were unveiled.
Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.

Another article on the same event was submitted by Chief TD Barry Eacker. There seems to be value in putting both versions in as each one has a little different take on things and yet the essential facts are the same. There is no question this event is one for the history books, but then again, so is every Idaho Closed State Championship.—Editor.

2019 Idaho Closed State Championship

By Barry Eacker

Twin Falls, ID—February 16-18, 2019

The old proverb “Youth will be served” was in strong evidence at the 2019 Idaho Closed State Championship held at the Hampton Inn in Twin Falls Idaho over President’s Day weekend. The three-day event drew 34 players from nine cities throughout Idaho. Idaho chess history was made at the event as the tournament produced the youngest co-champions in Idaho chess history. 15-year-old Jacob Nathan of Idaho Falls and 13-year-old Kevin Xu of Boise both finished with 5.0/6 scores, with Nathan winning the first place award over Xu via tiebreaks. Both names will appear in the history books as co-champions for the year 2019. 18-time Idaho Chess Champion Larry Parsons of Boise took home the third place overall award with a 4.5/6 result.

Nathan was defeated by Parsons in the fourth round, but finished off Dewayne Derryberry (Pocatello) and James Wei (Boise) in the last two rounds to achieve the 5.0 score. Xu’s path was more difficult as he lost to Nathan in round three, but then won his final three games against Caleb Kircher (Boise), Jeff Roland (Boise), and then defeated Parsons in round six in a very exciting game to draw even with Nathan.

Tom Booth (Caldwell) set the bar for the 4.0/6 score group, finishing fourth overall and taking home the Top Class C award, with the highlight being a nice win over Caleb Kircher in round five. James Wei finished fifth and garnered Top Class B, achieving a nice draw against Parsons in round five. Of the fourteen awards given out, six were won by players under eighteen years of age. The top ten places featured four Juniors and three of the top five players were Juniors. This statement by the next generation of Idaho players bodes well for the future of chess in Idaho.

Many thanks to the Hampton Inn in Twin Falls for hosting this event, and appreciation goes out to assistant TD Adam Porth as well as the TD rules team of Jay Simonson and Jeff Roland.

Complete prize list below:

- 1st Overall – Jacob Nathan -5.0/6
 2nd Overall – Kevin Xu – 5.0/6
 3rd Overall – Larry Parsons – 4.5/6
- 1st A – Caleb Kircher – 3.5/6
 1st B – James Wei – 4.0/6
 1st C – Tom Booth – 4.0/6
 1st D – Bryce Leifeste – 3.5/6
 1st E Aleksandr Vereshchagin – 3.0/6
 Top Senior – Michael Presutti – 4.0/6
 Top Junior – Forrest Zeng – 3.0/6
 2nd B – Jarod Buus – 4.0/6
 2nd C – Desmond Porth – 3.5/6
 2nd D – Adam Porth 3.5/6
 2nd E – Darren Su – 3.0/6

Larry R. Parsons (2000) – Kevin Xu (1987) [D43]
 Idaho Closed State Championship
 Twin Falls, ID (R6), February 18, 2019
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 e6 5.Bf4

As I noted in a game last month, 5.e3; and 5.Bg5 are the most common moves here, and consequently need the most theoretical knowledge to play.

5...dxc4

Accepting the pawn certainly looks like the way to challenge White’s unusual opening. Unlike in the game last month (5.Qb3), White doesn’t have an immediate recapture on c4.

6.a4

A big difference between lines with 5.Bg5 and 5.Bf4 is that the pinned knight provides a target to compensate for the c-pawn. For example, a main line runs 5.Bg5 dxc4 (not the only choice here) 6.e4 b5 7.e5 with massive complications possible, and theory running easily past move 20.

6...Bb4

Black intends to hold the pawn with ...b5.

7.Qc2 b5 8.e4 Bb7 9.Bd2

9.Be2 a6 (9...c5 10.0–0 Bxc3 11.bxc3 Bxe4 12.Qc1 when Black will find it difficult to hold all the queenside pawns.) 10.0–0 0–0 11.e5 Nd5 12.Ng5 g6 13.Bd2 Be7 14.Nge4 Nd7 doesn’t really look like quite enough compensation for the material. After 14...Nd7, (The greedy 14...Nb4 15.Qc1 Qxd4 16.Bg5 gives White too much play on the dark kingside weaknesses, though.) 15.Bh6 Re8 16.axb5 cxb5 17.Bf3 Qb6

9...a6 10.e5 Nd5 11.Ne4

11.Be2 Nd7 12.0–0 Be7

11...Be7

11...0–0; or 11...Bxd2+ are also quite possible for Black.

12.b3 cxb3 13.Qxb3 h6 14.Bd3 Nd7 15.0–0 0–0



Position after 15...0-0

16.Ne1?!

In ten moves this knight does make it to e3, but White never finds a plan involving the push of the f-pawn. Better ideas include creating a battery with bishop and queen aimed at the kingside, but details such as whether the bishop should go to c2 or b1, and whether either rook should go to, say, c1 first remain to be determined. (On Bc2, the only square on the b1–h7 diagonal for the queen is d3; on b1 the queen has c2 as well, but the bishop may interfere with communication between the rooks. If the a1–rook leaves its post with Rac1, Black has an extra move to prepare queenside play — but ...c5 is harder to achieve.)

Black will, meanwhile, arrange a c-pawn break and try to distract White from the kingside with the imposing queenside pawn mass. Let’s look at a few sample lines. 16.Bc2 Now the direct 16...c5!? could initiate interesting complications, but first some alternatives: **a)** 16... Qb8 17.Qd3 Rd8 18.Nd6 (18.Neg5 Nf8 19.Nh7? Ng6! 20.h4 c5 21.h5 c4 22.Qe2 Ndf4 It’s clear that things are going Black’s way here.) 18...Nf8 Black’s defenders arrive just in time. 19.Nxb7 Qxb7 20.Rab1; **b)** 16...Qb6?! The queen is vulnerable to a couple tactical ideas on this square: 17.Qd3 Rfd8 (17... Rfe8 18.Nc5 Nf8 19.Nd7! Qd8 20.Nxf8 Kxf8 21.Qh7) 18.Nd6 Nf8 19.Ba5! Qxa5 20.Nxb7 Qb6 21.Nxd8 Rxd8;

After 16...c5, 17.axb5 axb5 18.Qxb5 Qb6 19.Qxd7!? (19.Qxb6 N5xb6 20.dxc5 Nxc5. Black may be able to claim a tiny plus.) 19...Bc6 20.dxc5 Bxc5 21.Nxc5 Bxd7 22.Nxd7 Qb2 23.Ba4 with three minors for the queen. We could call this unclear, but with all the pawns on one side, it’s probably just equal.

16...Qb6 17.Nc2 Nc7 18.Be3 Nd5 19.Bd2 Rfc8 20.Rab1 Qd8

20...c5 21.dxc5 Bxc5 22.axb5

21.Rfc1 N7b6 22.Ba5 Qf8 23.Bxb6



(L) Kevin Xu vs Larry Parsons. In the background L-R: Fang Liang (Kevin's mother), Barry Eacker, Jacob Nathan, Michael Presutti, Oren Crafts, and a sliver of Aleksandr Vereshchagin. Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.

Nxb6 24.a5



Position after 24.a5

I don't like this move, as it reduces tension, fixes the pawn as a target, and uses a move to force the knight to go where it will voluntarily retreat on its own shortly. However, the pawn is hanging on a4, and I find myself unable to suggest a clear improvement. Stockfish suggests 24.Ne3, which seems to have the general idea of swinging some pieces toward the kingside for what could turn out to be a desperation attack. Even after 24...Nxa4 25.Bc2 c5!? 26.Qd3 g6 27.Bxa4 Black gets an advantage by reducing the material, but could face technical

difficulties with opposite bishops, an extra rook pawn, or pawns all on one side: (27.d5 exd5 28.Nxd5 Bxd5 29.Qxd5 Nb6-+) 27...Bxe4 28.Qxe4 cxd4! (28...bxa4? 29.d5!∞) 29.Qxd4 (29.Rxc8 Rxc8 30.Qxd4 (30.Bxb5 dxe3 31.Bxa6 exf2+ 32.Kxf2 Bc5+) 30...Bc5) 29...Bc5!, since 30.Rxc5?? Qxc5 31.Qxc5 Rxc5+

24...Nd7 25.Ne3

Maybe 25.Be2, hoping to bring the queen to the kingside, but exactly what that will accomplish is not obvious. 25...c5 26.Qe3 Qd8+

25...c5 26.dxc5 Nxc5 27.Nxc5 Bxc5 28.Re1 Qd8

Now it's clear that Black is winning. The material advantage is growing; the bishop pair is active and targeting the white king; even desperation attacks for White on the kingside are nowhere in sight.

29.Nf1 Qxa5 30.Rbc1 Qb6 31.Rc2 Bd5 32.Qb1 Qb7 33.Ne3 Bxe3 34.Rxe3 Rxc2 35.Bxc2 a5

Black is not distracted by 35...Bxg2, though there's nothing wrong with that move, either.

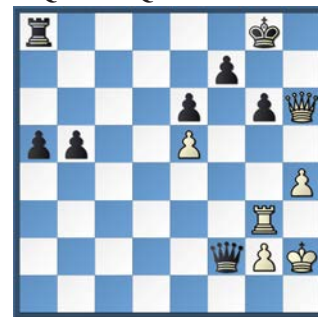
36.Qd1 g6

Even allowing White everything on the kingside now won't stop the queenside freight train: 36...a4 37.Qd3 a3 38.Qh7+ Kf8 39.Qh8+ Ke7 40.Qxg7 a2 41.Qf6+ Ke8+. By defending, Black actually allows White a ray of hope.

37.h4 h5 38.Rg3 Be4 39.Bxe4 Qxe4 40.Qxh5 Qe1+

40...a4 41.Qh6 a3 42.h5 Qe1+ 43.Kh2 Qxe5 44.hxg6 Qh8! is another piquant way to thwart the attack.

41.Kh2 Qxf2 42.Qh6



Position after 42.Qh6

Larry's vast experience has allowed him to claw his way back into the game. White is finally making a real threat. 42.Rxg6+ fxg6 43.Qxg6+ Kf8 leads to nothing, but the idea of h4-h5 requires attention.

42...Rd8!

Nicely calculated, though really there was little reason for things to come this close. 42...a4?? 43.h5 and suddenly White is winning!

43.h5 Rd1!

Black's attack comes first! Otherwise 43...Qd2 44.Rxg6+ is a draw, and everything else loses!

44.Rf3

44.hxg6 Qg1+ 45.Kh3 Qh1+ 46.Kg4 Qxh6

44...Qg1+ 45.Kg3 Qe1+ 46.Kg4 Rd4+ 47.Rf4 gxh5+ 48.Kh3 Rd3+ 0-1

Tom R. Booth (1540) –
Caleb Kircher (1880) [A48]
Idaho Closed Twin Falls, ID
(R5), February 18, 2019
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.d4 c5 2.e3 g6 3.Nf3 Bg7 4.Be2 Nf6 5.0-0 b6 6.c4 0-0 7.b3 Ne4 8.Bb2 d6 9.Nbd2

9.Nfd2!?

