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Josh Sinanan tries on his new chess face mask, designed and produced by Embroiderrific, a family-run business based in Lake Forest Park that specializes in custom embroidery. Photo Credit: Josh Sinanan.

On the back cover:

Duane Polich directs the Northwest Chess Round Robin on March 7 at the Seattle Chess Club, just before the club was shut down due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Photo Credit: Josh Sinanan.

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

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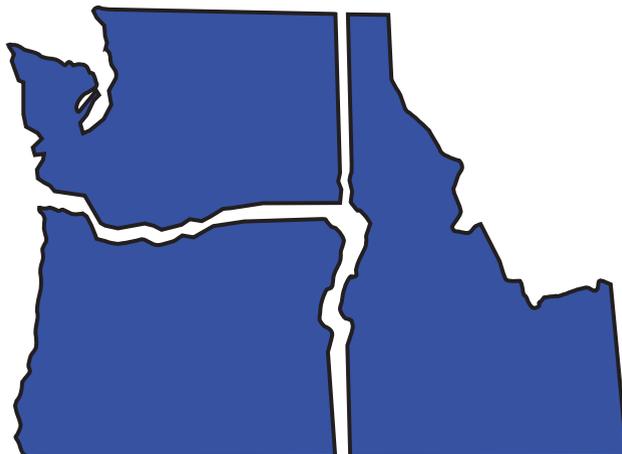
2020 Northwest Regional Scholastic Chess Championships

By Josh Sinanan

At a time when many events (local and national) have been canceled due to COVID-19, Northwest Chess organizers wanted to give all regional scholastic players the opportunity to keep playing. With that goal in mind, the first ever Northwest Regional Scholastic Chess Championships was organized. The tournament was held May 16 via Chess.com and was open to all students registered in grades K-12 and included players from throughout the Pacific Northwest Region (including Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and even British Columbia!). The five-round, nearly seven-hour event was hosted by Washington Chess Federation and directed by (newly appointed) WCF Scholastic Director Jacob Mayer, with assistance from Ani Barua and Josh Sinanan. A total of 211 players competed across six sections divided by grade level and NWSRS rating: K-1 U800, 2-3 U800, K-3 Open, 4-8 U900, 4-8 Open, and 9-12 Open. Special congratulations to the winners!

- K-1 U800: Lena Ivanovic (762 → 966) University Child Development School
- 2-3 U800: Yan Zhang (757 → 1012) Somerset Elementary School
- K-3 Open: Luca Tessiore (1402 → 1455) Decatur Elementary School
- 4-8 U900: Yabi Ephrem (819 → 1004) Home-Schooled, Brian Wei (808 → 954), Forest Park Elementary School
- 4-8 Open: Eric Erard (1770 → 1814) Health and Science School, Bob Liu (1689 → 1716) Sylvan Middle School, Kevin Song (1622 → 1648) Open Window School, Nugen Tran (1356 → 1481) Evergreen Heights Elementary School
- 9-12 Open: Fedya Semenov (1867 → 1887) School of Science and Technology

It is our mission to see chess continue to thrive during these difficult times and we will continue to work with that goal in mind. Congratulations to all who contributed to this historic event!



The Zengalis-Ulvestad Match

By John Donaldson

The Washington Championship in its current round robin format dates back to 1932. You have to go forward another twenty years for the first competition in the state featuring internationally recognized players.

That summer Elmars Zengalis and Olaf Ulvestad met in a four-game match held in the auditorium of the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*. Latvian-born Zengalis was newly relocated to Seattle having been one of the European sportsmen brought to the city as part of P-I writer Royal Brougham's Displaced Persons Act.

Zengalis made his reputation in a series of tournaments held in Germany in the years immediately after World War II. This included a shared first at Oldenburg 1949 with Bogoljubow ahead of a number of future Grandmasters and International Masters including Unzicker, Rossolimo, Sämisch, O'Kelly, Wade, Rellstab, and Enevoldsen.

Ulvestad, born in Tacoma and raised in Seattle, was the first nationally ranked master from Washington and represented the United States in its 1946 match against the Soviet Union in Moscow. While the U.S. team was crushed, Ulvestad held his own (1-1) against David Bronstein who would draw a World Championship match five years later.



Former World Championship Challenger Efim Bogoljubow and Elmars Zengalis in battle royale in round 14 of the 1949 Oldenburg International.
Photographer: unknown, Archive of Elmars Zengalis.

Not long after arriving in Seattle, Zengalis gave a 50-board simultaneous at the P-I building that attracted 150 spectators and generated considerable publicity. This resulted in the newspaper sponsoring a match between the newly arrived star and the hometown hero which the former won in impressive style by a score of 3-1.

The following four games were annotated by Elmars Zengalis and first appeared in the August 1952 issue of the *Washington Chess Letter*.

Elmars Zengalis Olaf Ulvestad [A05]

Seattle (G1) July 4, 1952

1.Nf3 d5 2.b3 g6 3.Bb2 Nf6 4.c4 dxc4

Black surrenders the center in order to obtain free development. 4...c6 would hardly be better, as no good squares would then be available to Black's QB and QN. The further developments prove however the fianchetto of Black's bishop on the second move is the one to be blamed for further difficulties.

5.bxc4 Bg7 6.g3 c5 7.Bg2 0-0 8.0-0 Nc6 9.Ne5! Na5

An exchange here would only strengthen White's pressure against the queenside.

10.Qc2 Be6 11.d3 Qc7 12.Nd2 Rfd8 13.Bc3

This threatens Qa4, but even stronger was 13.Rab1.

13...Ng4

Slightly preferable was 13...Nd7.

14.Nxg4 Bxg4 15.Bxg7 Kxg7 16.Ne4!



Position after 16.Ne4

It is clear now that White has the initiative. His pieces exert considerable pressure on both the queenside and center while Black's pieces cannot find satisfactory squares.

16...Kg8 17.Rab1 Rab8 18.Rb2 Nc6 19.Qa4! b6

19...Nd4 20.f3 leads to wild complications, the main variation being 20...Bf5 21.Nc3 b6 22.e3 Bd7 23.Qd1 Nc6 and White is ready to start a kingside attack with f4. The text move permits a favorable simplification for White and is therefore inferior.

20.Nf6+ exf6

A nice trap — If 21.Qxc6? Qe5 22.Rd2 Bxe2 23.Re1 Bf3!! and Black has the better of it.

21.Bxc6 Rd6 22.Bd5 Bd7 23.Qc2 b5! 24.e4 b4 25.f4 Ra6 26.Qf2 Ra3 27.d4 a5 28.dxc5 Rd3

This accelerates the end, but what to do? If 28...Rc8; 29.Rb3, with a finish similar to that actually played.

29.Rb3 Rxb3 30.axb3 Rc8 31.Ra1 Qxc5 32.Qxc5 Rxc5 33.Kf2



Position after 33.Kf2

The winning idea. What follows is a desperate attempt to fight the destiny on one side and a quiet accumulation of advantage on the other.

33...a4

This pawn was lost regardless.

34.bxa4 Ra5 35.Ke3 f5 36.e5 Kf8 37.Kd4 Ke7

In endings like this the advantage of one pawn always decides the game.

38.c5 f6 39.e6! Rxa4 40.Rxa4 Bxa4 41.Kc4 b3 42.Kc3 g5 43.Bxb3

In this clearly lost position Black exceeded the time limit.

1-0



Zemgalis considering his 10th move against Povilas Tautvaišas at Esslingen 1948. Photographer: unknown, Archive of Elmars Zemgalis.

Olaf Ulvestad
Elmars Zemgalis [C02]
Seattle (G2), July 5, 1952

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5

It is interesting to note that this move introduced by Nimzowitsch and once severely criticized has been played in several recent tournaments with success.

3...c5 4.dxc5 Nc6

An immediate 4...Bxc5 could be effectively countered with 5.Qg4!

5.Nf3 Bxc5 6.Bd3 Nge7 7.Bf4! Qb6 8.0-0

So far as in the game Nimzowitsch-Spielmann, San Sebastian 1912.

Spielmann took the b-pawn and lost after a few inaccuracies. Although that game can be hardly accepted as a refutation of the acceptance of the pawn sacrifice, the loss of time and the strategic unimportance of the b-pawn make the capture appear dubious. I followed here another — and I believe new — idea, to break the blockade by attacking White's strongest point — d4. It is this idea and White's counters which make this game appear noteworthy.

8...Bd7 9.Nbd2 Rc8 10.Nb3 Ng6

An important move in connection with the following one, to divert the white bishop from the square d4.

11.Bg3 Nb4 12.Be2

Sharper was 12.h4 Nxd3 13.cxd3 h5.

12...Bb5 13.c3 Bxe2 14.Qxe2 Nc6 15.Rad1 0-0 16.Rd3

A strategically correct decision — point d4 is to be “overprotected.” However, as the course of the game demonstrates, more exact was 16.Rd2. Also, the sequence 16.h4 Ne7 17.h5 h6 was playable.

16...Nce7 17.Nfd4

Now 17.h4 would be a mistake because of ...Nf5!.

17...Bxd4 18.Nxd4



Position after 18.Nxd4

18...Qa6!

An excellent move with manifold purposes: 1) To weaken White's queenside; 2) To cause discomfort in White's defense by pinning the rook; 3) To conquer the square d4.

The objective of Black is to either play ...d4 himself, or to force White's QB pawn to occupy that square, thus opening the QB file for his rooks and depriving White's pieces of a most important central point.

19.a3 Nc6 20.Nf3

A necessary retreat in view of the threats ...Nxd4 and ...Nxe5.

20...Nce7 21.h3 Rc4 22.Qd2 Re4! 23.Rd1 h6

This eliminates the threat Ng5 and eventual mating threats on the last rank.

24.Bh2

A better waiting move was 24.Kh2.

24...Nc6 25.Re3 Qb6 26.Rde1 Rd8 27.R3e2

White's pieces cannot start any activity and must mark time.

27...Rxe2 28.Qxe2



Position after 28.Qxe2

28...d4!

Herewith Black has achieved his strategic aims.

29.cxd4 Nxd4 30.Nxd4 Qxd4 31.Bg3 Ne7

Here ...h5 (intending ...h4 with a gradual strangulation) was the most promising line to increase the advantage. Now Ulvestad sets up a very ingenious defense.

32.Qc2 Nf5 33.Kh2 Qd2 34.Re2 Qg5 35.Qc3 Rd1 36.Qc8+

Avoiding a delightful trap: 36.f4 Qxg3+ 37.Kxg3 Rh1+!! 38.Kxh1 Nxc3+ and Black wins!

36...Kh7 37.Qc2 Qc1 38.Qxc1 Rxc1 39.Rd2 Rc7 1/2-1/2

Elmars Zemgalis
Olaf Ulvestad [E11]
Seattle (G3) July 6, 1952

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 Bb4+ 4.Bd2 Qe7 5.g3 0-0 6.Bg2 Ne4?

This attempt to gain two Bishops cost too much time. Moreover, White succeeds in creating a position where knights are stronger than bishops.

7.0-0 Nxd2 8.Nbxd2 c6

Continuing artificial play. However, also after the move 8...Bxd2, White has a positional advantage.

9.Nb3

Threatening c5, with a3.

9...Bd6

A sad retreat.

Much stronger than 43.Qxg5.

43...Ne7 44.Qxa7 Rh8 45.a4 Rc8 46.a5 Ke8 47.a6 1-0

Olaf Ulvestad
Elmars Zemgalis [C02]
Seattle (G4), July 6, 1952

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.dxc5 Nc6 5.Nf3 Bxc5 6.Bd3 f6

This is even more convincing than 6... Nge7 played in the second match game.

7.exf6 Nxf6 8.Qe2 0-0 9.0-0 Qe8

Besides this move I also considered 9... e5 10.Nxe5 Nxe5 11.Qxe5 Ng4 12.Qh5 g6 13.Bxg6 hxg6 14.Qxg6+ Kh8 with advantage to Black. The text move was chosen only in view of the fact that this was the second game on the same day and I was not inclined to exhaust myself in complicated situations.

10.Bf4? Qh5?



Position after 10... Qh5

Winning material was possible by 10... e5 11.Nxe5 Nh5! winning a sound piece in all variations. Or 11.Bxe5 Nxe5 12.Qxe5 Qxe5 13.Nxe5 Bd4 14.Nf3 Bxb2 and White is lost. Curiously enough I had these possibilities in mind already when I moved my queen to e8 and had completely forgotten about them on my next move! The only correct move for White was 10.c4.

11.Bg3 Bd7

Here again 11...e5 was possible, i.e., 11... e5 12.Nxe5 Qxe2 13.Bxe2 Nxe5 14.Bxe5 Re8 15.Bxf6 Rxe2 16.Bh4 Rxc2 and White has to fight for a draw.

12.Nc3!

And not 12.Nbd2?, because then the combination mentioned above starting with ...e5 would, because of the unprotected queen knight, decide the game.

12...Nd4

After the foregoing inaccuracies Black adopts the most promising plan, aiming to achieve an endgame with a better pawn



Organizer R.C. Cannon, Olaf Ulvestad, Arthur Dake and George Koltanowski in Mount Vernon, site of the Washington vs. British Columbia match in 1947. Ulvestad and Dake played an exhibition game alongside the match and Koltanowski directed both events. Photographer unknown, Archive of John Braley.

configuration. White also plays very fine from now on and initiates counterplay based on his two bishops. What weighs more — the two bishops in combination with control of the center square e5, or the weakened pawn position—sounds the strategical problem here.

13.Nxd4 Bxd4 14.Rae1 Bxc3 15.bxc3 Qxe2 16.Rxe2 Rfc8 17.Be5 Rc5!

Otherwise White could shut out this possibility by playing Bd4.

18.Rb1 b6 19.f3 Ra5 20.Rb2



Position after 20.Rb2

The tactical possibility to undouble the pawns with 20.c4! was more promising here.

20.c4! Rxa2? (20...Rc8! is correct with equal chances.) 21.Bxf6 gxf6 22.cxd5 exd5 (22...Kf7? 23.dxe6+ Bxe6 24.Rxe6

Kxe6 25.Bc4+ and White wins) 23.Re7 with a powerful position for White.

