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## Temporary Suspension Of SCC Ads

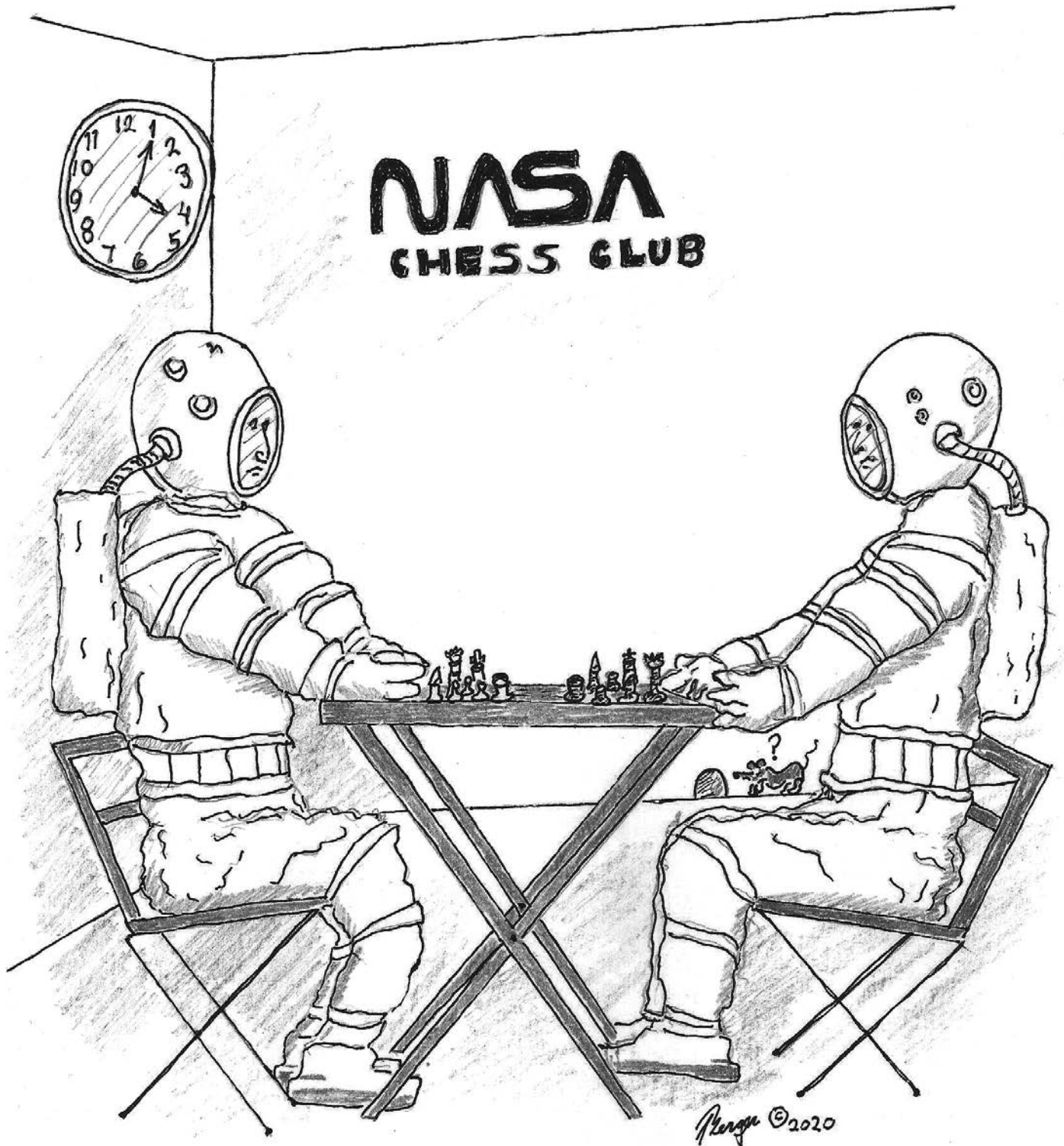
By Fred Kleist

The Seattle Chess club has continued to run its traditional full-page ad in recent months, hoping that we'd soon be permitted to reopen. Unfortunately, statewide easing of restrictions has been put on hold; so, as a cost-cutting measure, the SCC will not be placing ads until after its doors are open once again.

In the interim, we've been having online events — Wednesday night blitz and longer games on Friday night — via lichess.com. Consult the SCC website ([seattlechess.club](http://seattlechess.club)), maintained by board member Austin Cluff, to find out how join in! In conjunction with the WCF, we've been holding online versions of our full weekend tournaments. The Seattle Fall Open in September and the SCC Extravaganza in November are upcoming and will accept registrations via [nwchess.com](http://nwchess.com).

Upon reopening, we will feature Saturday Quads and Sunday Tornados as well as our regular Friday night rated games and Wednesday casual play. Please check website for reopening information.

Though not currently open, the SCC still maintains its site in the Northgate area. Thanks to the efforts of board member John Selsky, our rent payments have been deferred and, in some cases, reduced. Nevertheless, the rent will eventually come due. You can help us keep our site by renewing your membership online or becoming an SCC member. Or you can make a tax-deductible donation on our website (Boeing and Microsoft employees can donate via their workplace and get it matched by the company).



**DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, THE NASA CHESS CLUB  
CONTINUES TO PLAY OVER THE BOARD.**

# Where Art Thou OTB Games?

## The Queen City of the Prairie Open, Ft. Worth, TX

By Konner Feldman

Because of the Covid-19 restrictions in Oregon, I hadn't played an over the board game since early March. So I was really looking forward to Portland Chess Club's first in-person tournament in July. It was to be limited to 22 players, sanitized, and socially distanced. But when they moved it online a few days before it started, I was pretty disappointed. Summer break just wasn't the same without those long days at the chessboard.

So when I found a supposed over-the-board tournament in Fort Worth, Texas, on July 18, I was stoked to go. The TD, Louis Reed, assured us that "unless it was prohibited by law," the 3rd Annual Queen City of the Prairie Open tournament would happen. My dad found out that flying into Killeen, a couple of hours south, was a fraction of the price of flying into Dallas-Fort Worth airport, so we went. We breezed through TSA in under five minutes and there were empty seats and rows all over the plane. So it was a very pleasant and safe trip. The flight home was much more crowded, but everyone wore masks and there was very little eating, so it still felt safe.

The tournament was separated into an Open and a U1200 section. The Open was FIDE rated. Interesting fact: for a 1600+ rated game to count for FIDE, it must last for at least 90 minutes. FIDE rules assume games are at least 60 moves, so the time control for this tournament was G/60 increment 30. The open section drew in 29 people and was dominated by Ryan Amburgy (2139-2156—5.0/5), with Andy Woodward (2202-2200—4.0/5) taking a clear second. Last year's winner, CM Tim Steiner (2023-2035—3.5/5), managed to respectably tie for third. The U1200 section of six was won by Morgan Chryst (811-1023—4.0/5) with Simon Frayzond (1036-1006—3.5/5) taking clear second. I personally was not quite able to perform my best and only tied for eighth (2054-2039—3.0/5).

Some players expressed their confusion at having the small six-player section at all. I personally believed the cutoff was too low and all problems



(L) Konner Feldman vs Andy Woodward. Photo credit: Mark Feldman.

could be fixed by simply changing it to something like U1500. The rating difference of 1000+ points in the Open section seemed a bit much to me, but what do I know? Nobody really learns much from crushing or being crushed due to such a large rating gap.

The tournament had multiple safety precautions in place to protect its players during the pandemic. First off, everyone had to wear masks for the duration of every game. The TD occasionally had to remind players, but everyone complied with the rule. Players did not shake hands but instead air shook or touched elbows. Second, the tournament hall itself was set up with an empty seat between each board to ensure social distancing. It was less distracting when the player next door was watching my game and the extra elbow room was nice too. Third, the aisles were wider than usual and each was marked as one-way. This was probably the least-observed rule, but it did ensure somewhat that players walking about wouldn't cross paths as often. A fourth well-enforced rule was that no spectators or parents were allowed in the playing area. This contributed not only to a safer but also a much quieter atmosphere. I wouldn't mind if this continued after the pandemic. Finally, the TD wiped down all the chess sets after each day. I think the PCC proposal to wipe them down after each match would have been even better. But all-in-all, these precautions made me feel extremely safe at the tournament.

I hope that PCC, WCF, or some other Northwest chess organizer can follow this example and soon start holding in-person tournaments with the proper safety precautions. I can't wait to get back over-the-board again!

For another take on this tournament, check out WIM Alexey Root's article in *Chess Life Online*.

<https://new.uschess.org/news/getting-back-business>

**Andy Woodward (2169) –  
Konner Feldman (2054) [E68]**  
3rd Queen City of Prairie Open  
(R5), July 19, 2020

In this game, I played NM Andy Woodward in the fifth round. I missed an opening tactic but was able to generate some counterplay amidst the material imbalance. The resulting middlegame and endgame were both extremely complicated, with chances for both sides. This is a game with many interesting sidelines and calculations.

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.g3 Bg7 4.Bg2 d6  
5.Nc3 O-O 6.Nf3 Nbd7 7.O-O e5 8.e4  
exd4 9.Nxd4 Re8 10.h3 a6 11.Be3 Rb8**

So far mostly theory.

**12.a4 Nc5 13.Qc2 Qe7 14.Rfe1 Nfxe4**

A mistake, as we shall see. 14...a5 solidifying the Nc5 would have correctly led to a drawn-out positional struggle.

**15.Nxe4 Nxe4 16.Bxe4 c5**

Trying to make the best of a botched opening. Of course 16...Qxe4 17.Bd2 is winning for White.

### 17.Bd2 Bxd4



Position after 17...Bxd4

And now begins the interesting part of the game. What is the best move for White?

### 18.Bc6?

Too greedy. Correct was 18.Bxg6! when Black has no way out of losing his kingside shelter. White has both a material and developmental edge and can attack the Black king at his leisure.

Instead, the text move runs into the queen sac 18...bxc6!! 19.Rxe7 Rxe7 20.Bc3 Bxh3

Analysis



Diagram-analysis after 20...Bxh3

The computer evaluation is equal, but objectively it is White who must continually defend accurately. Giving Black the passed pawn on d4 is a big no-no, while trading pieces can only leave White with ideas of perpetual check. Long term, White has no plan, weaknesses to target, or entry points. Black has all the above.

Alas, I held on to the queen and instead chose

### 18...Bxf2+?? 19.Kxf2 Qf6+ 20.Kg2

20.Bf3 Bxh3 21.Bc3 Qg5 is much stronger and what I had anticipated, so I was relatively relieved to not see it on the board.

### 20...Bxh3+ 21.Kxh3 bxc6 22.Bc3

At this point, I realized that if both queens magically disappeared, I would

be winning with d5 and d4, when White cannot hold the queenside pawns, deal with my passer, and keep the open file. Although “magic” is not a legal move, this realization is still important.