9...Nf6 10.d5 Nbd7 11.e4 Nh5 12.Rb1

12.Bxg7 Nxg7∞

12...Nf4 13.Bxg7 Nxe2+?!

13...Kxg7 If Black is intent on capturing e2, why not wait until White either forces



(L) Tom Booth vs Caleb Kircher.
Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.

the capture or gives the bishop a flight square?

I'm not entirely thrilled with the plan of taking four knight moves to exchange for a once-moved bad bishop. He seems to be applying the general principle to exchange pieces when behind in space, but that's going to need some quick action to completely close the center.

14.Qxe2 Kxg7 15.e5!



Position after 15.e5

I like this; White prevents center-locking ...e5 ideas while opening the position to use his development edge.

15...f6?

But, of course, Black must capture! 15...Nxe5 16.Nxe5 dxe5 17.Qxe5+ f6, followed by ...e6 after a queen retreat. White has only a small edge.

16.e6!+- Ne5?!

16...Nb8 doesn't really look like an improvement.

17.Nxe5

17.Nh4! f5 18.f4 Ng4 19.h3 Nf6 20.g4 fxg4 21.hxg4 and White utterly dominates the board.

17...fxe5?

17...dxe5 18.Ne4 is also obviously great for White, though.

18.h4

18.f4 exf4 19.Qg4 is a plan to open the f-file and end up with the b1-rook getting to f7.

18...Bb7 19.Ne4 h6 20.g3 Rb8

Doing nothing while waiting for a blunder.

21.f4! exf4



Position after 21...exf4

22.gxf4

It's time to be energetic. 22.Rf3! fxg3 (22...Rf5 23.g4) 23.Rbf1 (23.Rxf8 Qxf8 24.Rf1 is great, too.) 23...Rxf3 24.Qxf3 Qe8 25.Qxg3. Black will be forced to part with the queen on f7.

22...b5 23.Qg4 Kh7 24.Rb2

24.f5! is an effective can-opener.

24...bxc4 25.Rg2 Rg8 26.bxc4

26.f5! gxf5 (26...Bxd5 27.fxg6+; 26...Qe8 27.fxg6+ Rxg6 28.Qf5) 27.Qxf5+ Kh8 28.Ng5! with a mating attack. One line: 28...hxg5 29.hxg5 Rg7 30.Rh2+ Kg8 31.Qh3 Rxg5+ 32.Rg2 Rxg2+ 33.Qxg2+ Kh8 34.Qh3+ — and 35.Rf7+.

26...Qf8 27.Rf3

27.Ng5+! hxg5 28.f5! gxf5 29.Rxf5 Qh6 30.Qe4+, e.g. 30...Qg6 31.Rfxg5 Qxe4 32.Rh5#

27...Ba6 28.Ng5+

28.f5 gxf5 29.Qh5 Rxg2+ 30.Kxg2 still favors White, albeit not by quite as much as some of the previous attacking lines.

28...hxg5 29.hxg5??

This is the blunder Black has been awaiting. Can he consolidate and take advantage?

29.fxg5! Qe8 30.Rgf2 still gives White plenty of compensation for the piece.

29...Rb1+ 30.Kh2 Rh8 31.Rh3+ Kg7 32.Qf3 Qf5??

The answer to the last question: apparently not. Overconfidence strikes. 32...Rxb3+ 33.Kxb3 Qf5+ 34.Kg3 Kg8 35.Qc3 Rh1 and Black controls all the important attacking avenues.

33.Qc3+ Qe5 34.fxe5 1-0

ICA Tip Of The Month

Use pawn chains to restrict your opponent's mobility with their bishop (Winter vs. Capablanca, 1919).

Contact your regional representatives to get tournaments or help setting a club up near you: North-Adam Porth, West-Jeff Roland, SouthCentral-Barry Eacker, East-Jay Simonson.

Idaho Chess Association Board of Directors Adam Porth (President), Richard Nathan (Vice President), Alise Pemsler (Secretary), Jay Simonson (Treasurer), and Jef LeFeiste (Member-at-large).



2019 Idaho Scholastic State Chess Championship

By Alise Pemsler

On March 2, 101 students competed in the 2019 Idaho State Scholastic Chess Championships sponsored by the Idaho Chess Association. The event was held at Jerome High School in Jerome, Idaho. Alise Pemsler was Chief TD, Jeffrey Roland was Chief Assistant TD, and Adam Porth was Assistant TD.

Jacob Ari Nathan, a ninth grader from Idaho Falls, won the overall prize for the 9-12th grade section and will be the Idaho representative at the US Chess Federation's 2019 Denker Tournament of High School Champions. Justin He, an eighth grader from Boise, won the overall prize for the K-8th grade section to become the Idaho representative at the US Chess Federation's 2019 Barber Tournament of K-8 Champions. Both prestigious events will take place in Orlando, Florida this August.

The all day chess tournament consisted of five rounds with each game lasting up to one hour. Participating players came from all over Idaho including Bonners Ferry, Payette, Boise, Jerome and Idaho Falls.

The title of Idaho Scholastic Champion is not chosen at this event, but by taking the top three placers in each of the two sections here in a six-player "Tournament Of Champions" to be held either in March or April, and the winner of that tournament will be crowned the 2019 Idaho Scholastic Champion.

9-12th Grade Section

- 1st Overall - Jacob Ari Nathan (Idaho Falls)
- 2nd Overall - Jonathan Geyman (Bonners Ferry)
- 3rd Overall - Alexander Goodwin (Star)

12th Grade:

- 1st - Kayden Stockdale (Boise)
- 2nd - Christopher Baumann (Star)
- 3rd - Porter Nilsson (Idaho Falls)

11th Grade:

- 1st - Michael Kissinger (Jerome)

10th Grade:

- 1st - Elijah Thibodeau (Boise)
- 2nd - Cole Gokei (Meridian)
- 3rd - Minh Tran (Meridian)

9th Grade:

- 1st - River Shepard (Hailey)
- 2nd - Quentin Van Law (Bellevue)
- 3rd - Otto Olson (Hailey)

K-8th Grade Section

- 1st Overall - Justin He (Boise)
- 2nd Overall - William Wang (Boise)
- 3rd Overall - James Wei (Boise)

8th Grade:

- 1st - Bryce Leifeste (Eagle)
- 2nd - Joshua Price (Kuna)
- 3rd - Andrew Dixon (Nampa)

7th Grade:

- 1st - Sara Hollist (Garden Valley)
- 2nd - Steven Qiu (Eagle)
- 3rd - Nathan Smith (Payette)

6th Grade:

- 1st - Finn Belew (Boise)
- 2nd - Alyssa Montano (Boise)
- 3rd - Izak Bengoechea-Little (Meridian)

5th Grade:

- 1st - Audrey LaTulippe (Fairfield)
- 2nd - Josef Kipsuge (Meridian)
- 3rd - Eldon Blake (Idaho Falls)



Jacob Ari Nathan, first place in the 9-12 Section. Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.



Jonathan Geyman, second place in the 9-12 Section. Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.



Alexander Goodwin, third place in the 9-12 Section. Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.

4th Grade:

- 1st - Daniel Yang (Meridian)
- 2nd - Tyler Luo (Boise)
- 3rd - Jacob Smith (Payette)

3rd Grade:

- 1st - Emma LaTulippe (Fairfield)
- 2nd - Luke Wei (Boise)
- 3rd - Daniel Homa (Boise)

2nd Grade:

- 1st - Hanford Chong (Boise)
- 2nd - Jace Perkes (Meridian)
- 3rd - Alistair Smith (Coeur d'Alene)

1st Grade:

- 1st - Colton LaTulippe (Fairfield)
- 2nd - Leonardo Wang (Boise)
- 3rd - Tenille Smith (Payette)

Kindergarten:

- 1st - Jonah Hochhauser (Boise)
- 2nd - Andrew Bowyer (Carey)

Games

The following games were played on board one of the 9-12 Section and broadcast live over the internet via the newly acquired DGT Board.—Editor

Jonathan Paton Geyman (1791) – Jacob Ari Nathan (1922) [D02]
 Idaho Scholastic State Chess Championship
 Jerome, ID (R4), March 2, 2019
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 d5 3.c3 e6 4.Bf4 c5 5.e3 Qb6 6.Qb3 Qxb3?!

Exchanging on b3 in this structure typically favors White. The half-open a-file puts some pressure on a7 and pins the a-pawn while the new extra b-pawn can be used to help control c4 or c5, or to advance to b5 to work the a-file pin and deny Black the use of the c6-square. 6...Nc6 is better.

7.axb3 Nc6



Position after 7...Nc6

8.Bd3

Let's invent some useless opening theory here.

8.Na3!? highlights some of Black's queenside vulnerabilities. 8...Be7 9.Nb5 0-0 10.dxc5 Bxc5 11.Nc7 Rb8 12.b4 (White could settle for the repetition with 12.Nb5 Ra8 13.Nc7, (though 13.b4 Bb6 14.Bd3± is still perfectly playable as well.)) 12...Bb6 (12...Be7? 13.b5 Nd8 (13...Nh5 14.bxc6 Nxf4 15.exf4 bxc6 16.b4+-) 14.Nxd5+-) 13.Bd3 (13.b5 e5!∞ is more obscure.) 13...a6 (13...e5? 14.Nxe5 Bxc7 15.Nxc6 Bxf4 16.Ne7+ Kh8 17.Nxc8 Bxe3 18.fxe3 Rfxc8 19.Rxa7±) 14.b5 e5!, with possible complications: 15.Nxe5 Bxc7 16.bxc6 (Or 16.Nxc6 Bxf4 17.Ne7+ Kh8 18.Nxc8 Bc7 (18...Bxe3 19.fxe3 Rfxc8 20.bxa6 bxa6 21.Ra2 Rc6 22.Kd2± (22.Bxa6?! Rxc3! 23.bxc3 Rb1+ 24.Ke2 Rxh1)) 19.Ne7 g6 20.g4 Rfe8 21.g5 Rxe7 22.gxf6 Re6 23.bxa6 bxa6 24.b4 Rbb6) 16...bxc6 17.0-0-0!? (17. b4 c5∞) 17...Rb6 18.Nd7! Bxd7 19.Bxc7 Rb7 20.Bd6 Ra8 21.f3± White's active bishop-pair and fewer pawn islands guarantee a pull.

8.Nbd2 goes a different route, similar to the game line but not yet committing the bishop to d3: 8...cxd4 (8...Bd7 9.dxc5 Bxc5 10.b4 Bb6 (10...Be7 11.b5±) 11.Bd6!?±) 9.exd4 Be7 10.b4 0-0 11.b5 and you have to prefer White.