20...Rc8 21.Bd4 Ne8 22.Re5!

The following attack is practically forced because of the strong positional threats on the queenside.

22...Nd6 23.Rg5 g6 24.h4 Nf7 25.Rg3 e5!

Regaining this important center square.

26.Bf2 Kf8!

Preparing the following fully sufficient defense.

27.h5 Bf5 28.hxg6 hxg6 29.Bxf5 gxf5 30.Rg6!



Position after 30.Rg6

The attack is over now and the only compensation White has for the loss of



Hollywood International 1952 — Standing: Vladimir Pafnutieff, Toscha Seidel and Svetozar Gligorić, Sitting: Jacqueline Piatigorsky, Herman Steiner and Gottfried Reinhardt (Photo Nancy Roos — Courtesy of World Chess Hall of Fame).

two bishops and the center squares e5 and d4 is this active rook.

30...Rc4

A blockade like this is usually deadly.

31.Be1 Rac5 32.Kf1 Rc6

Improper execution of the right plan. First 32...Ke7 and only then the text move was the right course.

33.Rxc6 Rxc6 34.Rb5! Rc4

Black would have a clearly superior position if 34...Ke6 were possible now. 34...Rc5 35.Rxc5 bxc5 36.Bf2 d4 37.f4 was rather in White's favor.

35.Rxd5 Ra4 36.c4 Rxa2 37.Bb4+ Kg7 38.Rd2 Ra4 39.Be7 Rxc4 40.Rd7 Rxc2 41.Rxa7 Rb2 42.Rb7 f4

A clear draw would follow any waiting moves by the rook.

43.Bc5 b5 44.Rb6! ½-½

This move secures the draw in spite of Black being a pawn ahead. The active rook position combined with the powerful bishop do not permit any active utilization of the material advantage. The game was continued up to the 87th move(!) as White tried to obtain a winning attack by sacrificing his g-pawn and bringing his king to f5.

Zemgalis never played full-time after his stay in Germany from 1946 to 1951, working first at Boeing and later as a professor of mathematics at Highline Community College. He considered the following game to be the best he played in the United States.

His opponent, Vladimir Pafnutieff was a man of many talents including professional singer, tennis coach and 2300-rated master. Pafnutieff spent most of his life in and around San Francisco but for several years in the mid-1970s lived in Kirkland, Washington.

Vladimir Pafnutieff
Elmars Zemgalis [E47]
 US Open Milwaukee (R2)
 August 11, 1953

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e3 0-0 5.Bd3 d5 6.Nge2 c5 7.0-0 Nc6 8.a3 dxc4 9.Bxc4 cxd4 10.axb4

This somewhat dubious. Better was 10.exd4 Be7 11.Bf4 b6! with equality.

10...dxc3 11.bxc3 Qc7 12.Ba3 Rd8 13.Qc2 Ne5!

The black knight assumes a dominating position.

14.Ba2 b6!

It's too early for 14...Neg4 15.Ng3 h5 16.Rfd1 followed by Nf1 and adequate defense.

15.b5 Bb7 16.Ng3

White's position is dangerously exposed. The text move is directed against the threats of ...Be4 and ...Ne5-g4. In view of what happens now 16.f3 seems to be the best defense, although White still has difficulties after 16...Nc4 17.Bxc4 Qxc4 18.Be7 Rd3 etc.

16...h5! 17.h4

17.h3 h4 18.Ne2 Be4 19.Qb2 Qb7 20.f3 Bxf3 21.gxf3 Nxf3+ 22.Rxf3 Qxf3 23.Nd4 Qxe3+ 24.Qf2 Qxc3 25.Bb2 Qxh3 with an easy win.

17...Neg4! 18.Rfe1

As 18.Rfd1 loses to 18...Nxe3 19.fxe3 Qxg3 20.Qf2 Qxf2+ 21.Kxf2 Ne4+ 22.Kf1 Nxc3 23.Rxd8+ Rxd8 24.Be4 Bd5.

18...Ne4 19.Nf1



Position after 19.Nf1

Capturing on e4 loses immediately. 19.Nxe4 Qh2+ 20.Kf1 Qh1+ 21.Ke2 Qxg2 winning.

19...Rd2! 20.Nxd2 Qh2+ 21.Kf1 Ng3+ 0-1



Northwest Chess Webinars



Mondays 5-6pm via Zoom

		
WFM Chouchanik Airapetian	NM Josh Sinanan	NM Rushaan Mahajan
Mercer Island	Brier	Redmond
USCF 2104	USCF 2259	USCF 2208
<i>FIDE Chess Instructor, organizer, 18 years coaching experience</i>	<i>Professional chess coach and organizer</i>	<i>Washington State's newest National Chess Master</i>
<i>Former US Women's Championship contender</i>	<i>13 years chess teaching experience</i>	<i>Organizer of online chess tournaments</i>
<i>WA Chess Federation Director of Chess for Women and Girls</i>	<i>President, WA Chess Federation</i>	<i>Founder of Learn2Chess</i>

Entry Fee	\$10/webinar. Free entry for Northwest Chess subscribers!
Register	Register online: nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration . Max 99 attendees. Zoom info will be emailed to all registered attendees prior to each webinar.
Schedule	Arrival 4:50-5:00pm, Lecture 5:00-5:50pm, Q/A 5:50-6:00pm.
Webinar Topics	7/13 – WFM Chouchanik Airapetian “What is the best chess book? My best chess book is...” 7/20 – NM Josh Sinanan “How to be <i>Lucky</i> in chess.” 7/27 – NM Rushaan Mahajan “What it takes to Prepare for a Game.”

Questions? Josh Sinanan | WCF President | JoshSinanan@gmail.com | 206.769.3757

2020 Washington Open

By Josh Sinanan

The Washington Open, traditionally one of the Northwest's largest open chess tournaments, was held over Memorial Day weekend May 23-25. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it was moved online via Chess.com, which attracted a much more diverse mix of players given the increased accessibility and non-existent travel costs. Chess players from throughout the world including parts of Washington, Oregon, Idaho, California, Nevada, New York, New Jersey, Illinois, British Columbia, and Russia took part in the three-day chess festival. The six-round main event featured 136 players in two sections, Open and Reserve U1600. The Open section field featured a star-studded cast of titled players: CM Rushaan Mahajan (Washington's newest National Master!), WCMs Mary Kuhner and Stephanie Velea, WFM's Chouchanik Airpetian and Minda Chen, FMs Nick Raptis (Oregon) and Tanraj Sohal (British Columbia), local IM Georgi Orlov, and GMs Alex Lenderman (New York) and Maxim Lugovskoy (Russia). The tournament was hosted by Washington Chess Federation, directed by Senior TD Jacob Mayer, and organized by WCF President Josh Sinanan. An 11-round blitz tournament, featuring 46 players and two Grandmasters, rounded out the chess festivities on Monday evening!

Local chess star IM Georgi Orlov (2507, Sammamish) won the Open section with 5.5/6 after defeating top seed GM Alex Lenderman, originally from New York but now studying at Webster University in St. Louis, in the penultimate round. Four players tied for second place half-a-point back: GM Alex Lenderman (2717, St. Louis), FM Nick Raptis (2393, Portland), Pranav Sairam (2087, San Jose), and Alec Beck (1942, Tacoma). Davit Gabunia (1747, Portland) and Zachary Zhang (1863, Bellevue) split U1900 honors with four points apiece. A trio of up-and-coming junior players each finished with three points to share the U1700 prize: Maxwell Zhao (1628, Wilmette, Illinois), Veronica Guo (1683, Vancouver, British Columbia), and Felicity Wang (1667, Bellevue). Over the course of the tournament, there were upsets abound in both sections since many players have greatly improved while sheltering at home. In the Open section, none could top the first round upset of 608 points claimed by Anath Gottumukkala

(1785, Sammamish). Amay Bansal (1112, Sammamish) claimed the second largest upset in the Open section and a one-year WCF membership extension by virtue of scoring a draw against a 914-point higher-rated opponent.

Daniel Stein (1555, Bainbridge Island), the eldest in a family of six chess-playing siblings, emerged the winner of the Reserve U1600 section with an impressive 6.0/6 score! Fellow islander, Drew Bunch (1169, Bainbridge Island) finished in clear second place with 5.5/6. Four players rounded out the Reserve U1600 section prize winners, each scoring 5.0/6: Northern Brown (1480, Bellevue), Emma Li (1342, Redmond), Abhay Sankar (1089, Bothell), and Aditya Kompella (unrated, Sammamish). Arnav Joshi (313, Sammamish) won the best upset prize for his 822-point scalp, the largest in the entire tournament! Aidan Holbrook (161, Happy Valley) was certainly in a good mood after scoring his 816-point upset, good for second-place upset honors and a one-year WCF membership extension.

GM Alex Lenderman (2717, St. Louis) dominated the 46-player Blitz Championship with 10.0/11, losing only a single game to FM Nick Raptis (2392, Portland). Speed chess expert FM Steven Breckenridge (2306, Gresham) took clear second place with 9.0/11. "Plateau Power" was on full display throughout the tournament thanks to a talented group of young players from the Sammamish Plateau. Former high-school chess stud Anath Gottumukkala (1785, Sammamish) won the U2000 prize with 8.0/11. Young Nikash Vemparala (1684, Redmond) took home the U1700 prize with 7.0/11 after his Russian GM opponent forgot to show up for the last round! Stephen Willy (1137, Sammamish) played his usual aggressive brand of chess to take down the U1400 prize with 7.0/11. Young Tanush Bhatia (1091, Sammamish) captured U1100 honors with 6.0/11. Congratulations to the winners!

Players in both sections submitted annotated games as part of the brilliancy prize contest. GM Alex Lenderman was kind enough to annotate each of his games, including a high-stakes game against IM Georgi Orlov. During the game, dozens of tournament participants were "following" the game on Chess.com and sharing thoughts regarding who was pushing for the advantage in the back-and-forth match. IM Georgi Orlov, who went on to win the key game along with the tournament, has also kindly annotated the game for *Northwest Chess* readers.

Please enjoy the annotated games below! WCF is committed to running high-quality events throughout the summer in an effort to enable players from throughout the chess community to continue competing and honing their chess skills at a time when many local and national events have been canceled. We hope to see you at many more events in the future, whether they be online or in-person!

**Georgi Orlov (2507) –
Aleksandr Lenderman (2717) [B11]**
Washington Open
Chess.com, R5, May 25, 2020
[Georgi Orlov]

Washington Open was my first tournament this year, since traditional Keres Memorial in BC was canceled. I have played a few games online in preparation, but of course facing 2700 player is always a challenge. I have looked over many Alex's games in a couple of days and was expecting him to play Caro-Kann, which he plays almost exclusively.

1.e4 c6 2.Nf3 d5 3.Nc3



Position after 3.Nc3

3...Nf6

I was ready for ...Bg4 and ...dxe4 Alex played in some games, but he opted for more complicated line.

4.e5 Ne4 5.d4!?

I have seen some games with 5.Ne2 Qb6 6.d4, but it did not seem right. I always teach my students to develop pieces in the beginning, so I decided to follow my own advice. :)

5...Nxc3 6.bxc3 e6

Other options are: 6...Bg4 7.h3 Bxf3 8.Qxf3 e6; Or 6...g6 7.Bd3 Bg7.

7.Bd3 c5 8.Ng5

This aggressive move felt necessary, but I was not able to find a follow up play.

A simple solution would be 8.dxc5 Bxc5 9.Nd4 Nc6 10.Qg4! g6 11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.0-0 Qc7 13.Re1± and White has a great position, with dark-squared Bishop

having some nice options.; Another possibility, 8.0-0 c4 9.Be2 Be7 felt equal.

8...Qc7



Position after 8...Qc7

9.0-0

In the style of Mikhail Tal would be 9.Qh5! g6 (Or 9...cxd4 10.0-0) 10.Qh4 cxd4 11.0-0!? with compensation. If White does not play this way, then entire Ng5 play looks misplaced.

9...Nc6 10.Qg4 g6 11.Qf4 Bg7 12.Ba3?!

I felt later that right about here I lost my path to the initiative. Looking at this now, other moves look better, 12.a4!? c4 13.Be2 h6 14.Nf3 0-0 15.Ba3±; Or even 12.g3 h6 13.Nf3 0-0 14.Qh4 c4 15.Be2 Qd8 16.Qh3 h5 17.Bd2±.

12...h6 13.Nf3 c4 14.Be2 Qa5 15.Bb2

Here I initially planned 15.Bd6 Qxc3 16.Rfc1, but after 16...g5 17.Qg4 Bd7 18.h4 0-0-0 Black looks better.

15...Qa4 16.Bd1 Bd7 17.Be1 Bf8

It's obvious Black is doing OK here.

18.h4 Rh7 19.Nh2!?

Trying to exploit dark squares.

19...h5 20.Nf3 Be7 21.Ng5 Rg7 22.Re1 0-0-0



Position after 22...0-0-0

23.Re3

This was an interesting moment. White can actually start opening up the game for Bishops here, 23.Nxf7! Rf8 24.Nd6+ Bxd6 25.Qh6!, but after 25...Bxe5! 26.dxe5 Rgf7 I could not figure out what that position was. Further 27.Be3 Qa3

28.Qxg6 Qxc3 29.Bxh5 Rf5 looks messy and complicated.

23...Rf8 24.Rf3 a6 25.Qg3 Ba3 26.Qf4 Nd8



Position after 26...Nd8

27.Qd2

Also sensible would be 27.Bxa3 Qxa3 28.Rb1 Qxa2 29.Qc1 Qa5 30.Qb2 Qc7 31.Rf6 Be8 32.Bf3 but the breakthrough does not seem to be near. At that point I decided to play it safe and avoid taking any sharp decisions.

27...Re8 28.Bxa3 Qxa3 29.Qc1 Qxc1 30.Rxc1 Ba4 31.Rf4 Kd7 32.Kf1 Ke7 33.Ke1 Nc6 34.Kd2 b5



Position after 34...b5

35.a3

Deserved attention: 35.Bf3 Rb8 36.a3 a5 37.g3 Ke8 38.Rf6 Ne7 39.Bg2 Rd8 40.Bh3±.