### 22...Qf3 23.Qd1 Qf5+ 24.g4 Qf4 25.Qd3 f5 26.gxf5 g5

My attempt at counterplay. Extra pawns must be pushed!

### 27.f6 Qh4+ 28.Kg2 Qg4+ 29.Kf2 Qh4+ 30.Qg3 Qxg3+ 31.Kxg3 d5 32.Rf1?

32.Kg4 is much stronger, winning the kingside pawns by not allowing Black his Kg6.

### 32...Kf7 33.Rh1 Kg6 34.Kg4



Position after 34.Kg4

### 34...Re4+

Ignoring my own rules. Extra pawns must be pushed! 34...h5+ would have been winning for Black.

White was no doubt hoping for 34...d4? 35.Rh6+!, when White’s king infiltrates after 35...Kxh6 36.Kf5 Re5+ 37.Kxe5 Kg6 38.Bd2.

### 35.Kf3 Rf4+ 36.Ke2 d4 37.Bd2 Rxb2 38.Rhb1 Rxb1 39.Rxb1 Rxf6 40.Rb6 g4 41.Be1 Kf5 42.Rxa6 Ke4 43.Ra8 h5 44.Re8+ Kf4 45.Rh8 Re6+ 46.Kd1 Re5 47.a5 Kf3 48.a6 Re7 49.Ra8 g3 50.a7 Kg2 51.Bxg3 Rxa7 52.Rxa7 Kxg3 53.Ra5 h4 54.Rxc5 h3 55.Rxc6 h2 56.Rh6 Kg2 57.c5 h1=Q+ 58.Rxh1 1-0

And in all my efforts to salvage that opening, I succumbed to the clock and could not find my last chance in the endgame with 34...h5+. Still, it was only made possible by my opponent, who readily took advantage of my opening mistake and defended the endgame well with the extra piece.

**Ryan Amburgy (2133) –  
Shaun Graham (1813) [B06]**  
3rd Queen City of Prairie Open  
(R5), July 19, 2020

I managed to make it to board two in the last round, where I had full view of the following game on board one. Ryan

Amburgy was ahead of the tournament with 4.0/4 and his opponent, Shaun Graham, was the only one with 3.5/4. Early on, Graham offered several draws and played the Hippopotamus Defense. It seemed like he was relying on Amburgy taking the draw for clear first. But why take a draw when your opponent plays a bad opening? Although the game was not all that complex, I believe this game is an instructive example of how to solidly beat passive openings like the Hippo.

### 1.d4 g6 2.e4 Bg7 3.Nc3 d6 4.Nf3 a6 5.a4

Although not technically the best move, there is no reason to allow Black any chance of counterplay with b5. After all, White can afford to spend a tempo after a “nothing move” like 4...a6 from Black.

### 6...b6 6.Be3 e6 7.Qd2 Bb7 8.Bd3

Keeping it simple. Although there is nothing special with this setup, no one would doubt White’s dominance in this position. Simplicity often favors the winner.

### 8...Nd7 9.h3 h6 10.O-O Ne7 11.Rad1 Nf6 12.Nh2 d5 13.f3



Position after 13.f3

Keeping tension and uncertainty in the position. Black has no obvious plan or retort following 13.f3 and so he is given the opportunity to worsen his position. The computer gives 13.e5, but this allows Black some play. It may not be *good* play, but why give Black any hope? Still, Black should have been on the lookout as he missed his chance with 13...c5, trying to take advantage of the weak d4 and dark squares.

### 13...Qc8 14.Ng4

Trading off Black’s best piece.

### 14...h5

14...Nxc4 15.fxc4 seems tempting, but the f-file is well worth the doubling of pawns.

### 15.Nxf6+ Bxf6 16.Ne2 c5 17.c3 c4 18.Bc2

White has all the time in the world. He dictates when and if the board is to be

opened with b3, exd5, or e5.

**18...Qd7 19.Bg5**

Again trading off Black's new best piece. Now none of Black's pieces are very well placed at all.

**19...Bxg5 20.Qxg5 Bc6 21.Qf6 Rf8 22. Ra1 Ng8 23.Qf4 O-O-O 24.Rfb1 Qc7 25.e5**

Only when White has a clear line of attack on the Black king does he remove some uncertainty in the position.

**25...Ne7 26.b3 f6 27.bxc4 g5 28.Qg3 h4 29.Qg4 f5 30.Qxg5**



Position after 30.Qxg5

**30...Rh8?**

A waste of a tempo; the pawn is irrelevant. Instead, after 30...Rg8 31.Qxh4 dxc4 32.Kf2 Nd5 Black's pieces are developed, and White, although still winning, must defend his king before launching his own attack.

**31.e5 bxc5 32.dxc5 Qxe5 33.Nd4 Rdg8 34.Qxe7 Rxxg2+**

Desperation.

**35.Kxg2 Qg3+ 36.Kf1 Qxh3+ 37.Ke2 Re8 38.Qd6 Qg2+ 39.Kd3**

White's developed pieces allow his king to hide in the center of the board.

**39...Bb7 40.c6 1-0**

I can't know exactly what each player was thinking in this game, but I imagine a lot of this game was psychological. It was evident to both players from the beginning that Black's goal was to draw. Thus, many of White's decisions capitalized on this not-lose mentality.