8...cxd4 9.exd4 Be7 10.h3

10.b4. If you've got it, may as well use it.

10...0-0 11.Nbd2 Bd7 12.0-0 Nh5



*Kayden Stockdale, 12th Grade Champion.
 Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.*



*Michael Kissinger, 11th Grade Champion.
 Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.*



*Elijah Thibodeau, 10th Grade Champion.
 Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.*

13.Bh2 g5?!

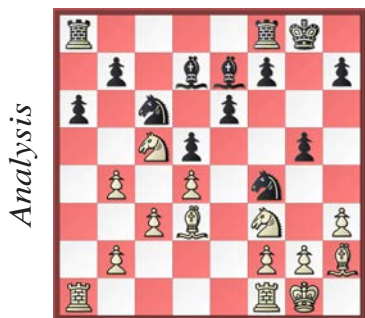
Pretty radical. Black really wants to control f4. 13...a5!?

14.b4!

There you go.

14...a6 15.Nb3 Nf4 16.Bc2

On my first play-through of this game, I thought White had a clear advantage on move 15, and by move 18 it was gone. My first impression was that 17.Nc1 must be the problem, but on closer examination I couldn't be sure one of White's other ideas on move 17 was so very much superior. So instead, let's look here, on move 16. How about 16.Nc5!



(#Diagram-analysis after 16.Nc5)

16...Bxc5 (16...Nxd3?! 17.Nxd7! Rfd8 (17...Rfe8 18.Nb6 Rad8 19.Bc7±) 18.Nb6 Ra7 19.Bc7 Rf8 20.Ra2 f6 (Can't break the bind here: 20...Bd8 21.Bxd8 Rxd8

22.Nxg5+-) 21.Rd1 Nf4 22.Bxf4 gxf4 23.Rda1! and Black is in a pickle. 23...Rd8 24.b5 Nb8 25.b3 Nd7 26.Nxd7 Rxd7 27.c4 dxc4 28.bxc4± Now what?)

So after 16...Bxc5, 17.Bxf4 gxf4 (17...Bxb4 18.Nxg5+-; 17...Bxd4!? 18.Nxg5 and White should be picking off a pawn.) 18.bxc5 and White must be better: White's rooks have more active posts, the pawn structure with two vs three pawn islands is better, the bishop is better... though of course Black has ideas here, too. 18...f6, intending ...e5, for example, and this can't be prevented simply by piling up brute force against the pawn push. But keeping the potential for counter-pressure on d5 might do the trick: 19.Bc2! e5? 20.Bb3 Be6 21.dxe5 fxe5 (Not much better 21...Nxe5 22.Nd4 Bf7 23.Nf5± threatening forks on h6 and e7, among other things.) 22.Ng5+-

16...b6 17.Nc1

Nb1-d2-b3-c1-d3xf4 is just not good tempo economics. So some alternative ideas are in order.

My first thought was 17.Ra2, planning some a-file pressure. 17...Bxb4? doesn't work (yet), due to 18.Nxg5.(But even the defensive 17...Ra7 18.Rfa1 Rfa8 19.Bxf4 gxf4 20.Bd3 a5 looks fair for Black. One target on the a-file isn't enough, thus my refocus on move 16 — see previous note.)

17...Rfc8 18.Bb1 f6 19.Nd3 Bd6 20.Nxf4

gxf4 21.Re1 h6 22.Bd3 a5 23.bxa5 Rxa5 24.Rxa5?!

24.Nh4!?! intending to meet 24...e5 with 25.Bf5.

24...bxa5 25.g3 e5

...e5 is one of those "threat is stronger than the execution" sort of moves at this point. White needs to defend against it, but once it is played, the specific counter-attack on d5 can be launched. So Black does better to give the White rook a job first: 25...Rb8! 26.Re2 (26.Rb1 e5 27.dxe5 fxe5±) 26...e5. Yes, Black is happy now.

26.dxe5 fxe5 27.Bc2

27.Rd1! Rb8 (27...Bxh3 28.Bc4! dxc4 29.Rxd6 Kh7 30.gxf4 Rg8+ 31.Bg3 exf4 32.Rxc6 fvg3 33.Rc7+ Kh8 34.Rc6 gxf2+ 35.Kxf2 with a ticket to drawville.) 28.Bf1 Ne7 29.gxf4 exf4 30.Rd2±

27...e4 28.Nh4

28.Nd2

28...fxg3 29.Bxg3 Bxg3 30.fxg3 Bxh3?!

30...Ne7 31.g4 Kg7±

31.Bb3 Be6 32.Rxe4! Kf7 33.Rf4+ Ke7 34.Nf5+ Kd7 35.Nxh6 [35.Ba4] 35...Rb8 36.Bd1

36.Ba4 Rxb2 37.g4

36...Rxb2 37.Bg4?

37.Ba4±

37...Bxg4 38.Nxg4 Rc2

38...Rb3

39.Ra4

39.Ne3 Rxc3 40.Nxd5 Rxg3+ 41.Kf2 Rh3 and White can hold.

39...Rxc3 40.Kg2 Rc4! 41.Ra1

41.Rxc4 dxc4 42.Ne3 c3 43.Kf3 Nd4+ 44.Ke4 c2+-

41...Rxg4 42.Kf3 Rg8 43.g4 Kd6 44.Kf4 Ne5 45.g5 Nc4 46.Kf5 d4 47.Kf6 d3 48.g6 Ne5 49.Rxa5 Nd7+

49...Rxg6+ 50.Kf5 d2 51.Ra6+ Kd5 52.Ra5+ Kd4 53.Ra8 (53.Rxe5 Rg5+) 53...Rd6

50.Kf7 0-1

Jacob Ari Nathan (1922) –

Cole Gokei (721) [C54]

Idaho Scholastic State Chess Championship

Jerome, ID (R3), March 2, 2019

[Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.d3 Bc5 5.c3 d6 6.0-0 0-0 7.a4 a6 8.Nbd2 Bd7 9.b4 Ba7 10.h3 h6 11.Re1 Re8 12.Nf1 Be6 13.Bxe6 Rxe6 14.Be3 d5

14...Bxe3 15.Nxe3 d5 16.Qc2±

15.Bxa7 Rxa7 16.Qe2 d4?! 17.b5 Ne7



River Shepard, 9th Grade Champion. Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.



Justin He, first place in the K-8 Section. Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.

18.cxd4 exd4 19.Qb2 axb5?

19...Rb6

20.axb5 Rxa1 21.Rxa1 c5 22.bxc6 Nxc6
23.Qxb7 Qd7 24.Qxd7

Exchanging queens is an error, helping Black to swing the knights into position to attack the d3-pawn. When the d-pawns exchange, it will be four vs three (pawns) on the kingside, and Black will have good chances to hold. 24.Qb3 is stronger, as White's queen performs both offense and defense. White can quickly bring more power to bear on d4, while Black will struggle to defend it, and has trouble directing force against d3.

24...Nxd7 25.Ng3 Nc5 26.Rd1 Nb4
27.Nxd4 Rd6 28.Ndf5 Rxd3 29.Rxd3
Nbx3 30.Kf1 Kh7 31.Ke2 Nf4+ 32.Kf3
Nfe6

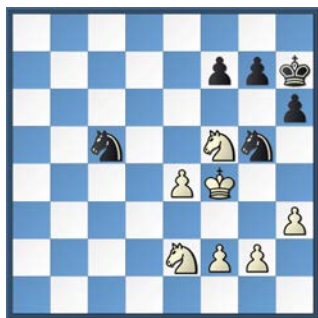
32...g5!±

33.Ne2

33.Ke3±; 33.Nd6±

33...Ng5+ 34.Kf4?

34.Ke3! Ngxe4 35.Kd4± White threatens to pick off a knight with f3. The position of the two knights guarding each other while both are attacked by the king leaves them very passively placed. 35...g6 36.Ne7 f5 37.f3 Nb3+ 38.Kc4 Ned2+ 39.Kc3 and though the knights have avoided destruction, Black is now playing lone king vs two very active knights.



Position after 34.Kf4

34...Ncxe4??

34...Ngxe4

35.h4 Nh3+ 36.Kxe4 Nxf2+ 37.Kf3
Nd3 38.Nf4 Ne5+ 39.Ke4 Ng6 40.Nxg6
Kxg6 41.Kf4 Kh7 42.Nd6 f6 43.Kf5 h5
44.g3 Kh6 45.Ne8 Kh7 46.Nxf6+ gxf6
47.Kxf6 Kh6 48.Kf5 Kh7 49.Kg5 Kg7
50.Kxh5 Kh7 51.g4 Kg7 52.Kg5 Kh7
53.h5 Kg7 54.Kf5 Kh7 55.Kf6 Kh6
56.g5+ Kxh5 57.g6 Kh6 58.Kf7 Kh5
59.g7 Kg5 60.g8Q+ Kf5 61.Qg6+ Ke5
62.Qf6+ Kd5 63.Qe6+ Kc5 64.Ke7 Kb5
65.Qd6 Kc4 66.Ke6 Kb5 67.Kd5 Ka5
68.Kc5 Ka4 69.Qb6 Ka3 70.Kc4 Ka2
71.Kc3 1-0



(L) Jacob Nathan vs Cole Gokei. Photo credit: Adam Porth.



TD Jeffrey Roland answers a question about the analog clock, which is still a very popular clock in Idaho. Photo credit: Adam Porth.



Photo credit: Adam Porth.



Oliver Remington. Photo credit: Matt Thompson.



Photo credit: Matt Thompson.

Addendum To The Main Article

The awards ceremony for the K-8 section took place in the hallway as the last round of the 9-12 section was starting, and thus, the awards were passed out quickly with myself, Jeffrey Roland, making the announcements (there were some interesting tongue twisters), and Alise Pemsler handing the awards out. Of course, family members still took photos, but we didn't get those. The whole event was very enjoyable and I'm sure this event will be fondly remembered. Of course, a big thank you to Richard Black and Jerome High School for hosting the event.—Jeffrey Roland.



*(L) Jeffrey Roland, Alise Pemsler.
Photo credit: Matt Thompson.*



*Adam Porth.
Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.*

February 2019 PCC Game 60

By Brian Berger

Portland, OR—February 23, 2019

Although attendance figures for February's Game 60 at the Portland Chess Club did not reach the record-breaking 47 that attended January's tournament, the 32 who did attend made for a lively gathering—a large number of whom were younger players bent on the total annihilation of anyone put in front of them. (Brian "I'm Just Glad To Be Here" Berger (1514-1508—1.5/4), unfortunately, being one of them.)

Usually, at least two of us older guys share in this brutalization, perpetrated in this youth-versus-age scenario—those two being this reporter and Jerrold "I Just Want To Reach 1600 Before It's Over" Richards (best known for being the companion of Morgan the Dog, a revered member of the Portland chess community). But in this tournament, I had no brother-in-arms to commiserate with, as Richards and Morgan must have been jet-setting it elsewhere, probably to some exotic local for a more prestigious gathering of world-class players.