35...a5 36.Ra1 Rh8 37.Be2 Nb8 38.Rh1 Nc6 39.Rh3 Rb8 40.Rhf3 Nd8 41.Bd1



Position after 41.Bd1

Basically I thought playing for g2-g4 was too risky and decided to wait until Black would try to break with ...b4.

41...Rb7 42.Rh3 Nc6 43.Rhf3 Ke8 44.Rh3 b4?!

Black went for it, though objectively draw would be a fair outcome.

45.axb4 axb4 46.cxb4 Rxb4



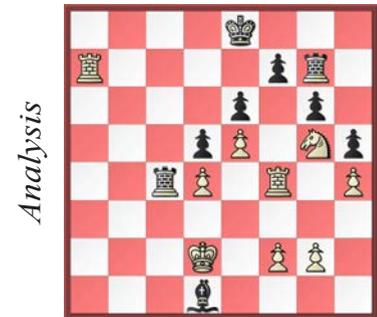
Position after 46...Rxb4

47.Ra3!

Now White threatens c2-c3, allowing his Rook to help the attack.

47...c3+ 48.Kxc3 Rc4+ 49.Kd2 Nxe5

White would win after 49...Nxd4 50.c3 Bxd1 51.Ra8+ Kd7 52.Ra7+ Ke8 53.cxd4+



Analysis

(Diagram-analysis after 53.cxd4)

53...Ra4 54.Rb7 and Rook on g7 looks sad.

50.g3?!

Initially I planned 50.Be2! Rxc2+ 51.Kd1, but something spooked me. Actually after ... 51...Rc4+ 52.Rxa4 Rxa4 53.Bb5+ Ke7 54.Bxa4 Nd3 55.Rf3 Nb2+ 56.Kc2 Nxa4 57.Rb3±. White would stand better due to much better piece placement.

50...Nc6 51.Be2?! Rxc2+ 52.Ke3



Position after 52.Ke3

52...e5! 53.dxe5 d4+ 54.Kd3

Here 54.Rxd4? Rxe2+ 55.Kxe2 Nxd4+ 56.Kd3 Ne6 57.Nxe6 Bb5+ 58.Kd4 fxe6+ would lose for White.

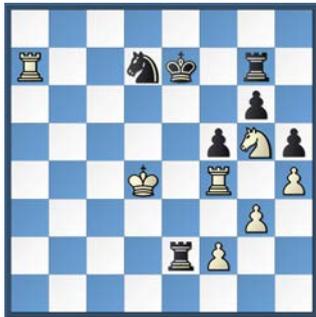
54...Nxe5+ 55.Kxd4 Rxe2 56.Rxa4

I saw this far and felt I should be better here, due to weak position of R-g7.

56...f5

56...Nc6+ 57.Kc5 Nd8 58.Rae4+ Rxe4 59.Rxe4+ Kf8= 60.Rf4 Ke7 61.Kd5±

57.Ra8+ Ke7 58.Ra7+ Nd7



Position after 58...Nd7

59.Kd3!

Now White's rook joins the attack.

59...Rb2!

An important defensive move!

60.Rd4 Ke8 61.Ra8+

61.Kc3 Rb6 62.Rc7 (62.Ra8+ Nb8=) 62...Kd8 63.Rdc4 keeps some pressure, but no obvious win. (63.Rcc4 Re7=)

61...Rb8 62.Ra5

Here better play would be 62.Rda4 Re7 63.Kd4 Kf8 64.Rxb8+ Nxb8 65.Ra8 Re8 66.Kd5 Ke7 67.Ra7+ Nd7= 68.Ra6± and White would keep some pressure.

62...Re7

62...Nf6 63.f3 Rgb7=

63.Rd6 Nf8

We were both short on time and it's hard to be precise. 63...Kf8!? 64.Kd4 Rb4+ 65.Kc3 Rb6 66.Rxb6 Nxb6 67.Ra6± Rc7+ 68.Kd4

64.f4

64.Raa6 Rd7 65.Rxd7 Nxd7 66.Re6+ Kf8=

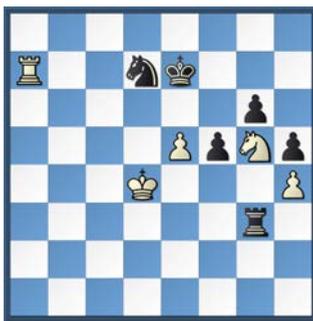
64...Rb3+ 65.Kd4 Ree3 66.Re5+ Rxe5 67.fxe5 Rxb3 68.Ra6 Nd7

68...Rb3 69.Ra8+ Ke7 70.Ra7+ Ke8 71.e6 Rb5=

69.Ra8+ Ke7 70.Ra7

[diagram top of next column]

70...Ke8?



Position after 70.Ra7

Black missed 70...Rg4+ 71.Kd5 Ra4!.

71.e6 Nf6 72.Nf7!

The key break! Now, the knight enters the battle with decisive effect.

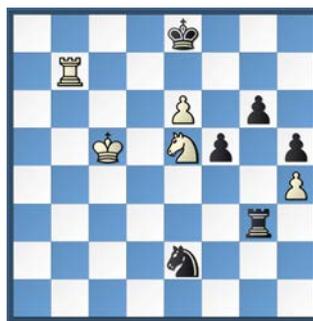
72...Ne4 73.Ne5!

Now things are getting tough for Black since Nc6 would be a mating threat.

73...Nc3

73...Rg1 74.Nc6 Kf8 75.Rf7+ Kg8 76.Ne7+ Kh8 77.Ke5!+-; 73...Rg2 74.Nc6 Kf8 75.Rd7!+- with Rd8+ and e6-e7 to follow.

74.Rb7! Ne2+ 75.Kd5 Nc3+ 76.Kd4 Ne2+ 77.Kc5



Position after 77.Kc5

77...Nf4

77...Rg1 78.Nc6 Rc1+ 79.Kd6+-

78.Kd6 Nxe6 79.Kxe6

Now the rook is out and it is a battle of three vs one.

79...Kd8 80.Nf7+ Ke8 81.Nd6+ Kf8 82.Kf6 Kg8 83.Rg7+ Kf8 84.Re7 Kg8 85.Re8+ Kh7 86.Nf7 f4 87.Rh8# 1-0

Kent McNall (1867) – Aleksandr Lenderman (2717) [D00] Washington Open Chess.com, R1, May 23, 2020 [Aleksandr Lenderman]

In round one I am playing against Kent McNall, the former president of the Washington Chess Federation, and an experienced player. I knew that my

opponent played the London from his recent Chess.com games, so I decided to go for a principled line.

1.d4 Nf6

1...d5 2.Bf4 c5

2.Bf4 d5

2...c5

3.e3

3.Nf3

3...c5

A slightly risky choice in a way.

4.c3

This was expected based on the recent games he's played. In my opinion, 4.dxc5 is the most dangerous and principled line against 3...c5, but this is more of a modern trend, and I was counting on the fact that my experienced opponent would prefer to follow "old theory" rather than "modern theory" and choose not to make the game messy. 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.Nbd2 is also a possible line.

4...Nc6 5.Bd3

Not the most common move and probably gives Black a comfortable game. 5.Nd2 is the main line here with the idea of 5...Qb6 (I might've chosen 5...Bf5 here.) 6.Qb3, and now if 6...c4 7.Qc2 Bf5? (7...g6 8.e4±) 8.Qxf5 Qxb2 9.Rb1, and obviously Black doesn't have the ...Bf5 idea with a tempo.

5...Qb6 6.Qb3 c4 7.Qxb6 axb6 8.Bc2 b5

As far as I know if Black can get ...b5 and ...b4 with a tempo quickly, his position is already for choice.

9.Nd2 b4 10.cxb4 Nxb4 11.Bb1 g6

The human move. 11...b5 12.Ne2 Nc6 is better according to the engine.

12.h3?!

This is too slow though. 12.Ne2 Nh5 (He was probably afraid of Nh5, but I didn't think it's that scary.) 13.Bc7 Kd7 14.Be5 f6 15.Bg3±

12...Bf5 13.a3 Bxb1 14.Rxb1 Nd3+ 15.Ke2 Nxf4+ 16.exf4 Bg7± 17.Ke3 0-0 18.Ne2 b5 19.g4 Rfb8 20.g5?

This move is just a serious strategic mistake. Giving up the f5-square for my knight was very uncalled for. That's the thing about pawn moves. They do not go backwards, and we have to all be very careful about when to push a pawn, since pushing pawns can either be very good or very bad. GM Sam Shankland has written books and done videos on this topic! 20.Ra1

20...Ne8 21.Nc3 e6 22.Rhc1

22.Nf3 Nd6 23.Kd2 Nf5 24.Ne2 b4;
22.h4 Nd6

22...Nd6 23.Nf3 Nf5+

Aleksandr Lenderman won by resignation. Here my opponent decided to resign since he's down a pawn with a worse position and no counterplay. However, I'm curious if I would be able to convert this against a computer. 24.Ke2

0-1

**Aleksandr Lenderman (2717) –
Michael Moore (1950) [A14]**
Washington Open
Chess.com, R2, May 23, 2020
[Aleksandr Lenderman]

This game I'm playing against a 1900+ player, Michael Moore. Based on his Chess.com games, it seemed to me that he's reasonably knowledgeable at opening theory, so I decided to go with my pet line, and avoid heavy theory.

1.Nf3 d5 2.e3 Nf6 3.c4 e6 4.Nc3 Be7 5.b3 0-0 6.Bb2 b6 7.cxd5

Typically when they play b6, I like to take on d5, since after exd5, the bishop isn't as excited to go to squares like e6, f5, or g4, with squares like b7 and c6 being weak.

7...exd5 8.d4 Bb7

8...Nbd7 9.g3 Ne4 (9...Bb7 10.Bg2 Ba6 11.Ne5) 10.Nxd5

9.g3

In this structure in my experience, the bishop is best placed on g2.

9...c5

9...a6 10.Bg2 Nbd7 11.0-0 Bd6 I think black should go for this more solid plan.

10.Bg2 Nc6

10...Ba6 11.Ne5 (11.Ne2)

11.0-0

Here I think I have a slightly better position, but here my opponent went for a very dubious plan, most likely just overlooking my reply. This is what I noticed amongst players below 2000. They often see their own ideas/tactics/creative strategical ideas very well. However, they often tend to overlook their opponent's potential replies to their creative ideas, and at least in this tournament, that gave me very comfortable play in the first three games.

11...Ba6?! 12.Re1 Nb4

Creating a simple concrete threat of Nd3, but the problem is, once I defend it in a

simple way, Black's pieces just become totally misplaced.

13.Ne5± Bd6?

Continuing a faulty plan, and this move is just a blunder.

14.a3 Bxe5 15.axb4+–

Now I'm just going to be up a piece and from here I can probably win in several different ways.

15...cxb4 16.dxe5 bxc3 17.Bxc3 Nd7 18.Rxa6 Qc8 19.Qa1 Nc5 20.Ra3 Rd8 21.Rd1 Qf5 22.Qb1 Qe6 23.b4 Ne4 24.Bxe4 dxe4 25.Rd4 Rdc8 26.Qxe4 Re8 27.Kg2 a6 28.Qf3 Ra7 29.Rd6 Qc4 30.Qc6 Qxc6+ 31.Rxc6 Rb8 32.Bd4

Aleksandr Lenderman won by resignation. To my opponent's credit though, he proved to be a very dangerous player after all. In round two in the blitz tournament, Michael played really well and creatively against me, and created lots of problems to me, where in periods of time in that game, he was even outplaying me and was better before eventually going astray. That tells me that Michael has an excellent chance to become a master if he gets into a habit of considering opponent's ideas more carefully.

1-0

**Jacob Nathan (1984) –
Aleksandr Lenderman (2717) [B13]**
Washington Open
Chess.com, R3, May 24, 2020
[Aleksandr Lenderman]

In this game, I am playing with Black against a young player Jacob Nathan around 2000, who also seemed to be decent in theory. I was Black so I just wanted to equalize and keep the tension and see what happens. I'm also by the way submitting this game for brilliancy prize :) No pun intended :)

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.Bd3 Nc6 5.c3 Qc7 6.h3 g6

I also played this game against super- GM Vitiugov (2700+ fide)

7.Nf3

Vitiugov chose 7.Qc2?!, which is an inaccuracy, since I haven't committed my knight to f6 yet. 7...f6! (the point of starting with 6...g6) rather than 7...Nf6. By the way, Aronian also played Qc2 against Howell and lost in the last round in Gibraltar. I got a much better position against Vitiugov but sadly I couldn't covert it and made a draw.

7...Bf5 8.Bxf5 gxf5 9.0-0 e6 10.Bg5 Nge7

10...h6 11.Bh4 Be7 Maybe that plan was slightly better.

11.Bf6

This move is a bit primitive I thought since I want to go Rg8 anyway, and the bishop gets either hit or traded off there. 11.Qc1!? Ng6 12.c4 was interesting.

11...Rg8 12.Ne5 Ng6 13.f4

Very ambitious play for White, again looking at his own ideas, but White is underestimating his lack of queenside development in my opinion.

13...Bg7 14.Bxg7 Rxg7 15.Na3



Position after 15.Na3

15...Kf8?!

This was the first big critical moment for me. I wanted to make sure I secure my king at all costs, but as it turned out, 0-0-0 was also fairly safe, and would gain me a lot of tempos for my attack. 15...0-0-0 16.Nb5 (16.Rf2 Nce7 (16...Rdg8 17.Nxg6 Rxg6 18.Qe2 Kb8 I wasn't sure during the game but it turned out my king is also totally safe there.)) 16...Qb6

16.Nb5

16.Kh1 Kg8 17.Nd3 Kh8 18.g4 (18.Qh5)

16...Qe7 17.Qb3?!

This is a chess sin, that most of my students tend to commit, and sometimes I'm guilty of this sin as well. Moving the queen away from your king's defense is usually very dangerous, and one has to be very aware of the dangers involving that. 17.Kh2 White should've just played solidly here.

17...Kg8 18.Qa3 Qh4↑ 19.Nd3

19.Nxg6

19...Kh8 20.Nd6 Rag8 21.Rf2 Qh5 22.Nxb7?!