This game was an extremely good example of when playing good human moves can be more effective than finding the computer's best moves. Interestingly, Black was flagging towards the game. Yet the hippo should have allowed him to blitz out his opening. Very possibly the reason he flagged was that his opponent did such a good job of denying him an obvious plan—yet another benefit of these psychological moves.

**Shaun Graham (1813) – Sharvesh Deviprasath (1977) [A36]**  
3rd Queen City of Prairie Open (R4), July 19, 2020

**1.c4 g6 2.g3 Bg7 3.Bg2 Nf6 4.Nc3 O-O 5.d3**

An unusual setup based around the defense of the c4 pawn, which is generally left weak from the fianchettoing of White's light-squared bishop. However, it weakens the d4 square and gives the Bg7 more scope. I would not generally recommend this setup.

**d6 6.e4 c5 7.Nge2 Nc6 8.O-O a6**

Black plans to expand on the queenside with an eventual b5. Thus, 9.a4 would not be an unreasonable prophylactic.

**9.h3 Ne8 10.f4 Rb8 11.Be3 b5 12.Qd2 Nc7**

Also possible was 12...b4, cramping White on the queenside.

**13.cxb5**



Position after 13.cxb5

It is very important now to realize each player's plan. White should be aiming to expand on the kingside with moves like f5. Black should do the opposite and plan to expand and dominate the queenside. Thus we can conclude that

**13...Nxb5**

is a strategic error. The Nc3 is a free tempo for black's pawns. 13...axb5 followed by b4 and Nb5 would correctly follow the aforementioned plan. Trading knights in this situation only benefits White.

**14.Nxb5 Rxb5**

Again, a strategic error. There is no attack down the b-file to compensate for the loss of Black's potential space advantage on the queenside. 14...axb5 would correctly continue to expand on the queenside.

**15.Nc3 Rb6 16.Rab1 Nd4 17.Ne2 e5**

The knight on d4 is protected enough. 17...e5 creates a hole for a possible Nd5.

**18.Nc3 f5 19.Nd5 Rb8 20.b4 Be6 21.bxc5 Rxb1 22.Rxb1 Bxd5 23.exd5 dxc5 24.fxe5 Bxe5 25.Bf4 Bxf4 26.gxf4**

**Re8**

Black missed his chance with 26... Qh4, taking advantage of the immediate awkward placement of White's pieces to throw in an extra move before Re8. The threat of Qxf4 Ne2+ cannot be answered without allowing Re8-e2, when e1 is guarded by the Black queen. Furthermore, the Black knight's strength over the White bishop is apparent in the bishop's inability to do anything—all the action is on the dark squares.

**27.Re1 Rxe1+ 28.Qxe1 Qd6 29.Qe5 Qxe5 30.fxe5**



Position after 30.fxe5

And an interesting endgame arises. Are White's central pawns weak, or will they win him the game? Now it is acceptable to turn to the computer, who gives zeros. Ok, but practically, who is playing for a win? The key lies in the piece imbalances.

**Ne2+ 31.Kf2 Nf4 32.e6??**

The dark squares are weakened significantly by this move. Unpleasant as it may be, White should just sit tight and take the draw.

**32...Kf8 33.Kg3 Nxd3?**

The d3 pawn is unimportant. Black should have pressured the White pawns with 33...g5 or 33...Nh5+ followed by Ke7. Allowing

**34.d6**

hands White an easy win. The rest is a matter of relatively simple technique.

**34...Ne5 35.Kf4 Nd3+ 36.Ke3 Ne5 37.Bf1 Nc6 38.Bxa6 Nd4 39.Bc4 g5 40.a4 h5 41.e7+ Ke8 42.Bb5+ Nxb5 43.axb5 1-0**

This was a game started by an unconventional opening where neither side really followed their best plans. While Black really didn't follow the proper plan of expanding on the queenside, White never really retaliated with an attack on the kingside. The resulting endgame was very close, but in the end, White's advanced pawns proved to be a strength rather than a liability.



# 70<sup>TH</sup> OREGON OPEN

SEPTEMBER 5-7, 2020

ONLINE VIA 

SPONSORED BY OREGON CHESS FEDERATION AND PORTLAND CHESS CLUB IN COOPERATION WITH WASHINGTON CHESS FEDERATION

**Format:** A six-round Swiss system tournament in four sections: Open, U2000, U1600, and U1200. **Qualifier for the Championship and Challengers sections of the Oregon Closed.**

**Rating:** US Chess Online Rated and NWSRS Rated. US Chess September 2020 rating supplement will be used to determine pairings and prizes. Foreign ratings used for players with no US Chess rating. Higher of US Chess or foreign ratings used at TD discretion. Up to 2 half-point byes available if requested before round one.

**Time Control:** G/90;+30 second increment.

**Rounds:** Saturday 9/5 10 AM & 3 PM. Sunday 9/6 10 AM & 3 PM. Monday 9/7 10 AM & 3 PM. OCF Annual Membership Meeting 8 PM via Zoom.

**Entry Fee:** \$70 by August 21, \$80 by September 4 at 7 PM. Add \$10 to play up one section. Free entry for GM's and IM's registered by August 21 (\$70 deducted from any prize won). Residents of states other than Oregon and Washington add \$10. Reentry for 1/2 of your original entry fee.

**Prizes:** \$2,500 based on 70 paid entries.

<u>Open:</u>	1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> : \$400-250-100; U2200 \$150-50
<u>U2000:</u>	1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> : \$200-150; U1800 \$150-50
<u>U1600:</u>	1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> : \$200-150; U1400 \$150-50
<u>U1200:</u>	1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> : \$200-150; U1000/unr \$100

Unrated players are limited to the place prizes in the Open Section and the unrated prize in the U1200 section.