At January's Game 60, because of the implementation of a new format that did away with a one-section tournament (previously only broken into two sections if 30 or more players were present), and instead, making it permanently two sections, with an U1650 rating being the separation point, I had decided to take a



(L) Kushal Pai vs Grisha Alpernas. Photo credit: Brian Berger.

chance in what was once called the Lower Section, figuring that U1650 might gain me some badly needed rating points. (I had always opted to play in the Upper Section when it was offered, hoping to escape my most feared opponents—those 14 and under.)

Even though my rating was in the top one quarter of the opponents entered, I ended with a score of 1.5/4, that once again left me at my floor. So this time, I decided to slap down the extra five bucks to play

up, hoping to escape the aforementioned threat. Apparently, there is no longer any place or section one can hide from them, as my first match was with someone I would normally have tripped over had I failed to see him—Havish Sripada (1780-1778—2.0/4), one of the little people. At least his rating announced the danger I was facing, unlike many of those in the Lower Section, who lurk behind (and here I use a word much heard in the news these days) fake ratings.



(L) Arliss Dietz vs Gregory Post. Photo credit: Brian Berger.



Kushal Pai, just before he beat this reporter. Photo credit: Brian Berger.

I won't scare you with the gory details, just say I started the day with hope in my heart, only to lose my first game, and eventually, more points. But of the other 12 players who made up the Open Section, many were more fortunate than this old man—the first being NM Jason Cigan (2234-2241—4.0/4), who took first place and \$64 in prize money—not unexpected, as he out-rated his nearest opponent by a mere 350 rating points!

That opponent happened to be Grisha Alpernas (1884-1892—2.5/4), a player and TD-extraordinaire living now in Salem, who has not been seen at the Portland Chess Club for quite some time—not since TDing one of the last big tournaments held at the Lloyd Center DoubleTree. Discussing with me the reason for his long hiatus from over-the-board play, I learned that he has been involved in many non-profit endeavors, and just recently found the time to once again play some tournament chess.

Alpernas was among four players in his section to recoup the monies spent to



(L) Micah Smith vs Jason Cigan. Photo credit: Brian Berger.

enter this tournament, when all four tied for second and U1850; the others being Raj Kodithyala (1787-1803—2.5/4),

Kushal Pai (1709-1742—2.5/4), and the young Yu-Cheng Liang (1703-1733—2.5/4), with each of them receiving \$21 from Chief TD Mike Hasuik.




(L) Austin Tang vs Raj Kodithyala. Photo credit: Brian Berger.

The U1650 Section also saw a stand-alone winner, that being Ishaan Kodarapu (1360-1503—3.5/4), who not only collected \$64 for his win, but also tacked on an additional 143 rating points! (And here in black and white is the very proof of my earlier assertion, that these lower section players carry spooky ratings, not at all in keeping with their chess expertise. And in this case, we have most probably, a 1500+ player masquerading as a D-player, just waiting to unleash his hidden powers against an unsuspecting senior.)

Finishing out this section, there was a three-way tie for second, U1450, and U1250, with Ken Harry (1334-1380—3.0/4), Jacob Hogleund (1561-1546—3.0/4), and Gregory Post (1215-1275—3.0/4), all turning in 3.0. The combined prizes totaled out at \$38 each, giving them a reason to dream of bigger payouts in the future.





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Dave Collyer Memorial

By Kevin Korsmo

This year's Dave Collyer Memorial established a record with 75 contestants taking part in the 27th installment played in Millwood on February 23-24, 2019. FM Nick Raptis and local Expert Michael Cambareri took home top honors by finishing with scores of 4.5. IM John Donaldson led a group of seven players tied for third at 4.0.

There were only 35 players pre-registered a week before the event started, but favorable weather forecasts unleashed a load of travelers from Montana and Idaho, and a large number of walk-in registrants Saturday morning swelled the entries past the former record total of 67. The top three boards were manned by players rated 2324 and higher, and they were augmented by four experts. There also were quite a few newcomers making their first foray into US Chess-rated competition.

Those newcomers helped the lower half of the draw score seven upsets in the first round against class A and B players. As typical, the biggest upset prizes were secured in the first round. Danny Carlino of Missoula claimed the first of the two Jim Waugh biggest upset prizes, winning over an opponent rated 806 points higher. Jeff Hazen celebrated his first chess tournament of this century with a 506 point upset that took the second Jim Waugh prize. Provisionally-rated players also scored several upsets throughout the event, although those results did not qualify for prizes.

The top seven boards breezed through the first round unscathed, but that changed in the second round when Mark Erickson and Cambareri were both held to draws. Cambareri's game with Ron Kirsch was a crazy slugfest with Michael forced to claim a draw by repetition in a position where both sides had imminent mate threats.

Round three saw nearly one third of the field take byes, including a half dozen of the undefeated players. The top tier otherwise held serve, however, and a perfect 3.0 foursome led at the end of the day: Donaldson, Raptis, third seed Jim Maki, and Robert Fisette. They matched up the following morning, with seven 2.5 scores clustered right behind.

Raptis defeated Maki, while Fisette obtained a draw with Donaldson. That left Raptis alone on top of the field, while Cambareri, Donaldson, Fisette, and Cam Leslie all trailed at 3.5 heading into the final round.

Raptis and Donaldson drew on board one after two hours of play, ensuring Raptis at least a share of the title. Meanwhile, the fights continued late into the round, with five games finishing after nearly four hours of play. Cambareri defeated Fisette to join the winner's circle with Raptis.

There were quite a few other winners who shared in the \$1800 guaranteed prize fund. The six players who tied Donaldson for third place with 4.0 scores also won various class prizes: Mark Erickson was the top Expert, Garret Casey and Wilton Strickland claimed the class A prizes, and Steve Fabian, Jonathan Geyman, and Jeremy Younker shared the class B prizes.

Class C saw three players score 2.5 to share the class prizes: Ted Baker, Jerrold Richards, and Murray Strong. Lily Den (3.5) was tops in class D, while her sister Grace and Alex Rosenkrantz shared the second class prize with scores of 2.5. The class E/unrated category was won by Griffin Herr (3.0), while Daniel Joshi (2.5) took second. Herr and Adrian Daigle both completed their first tournament with provisional ratings in excess of 1700.

The Collyer weekend kicked off with John Donaldson's annual lecture on Friday night. The lecture was well attended and then gave way to a 23-board simul. The IM won 18, lost three, and drew a pair. Nine players also took part in a blitz tournament Friday afternoon. Michael Cambareri topped that field with a perfect 8-0 score.

The tournament was sponsored by the Spokane Chess Club and the Gary Younker Foundation. The tournament was created by Gary Younker to honor Dave Collyer, Spokane's chess organizer of the 1980s. When Gary died in 2001, also well before his time, a foundation was created in his memory to carry on the tournament. Next year's Collyer will be played the weekend of February 22-23, 2020, so make your plans now to attend!

John Donaldson (2415) –

Adam Porth (1400) [B14]

2019 IM John Donaldson Simul

Spokane, WA, February 22, 2019

[Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.c4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e6 6.Nf3 Nc6 7.cxd5 exd5 8.Bb5 Bd7 9.0-0 Be7 10.Re1 0-0 11.Bg5 Bb4? 12.Bxf6 Qxf6 13.Nxd5 Qd6 14.Nc3

Playable, of course, but the natural 14.Nxb4 Nxb4 (14...Qxb4 15.Qd3±) 15.Bxd7 Qxd7 16.Qb3 Nd5 17.Ne5± is just a pawn up with some other slight advantages.

14...Bg4 15.a3?!

15.Bxc6 bxc6 16.a3±

15...Ba5

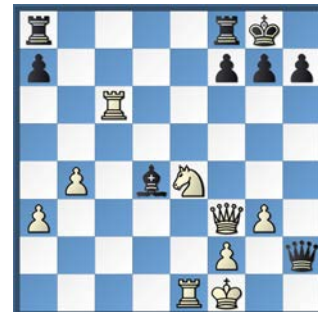
15...Bxf3! 16.Qxf3 Nxd4

16.Ne4?!

16.Bxc6

16...Qf4 17.b4 Bc7 18.Bxc6 Bxf3 19.Qxf3 Qxh2+ 20.Kf1 bxc6 21.Rac1 Bb6 22.g3 Bxd4 23.Rxc6?

23.Red1



Position after 23.Rxc6

23...Qh3+

23...f5! 24.Ng5 (24.Nd6 Bxf2) 24...Bxf2! 25.Rec1 (25.Qxf2 Qh1+ 26.Qg1 Qxc6-+) 25...Qg1+ 26.Ke2 Rae8+ 27.Ne6 (27.Kd3 Qxg3) 27...Rxe6+ 28.Rxe6 Qxc1 29.Kxf2 f4+

24.Qg2

24.Kg1

24...Qh5 25.Kg1 Qb5

25...Rae8

26.Rec1 Bb2

26...Qd3

27.R1c5 Qa4 28.Qh3 Qd1+ 29.Kg2 Qd3 30.Qf5 Qxa3??

30...Rad8±

31.Ng5 g6 32.Qh3 h5 33.Qd7

33.Rxg6+! fxg6 (33...Bg7 34.Qxh5+-) 34.Qe6+ Kh8 35.Qxg6+-

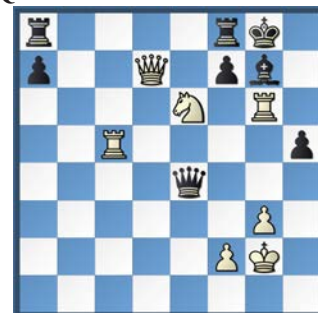
33...Qxb4 34.Rxg6+ Bg7

34...Kh8? 35.Nxf7+ Kh7 36.Nh8+! Kxh8 37.Rxh5#

35.Ne6??

35.Rxg7+

35...Qe4+



Position after 35...Qe4+

Being alert pays off!

0-1



Photos taken by Adam Porth during the game.



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7:30 pm - GM Fidel Corrales Jimenez - Simul. (\$20); Blitz (G/5 d0) tourney \$25 - 80% entries = Prize Fund

Saturday 4/20 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm - FREE Game / Position Analysis - IM John Donaldson

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Registration: Thursday (4/18) 5 - 8 pm. Friday (4/19) 9 - 10 am. Saturday (4/20) 9 - 10 am.

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2019 Washington State Team And High School League Recap

By Randy Walther

The 2019 Washington State High School Chess Team Championship (March 1-2) had the smallest turnout since 1972 with only 18 high schools playing in this event.