Losing right away but White is probably already losing. This game is another example of the white player seeing his own ideas very well, but probably overlooking almost all of my ideas, which led to his quick demise in this game. 22.Kh2 Nh4 23.Rg1 Rg3 24.Ne1 Nxg2 25.Nxf7+ Qxf7 26.Nxg2 Qh5

22...Nh4 23.Ne1 Nxc2!

It makes sense that Black has tactics here, since Black has four attackers against White's two defenders.

24.Nxc2 Qxh3 25.c4 Rxc2+ 26.Kf1 Rxf2+ 27.Kxf2 Rg2+

Aleksandr Lenderman won by resignation. I was happy to win my first three games relatively quickly and save some energy before starting to play strong masters.

0-1

**Aleksandr Lenderman (2717) –
Tanraj Sohal (2342) [E06]**

Washington Open
Chess.com, R4, May 24, 2020
[Aleksandr Lenderman]

1.c4

This was my first master opponent in this tournament and it happened round four. I expected this to be quite a challenging game, since I checked Tanraj's games and found him to be a very solid player. This game lived up to expectations of being quite tough, and at times I had serious doubts that I'll even win the game.

1...e6 2.g3 d5 3.Bg2 Nf6 4.Nf3 Be7 5.d4 0-0 6.Nc3

Up to here everything went according to plan but now my opponent threw a wrinkle.

6...dxc4!?

6...c6 Given that my opponent is a solid player and has some experienced playing closed Catalan positions, I much more expected him to play 6...c6, and was looking forward to playing this position in this game.

7.Ne5 c5

This line is very solid, where Black tries to equalize and simplify. White has some slight pressure here, but honestly speaking I would've preferred to play such a line against someone around my level rather than someone much lower than me. If I would know he would go for this specific line, I might've also chosen a different line. 7...Nc6 The other main line here is 7...Nc6

8.dxc5 Qxd1+

8...Qc7 This is playable but probably risky if white knows this well. 9.Nxc4 Bxc5 (9...Qxc5 10.Qb3 Nc6 11.Be3 Nd4 12.Bxd4 Qxd4 13.0-0±) 10.0-0! Bxf2+ 11.Rxf2 Qxc4 12.Rxf6!! gxf6 13.Bh6 Re8? (13...Nd7±) 14.Ne4 Nd7 15.e3 f5 16.Qh5 with a winning attack. The line is not forced, and Black can of course

defend better, but this is just a sample line of what can happen if black is not careful here.

9.Nxd1 Bxc5



Position after 9...Bxc5

Here there are several options, and there are still serious theoretical debates regarding which option is better to this day.

10.0-0

I vaguely remembered some top level games after 0-0, which is why I played this line. 10.Bd2!? This is interesting and was played by Jumabaev against none other than Sergey Karjakin, the minister of defence himself, and one of the main practitioners of this line from the black side. 10.Bd2 turned out to have good surprise value. 10...Nd5 11.Nxc4 Nc6 12.Rc1 Be7 (12...b6 Possibly this equalized.) 13.0-0 Rd8 14.Ne3 Nxe3 15.Bxe3 Bd7 16.Rfd1 Be8 17.Rxd8 Rxd8 18.a3± White maintained slight pressure and later was able to win deep in the endgame in 1-0 (68) Jumabayev, R (2609)-Karjakin, S (2753) Astana KAZ 2019; 10.Ne3!? This was a try by the super-creative and big theoretician, Magnus second, Danil Dubov, also against Karjakin in the current on-going online Abbey Lindores Challenge 10...c3 11.bxc3 Nbd7 12.Nd3 Rb8 13.Nc4!? And now some very creative play by Dubov 13...b6 14.Bf4 Bb7 15.Bxb8 Bxc2 16.Bd6 Bxh1 17.Bxf8 Kxf8 18.f3 Bg2 19.Nf4± At first the engine does not like this for white, but then it realizes that it's actually quite interesting, and leads to a complex unbalanced endgame, which is probably around equal. Dubov later won this complex struggle.; 10.Nxc4 Of course, there is nothing wrong with this simple move, and perhaps we'll see more of this move in future top-level games as well. 10...Nc6 (10...Nd5 11.Be3!? Nxe3 12.Ndxe3 Bb4+ 13.Kf1 White can claim to have some slight pressure here too.) 11.Be3 Bb4+ 12.Bd2

10...Nbd7

A solid but prudent choice. Not the main line though, and I figured I should have

a slight plus after this move. 10...Nc6 This is by far the most common move, after which I vaguely remembered a game by Anish Giri against Jakovenko, where White won on demand to win the tournament. I checked in the database, and since that game, there have been many more debates in this line in top-level games. 11.Bxc6 bxc6 12.Be3 Bb6 13.Bxb6 axb6 14.Nc3 Bd7 15.Rfd1 Rfd8 16.Nxc4 b5 17.Ne5 Be8 18.Rxd8 Rxd8 19.Nd3 Kf8 20.a4 bxa4 21.Rxa4± And white later won in 1-0 (97) Giri, A (2797) -Jakovenko, D (2719) Shenzhen CHN 2019; 10...Nd5 This is also a solid option, against which I planned just Nxc4, though Ne3 is also possible probably. 11.Ne3 (11.Nxc4) 11...Bxe3 12.Bxe3 Nxe3 13.fxc3 c3 14.bxc3 Na6 15.Rab1 Rb8 16.Rf4 f6 17.Nd3 b5 18.c4 Bd7 19.Rd4 bxc4 20.Rxb8 Nxb8 21.Rxc4 Rc8 22.Rb4 Na6 23.Rb7 Rc7 24.Rb2 Kf7 25.Bb7 Nc5 26.Nxc5 Rxc5 27.Be4 Rc7 28.Kf2 h6 29.Rb8 e5 30.Bd5+ Be6 1/2-1/2 (30) Nisipeanu, L (2656)-Adams, M (2694) Batumi GEO 2019

11.Nxc4 Nd5 12.Nde3 N7f6 13.Rd1

13.b3 Perhaps this was slightly more accurate.

13...b6 14.Nxd5 Nxd5 15.Ne3

15.Ne5 I considered this too but I didn't like it as much due to... 15...Ba6 16.Nd7 Rfc8 (16...Rfd8 17.Nxc5 bxc5 My engine says that Rfd8 might've been even more accurate.) 17.Nxc5 Rxc5 18.e4 Nb4 And I felt like Black's pieces are getting too active.

15...Bxe3 16.Bxe3

16.Bxd5? Bxf2+

16...Bb7 17.Bd4 Rfd8

I should be slightly better due to two bishops, but the structure is symmetrical and I couldn't quite figure out how to best create problems.

18.a4 h6 19.a5 bxa5 20.Rxa5 a6 21.Raa1!?

21.e3 My engine says that this is the most accurate. It was not easy to figure out the best plan for White here. 21...Rd7 22.Bc5 Rad8 23.Rd4 This is one sample line where White seems to be slightly better since Black cannot easily release the pressure right away.

21...Bc6 22.e4 Nb4 23.Bc3 Nd3 24.f3 Bb5

Here Black's pieces got quite active and I started to feel like my advantage is slipping away.

25.Ba5 Rdc8 26.Bc3

26.Rd2 Originally I planned to play this but then I realized that it yields nothing due to... 26...Nc1 (26...Rc1+ 27.Rxc1 Nxc1 Is also possible.) 27.Ra3 Bc4 (27...Rab8)

26...Rd8

Here I thought forever trying to figure something out and the best practical chance I could come up with was...

27.Bf1 Nc5 28.Bxb5 axb5 29.Rxa8!? Rxa8 30.Bb4!?

Giving my opponent a choice. 30.Kf2 Ra2 31.Rd8+ Kh7 32.Ke3 Na4 fizzles out.



Position after 30.Bb4

30...Na6?

And after very precise play for 30 moves, my opponent finally errs. 30...Nb3! This was what I expected, and honestly speaking I could not find an advantage here, I was just hoping that the game wouldn't fizzle out immediately. 31.Kf2 Ra2 32.Rb1 (32.Bc3 b4 33.Bxb4 Rxb2+ 34.Ke3 Nc1) 32...Nd4 33.Bc3 Nc2 and Black should equalize easily.

31.Ra1 Nc7 32.Rxa8+! Nxa8 33.Ba5

The point. Now, temporarily the knight is boxed in, and my king is in time to get into his position. He also has to worry about his kingside pawns, so principle of two weaknesses doom him in.

33...Kf8 34.Kf2 Ke8 35.Ke3 Kd7 36.Kd4 Kc6 37.Bb4!

Thankfully I saw this before I traded rooks. I realized that this is probably decisive or at least very promising, since it is not easy for him to defend his pawns.

37...h5

37...Nc7 38.Bf8 Ne8 39.g4! was my plan to fix his pawns on the dark squares, the color of my bishop. Now he's tied down and the position is easily winning. One sample line can be... 39...Kb6 40.e5 Kc6 41.h4 Kb6 42.h5 Kc6 43.f4 Kb6 44.g5 and I break through.

38.Bf8!

Now I create weaknesses on the dark

squares.

38...g6 39.Ke5 Kd7 40.Kf6 Ke8 41.Bc5 Nc7

Looks like the knight gets out, but in fact he's still boxed in. The white pieces are dominating the black pieces, classical example of domination in chess.

42.b4 e5

There was nothing else. 42...Na8 43.h4 Nc7 44.g4 Here I will either win with the passed h-pawn or will win the h5-pawn, and will breakthrough easily.

43.Kxe5

Now the rest is a matter of simple technique, since I'm up a pawn, and my pieces are still better.

43...Ne6 44.Be3 Ke7 45.Kd5 Kd7 46.f4 f6 47.h3 Nc7+ 48.Kc5 Ne8 49.Bd4 Nd6 50.Kd5 Ne8 51.f5

Still not too late to blunder with a hasty 51.e5?? Nc7+ 52.Ke4 (52.Kc5 Ne6+ 53.Kd5 Nc7+=) 52...f5+ 53.Kd3 Ne6 and it's a blockade/fortress.

51...g5 52.e5 Nc7+ 53.Kc5 fxe5 54.Bxe5 Ne8 55.Kxb5 g4 56.hxg4 hxg4 57.Kc5 Ke7 58.b5 Nf6 59.Bxf6+ Kxf6 60.b6 Kxf5 61.b7 Ke4 62.b8Q

Aleksandr Lenderman won by resignation. I was very happy to have won this game, it really felt like a grind, and I'm happy that I was able to create just enough problems against a very solid opponent and eventually induce an error, of which I was able to take full advantage of.

1-0

Georgi Orlov (2507) – Aleksandr Lenderman (2717) [B11]
Washington Open
Chess.com, R5, May 25, 2020
[Aleksandr Lenderman]

This was round five against very strong and experienced local Washington player, Georgi Orlov, which ultimately turned out to be the decisive game in the fight for first place. He is very versatile in his openings due to his experience and it was very hard for me to predict which line he would go for. I think when Orlov was at his peak he was capable of playing at a strong GM level and probably was GM strength. As this game shows, he is still capable of playing at a 2600+ fide level on a good day.

1.e4 c6 2.Nf3 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6

I decided to go for a sharper fighting line based on an earlier game I saw from him.

4.e5 Ne4 5.d4!?

The first mini-surprise. It's not the main line but certainly a very plausible continuation. In one game earlier he played 5.Bd3. I was hoping he would not expect ...Nf6 from me as much, but in retrospect maybe it was a risky opening choice in a game where a draw was a reasonable result for me. 5.Ne2 Qb6 6.d4 e6 is the modern main line these days.

5...Nxc3

As far as I could remember, this is the engine's top choice and the theory here. 5...Qa5; 5...Bf5 can be reasonable alternatives.; 5...Bg4?! 6.h3 Bh5 7.e6 however is very good for White.

6.bxc3 e6

6...c5 Perhaps, there is something to be said about starting with c5. At least, that would eliminate the plan that Orlov chose in the game. However, it allows some other possibilities for White potentially. 7.dxc5 e6 8.Rb1!? Bxc5 9.Bd3

7.Bd3

7.Rb1!?

7...c5 8.Ng5!?

As far as I could tell, it's a novelty. Honestly speaking, I was not very happy to see this move at the board, since I was wondering what I should do against it, and it already gives me some difficult choices, and puts me on my toes, and makes me calculate right away.

8...Qc7

8...Nc6 was my main candidate move apart from the move I chose. 9.Bxh7!? I was actually slightly afraid of this. (9.Qg4 Also might be possible.; 9.Qh5 g6 10.Qf3 Qe7 11.Qf4 as well as this.) 9...Be7 (9...cxd4?? 10.Nxf7! is one of the points of Bxh7 10...Kxf7 11.Qh5+ Ke7 12.Bg5+) 10.h4 Qa5 11.Bd2 cxd4 12.cxd4 Qa4 13.c3 Qxd1+ 14.Kxd1 g6 15.h5 leads to a complicated mess but White might end up better after... 15...Kf8 16.Nxe6+! Bxe6 17.Bh6+ Ke8 18.hxg6 fxg6 19.Bg7 Rxh7 20.Rxh7 Rd8 21.Ke2±; 8...h6? Black has to be careful. For example this move already loses to... 9.Qh5 g6 (9...Qe7 10.Nxf7 Qxf7 11.Bg6+-) 10.Bxg6 fxg6 11.Qxg6+ Kd7 12.Nf7 Qa5 13.0-0+-; 8...Be7?! 9.h4!↑ is also very dangerous for Black.; 8...c4?! 9.Bxh7 Be7 10.h4± and White just wins a pawn.; 8...cxd4?! 9.cxd4 Bb4+ 10.Kf1 Bc3 11.Rb1 Bxd4 12.Bb5+

9.0-0

9.Bxh7 cxd4 10.cxd4 Qc3+ I was hoping here I can do this.; 9.Nxh7?? of course is bad due to 9...c4 10.Nxf8 cxd3.