**Memberships:** US Chess membership required. Oregon residents must have OCF memberships and Washington residents must have WCF memberships current through September.

**Registration:** Online at <https://nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration/>. **Registration deadline Fri. September 4 @ 7 PM.** No 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 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 via Zoom during the games. The Oregon Open Fair Play Committee will review any suspicious games on a case-by-case basis. Cheating of any kind is strictly prohibited.

**Oregon Open Blitz Championship:** Sat 9/5 at 8 PM. A 10-round Single Swiss in one section. TC: G/3;+2. US Chess Online Blitz Rated. EF: \$25. Half of entry fees returned as prizes: 50%, 30%, 20%. Chess.com and Zoom account required. US Chess membership required.

**Oregon Open Bullet Championship:** Sun 9/6 at 8 PM. A 15-round Single Swiss in one section. TC: G/1;+0. Chess.com Rated, games will be paired via Chess.com. EF: \$10. Half of entry fees returned as prizes: 50%, 30%, 20%. Chess.com and Zoom account required. Number of rounds may be reduced depending on the number of registered players.

**Entries:** Make checks payable to Portland Chess Club and **Mail To:** Mike Morris, 2344 N.E. 27<sup>th</sup> Ave., Portland, OR 97212. **Phone:** 503-282-4805 **Info:** [mikejmorris@earthlink.net](mailto:mikejmorris@earthlink.net)



# The 1966 Seattle U.S. Open

By John Donaldson

The Pacific Northwest (defined as Washington, Oregon, Idaho and British Columbia) held many important competitions in the 20th century. The matches Fischer-Taimanov (Vancouver 1971) and Karpov-Hjartarson (Seattle 1989) come immediately to mind as events attracting worldwide attention, but if one is to confine the list to only tournaments three events are on the short list.

The 1971 Canadian Open and Vancouver 1975, with Boris Spassky competing in the former and Paul Keres in the latter, were landmark events. Not as well appreciated is the 1966 U.S. Open held in Seattle. The August 2007 issue of *Northwest Chess* ([https://www.nwchess.com/nwcmag/pdf/NWC\\_200708.pdf](https://www.nwchess.com/nwcmag/pdf/NWC_200708.pdf)) was dedicated to this event, so I will focus here on matters not previously covered.

Today, the U.S. Open is not among the strongest events in the United States despite a proud tradition and a spot in the U.S. Championship for the winner. Its relatively modest prize fund simply can't



*Arthur Bisguier (sitting), Anthony Saily and Pal Benko before a round of the U.S. Championship in the mid-1960s. Photo Credit: Beth Cassidy.*

compete with the big opens. This was not always the case.

Back in 1966, the U.S. Open was the second most prestigious tournament in the country, after the U.S. Championship,

a 12-player invitational. The National Open and American Opens, both started in 1965, were still in their infancy and Bill Goichberg Grand Slam events (World, Chicago and North American Opens) not even a dream. The first prize of \$1000

## Washington Women's Championship

September 18-20, 2020

**Highest finishing Washington resident seeded into the Premier section of the 2021 Washington State Championship.**

**Site:** Chess.com: All games will be played online via Chess.com due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

**Format:** A 5-Round Swiss in one section. Open to all female chess players regardless of residence. US Chess and NWSRS Dual Rated. Playoff round if needed to break tie for 1st place will be resolved later in the year by a G/90 playoff game. Pairings will be sent to all players before the start of each round and games will be started by the TD. All players will be monitored via Zoom and observe fair-play rules.

**Time Control:** G/90; +30. US Chess September 2020 rating supplement will be used to determine pairings and prizes. Foreign ratings used for players with no US Chess rating. Higher of US Chess or foreign ratings used at TD discretion.

**Entry Fee:** \$50 if postmarked or online by 9/16, \$60 after. Free entry for WGMs, WIMs, or US Chess 2200+.

**Online Registration:** [nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration/](https://nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration/).

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

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

1st U1800/U1600/U1400/U1200/U1000: \$60

**Rounds:** Friday 6:00 PM; Saturday 10:00 AM, 3:00 PM; Sunday 10:00 AM, 3:00 PM.

**Byes:** Two half-point byes available. Request before end of round 2. US Chess and WCF membership/Northwest Chess subscription are required. Memberships must be paid at time of registration. A Chess.com and Zoom account are required.

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

**Mail To:** Josh Sinanan, 3610 218th Street SW, Brier, WA 98036. **Phone:** (206) 769-3757.

**Email:** [WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com](mailto:WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com)

**Tournament Director:** Rekha Sagar, (425) 496-9160, [RekhaSagar04@gmail.com](mailto:RekhaSagar04@gmail.com)

(the equivalent of \$8000 today) was considered big money at the time with many top Grandmasters in the United States competing.