The History of Washington High School Chess Team Champions

- 1967 Mercer Island (7 teams)
- 1968 Roosevelt (8)
- 1969 Queen Anne (11)
- 1970 Roosevelt (16)
- 1971 Franklin (24)
- 1972 Bothell (20)
- 1973 Stadium (26)
- 1974 Davis (30)
- 1975 Juanita (34)
- 1976 Ferris (26)
- 1977 Garfield (24)
- 1978 Garfield (30)
- 1979 Garfield (28)
- 1980 Edmonds (30)
- 1981 Bellevue (28)
- 1982 Shoreline (32)

- 1983 Shoreline (30)
- 1984 Snohomish (36)
- 1985 Shoreline (38)
- 1986 Garfield (31)
- 1987 Shorewood (32)
- 1988 Shorewood (24)
- 1989 Cleveland (24)
- 1990 Cleveland (22)
- 1991 Garfield (26)
- 1992 Lakes (32)
- 1993 Davis (32)
- 1994 Davis (34)
- 1995 Roosevelt (34)
- 1996 Shorecrest (34)
- 1997 Shorecrest (40)
- 1998 Shorecrest (36)
- 1999 Puyallup (44)
- 2000 Lakeside (44)
- 2001 Lakeside (42)
- 2002 Lakeside (48)
- 2003 Lakeside (40)
- 2004 Lakeside (36)
- 2005 Lakeside (32)
- 2006 Mercer Island (32)
- 2007 Mercer Island (38)
- 2008 Garfield (31)
- 2009 Interlake (32)
- 2010 Lakeside (30)
- 2011 Lakeside (22)
- 2012 Lakeside (28)
- 2013 Lakeside (28)
- 2014 Newport (26)
- 2015 Interlake (32)
- 2016 Lakeside (26)

- 2017 Redmond (28)
- 2018 Lakeside, Newport, Garfield, Interlake, Bellevue all tied for 1st (26)
- 2019 Lakeside (22)

The top two seeds Newport A and Lakeside A played like the best two teams throughout every round of the state tournament. They both beat every team they faced except for when they played each other in the third round. That match ended in a 2.5 to 2.5 tie.

The following players all received State All-Star Medals for perfect scores: Benjamin Brusniak 2nd Board for Lakeside A (2053); Teddy Roberts 4th Board for Interlake A (1867); Ronen Huang 5th Board for Newport A (1733); Oliver Lane 5th Board for Seattle Prep (1150).

The place column was edited on the cross-table to reflect the top ten schools that won trophies.

B Teams were given letters to make the cross-table work.

Host: Interlake High School, Michael O'Byrne, chess club adviser

Swiss Team Pairings: David Ellinger, TD

Chief floor judges: Randy Walther, Randy Kaech

Place	Team	Rating	1	2	3	4	5	Total	Tie-break
1	LAKESIDE A	1939	W11	WA	D2	W4	W5	20	65
2	NEWPORT A	1946	W13	W8	D1	W5	W6	19	65
3	BELLEVUE	1687	WC	L4	W7	W8	W11	17.5	55.5
4	INTERLAKE	1899	WD	W3	W12	L1	W7	16.5	62
5	GARFIELD A	1810	W14	WB	W6	L2	L1	15.5	66.5
6	SKYLINE A	1861	W10	W7	L5	WC	L2	15.5	60.5
7	REDMOND	1639	W9	L6	L3	W13	L4	14	63
8	INGRAHAM	1363	W17	L2	WA	L3	WB	14	62.5
A	SKYLINE B	1383	W15	L1	L8	WD	W12	14	53.5
9	SEATTLE PREP	1088	L7	L10	W16	L12	W15	13.5	45.5
B	NEWPORT B	1556	W15	L5	LC	L11	L8	12	51
10	JACKSON	1168	L6	W9	L11	W14	WC	12	50.5
C	LAKESIDE B	1160	L3	W18	WB	L6	L10	11	57
11	EDMONDS-WOODWAY	1203	L1	W15	12	11	L3	10.5	61.5
12	BAINBRIDGE	1324	W18	DD	L4	W9	LA	10.5	53
13	SEHOME	1210	L2	L16	W17	L7	WD	10.5	51
14	MERIDIAN	1126	L5	W17	LD	L10	W18	10.5	42.5
D	GARFIELD B	1205	L4	D12	W14	LA	L13	9	51.5
15	MOUNT VERNON	982	LA	L11	W18	W16	L9	9	47
16	LYNDEN	1051	LB	W13	L9	L15	W17	9	45
17	FERNDAL	789	L8	L14	L13	W18	L16	6	44
18	BLAINE	762	L12	LC	L15	L17	L14	5.5	41

The Washington High School Chess Association's Leagues

2018-2019 Season Results:

Metro League (Seattle)

1. Garfield
2. Lakeside
3. Lakeside B
4. Seattle Prep
5. Ingraham
6. Garfield B
7. O'Dea
8. Seattle Prep B
9. Franklin
10. O'Dea B
11. Garfield C

Northwest League (Whatcom & Skagit Counties)

1. Sehome
2. Meridian
3. Lynden
4. Mount Vernon
5. Blaine
6. Ferndale
7. La Conner
8. Ferndale B
9. Lynden B

Kingco League (King County)

1. Newport
2. Skyline
3. Interlake
4. Redmond
5. Bellevue
6. Newport B
7. Interlake B
8. Skyline B
9. Bothell
10. Woodinville

Wesco League (Snohomish County)

1. Henry M. Jackson
2. Edmonds-Woodway
3. Kamiak
4. Stanwood
5. Archbishop Murphy

Calling all accomplished chess players around the Pacific Northwest — consider becoming a high school chess club coach. It's fun, rewarding, and it will improve your game as well.



Three minutes into Round 4 Lakeside A (left) is playing Interlake A (right) on Table 1. Standing on the left for Lakeside at 2nd Board is Benjamin Brusniak. Seated second on the right for Interlake A is Teddy Roberts. Photo credit: Randy Kaech.



Saturday afternoon between rounds in the Interlake Commons which served as the skittles area throughout the tournament. Chet Linderman 1st Board for Blaine is playing a game on the giant chess board. Chet is pictured wearing Blaine's hat of many colorful horns, which is worn each season by the Blaine Team Captain. Photo credit: Randy Kaech.



Round 5 is nearing its end. Photo credit: Randy Kaech.

2019 Washington State Championship

By Josh Sinanan

The 2019 Washington State Championship was held Feb. 16-18, 23-24 at Microsoft Research Building 99 in Redmond. 39 players took part in four round-robin sections: Championship, Premier, Invitational, and Challengers. The tournament was hosted by the Washington Chess Federation and organized by President Josh Sinanan. Fred Kleist directed the tournament and compiled the games bulletin for all nine rounds. A panel of judges, soon to be announced, will decide the brilliancy prizes (\$100) for all four sections.

This year's tournament was unusually dramatic for a variety of reasons. First, the event was delayed by a week due to the snow mega-storm that hit the greater Seattle area in early February. Several players who were planning to participate originally could no longer make it due to the schedule change. This resulted in many last-minute changes to the fields of the lowest three sections, though the Championship section somehow remained unscathed. Second, two players were disqualified for poor behavior on Saturday evening after only two rounds into the tournament! This caused quite a stir amongst the remaining players and many wondered what those players in question could have done to deserve such a harsh punishment.

Let me explain: In between rounds one and two, a player from the



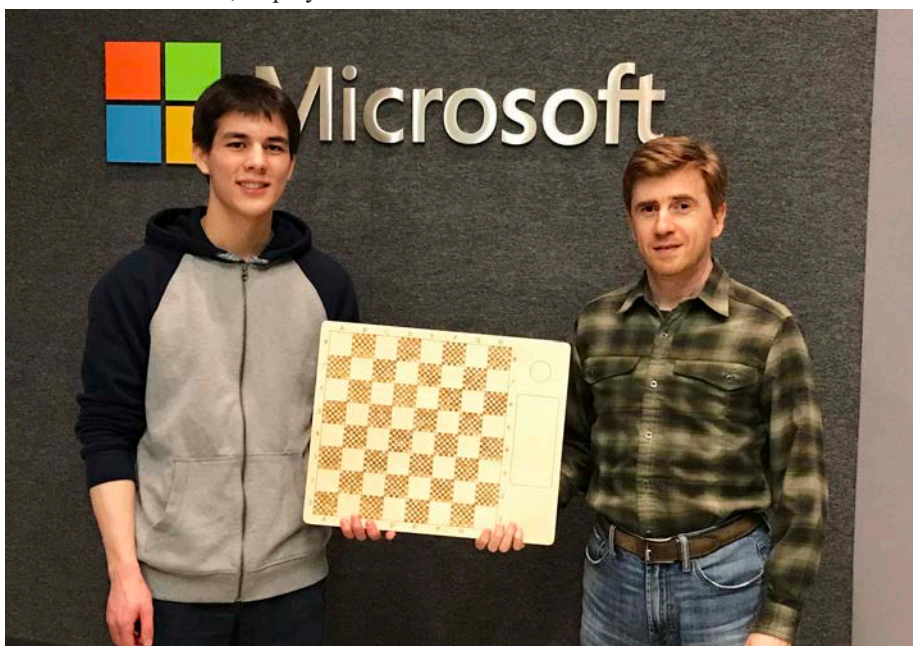
(L) Roland Feng and Anthony He, 2019 WA State Co-Champions, pose with the State Championship trophy. Photo Credit: Josh Sinanan.

Championship section was trying to prepare for his second-round game using Chessbase software on his laptop, but was being followed around and harassed by the two offending players in question. Despite asking them to stop several times and repeated attempts to avoid their intrusive behavior, the players kept following him around and threatened to reveal his preparation to his opponent, in addition to getting into his backpack, which contained important school papers.

In a desperate situation, our hero tried to escape his pursuers and took his laptop into a bathroom stall to find some peace and quiet to complete his preparation. The offending players then followed him into the bathroom and poured water over the top of the stall, getting both our hero and his laptop wet. When the organizers found out about this, we were truly shocked and immediately came to a decision to throw out both offenders from the tournament immediately. This type of behavior has no place in any type of event, especially a prestigious tournament like the State Championship!

We were now down to nine players in the Championship, Invitationals, and Challengers section. Only the Premier would have the original 10 players heading into the second weekend. Third, when play resumed on Feb. 23 during the second weekend, the setup crew was subjected to a quite a scare on Friday evening. When we arrived at Building 99 around 10pm to setup the playing room, we were surprised to find another group setting up for an event on Monday in the room we had reserved! After about an hour of discussion with their people and showing them our reservation on the room calendar, a compromise was finally reached. They agreed to let us to use the room on the condition that we set it up exactly as they had for their event on Monday after we were done. No one ever said organizing chess tournaments was easy?!

Now on to the Prize Winners:



(L) Kyle Haining and Stan Kitsis, 2019 WA State Premier Co-Champions, pose with a custom-designed wooden demo board created by Sten Petrov. Photo Credit: Josh Sinanan.