9...Nc6

9...c4 probably this was better to ensure that the queen doesn't get into the game for White. 10.Be2 (10.Bxh7 Be7 11.f4 g6! Here Black will win a piece and possibly for not enough compensation, though this might be a practical try for White. (11...Bxg5?! 12.fxg5 Rxf7?? 13.g6 fxg6 14.Qg4))

10.Qg4 g6

10...h6 11.Nh7 (11.Qh5)

11.Qf4 Bg7 12.Ba3?!

Probably not the most dangerous. 12.h4 h6 13.Nf3 c4 14.Be2 f5; 12.a4 c4 13.Be2 h6 14.Nf3 0-0 15.h4 White might be a bit better.

12...h6 13.Nf3 c4 14.Be2 Qa5 15.Bb2

15.Bd6 Qxc3 is probably not enough for White.

15...Qa4

Here I was fairly confident that I was out of the woods. However, it turned out that there was still strategic danger for me in this position.

16.Bd1 Bd7 17.Bc1?!



Position after 17.Bc1

17.h3 This was slightly more accurate.; 17.h4

17...Bf8?!

Not taking advantage of one opportunity in this game I had to be better. 17...g5! Unfortunately I did not consider this option, since I just wanted to play safely, and focus on playing slower and stabilizing. However, this was a serious opportunity for me to gain some initiative which I just didn't see. The lesson therefore is, to always look for an initiative opportunity. Just ask a player like Danil Dubov! :) I guess I was just so focused on not getting attacked, since I was just under danger to my king, that I failed to readjust. 18.Qg3 (18.Qe3 0-0-0 19.Nd2 f6 20.exf6 Bxf6 21.Bh5 Kb8 22.f4 Ka8; 18.Qd2 0-0-0) 18...0-0-0 19.h3 f5 20.exf6 Bxf6 Black has serious attacking chances on the kingside.

18.h4 Rh7?!

Another inaccuracy. I just missed White's plan here unfortunately. 18...Be7 19.Nh2 g5

19.Nh2 h5?

This is probably just a strategical mistake, since from here on, my structure is fixed, and I will never have winning chances from here on, and it's going to be more about holding the position. I shut down all my counterplay. 19...Be7 This move would've been quite successful at stopping Ng4 also. 20.Ng4 (20.g3 g5; 20.Qg3 0-0-0 21.Ng4 Rg8 22.Nf6 Bxf6 23.exf6 Qa5) 20...Bxh4

20.Nf3 Be7

20...Ne7 Maybe this was interesting.

21.Ng5 Rg7 22.Re1 0-0-0 23.Re3 Rf8 24.Rf3 a6?!

I should've thought about improving my knight on c6. 24...Bd8 25.Re3 Ne7

25.Qg3 Ba3 26.Qf4 Nd8?!

26...Be7 I should've just stopped Qf6. Here I should not lose.

27.Qd2 Re8 28.Bxa3 Qxa3 29.Qc1 Qxc1 30.Rxc1

I really misjudged this position here. I thought only I can be better here, but in fact, I'm just worse since I cannot make easy progress on the queenside, and White does have a long-term plan of breaking through on the kingside.

30...Ba4 31.Rf4 Kd7 32.Kf1 Ke7 33.Ke1 Nc6 34.Kd2 b5 35.a3 a5 36.Ra1 Rh8 37.Be2 Nb8 38.Rh1 Nc6 39.Rh3 Rb8 40.Rhf3 Nd8 41.Bd1 Rb7 42.Rh3 Nc6 43.Rhf3 Ke8 44.Rh3 b4?!

Here I decided to go for a breakthrough after a lot of shuffling since I thought otherwise he will just play g4 and breakthrough. In retrospect maybe it was not the best idea here. 44...Ne7; 44...Ke7

45.axb4 axb4 46.cxb4 Rxb4 47.Ra3!

If I recall correctly, I might've missed this move.

47...c3+ 48.Kxc3 Rc4+ 49.Kd2 Nxe5

I was lucky I had this resource which still keeps me in the game.

50.g3?!

50.Be2 This was probably just winning. We both missed this. 50...Rxc2+ 51.Kd1 Rc4+ 52.Rxa4 Rxa4 53.Bb5+±

50...Nc6 51.Be2 Rxc2+ 52.Ke3 e5

I thought after this I was out of the woods, but unfortunately my position is still unpleasant.

53.dxe5 d4+ 54.Kd3 Nxe5+ 55.Kxd4

Rxe2

55...f6 Perhaps this was an interesting option.

56.Rxa4 f5 57.Ra8+ Ke7 58.Ra7+ Nd7 59.Kd3?!

59.Kc3! According to the engine, this was more precise, but at this point we are both under 10 minutes I think.

59...Rb2 60.Rd4

60.Rfa4 Here this was better, with a threat of Rxd7 60...Ke8 61.Kc3 Rxf2 62.R4a6!±

60...Ke8 61.Ra8+ Rb8

61...Nb8

62.Ra5 Re7 63.Rd6 Nf8 64.f4 Rb3+ 65.Kd4 Ree3 66.Re5+ Rxe5 67.fxe5 Rxc3 68.Ra6 Nd7 69.Ra8+ Ke7 70.Ra7

Up to here maybe I had better practical ways of playing, but objectively I was still equal until this moment. However, here unfortunately I cracked under pressure and made the decisive mistake.

70...Ke8?

70...Rg4+! 71.Kd5 Ra4! I missed this very nice defensive, after which I would be out of danger.

71.e6 Nf6?!

71...Rg4+ 72.Kd5 Nb6+! 73.Kc5 Na4+! 74.Kd6 Rd4+! 75.Ke5 Nc3!! and Black still has holding chances. But this study-like chance was almost impossible to find below five minutes on the clock after four hours of play.

72.Nf7!

From here on, Orlov plays really precisely down to one minute on the clock.

72...Ne4 73.Ne5

73.Ke5

73...Nc3 74.Rb7 Ne2+ 75.Kd5 Nc3+ 76.Kd4 Ne2+ 77.Kc5

Repeating once but then correctly finding the win.

77...Nf4 78.Kd6 Nxe6 79.Kxe6 Kd8 80.Nf7+ Ke8 81.Nd6+

81.Rb8#

81...Kf8 82.Kf6 Kg8 83.Rg7+ Kf8 84.Re7 Kg8 85.Re8+ Kh7 86.Nf7 f4 87.Rh8#

Georgi Orlov won by checkmate. A very painful loss for me in a situation where even a draw would be ok. I think I was just in an in-between mindset between being ok with a draw, but also at times trying to be ambitious and I could not find the balance. That caused me some hesitation in the early middle game, the part that I

really misplayed. In the endgame, Orlov played really well and showed a very good technique. In my opinion, impressive win for Orlov, showing everyone that he's still very dangerous even for 2600+ GMs. Hearty Congratulations to him on the tournament win!

1-0

Aleksandr Lenderman (2717) – Patrick Huang (2247) [E94]
Washington Open
Chess.com, R6, May 25, 2020
[Aleksandr Lenderman]

This game was against a young talented player, Patrick Huang from Canada. It was very hard for me to play this game after a very tough, brutal loss against Orlov. I was tired, in a bad mood, and couldn't win the tournament anymore. It was hard for me to play this game. However, I was very pleasantly surprised that Patrick did not show that much resistance, played quite quickly, and blundered very early, which simplified my task. If Patrick would beat me (being wounded), he would tie for first with Orlov.

1.d4 g6 2.c4 Bg7 3.Nf3 d6 4.Nc3 Nd7

4...e5 This is also a line.; 4...Bg4 as well as this.

5.e4 e5 6.Be2 exd4



Position after 6...exd4

I think this is already slightly inferior here. 6...Ngf6; 6...Ne7

7.Nxd4 Ngf6 8.0-0 0-0 9.Be3 Re8 10.f3 Nf8

10...Nc5 11.Qd2 a5

11.Qd2 Ne6 12.Rfd1

12.Nxe6 Bxe6 13.Rad1 was slightly better than what I did.; 12.Rad1 Nxd4 13.Bxd4 b6 14.b3 Bb7 15.Nd5±

12...Nxd4 13.Bxd4 Nd7

13...b6 14.Rac1 a5 was more solid for Black perhaps.

14.Bxg7 Kxg7 15.Qd4+ Qf6?

A careless blunder. That's why in chess, it

is very important to always consider and visualize (blunder check) before making a move, making sure that the opponent cannot do something unpleasant to you, and that you're not leaving something behind.

16.Nb5+—

Now I win a better with a better position. From here maybe I didn't play perfectly, but it was more than enough to win.

16...Qxd4+ 17.Rxd4 c5 18.Rxd6

18.Rd5

18...Re7 19.Rad1 b6 20.f4 Nf8 21.Bf3 Bb7 22.Nc3

22.f5!?

22...f5 23.exf5 gxf5 24.Nd5 Bxd5

24...Rf7 25.Re1

25.R1xd5 Rf7 26.Re5 Rb8 27.Bh5 Ng6 28.Bxg6 hxg6 29.Ree6

Aleksandr Lenderman won by resignation. In my opinion the resignation was slightly premature. For example, after Kh7 Rxg6 Re8, Black can still hope for some counterplay, but of course White is winning. However, I wasn't 100% sure I would win this against a computer. :) At least I was very happy to finish this tournament with a nice quick win, and that kind of eased the bitter pill I had to swallow the round before, knowing that at least I will share second.

1-0

Nihanth Tatikonda (1226) – Florina Zhu (1506)
Washington Open (Reserve)
Chess.com, R5, May 25, 2020
[Nihanth Tatikonda]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Nf3 0-0 6.Be2 e5 7.0-0 Nc6 8.d5 Ne7 9.Ne1

I knew how to play the King's Indian since I also play it.

9...Nd7 10.Nd3 f5 11.Bd2 f4+=

I was surprised at this move.

12.f3 g5 13.b4 h5 14.c5 Nf6 15.h3 h4 16.a3

I was considering a4 but I didn't want to rush.

16...Nh5 17.Be1 Ng3 18.Bxg3 hxg3 19.b5 Ng6 20.Re1 Nh8 21.c6 b6 22.a4 Bh6 23.a5 g4?!+—

I did not understand what this move does after 24. fxg4.

24.fxg4 Qh4 25.Bf3 Rf7 26.axb6 cxb6 27.Na4 Rb8 28.Re2 Rg7 29.Rea2 Qd8

30.Nc3 Ra8 31.Ra4

My plan was to maneuver the knight to a6, getting ready for c7 later in the game.

31...Rc7 32.Na2 Nf7 33.Nab4 Bf8 34.Na6 Bxa6

I was fine with the bishop being traded, as my opponent will not have any counter play on the kingside.

35.Rxa6 Ng5 36.Ne1

I didn't want to give my opponent any chances, so I defended.

36...Rh7 37.R1a2!!



Position after 37.R1a2

My plan was to make a powerful Alekhine's gun on the a-file.

37...Qc7 38.Qa1 Re7?! 39.Qb2 Kf7?

I do not think my opponent saw the move h4, completely crushing Black's position.

40.h4 Nh7 41.h5 Ke8 42.Nd3 Kd8 43.Nb4 Kc8 44.R6a4

My plan was 44... Kd8 45. Na6 Qc8 46. c7+.

44...Kd8 45.Na6 Qc8 46.c7+ Ke8 47.Qc2 Nf6 48.g5 Nd7 49.Bg4!! Qb7 50.Nb8!! Rxb8??

50...Nc5 51.Rxa7 Rxa7 52.c8Q+ Qxc8 53.Bxc8

51.Bxd7+ Rxd7 52.cxb8Q+ Qxb8 53.Qc6 Kd8?! 54.Qxd7+!!

After 54...Kxd7 my plan was 55.Rxa7+!! Ke8 56.Ra8 Qxa8 59.Rxa8+ and the position is simplified to an easily winning endgame.

54...Kxd7 55.Rxa7+ Ke8 56.Ra8 Qxa8 57.Rxa8+ Kf7 58.Rb8 Be7 59.h6 Kg6 60.Rxb6 Bxg5 61.Rxd6+ Kh7 62.b6 Be7 63.Rd7 Kxh6 64.Rxe7 Kg5 65.b7 1-0

Ethan Chan (1566) – Stephen Willy (1137) [C50]
Washington Open (Reserve)
Chess.com, R5, May 25, 2020
[Stephen Willy]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.0-0 Nf6 5.d3 d6 6.c3 Bg4

I think I should have castled instead.

7.Nbd2 d5 8.exd5 Nxd5 9.Re1 0-0 10.h3 Bh5 11.Ne4 Be7 12.Ng3 Bg6 13.Nxe5 Nxe5 14.Rxe5 Nb6 15.Qf3 Nxc4 16.dxc4 c6

I could have done Bd6 and then got my rook on the open e-file instead of this move.

17.Bf4 Bd6 18.Ree1 Bxf4 19.Qxf4 Qb6 20.b3 Rad8 21.h4 h6

I should have done ...h5 and blocked the pawn from attacking my bishop, later limiting my king from the h7-square.

22.h5 Bh7

Instead of this move, I should have done Rde8 and attempted to trade rooks. If the white rook on e7 moves to d7, then attempt to trade rooks again.

23.Re7 Rd3 24.Rae1 Qd8 25.Rxb7



Position after 25.Rxb7

25...Rxc3

Instead of this move, I should have played ...Rd1 and forced the trade of rooks, preventing the next few dangerous moves.

26.Ree7 Rxc3

At this point, my position is very bad. I am almost certain to lose. I played this move with the intent to remove the knight on g3, with the idea of going Qd1+ followed by Qxh5+, while also defending the g7-pawn by the rook, and defending f7-pawn by the queen after the checks. In my opinion, this was a critical move that changed the direction of the game. In this position, Ethan could have played Rbd7 instead of Rxf7, which would have stopped my queen from calling check to his king at d1.

27.Rxf7 Qd1+ 28.Kh2 Qxh5+ 29.Kxg3 Qg6+ 30.Kh4 Qg5+ 31.Kh3 Qh5+

If I had taken the white queen, Ethan could have played Rxc3+, followed by Kh8, followed by Rxh7, followed by Rbg7#.

32.Kg3 Qg6+ 33.Kf3??

Kf3 is a blunder because of Qxf7 and White is forced to trade Queen.

33...Qxf7

I could not do Rxf7 because Rb8+ would have been force checkmate in a few moves.