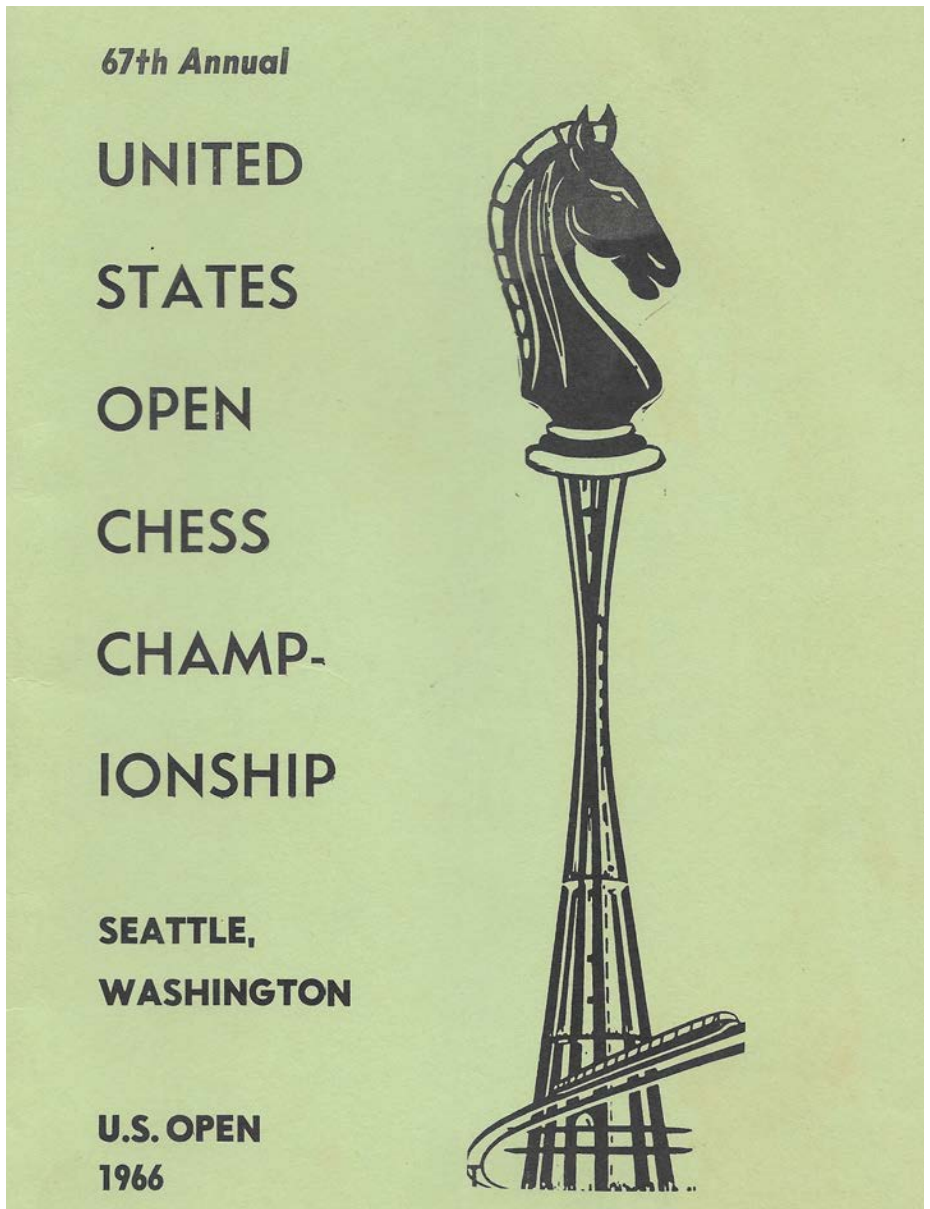
This was the case in August of 1966. Pal Benko, Robert Byrne, Arthur Bisguier and William Lombardy were joined in Seattle by future Grandmaster Duncan Suttles and Senior Master Anthony Saidy. The latter was rated number four in the United States at 2531 on the January 1966 US Chess Annual Rating List behind only Fischer, Reshevsky and Byrne.

The U.S. Open dates back to either 1900 or 1940, depending on whether you want to grandfather in Western Chess Association and American Chess Federation Championships held prior to the merger leading to the establishment of the US Chess Federation in 1939. No matter how you calculate it, only a handful of national events had been held on the West Coast prior to the Seattle U.S. Open, none further north than San Francisco.

This event was a big deal and the man responsible for making it possible, according to Assistant Tournament Director Buz Eddy, was Steven J. Christopher. At the time the US Chess Federation required any organizer who wanted to hold the U.S. Open to pay a \$2000 fee upfront and it was Steven who did this for the Washington Chess Federation. This was but one of many good deeds performed by Christopher (1909-2004). Another was arranging to have a book published in the mid-1980s by a struggling little-known author. This book, *Reassess Your Chess*, is now in its fourth edition and has sold over 100,000 copies. The author, Jeremy Silman, then living in Seattle, is universally recognized today as one of the chess world's great instructional writers.

Tournament director George Koltanowski makes his predictions before the event. Kolti provided daily coverage in several newspapers.

The tournament was well attended with 201 entrants, the most of any U.S. Open before the 1970s, excepting Chicago 1963 and Boston 1964. This was remarkable considering there was a nationwide airline strike going on which started July 8 and was not resolved until the tournament was underway. This meant anyone who wanted to play who wasn't local or willing to drive had to fly to Vancouver and make their way south. Some Easterners did this, but the strike definitely impacted attendance. So did the Second Piatigorsky Cup in Santa Monica,



which didn't end until August 15. This resulted in a number of Los Angeles area players staying home. Fortunately for the organizers, Washingtonians supported the event big time making up almost half of the tournament participants.

The location of the event was definitely a draw. Unlike today, when U.S. Opens are often held in less expensive suburban locations, the 1960s events were held in the downtowns of big cities. That was the case for the 1966 US Open played in the Nisqually Room of the Seattle Center, host of the Worlds' Fair four years earlier. This venue, or one of the rooms adjacent, was the site of the 2002 and 2003 U.S. Championships.