Championship

=1st-3rd, 2019 Washington State Co-Champions! Michael Lee, Roland Feng, Anthony He: \$425 each

4th, William Schill: \$150

5th, Bryce Tiglon: \$75

Premier

=1st-2nd, 2019 Washington Premier Co-Champions! Kyle Haining, Stan Kitsis: \$350 each

3rd, Ignacio Perez: \$150

=4th-5th, Marko Perestjuk, David Levine: \$75 each

Invitational

1st, 2019 Washington Invitational Champion! Wenyang Du: \$337.50

2nd, Daniel Shubin: \$187.50

3rd, Anne-Marie Velea: \$112.50

4th, Chouchanik Airapetian: \$75

5th, Yevgeniy Rozenfeld: \$37.50

Challengers

1st, 2019 Washington Challengers Champion! Brandon Jiang: \$225

2nd, Jeffrey Yan: \$125

3rd, Sophie Velea: \$75

4th, Brent Baxter: \$50

5th, Damarcus Thomas: \$25

Brandon Jiang (1988) – WCM Sophie Velea (1866) [B52]
WA State Championship Challengers
Redmond, WA (R4), February 17, 2019
[Brandon Jiang]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bb5+ Bd7 4.Bxd7+ Qxd7 5.0-0 Nf6 6.Re1 e6 7.c3 Be7 8.d4 cxd4 9.cxd4 d5 10.e5 Ne4 11.Nbd2 Nxd2 12.Bxd2 0-0 13.Rc1 Nc6 14.Rc3 Rfc8 15.a3 b5 16.Rd3 b4 17.h4!?

Maybe immediate Ng5 is better. Anyway, I felt that I had already keep the queenside in check and I can start kingside attack. 17.Ng5; 17.a4 is also an interesting move.

It closed the queenside so that I can freely attack on the kingside.

17...bxa3 18.bxa3 Bd8

Black's idea is to play Ne7/Nf5, it is very difficult for White to attack.



Position after 18...Bd8

19.Nh2?!

19.Ng5! h6 20.Qh5 hxg5 (20...Bb6 21.Nh3 (21.Rg3? hxg5 (21...Nxd4?? 22.Ne4) 22.hxg5 Qe8) 21...Nxd4 22.Bxh6 Nf5 23.Bf4) 21.hxg5 Ne7?? (21...Qe8 can hold 22.Rh3 Kf8 23.g6 Ke7 24.Qh7 (24.Bg5+ Kd7 25.gxf7 Qf8)) 22.Rh3 Ng6 23.Qh7+ Kf8 24.Bb4+!

19...Ne7! 20.Ng4 Nf5 21.Bg5 h6 22.Nf6+?!

After thinking for a record 40 minutes, I started an incorrect combination, but it worked well in the game, as Black did not find the right defence.

22...gxf6 23.exf6



Position after 23.exf6

23...Qe8?

Computer found 23...Qb5! can a human find it?! 24.Rf3 hxg5 25.hxg5 Ba5 26.Rf1 24.Qh5 Qf8 25.Rf3 hxg5 26.hxg5

Bxf6??

It is hard for Black to find the right defence, but Bf6 is resignation for sure. 26...Rc7 27.Rh3 Nh6 28.Rg3 Black can still fight.

27.gxf6 Qh6 28.Rxf5 Qxh5 29.Rxh5 Rc3 30.Ree5 Rc1+ 31.Kh2 Rac8 32.Reg5+ Kf8 33.Rh8#

My best game in the tournament, even my "Tal"-like sacrifice was not all correct. But who cares! Sophie is a tough opponent, if not for this incorrect combination, our game could last 70-80 moves (happened a few times in the past)!

1-0

William Schill (2268) – Michael Lee (2505) [B33]

WA Championship
Redmond, WA (R1), February 16, 2019
[William Schill]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6

Already a surprise, I had expected the Kalashnikov variation. 4...e5 5.Nb5 d6 6.N1c3 a6 7.Na3 Be6 8.Nc4 b5 9.Ne3 Nf6 1/2-1/2 (39) William Schill-Michael Lee Redmond 2018.

5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Nd5

Although I had played this at the PCO in 2015 and even used the line played by some well known players (see notes). I guessed Michael was planning on that so I played the c4 line instead.

7...Nxd5 8.exd5 Nb8



Position after 8...Nb8

9.c4

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9.a4 Be7 10.Be2 0-0 11.0-0 Nd7 12.Be3 (12.Bd2 Fabiano Caruana-Magnus Carlsen World Championship 2018 (8) 1/2-1/2) 12...a6 1/2-1/2 (67) William Schill (2234)-Enrico Sevillano (2526) Pacific Coast Open 2015.

9...Be7 10.Be2 0-0 11.0-0

Black gets in a hurry and makes a mistake which went unpunished.

11...f5?



Position after 11...f5

12.Bd2

Placed the Bishops so modestly does look a little weird, but why give the Black pawns targets to attack? Michael suggested after the game that a quick c5 was better for White, but I didn't want to open everything up, just scared I guess! 12.c5! Na6 (12...dxc5?? 13.d6 Bf6 14.Nc7) 13.cxd6 Bxd6 14.b3 Nc7 15.Nxd6 Qxd6 16.a4±.

12...Nd7 13.b4 a6 14.Nc3 Bf6 15.Qb3

It is both unnecessary AND unhelpful putting the Queen here. Black is gaining an edge but I sure did not know it. 15.a4 e4 16.a5 Be5 17.Rc1=.

15...e4 16.Rad1 Be5

My next move is not required but I would prefer to not worry about an attack on my King every move going forward.

17.f4!?! Bd4+

17...exf3 18.Rxf3 Black has a small edge but I would not mind playing White in this position.

18.Kh1 Nf6 19.Be1 Ba7 20.a4 Bd7 21.a5

At the time I was happy with this position.



(L) Roland Feng vs Brendan Zhang.
Photo Credit: Josh Sinanan

Michael's next four moves dispelled my cheerfulness.

21...b6 22.axb6 Bxb6 23.Na4?!

23.Ra1 Bd4 24.Ra5=.

23...Bxa4! 24.Qxa4 a5! 25.Qb5 axb4± 26.Bxb4 Ra2

At least now I understood that I was defending.

27.Rd2 Rxd2 28.Bxd2



Position after 28.Bxd2

28...e3

This move is not a mistake by any measure. Still, I think it makes my life easier because the play becomes very

forcing. To my mind a greater chance of success is offered by 'squeezing' the position. 28...Qc7 29.Bc3 Rb8.

29.Bc3! Ne4 30.Qb2! Rf7

30...g6.

31.Bd4! Bc5 32.Bxc5 Nxc5 33.Rb1 Rb7?!

Black should avoid any more trading.

34.Qc2 Rxb1+ 35.Qxb1 Qf6

All danger has passed, I just need to secure my king.

36.g3 g6 37.Kg2 Kf7 38.Qb8 Ne4 39.Qa7+ Kg8 40.Qxe3 Qb2 41.g4

Safest.

41...Nc3 42.Qe6+ Kg7 43.Qe7+

43.Kf1? Qxe2+ 44.Qxe2 Nxe2 45.Kxe2 fxe4 wins for Black.

43...Kg8

43...Kh6 44.g5# the point of playing g4 earlier.

44.Qe8+ Kg7 45.Qe7+ 1/2-1/2

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**William Schill (2268) –
Roland Feng (2456) [E05]**

WA Championship
Redmond, WA (R2), February 16, 2019
[William Schill]

1.d4

Having played 1.e4 in my first game I planned on imitating Carlsen and using a different move in each of my four games with the White pieces. Against Tiglon I reached a promising position with 1.Nf3, but then in my last White game I chickened out and reverted to 1.e4 against Irgaliyev who had an improvement in his signature Philidor's defense and was never in any danger. Since I finished just a half point out of first place I cannot help but wonder what he would have played against the English 1.c4. 1.Nf3 c5 Setting a trap 2.g3! (2.e4? d6! And Black is a little better) 2... b6 3.Bg2 Bb7 4.0-0 Nf6 5.d3 d5 6.Nbd2 e6 7.e4 Be7 1/2-1/2 (19) William Schill (2268)-Bryce Tiglon (2446) 2019 WA Championship; 1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 e5 4.Nf3 Nbd7 5.Bc4 Be7 6.a4 c6 7.0-0 8.h3 a5 9.Re1 exd4 10.Qxd4 Nb6 11.Ba2 d5! 1/2-1/2 (51) William Schill 2268-Alikhan Irgaliyev 2265 2019 WA Championship.

1...Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.g3 d5 4.Nf3 Be7 5.Bg2 0-0 6.0-0 dxc4 7.Qc2 a6 8.a4

8.Qxc4 b5 9.Qc2 Bb7 10.Bd2 Bd6 1/2-1/2 (41) Magnus Carlsen (2872)-Levon Aronian (2809) London ENG 2013.

8...Bd7 9.Qxc4 Bc6 10.Bf4 Nbd7

10...Bd6 11.Qc1! this was part of my prep 11...Bxf4 12.Qxf4 Qd6 13.Qc1! Bd5.

11.Nc3 Rc8

This move by Roland looked wrong to me. Obviously I am way out of any book knowledge at this point. The reply I chose is not in the top three computer moves.

12.a5

12.Qd3 Bb4!; 12.Qb3 Nd5=; 12.Rfd1 Bd6 13.Be5!?

12...Bd6

Okay, now what? I blocked Qc1 and Bg5 h6 looks like nothing, maybe I can try to create new targets...



(L) Marko Perestjuk vs Stan Kitsis. Just behind them is the battle of the Levine's: (L) Joseph Levine vs David Levine. Photo Credit: Josh Sinanan



Position after 12...Bd6

13.Bxd6!?

13.e3?! Bxf4 14.gxf4 I do not trust these types of pawn structures, although this idea used to be popular to clamp down on e5.

13...cxd6 14.Qb4 Qc7 15.Rac1 Qb8 16.Rfe1 Rfd8?!

16...d5 17.e3 Rfd8 18.Bf1 Ne8 Black looks very solid and plans Qd6.

17.e4! Nf8 18.Nd2! Rc7 19.d5! exd5 20.exd5 Be8

I did not see Roland's next move; I started to lose the thread of the game.

21.Nc4

21.Qd4!

21...Rc5!

After the game Roland made the interesting remark that he hated his position a few moves ago until he saw this move coming up and thought everything would be alright. Somewhat surprisingly I get a big chance later because of this very rook.

22.Re7?

22.Bf3 Bb5 23.Nxb5 Rxb5 24.Qd2

22...Bb5 23.Nb6 Ng6?!

23...N8d7 24.Rce1 Nxb6 25.axb6 Rd7 26.R7e3 Rd8±

24.Ree1 Nd7 25.Nxd7 Rxd7 26.Nxb5 Rxb5

I spent many minutes looking for an advantage here, I felt this was the key moment.

I was right, but misunderstood what I should be trying to accomplish.

[Diagram top of next page]

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Position after 26...Rxb5

27.Qd2

27.Qg4! Rd8 28.b4 I cannot trap the black rook, which I was trying to do in my analysis, but I can force Roland to play b6 and then I can create a passed pawn on the Queenside! 28...b6 29.Bf1 Rxd5 30.Qc4 Re5 31.Qxa6 Rxe1 32.Rxe1 Ne5 33.Rc1 bxa5 34.bxa5±

27...b6 28.b4 bxa5 29.bxa5 Rd8 30.Rc6 Rb2 31.Qd4

31.Qe3 looks better.