34.Rxf7 Rxf7 35.c5 Rxf4+

c5 was a good move because it allowed the white king to move forward, while forcing the black king to stay behind. My move was OK, but I should have played g5 to attack the queen in another way, giving either the black king a move forward, or not losing the black rook.

36.Kxf4 Kf7 37.Ke5 Ke7 38.b4 h5 39.a4 Bd3 40.Kd4 Bf1 41.g3 g5 42.Ke4 h4 43.gxh4 gxh4 44.Kf4 a6 45.Kg4 h3 46.Kg3 Ke6 47.Kh2 Kf5 48.Kg1 Bg2 49.b5



Position after 49.b5

49...axb5

This was a game changing blunder from me. I should have played cxb5 instead of axb5. Then I could take c6 with the Bishop if white ever played it, and prevented White from promoting a pawn to a queen.

50.a5 b4 51.a6 b3 52.a7 b2 53.a8Q b1Q+ 54.Kh2 Qh1+ 55.Kg3 Qg1 56.Qf8+ Ke4

From this point, Ethan defended his position easily to force a draw. If there is a way for me to win from this location, I could really like to learn!

57.Qe7+ Kd3 58.Qe3+ Kc4 59.Qe2+ Kxc5 60.Qe3+ Kc4 61.Qe2+ Kc3 62.Qe3+ Kb2 63.Qd2+ Kb3 64.Qd3+ Kb4 65.Qd2+ Kb5 66.Qd3+ Kb6 67.Qb3+ Kc5 68.Qe3+ Kd5 69.Qd2+ Ke4 70.Qf4+ Kd5 71.Qd2+ Ke6 72.Qh6+ Kf5 73.Qf4+ Kg6 74.Qd6+ Kf5 75.Qf4+ Ke6 76.Qh6+ Kd5 77.Qd2+

Game drawn by repetition.

1/2-1/2

Patrick Huang (2247) – Nicholas Whale (2065) [A45]
Washington Open
Chess.com, R5, May 25, 2020
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.d4 Nf6 2.Bf4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.e3 Bg7 5.h4 c5 6.Nb5 Na6 7.c3 c4 8.b3 cxb3

9.axb3 Bd7?

9...0-0

10.Rxa6! bxa6 11.Nc7+ Kf8 12.Nxa8 Qxa8 13.Bxa6 Qc6 14.Qa1



Position after 14.Qa1

A convenient square for the queen.

14...Ne4 15.Ne2 f6 16.c4 Qb6 17.0-0

17.Qa3 is very good as well, but all the complications turn out in White's favor here.

17...Nd2 18.c5 Qxb3 19.Rd1 Nc4 20.Rb1 Qc2 21.Bxc4 dxc4 22.Rb2 Qd3 23.Qxa7 c3 24.Nxc3 Qxc3 25.Rb8+ Kf7

25...Be8 26.Bd6!, among others, mates nicely: 26...exd6 27.Qd7.

26.Rxh8 Bxh8 27.Qxd7 Qe1+ 28.Kh2 Qxf2 29.Bg3 Qxe3 30.c6 f5 31.Qd5+ Qe6 32.Qxe6+ Kxe6 33.d5+ 1-0

Nicholas Whale (2065) – Rushman Mahajan (2208) [B14]
Washington Open
Chess.com, (R6), May 25, 2020
[Nicholas Whale]

After an up-and-down first five games featuring plenty of luck, I found myself with 3.5 points going into the final round. Having just come off an abysmal defeat and needing a win to have any chance at some prize money, I wasn't too optimistic. But I resolved to give it my best shot, and the beauty of our game is that anything can happen...

1.e4

I had tried the Reti in my last game against Rushman and wound up with an awful position, but then successfully battled back into a winning rook ending only to miscalculate terribly with the end in sight, letting him escape with a draw. I had no interest in a repeat performance.

1...c6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.c4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e6

The most solid line Another option is 5...Nc6, giving the light-squared bishop some more freedom 6.Nf3 Bg4 and here I had planned (Uncle Vik tried the rare

6...Bf5!? against me last year, when I promptly fell into a trap by treating it the same as ...Bg4: 7.cxd5?! Nxd5 8.Qb3?? Ndb4! and Black wins material thanks to the threats on c2, although I somehow won anyway) 7.Be2 to keep pieces on the board (The main line, 7.cxd5 Nxd5 8.Qb3 Bxf3 9.gxf3 e6 10.Qxb7 Nxd4 11.Bb5+ Nxb5 12.Qc6+ Ke7 13.Qxb5 Qd7 14.Nxd5+ exd5 15.Qxd7+ Kxd7 leads to a boring, equal endgame that I wanted no part of.)

6.Nf3 Be7

Again, the most solid move 6...Bb4 is the more active approach, and somewhat more common.

7.Bd3

Avoiding the usual 7.cxd5 Nxd5 8.Bd3 to maintain more flexibility...

7...a6?!

...which immediately pays off. This move plans a ...b5 push after trading pawns, but it makes my reply much stronger 7...dxc4 8.Bxc4 a6 is the right move order if Black wanted to play like this, although there are other options too.

8.c5!



Position after 8.c5

This can sometimes create a weakness if Black is able to play ...b6 and ...a5 to attack the pawn, but after his last move this goal is harder to achieve.

8...0-0

8...b6 is probably nonetheless best, still trying to go after the pawn, but it costs a tempo after 9.b4 a5 and gives me the option of 10.Bf4!? axb4 11.Nb5 which looks rather unpleasant for Black, though perhaps not as much as the game.

9.Bf4

I decided to hold off on the natural 9.0-0 in the hopes of launching an attack on the kingside...

9...Nc6 10.a3

Keeping the knight out of b4, and also maybe looking to play it myself and gain even more space, which encouraged

Rushaan's next move.

10...a5 11.Nb5!

Well, don't mind if I do!

11...Ne8?!



Position after 11...Ne8

This felt like an overreaction; while the knight is definitely extremely annoying, I didn't have any immediate threats, and Black's pieces are getting really tangled.

12.Qc2

Aiming at the king.

12...g6?!

Too weakening 12...h6 is better, but still not great.

13.h4!

And here we go!

13...Na7??

Desperately trying to get rid of the knight, but giving up yet another tempo. After this, Black is already lost, as my kingside attack is surprisingly both fast and strong.

14.Nxa7 Rxa7 15.h5!

It seems like there should be a defense, but in fact nothing works for Black.

15...f5

Played after a 20-minute think and accompanied by a draw offer, but I hadn't gotten a position this fun in months...

16.hxg6 hxg6 17.Qd2!

I was very proud of this move, preventing ...g5 to close things down a bit and also preparing the straightforward yet effective idea of moving the f4-bishop out of the way and then playing Qh6.

17...Bf6 18.Rh6

Going for the vulnerable g6-pawn. Stockfish prefers 18.Bb8!? Ra8 19.Be5 and meets 19...Bxe5 20.Nxe5 g5, the line I was trying to avoid, with simply 21.Rh5 and Black is completely helpless.

18...Kf7?

Rushaan had another long think before this move, but there's no defense by this point. The best Stockfish has is 18...b6

19.Rxg6+ Rg7 20.Rxg7+ Bxg7, which is still almost +5.

19.Be5!

I also spent a long time here trying to decide between the myriad winning lines available- it turns out that pretty much any move that doesn't hang something big is still crushing: Stockfish still likes 19.Bb8; 19.Ne5+ Bxe5 20.Bxe5 Nf6 21.Qg5; 19.Bg5 Bxg5 20.Nxg5+ Kg8 21.0-0-0; 19.Ng5+ Bxg5 20.Bxg5 Nf6 21.Qf4; 19.0-0-0 Rg8 20.Rdh1 ... you get the picture. It was hard to choose between all of these, but the line I eventually went with is more than enough too.

19...Rg8

Meeting one idea, Bxf6 Qxf6 Ne5+ followed by taking on g6, but I have plenty more!

20.Rh7+ Rg7 21.Qh6!



Position after 21.Qh6

Shades of the famous Tal-Koblencs game.

21...Rxb7

If some waiting move like 21...b6 I can play, among others, 22.Ng5+ Bxg5 23.Rxg7+ Nxg7 24.Qxg7+ Ke8 25.Bb5+ Bd7 26.Qg8+ Ke7 27.Bd6+ Kf6 28.Qxd8+

22.Qxh7+ Bg7

This gets mated. But neither 22...Kf8 23.Qh6+ Kg8 24.Qxg6+ Kf8 25.0-0-0 followed by Rh1-h7 and/or Bb5xe8; nor 22...Ng7 23.Ng5+ Ke7 (23...Bxg5 24.Qxg7+ Ke8 25.Bb5+ Bd7 26.Qg8+ Ke7 27.Bd6+ again) 24.Qxg6 Qf8 25.Bd6+ offer any hope.

23.Bxg7

Finally clearing out the bishop, to allow my knight to come in and wrap things up.

23...Nxg7 24.Ne5+

Wherever the king goes, it's mate in a few moves, so Rushaan resigned. A very nice way to end the tournament!

1-0

Seattle Seafair Open



July 18-19, 2020



Online via 

Format: A 5-round Swiss in one Open section. Co-hosted by Seattle Chess Club & Washington Chess Federation. This is a Northwest Chess Grand Prix event.

Entry fee: \$50 by 7/11, \$60 after. SCC members will receive a \$15 refund upon completion of the event. Free entry for GM/IM/WGM or US Chess Rating 2400+.

Rounds: Sat. 9am, 1pm, 5pm. Sun. 10am, 2pm.

Time Control: G/90; +10. **Late Default:** 10 minutes.

Prize Fund: (\$2,000 based on 60 paid entries)
1st \$300, 2nd \$250, 3rd 200, 4th \$150, 5th \$125
1st 2200/U2000/U1800/U1600/U1400/U1200:
\$100

Unrated Prize: \$100, Biggest upset: \$25/round
Annotated Brilliancy Prize Competition: 1st
\$100, 2nd \$50. Submit one annotated game that you consider to be *Brilliant*. A panel of judges will select the winner.

Rating: Higher of US Chess July 2020 supplement or foreign ratings used at TD discretion. US Chess unrated. NWSRS rated.

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

Memberships: Current US Chess and WCF membership/Northwest Chess subscription required. Memberships must be paid at time of registration. A Chess.com and Zoom account are required.

Registration: Please register online at nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration. Registration, payment, and FPA **deadline Fri. 7/17 @ 5pm**. \$15 late fee for registrations or payments accepted after the deadline. Unpaid players will receive a zero-point bye for round 1.

Procedure: Pairings will be released prior to the start of each round. Games will be started automatically by the TD in the [Live Chess](#) area. Players must report their result to the TD upon completion of the game.

Fair Play Agreement: All players and parents (if U18) are required to sign the [WCF Fair Play Agreement](#) prior to the start of the tournament. All players will be monitored by Zoom during the games. WCF's Fair Play Committee will review any suspicious games on a case-by-case basis. Cheating of any kind is strictly prohibited.

Tournament Director: Jacob Mayer, WCF Scholastic Director, 206.697.5625, Jacob.MayerChess@gmail.com

Questions? Josh Sinanan, WCF President, 206.769.3757, JoshSinanan@gmail.com

Northwest Chess Open

By Jacob Mayer

The Washington Chess Federation hosted the Northwest Chess Open on May 9-10 on Chess.com, with Jacob Mayer acting as TD for the event. The tournament attracted nearly 40 participants, with players participating from Washington, Idaho, Oregon, and even British Columbia, and raised over \$1,000 for *Northwest Chess* magazine! The five-round event featured a G/60;+10 time control and seemed to have very positive feedback from players who are relatively new to online events. And a special thank you to all the moms out there as we celebrated Mother's Day during the event. I would like to thank my own mother for being alright with me working on this day. I cannot thank her enough in life for giving me the best chances to succeed; both on and off the chess board!

Despite some early upsets, the event saw most of the top seeds go into the final round as part of a six-way tie with 4.0/5. In the final round, Washington Junior Advait Vijayakumar, recently named the Washington-State representative for the Dewain Barber National Tournament of Middle School Champions, upset top-seed Thanh Tien Nguyen to secure his share of first. Oregon resident Michael Moore defeated expert-player Harry Bell to secure his share of first. And Washington Junior Nikash Vemparala upset Corey Bloom to make it a three-way tie for first place. Congratulations to them all for their final-round upset and finishing in a tie for first with 5.0/6!

Maxwell Zhao finished in first place in the U1800 category and was rewarded a one-year *Northwest Chess* extension for his efforts. Abhay Sankar won the U1200 prize with a performance rating of a Class A player (way to go!) and will be awarded a one-year *Northwest Chess* extension.

Abhay frequently noted to the TD how excited he was with his strong play, and his results reflect that. Daniel Stein, Vidip Kona, and Don Hack (playing from home in British Columbia!) all finished tied for the U1600 prize and will all receive one-year extensions as well! Aditya Kompella won the prize for top unrated finisher and will receive a one-year membership to *Northwest Chess*. Thank you to all our participants, we encourage you to read and submit games to *Northwest Chess*, and be as active a part of this wonderful chess community as you are able!

**Advait Vijayakumar (2026) –
Thanh Nguyen (2027) [D71]**
Northwest Chess Open
Chess.com, R6, May 10, 2020
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.g3 Bg7 4.Bg2 d5 5.cxd5 Nxd5 6.Nf3 c5

6...Nb6 7.Nc3 Nc6 8.e3 0-0 9.0-0 Re8 10.d5 Na5 11.Nd4 Bd7 12.e4 is quite well-traveled.

7.dxc5 Qa5+ 8.Nfd2 Qxc5 9.Nb3 Qb4+ 10.Bd2 Qd6 11.Na3

Preventing ...Bxb2 with a threatened fork on c4, but the b2-capture isn't on yet in any case. For example: 11.0-0 Bxb2?? 12.Qc2 Bxa1 13.Qxc8+ Qd8 14.Qxd8+ Kxd8 15.Bxd5, hitting both b7 and a1, with crushing material advantage whether it's two extra pieces or three minors vs only one rook.

11...0-0 12.0-0 Be6 13.Nc4 Qc7 14.Rc1 Rd8??