The Roosevelt Hotel (renamed the Hotel Theodore a few years ago),

conveniently located at 1531 7th Ave., was selected as the official lodging for the U.S. Open. Players only had to walk three blocks to the Monorail station for a two-minute ride to the Seattle Center. This still sounds quite civilized fifty-four years later.

If there was a pre-tournament favorite in the 1966 U.S. Open it had to be Pal Benko. The two-time World Championship Candidate never won a U.S. Championship but he dominated U.S. Opens of the 1960s. Benko had already racked up three titles before Seattle and would end the decade with seven first place finishes. In the other three events he shared second place.

Benko tied for first in Seattle with Robert Byrne but had to come from

behind. Fortunately for him the U.S. Open was thirteen rounds and not the present-day nine.

Here is his flashy first round win over William Lyons of Seattle, not to be confused with William Henry Lyons (1849–1932), of Newport Kentucky, the world's foremost chess book dealer in the late 1800s and early 1900s.

**Pal Benko –  
William Lyons [B01]**  
US Open Seattle (R1)  
August 14, 1966

**1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qa5 4.d4 Nf6 5.Bc4 c6 6.Nf3 e6?**

6...Bf5 or 6...Bg4 are the normal moves here, not locking in the bishop.

**7.0-0 Be7 8.Re1 0-0 9.Bg5 Nbd7 10.Ne4 Re8 11.Ng3 Qc7 12.Qe2 Nb6 13.Bd3 Nbd5 14.Ne5 h6 15.Bd2 Bd6 16.Nh5 Nxe5?**

This move, bringing White's queen into the attack, loses the game. Black should have played ...c5 now (or the past few moves), looking for counterplay in the center.

**17.Qxe5 Nf6 18.Qh4 Qd8**



*Position after 18...Qd8*

**19.Bxe6! gxe6 20.Re3 h5**

20...Kf8 21.Qxe6+ Ke7 22.Rf3 is very similar to the game.

**21.Qg5+ Kf8 22.Qh6+ Ke7 23.Rf3 Bxe5 24.dxe5 Nd5**



*Position after 24...Nd5*

**25.Rxf7+! Kxf7 26.Bg6+ 1-0**



*Rusty Miller did double duty in Seattle as a player and member of the tournament staff. This appears to be the only surviving view of the playing hall. Photo credit: Kathy Miller.*

Benko won his next two games but in round was upset by Alaska master Peter Cleghorn, one of the surprises of the 1966 U.S. Open. Although born and raised in the San Francisco area Cleghorn maintained ties to Anchorage for much of the 1960s and was the strongest Alaskan player of the 20th century.

Recovering from his round four loss, Benko won his next three games. His seventh-round battle was anything but easy as he had to win a drawn ending which was his bread and butter.

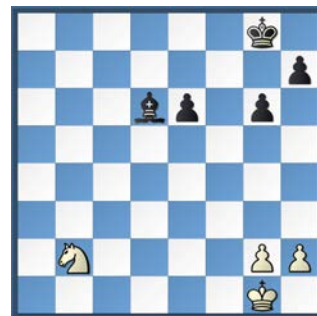
U.S. Chess Hall of Famer Bill Goichberg is known today as the greatest organizer in the history of U.S. Chess, his Continental Chess Association putting on such monster events as the World, Chicago and North American Opens. What many don't know is that from the mid-1960s to the late 1970s he was a strong master, rated between 2300 and 2350 US Chess.

Goichberg was a good attacker and calculator but not as comfortable in positions that tested his positional skills. Here he gets squeezed by Benko who was a terrific endgame player.

**Bill Goichberg –  
Pal Benko [B06]**  
US Open Seattle (R7)  
August 20, 1966

**1.e4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.Nc3 d6 4.Be3 c6 5.Qd2 b5 6.f3 Nd7 7.Nge2 Nb6 8.b3 Nf6**

**9.a4 a6 10.axb5 cxb5 11.d5 0-0 12.Nd4 Bd7 13.Bd3 e6 14.dxe6 fxe6 15.0-0 Qc7 16.Rad1 d5 17.Nde2 b4 18.Na2 dxe4 19.Bxe4 Nxe4 20.fxe4 Rxf1+ 21.Rxf1 a5 22.c4 Bc6 23.Nd4 Qd7 24.Nxc6 Qxc6 25.Rd1 Nxc4 26.bxc4 Qxc4 27.Nc1 b3 28.Qd3 Qxd3 29.Nxd3 a4 30.e5 Rd8 31.Nb2 Rxd1+ 32.Nxd1 Bxe5 33.Bc1 Bd6 34.Nb2 a3 35.Nc4 b2 36.Bxb2 axb2 37.Nxb2**



*Position after 37...Nxb2*

After a sharp struggle the players have reached a technical ending, that despite Black's extra pawn, should be a relatively simple draw. Move the Black e-pawn a couple files over on the queenside and White would be fighting to survive as the bishop is a better long range, but with all the pawns on one side the knight is in its element.

**37...Kf7 38.Kf2**

There is something to be said for 38.h3, not allowing Black the option of changing the material balance.

### 38...Kf6

The immediate 38...Bxh2 was also possible.