31...Rb4 32.Qd2?

32.Qe3! Rb3 33.Qe2±

32...Rb2 33.Qd4?

33.Qe3 still.

33...Rb1 34.Rxb1?

34.Qe3 UGH

34...Qxb1+ 35.Bf1 Ne5 36.Qb6 Nf3+ 37.Kg2 Ne1+ 38.Kg1 Nf3+ 39.Kg2 Ne1+ 40.Kg1 Nf3+ 1/2-1/2

Anthony He (2403) – William Schill (2268) [A00]

WA Championship
Redmond, WA (R9), February 24, 2019
[William Schill]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.0-0 Nf6 5.d3 d6 6.c3

A very unpleasant surprise. Anthony has won some nice games with Nc3 here. (So I had some ideas prepared.) Despite the symmetrical pawn structure this old fashioned setup leads to sharper tactics than the modern d3 and c3. 6.Nc3 Na5 7.Bg5 Nxc4 8.dxc4 Be6 9.Qd3 h6 10.Bh4?

6...0-0 7.h3 a6 8.Bb3 Ba7 9.Re1

Here I knew both Be6 and h6 work, but I needed to win this game, somehow. So I decided upon moving everyone possible to the Kingside.

9...Ne7 10.Nbd2 Ng6 11.Nf1

Still wishing to avoid the usual Be6 I started to play a little risky.

11...Nh5!? 12.Bg5 Qe8



Position after 12...Qe8

13.Nh4

13.Nxe5! Truthfully, I was hoping Anthony would play this because I thought it would give me some winning chances. However, the coming d4 by White is very strong and this makes this White's best line. 13...Qxe5 14.Qxh5 Nf4 I had high hopes for this move, but... 15.d4 Nxe5 16.dxe5 dxe5 17.Ne3 Bxe3 18.Bxe3 Be6 19.Bxe6 fxe6 20.Rad1 Rad8±. On principle a 'mistake' is on the way.

13...Nh4?!

13...Ngf4! a better move given the tournament standings as it keeps White away from simplifications 14.Nf5 Be6.

14.Nxg6 Nxg6 15.Ng3

A dull equality is fast approaching.

Washington Senior Championship

April 13-14, 2019

Highest finishing Washington resident receives the title of Washington State Senior Chess Champion, a seed into the Invitational Section of the 2020 WA State Championship, and a \$750 travel stipend from the WCF to attend the 2019 National Senior Tournament of Champions, which will be held August 3-6 in conjunction with the US Open.

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

Entry Fee: \$50 by 04/07, \$60 after 04/07 or at site. Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs.

Format: A 5-Round Swiss in one section. Open to Seniors age 50+ (or reaching age 50 by or before August 3, 2019). US Chess Rated. Playoff round if needed to break tie for 1st place will be resolved later in the year by a G/90 playoff game.

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

Rounds: Saturday 10:00 AM, 2:30 PM, 7:00 PM; Sunday 11:00 AM, 4:00 PM.

Time Control: G/90, +30.

US Chess April 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.

Byes: Two half-point byes available. Request before end of round 2. US Chess and WCF/OCF/ICA memberships required, other states accepted.

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

Prize Fund: \$750 (based on 25 paid entries).

1st \$150, 2nd \$125, 3rd \$100, 1st U2000 \$75, 1st U1700 \$75, 1st U1400 \$75. 1st Age 70+ \$75, 1st Age 80+ \$75.

Mail To: Josh Sinanan, 3610 218th Street SW, Brier, WA 98036.

Phone: (206) 769-3757. **Email:** joshsinanan@gmail.com.

Online Registration: www.nwchess.com/onlineregistration.

There must be at least two eligible players for the age prizes to be given. Only one age-based prize allowed per person, cannot win multiple age-based prizes.

What can I try at this point?

15...Be6 16.Nf5

16.d4 Kh8

16...f6

Somewhere around here I declined a draw offer hoping, irrationally, that I could complicate matters 16...h6 17.Bd2 (17.Nxh6+? gxh6 18.Bxh6 Qe7 19.Bxf8 Rxf8-/+) 17...Qd8 18.Qf3 Re8=.

17.Be3 Bxe3 18.Rxe3 Nf4 19.Kh2 g6 20.Ng3 Qf7 21.Bxe6 Qxe6 22.Ne2 Nxe2

I just could not, and still cannot, see any plan to try and win this game.

23.Rxe2 ½-½

Daniel Shubin (2012) –
Chouhanik Airapetian (2025) [C58]
WA Closed Invitational
Redmond, WA (R1), February 16, 2019
[Georgi Orlov]

1.Nf3 Nc6 2.e4 e5 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.Ng5 d5 5.exd5 Na5 6.Bb5+ c6 7.dxc6 bxc6 8.Bd3 Be7

Better options are: 8...Ng4 9.Ne4 (9.Nf3 f5) 9...f5 10.Be2! Nh6 11.Ng3 Be7 12.Nc3±; or (perhaps the strongest) 8...Nd5! 9.Nf3 Bd6 10.0-0 0-0=

9.Nc3 h6 10.Nge4

10.Nf3 Bd6 11.0-0 0-0 12.Re1 Re8 13.b3 Nb7 14.h3

10...Nxe4

10...Nd5!? 11.Ng3

11.Bxe4 0-0 12.0-0

12.d3 f5 13.Bf3; 12.Bf3

12...f5 13.Bf3 e4 14.Be2 Bd6

14...Qc7 15.d3 Rd8 16.Qe1

15.d3 Qe7 16.dxe4 fxe4 17.Qd4 Bf5 18.Be3 Rfb8 19.Rad1

It makes more sense to bring the King's Rook. 19.Rfd1

19...Bc7

19...Be5 20.Qa4 Bc7

20.g3 Rb4?

20...Kh7



Position after 20...Rb4

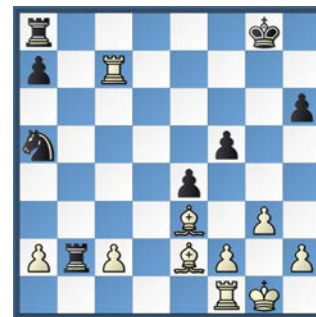
21.Nd5!+-

Great strike!

21...cxd5 22.Qxd5+ Kh7 23.Qxf5+ g6 24.Rd7 gxf5 25.Rxe7+ Kg8

25...Kg6 26.Rxc7

26.Rxc7 Rxb2



Position after 26...Rxb2

27.Bd4

In position like this start using your extra pieces quickly. It decides the game sooner! 27.Rd1!

27...Rxa2 28.Rg7+ 28...Kf8 29.Rh7 Rd8 30.Rh8+ Ke7 31.Bf6+ Kxf6 32.Rxd8 Rxc2 33.Rd6+ Ke5 34.Ra6 Nc6 35.Bd1 Rc3 36.Ba4 Nd4 37.Rxa7 h5 38.Bd1 h4 39.Kg2 hgx3 40.fgx3 Ne6 41.h4 Rc5 42.h5 f4 43.gxf4+ Nxf4+ 44.Kg3 Rc3+ 45.Kg4 Nd5 46.Kg5 Rg3+ 47.Kh6 1-0

44th Annual Keres Memorial

C\$6000 GUARANTEED Prize Fund, FIDE rated

Victoria Day Weekend, May 18-20, 2019

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

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

Sections: Premier (CFC & FIDE rated), U2000, U1600, U1100 (CFC rated)

Time Control: Game in 90 minutes plus 30 second per move increment.

Entry Fees (C\$): Premier, U2000 & U1600: \$90 by April 15, \$100 by May 13, \$115 on site. **U1100** \$60 by April 15, \$70 by May 13, \$85 on site. CFC tournament or regular membership required.

Prizes: C\$6000 Guaranteed

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

Misc: All equipment provided. C\$179 room rate at the Executive Plaza 1-800-663-2878 (rate code "Keres Memorial Chess Tournament.") See website for further details.

Washington Open

A NW Grand Prix Event

May 25-27, 2019

Highest finishing Washington resident in the Open Section seeded into the 2020 Washington State Championship

\$13,000 Guaranteed Prize Fund!

Entry fees listed as: Postmarked
By April 21 / By May 15 / At site

Open EF \$160 / \$175 / \$185
Reserve (U1800) EF \$145 / \$160 / \$170
Booster (U1400) EF \$130 / \$145 / \$155
Trophy Only (Juniors under age 21 &
Seniors age 50+) EF \$ 90 / \$105 / \$115

	Open	Reserve	Booster
1st	\$1,200	\$ 900	\$ 600
2nd	\$ 900	\$ 700	\$ 500
3rd	\$ 700	\$ 550	\$ 400
4th	\$ 550	\$ 450	\$ 350
5th	\$ 400	\$ 350	\$ 300
	U2100	U1650	U1200
1st	\$ 350	\$ 300	\$ 250
2nd	\$ 250	\$ 225	\$ 200
	U1900	U1500	U1000
1st	\$ 350	\$ 300	\$ 250
2nd	\$ 250	\$ 225	\$ 200
			Unrated
1st			\$ 225
2nd			\$ 175
	Upset Prize		
1st	\$ 125	\$ 125	\$ 125
2nd	\$ 75	\$ 75	\$ 75
3rd	NWC membership extension		

Trophies awarded to top four in each section.
(Juniors under 21 & Seniors 50+ only)

Free entry to GMs, IMs, and WGMs.

Reentry for 1/2 of your original entry fee.

Canadians may pay C\$ at par (no coins) for
entry fee only.

Entries/Information:

Make checks payable to
Washington Chess Federation.

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

E-mail: vjctormayer@yahoo.com

Joshua Sinanan

Phone: (206) 769-3757

E-mail: wcf.tournaments@gmail.com

Embassy Suites Seattle North/Lynnwood

20610 44th Avenue West

Lynnwood, WA 98036-7701, Phone (425) 775-2500

Online Registration at www.nwchess.com/onlineregistration

Pay by credit/debit or PayPal.

Format: A seven-round Swiss system tournament in three sections, as shown at left.

Rating: US Chess rated. Open Section also FIDE rated (except G/40 games which are US Chess dual rated only). US Chess May 2019 rating supplement will be used to determine section eligibility. Higher of US Chess or foreign ratings used at TD discretion. Higher of US Chess or FIDE rating used for pairings and prizes in Open Section. Foreign ratings used for players with no US Chess rating. Unrated players may only win top four prizes in the Open Section or unrated prizes in Booster Section. Medal-only players are ineligible to win cash prizes.

Registration: Saturday 8:30-9:30 AM for 3-day schedule. Sunday 8:00-8:30 AM for 2-day schedule. Three half-point byes available at registration or before end of round 2. Play any two days, if taking three half-point byes. Late registrations after 9:30 AM Saturday or 8:30 AM Sunday may receive half-point byes for first round.