14...Nc6 is a better chance to hang on, though White has lasting pressure.

15.Ba5! Nb6 16.Nxb6 Rxd1 17.Rxc7?

17.Rfxd1! gobbles more than sufficient material for the queen, in those lines that Black tries to hold the lady. 17...Nc6 (17...axb6 18.Rxc7+-; 17...Qe5 18.Bc3 Qxe2 19.Rd8+ Bf8 20.Nxa8 Nc6 21.Bxc6 bxc6 22.Re1+-) 18.Nxa8 Qe5 (18...Qb8 19.Rxc6 bxc6 20.Rd8+ Qxd8 21.Bxd8+-)

19.Bxc6 bxc6 20.Rd8+ Bf8 21.Bc3+-

17...Rxf1+ 18.Kxf1 axb6 19.Bxb7 Ra7

19...Rxa5! 20.Nxa5 bxa5∞

20.Bxb6 Rxa2 21.Rxe7 Bf8 22.Re8 Nd7 23.Be3?!

23.Rxe6 fxe6 24.Bd4∞

23...Bxb3 24.Bh6 Ra1+

24...f6 25.Rd8 (25.Bc6 Kf7) 25...Ra7!

26.Rxd7 Ra1+ 27.Kg2 Bxb6±

25.Kg2 Ra5! 26.Bc6

26.e4!?

26...Bd5+ 27.Bxd5 Rxd5 28.Rd8 Rh5?!

28...Rb5! 29.g4 f6 30.Bd2 Rb7 31.Bc3 Kf7±

29.Bf4 Nc5?

29...Rd5±

30.g4! Ne6

30...Rh4 31.Kg3 Rxb2 32.Kxb2 Ne6 33.Rxf8+ Kxf8 34.Be5±

31.Rxf8+! Kxf8 32.Bd6+ Ke8 33.gxh5 gxh5

Now White's technique proves up to the task.

34.Be5 Ke7 35.Kf3 f6 36.Bc3 Ng5+ 37.Ke3 Ke6 38.f4 Nf7 39.Kd3 Kf5 40.Ke3 Nd6 41.Kf3 Nb5 42.e4+ Ke6 43.Ke3 h4 44.h3 f5 45.e5 Nc7 46.Be1 Nd5+ 47.Kf3 h5 48.Bxb4 Nb4 49.Be1 Nd3 50.Bc3 Nc5 51.b4 Ne4 52.Be1 Kd5 53.Ke3 Kc4 54.h4 Kd5 55.Kd3 Ke6 56.Kd4 Ke7 57.Kd5 Kd7 58.b5 Kc7 59.e6 Kb6 60.Ke5 Kc7 61.Kxf5 Nd6+ 62.Kf6 Nxb5 63.Kf7 Nd6+ 64.Kf8 Kc6 65.Bb4 Kd5 66.Bxd6 Kxe6 67.Be7 1-0

**Sophie Tien (1916) –
Advait Vijayakumar (2026) [B31]**
Northwest Chess Open
Chess.com, R3, May 9, 2020
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 g6 4.c3 Bg7 5.0-0 e5 6.d3 Nge7 7.Be3 d6 8.d4 cxd4 9.cxd4 0-0 10.d5 Nb8 11.Nfd2 f5 12.f3 Nd7 13.Nc3 Nf6 14.Be2 f4 15.Bf2 g5

The database might want to call this a "Sicilian Rossolimo," but of course we've transposed into a completely normal line of the King's Indian Defense.

16.Rc1 Ng6 17.Nb5 Rf7 18.Nc4 Bf8 19.Nxa7 Bd7 20.Qb3 g4 21.Nb6 g3 22.Nxa8 gxf2+ 23.Rxf2 Qxa8 24.Nb5 Nh5

24...Bxb5

25.Bd3 Qd8?!

Congratulations to the Prize Winners:

1st-3rd Overall	2-yr ext. each	Advait Vijayakumar	Michael Moore	Nikash Vemparala
1st U1800	1-yr ext.	Maxwell Zhao		
1st U1600	1-yr ext.	Daniel Stein		
1st U1400	1-yr ext.	Vidip Kona	Don Hack	
1st U1200	1-yr ext.	Abhay Sankar		
1st UNR	1-yr ext.	Aditya Kompella		

This has all the hallmarks of a “mouse-slip,” one of the key dangers facing online players.

15.Nh4! g6 16.Nxg6 Nge5 17.Nxf8 Bxf8
18.Ne4 b5 19.axb6 Nxb6 20.Bxe5 dxe5
21.Bc6 Ra7 22.Qf3 Bxe4 23.Qxe4 Ne8
24.Ra3 Nd6 25.Rg3+ Bg7 26.Qg4 Kh8
27.Ra3 f5 28.Qe2 a5 29.Rea1 e4 30.c3
Be5 31.Qe3 f4 32.Qxc5

While White’s play may not have been the most incisive, it has certainly been adequate up to here. Now, however, he

allows the potential of Black’s position to activate. Best was 32.Qh3.

32...Rg7 33.Kf1

33.Rxa5 Qg5 34.Ra8+ Kh7 35.g3 fxg3
36.hxg3 Bxg3 37.Kf1

33...Qg5

33...Qh4

34.g3 fxg3?!

34...Qh5

35.hxg3 Bxg3 36.fxg3?

36.Rxa5 can lead to the note to White’s move 33 above: 36...Bf4 37.Ra8+ Kh7 38.R1a7 Qg2+ 39.Ke2 Qf3+ 40.Ke1 looks like a draw.

36...Qxg3 37.c4

37.Qf2 Rf7 38.Qxf7 Nxf7 39.Rxa5 e3
40.Ke2 Qf2+ 41.Kd3 Nd6 42.Kd4 e2+
43.Kd3 e1Q+

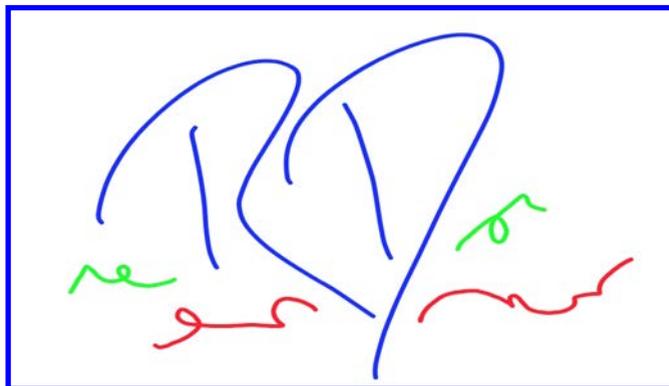
37...Rf7+ 38.Ke2 Qg2+ 39.Ke3 Qf2#
0-1



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Apropos Adult Swiss #1 July 11-12 2020 via Chess.com ➔ US CHESS RATED!! ⬅

Apropos Chess Events is back after a 15-year hiatus! We’ll be offering a series of monthly tournaments that are free to play in but offer cash and other prizes. We’ll be hosting online events but also high-quality in person tournaments. Adult chess will be an important focus, as well Junior chess and Open events. Join us! **Please visit nwchess.com for flyer, full details, and registration!**

Open to players age 18+ with established US Chess membership and ratings.

Format: 4-round Swiss System online

Entry Fee: None!

Rounds: Sat/Sun 10am and 2pm

Time Control: G/90 +5

Prize Fund: \$500+ Guaranteed! See full flyer for details.

Ratings – US Chess Rated! Must have at least 10 rated games prior to event.

Byes: One ½ point bye available by EOD July 10th.

Zoom: All players will be required to use Zoom throughout the tournament, no exceptions.

Memberships and Accounts: Current USChess and WCF memberships required

Registration: Register online at <https://nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration>

TD: Kent McNall, kent.mcnall@gmail.com
206-853-8624.



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Apropos Open Swiss #1 August 8-9 2020 via Chess.com ➔ US CHESS RATED!! ⬅

Apropos Chess Events is pleased to announce our first Open tournament!
for flyer, full details, and registration!

Please visit nwchess.com

Open to players with established US Chess membership and ratings.

Byes: One ½ point bye available by EOD August 7th.

Format: 5-round Swiss System online

Zoom: All players will be required to use Zoom throughout the tournament, no exceptions.

Entry Fee: None!

Rounds: Saturday 10a/2p/6p, Sun 10a/2p
Time Control: G/90 +5

Memberships and Accounts: Current USChess and WCF memberships required

Prize Fund: \$750+ Guaranteed! See full flyer for details.

Registration: Register online at <https://nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration>

Ratings – US Chess Rated! Must have at least 10 rated games prior to event.

TD: Kent McNall, kent.mcnall@gmail.com
206-853-8624.

2020 Washington vs Oregon Chess Match



Saturday August 8, 2020

Online via Chess.com



Organizing Teams:

- Washington Chess Federation (Josh Sinanan, Jacob Mayer)
- Oregon Chess Federation (Mike Morris, Micah Smith)
- WA Team Captain: Josh Sinanan
- OR Team Captain: Mike Morris

Format: The first two registered WA players from each rating class (Class E-Master) compete against the first two registered OR players from the same rating class. All games will be played online via Chess.com due to the COVID-19 situation. 14 players per team, maximum of two from each rating class. Participants selected on a first come, first serve basis.

Eligibility: Open to all current US Chess members residing in Washington and Oregon. Players must have a Chess.com and Zoom account.

Schedule: Arrival – 9:50am, Round 1 – 10:00am. Round 2 – 2:30pm. Closing Ceremony – 6:30pm or ASAP.

Time Control: G/90; +30 sec. Play two games, one as white and one as black. US Chess rules apply. Notation is not required, no takebacks due to mouse-slips.

Entry Fee: \$10.

Registration: Please register online via [online registration](#). We will take the first two players from WA and OR in each rating class who register and pay by the deadline of August 1. No refunds issued after the deadline.

Rating: NWSRS rated, US Chess unrated. US Chess August 2020 rating supplement will be used to determine team composition and pairings.

Memberships: WCF/OCF state membership required. US Chess membership required.

Fair Play Policy: All players and parents (if U18) must sign the [WCF Fair Play Agreement](#) prior to the start of the match. WCF's fair play committee may review any suspicious games on a case-by-case basis.

Tournament Director: Jacob Mayer, 206.697.5625, Jacob.MayerChess@gmail.com

Questions? Josh Sinanan | WCF President | 206.769.3757 | JoshSinanan@gmail.com

4th Annual Seattle Chess Classic



August 12-16, 2020

Online via 



Format: A 9-round Swiss in two sections: Open and Reserve U1800.

Entry fee: \$90 by 8/5, \$100 after. \$40 Play-up fee if rated under 1800 playing in Open section. Free entry for GM/IM/WGM or US Chess Rating 2400+.

Schedule:

Wednesday 8/12	Players Meeting & Round 1	6pm & 6:15pm
Thursday 8/13	Rounds 2 & 3	10am & 3pm
Friday 8/14	Rounds 4 & 5	10am & 3pm
Saturday 8/15	Rounds 6 & 7	10am & 3pm
Sunday 8/16	Rounds 8 & 9	10am & 3pm
Sunday 8/16	Closing Ceremony + Blitz Tournament	~7pm or ASAP

Time Control: G/100; +30. **Late Default:** 10 minutes.

Prize Fund: (\$2,500 based on 60 paid entries)

Open: 1st \$400, 2nd \$300, 3rd \$200 1st U2200/U2000: \$150

Reserve: 1st \$250, 2nd \$200, 3rd \$150 1st U1600/U1400/U1200/U1000: \$100

Biggest upset: \$50 per section.

Annotated Brilliance Prize Competition: \$100 per section. Submit one annotated game that you consider to be *Brilliant*. A panel of judges will select the winner in each section.

Rating: Higher of US Chess August 2020 supplement or foreign ratings used at TD discretion. US Chess unrated. NWSRS rated.

Registration: Please register online at nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration. Registration deadline Tues. 8/11 @ 5pm. \$25 Late Fee for payments received after the deadline. No check-in since this is an online tournament. Unpaid players will receive a zero-point bye for round 1.

Byes: Up to 3 half-point byes available for rounds 1-9 if announced before the start of round 2.

Memberships: Current US Chess and WCF membership/Northwest Chess subscription required. Memberships must be paid at time of registration. A Chess.com and Zoom account are required.

Miscellaneous: This is a Northwest Chess Grand Prix event.

Procedure: Pairings will be released prior to the start of each round. Games will be started automatically by the TD in the [Live Chess](#) area. Players must report their result upon completion of the game.

Fair Play Policy: All players and parents (if U18) are required to sign the [WCF Fair Play Agreement](#) prior to the start of the tournament. All players will be monitored by Zoom during the games. WCF's Fair Play Committee will review any suspicious games on a case-by-case basis. Cheating of any kind is strictly prohibited.

Tournament Director: Jacob Mayer, 206.697.5625, Jacob.MayerChess@gmail.com

Questions? Josh Sinanan, WCF President, 206.769.3757, JoshSinanan@gmail.com



15th Susan Polgar Foundation National Open for Boys & Girls



Saturday-Sunday, October 3-4th 2020

Hyatt Regency Bellevue: 900 Bellevue Way NE, Bellevue, WA 98004

Info: spfno.com Register: nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration

Email: WCF.Tournaments@gmail.com Call: 206.769.3757

2-day Championship Sections

Open	Girls
K-5	K-5
K-8	K-8
K-12	K-12

Format: 6SS, G/60; d5. Dual NWSRS and US Chess rated.

Rounds: Sat/Sun @ 9:30am, 12:00pm, 2:30pm.

Prizes include \$100,000 in

Scholarships to [Webster University](http://www.webster.edu)!

1-day Sections (Saturday-only)

Open	Reserve
K-3	K-1 U800
4-8	2-3 U800
9-12	4-8 U900

Format: 5SS, G/30; d5. Dual NWSRS and US Chess rated Open Sections, NWSRS rated Reserve Sections.

Rounds: Sat @ 9:30am, 11am, 12:30pm, 2pm, 3:30pm.

WA State Elementary Qualifier.

Fun Side Events: Saturday: 11am-12pm – Parents & Coaches Seminar, 2-3pm – Girls Workshop, 5:30-8pm – Simul and Q&A. Sunday: 8:30-9:30am – Breakfast w/ Susan, 10am-4pm – Polgar Chess Camp, 5-5:30pm – Puzzle Solving Competition, 5:30-7pm – Blitz Championship.

All Sections:

Registration deadline Fri. Oct 2nd @ 5pm. Check-in required only for those that did not pre-pay: 8 – 8:45am. Unpaid players not checked in by 8:45am will receive a zero-point bye for any missed rounds. Trophies for top-scoring individuals and teams. Higher of US Chess or NWSRS rating will be used to determine section and pairings.

Hotel Information:

Hyatt Regency Bellevue, address above. Phone: 425.698.4250, request the Polgar Chess block. For online hotel reservations: <https://www.hyatt.com/en-US/group-booking/BELLE/G-POLG> Cut-off date for discounted hotel reservations is 09/06/2020.

The 2020 Mike Neeley Memorial Northwest Grand Prix

Murlin Varner, Administrator (mevjr54@outlook.com)

There were two on-line events in May, the Northwest Chess Open, with 39 entries and the Washington Open, with 134. Since both involved some players from all three states, all standings have changed, at least a little. One plus of on-line chess is that it has brought some players back to local chess. Between the two events, there were three or four players who had not played in any rated events, on-line or OTB, since the 1990s or earlier. This is nice to see.

With all of the uncertainty of the COVID-19 shutdowns and everyone's concern for their health and the health of others, the schedule of upcoming events is tenuous at best. In the June magazine, there were just five grand prix events listed for the month, all being quads and tornadoes at the Seattle Chess Club. However, looking at the NWC website on June 6, the scene has changed, making it all the more important that you bookmark that page to get the latest and hopefully most accurate information on playing opportunities. The aforementioned quads and tornadoes are now canceled, but the Emerald City Open is back on the schedule, as another on-line event. Of course, by the time you read this, it will be over, so I hope you all got the psychic message I sent out a moment ago. Or you already bookmarked the NWC Calendar page.

As for things yet to come, we have three events to talk about, all, of course, subject to change. First up is the Seattle Seafair Open, to be held on-line at Chess.com. This is the 18-19 of July, will be held on-line at Chess.com, and has a 3x multiplier. The following weekend is the Vancouver Open, on-line. The Vancouver Open is a 2x event. Finally, in August, we have two more events. The first is the Apropos Open Swiss #1 on August 8-9. This is a free entry, on-line event with cash prizes and a 2x multiplier. The other is the Seattle Chess Classic, a 3x event, occurring either at the Seattle Chess Club, or on-line. It is scheduled for August 12-16. Nothing is currently on the schedule for the Oregon Open over Labor Day weekend. Stay tuned. For all these on-line events, you will need to have a Chess.com account and be able to use Zoom for monitoring. Best to set that up before the day of the event.

As a result of all our turmoil, Oregon and Idaho have both had just one OTB Grand Prix event each during 2020. This doesn't make for much of a prize fund. I have made a proposal to the board that we enact a little fee-sharing plan to apply to on-line events only (approval pending). Since the players in an on-line event are technically playing within their home states, I figure the fee for those players should go into the prize fund for that state. This is only for on-line events and will end once we get back to "normal," whatever and whenever that may be. Any fees collected from beyond our three-state area would stay with the host-state's fund. There have been four on-line Grand Prix events thus far. The application of my plan would result in a net gain to the Oregon prize fund of \$17 and a net gain to Idaho's fund of \$5. Not a huge gain, but better than before. This also offers an added incentive to players competing in on-line events sponsored by a different state, since it enhances the Grand Prix prize funds for which they are competing.

Data below are current through June 1.

2020 Memorial Northwest Grand Prix Standings

Idaho			Oregon			Washington		
last	first	pts.	last	first	pts.	last	first	pts.
			Masters					
			1 Raptis	Nick	42	1 Mahajan	Rushaan	36
			2 Tarjan	James	19.5	2 Pupols	Viktors	24.5
			3 Lebovitz	Andrew E	11	3 Orlov	Georgi	22.5
						4 Kaufman	Ray	19.5
						5 Khanolkar	Karan	12
M/X/Class A			Experts					
1 Cambareri	Michael E	21	1 Vega	Isaac	27	1 Vijayakumar	Advaith	45
2 Nathan	Jacob A	20.5	2 Bjorksten	Lennart	12	2 Shubin	Daniel	31.5
3 Maki	James J	19.5	2 Tang	Zoey	12	3 Leslie	Cameron	30
4 Erickson	Kenneth	15	2 Wu	Ethan	12	4 Jiang	Brandon	24.5
5 Wei	James	6.5	5 Janniro	Mike E	10	5 Whale	Nicholas	22.5

Idaho			Oregon			Washington					
last	first	pts.	last	first	pts.	last	first	pts.			
Class B			Class A								
1	Machakos	Seth D	21.5	1	Moore	Michael	48.5	1	Razmov	Valentin N	67
2	Herr	Griffin G	16.5	2	Murray	David E	37.5	2	Tien	Sophie	55.5
3	Kircher	Caleb P	15	3	Sherrard	Jerry	18	3	Qian	Daniel	43.5
3	Martonick	Nick	15	4	Kedjejian	Nareg	15	4	Roberts	Theodore (Teddy)	39
5	Rainey	Samuel W	12	4	Mamaril	Jonathan	15	5	Chen	Minda	33
Class C			Class B								
1	He	Justin	24.5	1	Pai	Kushal	21	1	Johar	Mudit	43.5
2	Porth	Adam	18.5	2	Roshu	David L	16	2	Lainson	Silas	34
3	Gilton	Terry	15	3	Five Tied At		10	3	Veale	Stephanie	33
4	Zeng	Forrest	5.5					4	Lopez	Francisco J	30
4	Porth	Desmond	5.5					5	Vemparala	Nikash	28
4	Aderogba	Temiloluwa D	5.5								
Class D			Class C								
				1	Gabunia	Davit	18	1	Chan	Ethan	48
				2	Roshu	Cassandra	16	1	Stein	Daniel J	47.5
				3	Markowski	Greory A	9	3	Li	Emma	46
				3	Samudrala	Nikhil	9	3	Devadithya	Lavindu	45
				5	Three Tied At		8	5	Singh	Saket	44.5
Class E and Below			Class D And Below								
1	Porth	Darwin A	13.5	1	Wang	Jalen	30	1	Devadithya	Hiruna	51.5
2	Brown	Alexander J	10.5	2	Midson	Tony	14	2	Ruff	Lois	47.5
3	Wei	Luke	4.5	3	Kenway	Geoffrey	13	3	Shanmugam	Meera	45.5
3	Gao	Emma	4.5	4	Holbrook	Aidan	12	4	Willy	Stephen	45
5	Three Tied at		4	4	Wang	Jeremy	12	5	Nallabothula	Varin	42
Overall Leaders, by State											
1	He	Justin	24.5	1	Moore	Michael	48.5	1	Razmov	Valentin N	67
2	Machakos	Seth D	21.5	2	Raptis	Nick	42	2	Tien	Sophie	55.5
3	Cambareri	Michael E	21	3	Murray	David E	37.5	3	Devadithya	Hiruna	51.5
4	Nathan	Jacob A	20.5	4	Wang	Jalen	30	4	Chan	Ethan	48
5	Maki	James J	19.5	5	Vega	Isaac	27	5	Ruff	Lois	47.5
6	Porth	Adam	18.5	6	Pai	Kushal	21	5	Stein	Daniel J	47.5
7	Herr	Griffin G	16.5	7	Tarjan	James	19.5	7	Li	Emma	46
8	Erickson	Kenneth	15	8	Gabunia	Davit	18	8	Shanmugam	Meera	45.5
8	Kircher	Caleb P	15	8	Sherrard	Jerry	18	9	Devadithya	Lavindu	45
8	Martonick	Nick	15	10	Roshu	David L	16	9	Vijayakumar	Advait	45
8	Gilton	Terry	15	10	Roshu	Cassandra	16	9	Willy	Stephen	45
12	Porth	Darwin A	13.5	12	Kedjejian	Nareg	15	12	Singh	Saket	44.5
13	Rainey	Samuel W	12	12	Mamaril	Jonathan	15	13	Johar	Mudit	43.5
14	Brown	Alexander J	10.5	14	Midson	Tony	14	13	Qian	Daniel	43.5

Seattle Chess Club Tournaments

Address ↙
 2150 N 107 St, B85 ↙
 Seattle WA 98133
 Info ↙
 206-417-5405 ↙
 www.seattlechess.club
 kleistcf@aol.com
 Addresses for Entries
 SCC Tnmt Dir
 2420 S 137 St
 Seattle WA 98168
 www.seattlechess.club

♠ July 4, 11, 25 **Saturday Quads** ♠
Format: 3-RR, 4-plyr sec. by rtg. **TC:** G/120;d5. **EF:** \$9 (+\$7 fee for non-SCC). **Prizes:** Free quad entry. **Reg:** 9-9:45 a.m. **Rds:** 10:00-2:15-6:30. **Misc:** US Chess, WCF/ICA memb. req'd, OSA. NS, NC.

♠ July 5, 26 **Sunday Tornado** ♠
Format: 4-SS. **TC:** G/60; d5. **EF:** \$18 (+\$8 fee for non-SCC). **Prizes:** 1st 35%, 2nd 27%, Bottom Half 1st 22%, 2nd 16% (\$10 per EF 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/ICA memb. req'd, OSA. NS, NC.

July 12 SCC Novice
Format: 4-SS. Open to U1200 and UNR. **TC:** G/75; d5. **EF:** \$13 by 6/10, \$18 at site. (-\$4 SCC mem., -\$2 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 Annual Meeting, Fri. July 3

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

SCC Adult Swiss #2

July 18-19, 2020

A four-round Swiss open to those born before 7/20/1999 with a prize fund of \$240 guaranteed.

First	\$68
Second	\$40
U2000	\$36
U1800	\$34
U1600	\$32
U1400/Unr	\$30

Time Control: G/120; +30.

Entry Fees: Free for SCC members. Others—\$10.

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 membership req'd (OSA). No smoking. No computers.

The SCC remained closed in early June. As of June 7, King County is in Stage 1.5 of a four-stage reopening. The SCC will have to wait till disinfection protocols are less stringent, Stage 3, perhaps. Currently, the Seafair Open is scheduled to be an online event. Please check our website for details. Once again, we present a cautiously optimistic schedule.

If you would like to help the SCC pay its rent, you can **make a tax-deductable donation** or **join the club** through our website. **Microsoft employees** can also donate, and have their donations matched, through Microsoft. Stay healthy!!

SCC 2020 Wknd. Schedule (rev.)

Novice: July 12, Aug 30, Oct 25. Quads: July 4, 11, 25; Aug 1 & 29, Sep 26, Oct 24, Nov 21, Dec 19. Tornado: July 5 & 26, Aug 1, Sep 6, Oct 4, Nov 1, Dec 6.

Seattle Fall Open 18-20 Sept.
Extravaganza 6-8 Nov.

Upcoming Events

♞ denotes 2020 Northwest Grand Prix event.
Seattle Chess Club events see page 30.

Jul 11-12 Apropos Adult Swiss #1, **Online via Chess.com**. Half-Page Ad Page 23.

Jul 13, 20, 27 Northwest Chess Webinars, **Online via Zoom**. Full-Page Ad Page 9.

♞ **Jul 18-19** Seattle Seafair Open, **Online via Chess.com**. Full-Page Ad Page 20.

♞ **Jul 25-26** Vancouver Open, Vancouver, WA. Half-Page Ad Page 31.

Aug 8 Washington vs Oregon Chess Match, **Online via Chess.com**. Full-Page Ad Page 25.

♞ **Aug 8-9** Apropos Open Swiss #1, **Online via Chess.com**. Half-Page Ad Page 24.

♞ **Aug 12-16** 4th Annual Seattle Classic, SCC or Chess.com. Full-Page Ad Page 26.

Oct 3-4 15th Susan Polgar Foundation National Open for Boys & Girls, **Bellevue, WA**. Full-Page Ad page 27.



Vancouver Open

July 25-26, 2020



Site: Online via Chess.com

Format: A 5-round Swiss in two sections: Open and Reserve (U1700). This is a Northwest Chess Grand Prix event.

Time Control: G/75; +10

Entry Fee: \$65 by 7/17, \$75 after. Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs. \$40 play-up fee if rated under 1700 playing in Open section.

Rounds: Saturday 10 AM, 2 PM, 6 PM; Sunday 10 AM, 2 PM.

Prize Fund: \$1,800 (based on 40 paid entries).

Open: 1st \$325, 2nd \$250, 3rd \$175

1st U2100: \$100, 1st U1900: \$100, Biggest Upset: \$50

Reserve: 1st \$200, 2nd \$150, 3rd \$100

1st U1500: \$100, 1st U1300: \$100, 1st U1100/unrated: \$100

Biggest Upset: \$50

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

Memberships: Current US Chess and WCF membership/Northwest Chess subscription required. Memberships must be paid at time of registration. A Chess.com and Zoom account are required.

Procedure: Pairings will be released prior to the start of each round. Games will be started automatically by the TD in the [Live Chess](#) area. Players must report their result to the TD upon completion of the game.

Rating: US Chess unrated, NWSRS rated. US Chess July 2020 rating supplement will be used to determine pairings and prizes. Higher of US Chess or foreign ratings used at TD discretion.

Fair Play Policy: All players and parents (if U18) are required to sign the [WCF Fair Play Agreement](#) prior to the start of the tournament. All players will be monitored by Zoom during the games. WCF's Fair Play Committee will review any suspicious games on a case-by-case basis. Cheating of any kind is strictly prohibited.

Registration: Please register online at nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration. Registration deadline Fri. 7/24 @ 5pm. \$15 Late Fee for registrations or payments accepted after the deadline. No check-in since this is an online tournament. Unpaid players will receive a zero-point bye for round 1.

Tournament Director: Jacob Mayer, WCF Scholastic Director, 206.697.5625, Jacob.MayerChess@gmail.com

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Seattle, WA



If a cluttered desk is a sign of a cluttered mind,
of what then, is an empty desk a sign?

— Albert Einstein