Rounds: 3-day schedule: Sat 10:00 AM, 12:30 PM and 6:00 PM, Sun 11:00 AM and 6:00 PM, Mon 9:30 AM and 3:30 PM. 2-day schedule: Sun 9:00 AM, 10:45 AM, 1:00 PM, 2:45 PM, then join 3-day schedule with round 5 at 6:00 PM. WCF annual meeting and elections at 2:00 PM Monday, May 27, 2019.

Time Controls: 3-day schedule: G/40 with 10-second delay (round 1), rounds 2-7 40/120 and SD/30 with 10-second delay. 2-day schedule: G/40 with 10-second delay (rounds 1-4), rounds 5-7 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: 60. US Chess Junior Grand Prix. No Smoking. No Computers. Wheelchair accessible.

Hotel Info/Rates: \$144 King, \$154 Queen, single or double occupancy. Call (425) 775-2500, request the Washington Chess Federation block. Group ID: 404873. Cut-off date for reservations at the discount is May 10, 2019 at 5:00 PM PDT.

Washington Open Blitz Championship: Sun 05/26 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/Unrated \$60, 1st U1400 \$60. US Chess Blitz rated. Current US Chess and WCF/OCF/ICA memberships required.

Washington Open G/45 Championship: Mon 05/27 at 11:30 AM. Format: 4 round Swiss in one section. Registration: 10:30-11:15 AM. Rounds: 11:30, 1:30, 3:30, and 5:30 PM. TC: G/45 d0. EF: \$20. Prize Fund: \$240/b15. 1st \$80, 2nd \$55, 1st U2000 \$35, 1st U1700/Unrated \$35, 1st U1400 \$35. US Chess Dual rated. Current US Chess and WCF/OCF/ICA memberships required.



PNW CHESS CENTER
— Quality Chess for All —

Pacific Northwest Chess Center (PNWCC)

12020 113th Ave NE #C-200, Kirkland, WA 98034

PNWChessCenter@gmail.com (General)

pnwccfd@gmail.com (Tournament)

<https://www.pnwchesscenter.org>



PNWCC offers monthly FIDE Open, USCF Open, G60 Medal, G45 Transformer and Scholastic Open (G25), weekly Friday Night USCF Rapid and many other exciting events such as quads, blitz, bug house and GM lectures. GM Emil Anka also offers group lessons on Wednesday and Friday. All events are published on our website and nwchess.com. Scan the QR code to the left for detail. **Register by email, online at nwchess.com or on site if space available.**

Regular Tournaments (Masters with USCF 2200+ play for free!)

- **Friday Night Rapids 7:00PM @ 4/5 (GM Lenderman will play!) 4/19 & 4/26**
Format: 4-SS TC: G/25;d3 EF: \$25 Prize: Top prize only \$150 b/o 30 PE
- **USCF and NWSRS Dual Rated Scholastic Open 9:30AM @ 4/20**
Format: 5-SS TC: G/25;d5 EF: \$25 Prize: Generous trophies
- **G45 Transformers 11:00AM @ 4/21**
Format: 4-SS TC: G/45;d5 EF: \$25 adult free Prize: By points (\$40/4.0,\$20/3.5,\$15/3.0,\$5/2.0)
- **G60 Medal 12:00PM @ 4/7 – GM Lenderman will play!**
Format: 4-SS TC: G/60;d5 EF: \$25 Prize: Top prize only \$200 b/o 40 PE
- **USCF Open 10:00AM @ 3/23-3/24 and 4/27-2/28**
Format: 6-SS TC: G/90;d10 EF: \$45 Prize: \$320-\$220-\$120-\$80-\$40 b/o 40 PE

PNWCC FIDE Open – Skagit Tulips

4/11 - 4/14, 2019

A 2-section, USCF and FIDE rated 7-round Swiss tournament with time control of 40/90, SD 30; +30, featuring **GM Aleksandr Lenderman** and **GM Andrey Gorovets** that will not play each other so to give local chess players more strong games. Tournament detail and register at <http://nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration/>

Masters (2100+)

\$165 by 3/21, \$190 afterwards, \$215 on site
\$1,000gtd-\$600gtd-\$400gtd-\$300-\$200 B/O 20 PE

Challenger (1600-2099)

\$85 by 3/21, \$110 afterwards, \$135 on site
\$350-\$200-\$125-\$100-\$75 B/O 20 PE

Register online and early to secure your spot!

March 2019 FIDE Open was sold two weeks before rounds start!

Tournament dates and details are subject to changes. Visit our website for most recent updates or email us and we will respond promptly.

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



The SCC online registration system is now open, it seems, at www.seattlechess.club.

SCC Annual Meeting, Fri. May 3

Come elect the SCC Board of Directors for the next twelve months!!

SCC Fridays

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

April Showers: 4/5, 12, 19, 26.
Close Ratings II: 5/3, 10, 17, 24, 31.
It's Summertime!: 6/7, 14, 21, 28.

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.

☞ **Apr 7 *New Date*, May 12**

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 ☞

April 18-21

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

SCC Team in Reno!

☞ **Apr 27, May 18**

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 ☞

Jun 30

Format: 4-SS. Open to U1200 and UNR. **TC:** G/75; d5. **EF:** \$11 by 6/26, \$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

WCF @ the SCC

WA Senior Championship Apr. 13-14

SCC Adult Swiss

April 6-7, 2019

A four-round Swiss open to those born before 4/7/1998 with a prize fund of \$375 based on twenty paid entrants (five per prize group).

First	\$105
Second	\$60
U2000	\$55
U1800	\$55
U1600	\$50
U1400/Unr	\$50

Time Control: G/120; +30.

Entry Fees: \$36 if rec'd by 4/5, \$45 at site. *SCC members*—subtract \$10. Members of other dues-required CCs in BC, ID, OR, & WA—subtract \$5 *GMs, IMs, WGMs* — Free. *Unr*—free with purchase of 1-year US Chess plus 1-year WCF/OCF/ICA.

Registration: Sat. 10-10:45 a.m. **Rounds:** 11-4:30, 11-4:30.

Byes: 1 (Sunday rounds, commit at registration).

Miscellaneous: US Chess & WCF/OCF/ICA membership req'd (OSA). No smoking. No computers.

Upcoming Events

♣ denotes 2019 Northwest Grand Prix event.

Pacific Northwest Chess Center events see page 29. Seattle Chess Club events see page 30

♣ **Apr 6-7 Idaho Open Chess Championship, Pocatello, ID.** Site: Pocatello Red Lion Inn, 1555 Pocatello Creek Rd., Pocatello, ID 83201. 5SS G/120;d5. Rounds: SAT 9 AM, 2 PM, 7PM; SUN 9AM, 2 PM. US Chess and ICA mem. req (OSA). EF: \$30 per player. Discount for on-line registration. Over 80, IM, FM, GM free. PRIZES: b/30: Open Sec: 1st place Plaque, 1st-3rd place \$200, \$100, \$75. 1st place (\$50) for Class B, C, D, E, F, & Unr. Ties split money, tie breaks for plaque. Games: Chess sets provided. Clocks not provided. Byes: Maximum 1 half point bye rounds 1-3. Must commit before round is paired. 0 point bye rounds 4 & 5. Tie Break Order: Solkoff, Median, Cumulative of Opposition, Modified Median. This is a NWC Grand Prix Event. TD: Jay Simonson. Details: TD: rooknjay@yahoo.com, 208-206-7667. ICA: idahocheessassociation@gmail.com or www.idahocheessassociation.com (208-450-9048).

♣ **Apr 6-7 13th Annual Clark Harmon 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 5:30pm on Saturday and 10am and 2:45pm on Sunday. Rounds 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 memberships are required and can be purchased during registration (OSA). Prizes (\$1500 b/50): 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 Oregon Closed. More info., including info. about Clark, at pdxchess.org, (503) 246-2978.

Apr 13-14 Washington Senior Championship, Seattle, WA. (See Half-Page AD page 26)

Apr 19-21 8th Annual Reno Larry Evans Memorial Open, Reno, NV. (see Full-Page Ad page 19)

Apr 19-22 13th Annual Grand Pacific Open, Victoria, BC (Canada). (<http://www.nwchess.com/calendar/TA.htm>)

♣ **Apr 20/May 11 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 membership is required and can be purchased during registration. 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.

♣ **Apr 28/May 19 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.

May 4-5 Penguin Extravaganza, Portland, OR. Site: Portland Chess Club, 8205 SW 24th Ave, Portland, OR 97219. 6-round Swiss in two sections, 1700+ (Premier) and U1700 (Reserve). Playing up is not allowed. The most current ("live") US Chess regular ratings are usually used for section eligibility, pairings, and prize eligibility. TC: G/60;inc30. Up to two half point byes are available if requested before round one. US Chess and NWSRS rated. On-site reg: 9-9:45am. Rds: 10am, 1:30pm, and 5pm each day. The second and third rounds each day 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: \$40, \$30 for PCC members (pay by with cash or check payable to Portland Chess Club). US Chess and OCF/WCF memberships are required and can be purchased during registration (OSA). Prizes (\$1000 b/40): Premier: 1st-\$200, 2nd-\$150, 1st U2100, 1st U1900-\$125 each; Reserve: 1st-\$150, 2nd-\$100, 1st U1500, 1st U1300/unrated-\$75 each. Qualifier for the Challengers section of the Oregon Closed and qualifier for the OSCF State Championship. More info. at pdxchess.org, (503) 246-2978.

♣ **May 18-19 Inland Empire Open, Spokane, WA.** Site: Gonzaga University (Jepson Center) Room 109. Format: Five Round Swiss System. Registration: Sat. 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. Rounds: Sat. 10:00-2:30-7:00, Sun: 9:00-1:30 or ASAP. Time Control: G/120 (with 5 second delay). E.F. \$23 if received by 5/17, \$28 at the door; 18 and under \$5 less. Telephone entries accepted. \$630 prize fund; Class prizes based on at least five per section. Only one prize per person (excluding biggest upset). NS, NC, W. One ½ point bye if requested before proceeding round. Sunday byes must be requested before the end of round 3. Director reserves the right to use class pairings in the final round. Prizes: 1st Overall: \$140, 2nd Overall: \$100; Class Prizes: 1st (A; B; C; D/E/unrated) \$60, 2nd (A; B; C; D/E/unrated) \$25, Biggest Upset: \$50 (non-provisional ratings). Entries: Spokane CC, c/o Kevin Korsmo, 9923 N. Moore, Spokane, WA 99208. Information: cell (509) 270-1772, website www.spokanechessclub.org.

May 18-20 44th Annual Keres Memorial, Richmond, BC (Canada). (see Half-Page Ad page 27)

♣ **May 25-27 Washington Open, Lynnwood, WA.** (see Full-Page Ad page 28)

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

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