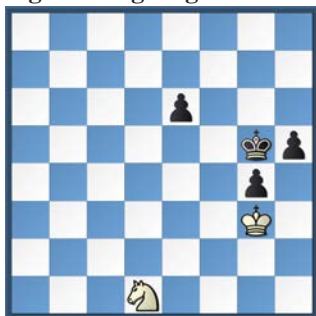
### 39.Nc4

White could also have played 39.h3, with the idea that after 39...Ke5 40.Kf3 Kd4 41.Nd1 e5 42.Nf2 he has an unbreakable blockade on e4.

### 39...Bxh2

Benko grabs his chance. Realizing the bishop and three pawns versus knight and two pawns offers few possibilities, he heads for a different ending. While three pawns versus knight should also be drawn, it demands more accuracy from the defender.

40.g3 Kf5 41.Ne3+ Ke4 42.Ng4 Bxg3+ 43.Kxg3 h5 44.Nf2+ Kf5 45.Kf3 g5 46.Nd1 g4+ 47.Kg3 Kg5

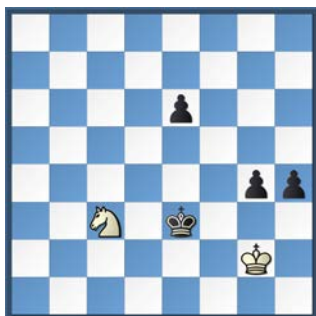


Position after 47...Kg5

### 48.Nc3?

48.Ne3 is the only move that draws.

48...h4+ 49.Kg2 Kf4 50.Ne2+ Ke3 51.Nc3



Position after 51.Nc3

### 51...g3?

51...Kd3 followed by pushing the e-pawn is an easy win; 51...Kd4 52.Nd1 (52.Nb5+ Kd3 53.Nd6 e5 54.Nf5 h3+ 55.Kf2 e4) 52...g3. The text, and White's mistaken follow up, are probably best explained by time pressure, a disease that Benko often suffered from.

The time control for the U.S. Open was 50 moves in 2½ hours followed by adjournment. Analog clocks meant time



Viktors Pupols tied for tenth at 9-4.

pressures could be brutal or entertaining, depending on whether you were player or spectator.

Since there was no increment, players had the option of not recording moves. This came at the cost of not only losing the option of winning on time (a complete scoresheet being required), but knowing with certainty one had made the time control. Players would often make check marks in lieu of recording moves in a desperate attempt to save time, but keep their bearings. Still, at the end of the day, it was not uncommon for players to blitz well past the time control. They did this to make certain they were not going to lose on time as the tournament director wouldn't step in until one player's flag had fallen.

Time pressure seems especially probable here as it is unlikely both players would have made bad blunders so soon after adjournment.

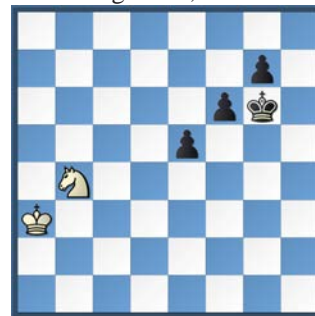
### 52.Nd1+?

Goichberg misses the change to save himself with 52.Na4 e5 53.Nc5 e4 54.Ne6 Kd2 55.Nf4 e3 56.Kf3 or 52.Nb5 e5 (52...Kf4 53.Nc7 e5 54.Nd5+ Kg4 55.Ne3+) 53.Nc3 Kd3 54.Nd5 e4 55.Nf4+ Kd2 56.Ng6. The lesson to be learned about this ending is the knight has to be aggressive and attack the pawns from behind. The passive text doesn't do this and White quickly loses.

52...Kf4 53.Nc3 Kg4 54.Ne4 h3+ 55.Kg1 e5 0-1

If you are curious whether three connected passed (in the game we just saw it was passed g- and h-pawns plus e-pawn) win, the answer is no unless they are far advanced. Here is a classical example with White's king and knight starting in awkward positions, but still able to draw.

Ladislav Prokes –  
Vladimir Berger [A06]  
Pardubice (R11)  
August 18, 1923



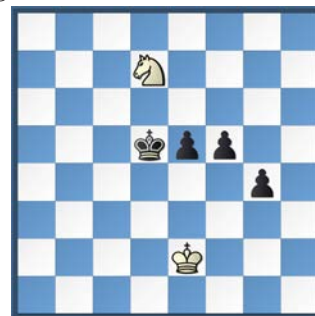
Position after 51...Kxg6

52.Kb3 Kf5 53.Kc2 Ke4 54.Kd2 f5 55.Ke2 g5 56.Nd3?

White, who was a famous endgame composer, has correctly brought his king over to challenge the pawns but now fails to use his knight correctly. As we saw in the analysis of Goichberg-Benko the right way to defend is to use the knight to attack Black's pawns from behind, forcing them to squares where they are vulnerable to capture or can be blockaded.

56.Nc6 f4 57.Kf2 g4 58.Ne7 g3+ 59.Kg2 Ke3 60.Nd5+ Ke2 61.Nc3+ Ke1 (61...Ke3 62.Nd5+ Kd2 63.Nf6 Kd3 64.Nd5) 62.Ne4 draws.

56...g4 57.Nc5+ Kd5 58.Nd7



Position after 58.Nd7

### 58...Kd4?

58...Ke6 59.Nc5+ Kd5 60.Nd7 Kd6 61.Nf6 Ke6 62.Ne8 (62.Nh5 f4 63.Kd3 g3 64.Ke2 g2 65.Kf2 f3 wins as the pawns are too far advanced.) 62...e4 and White is playing without his knight and quickly loses.

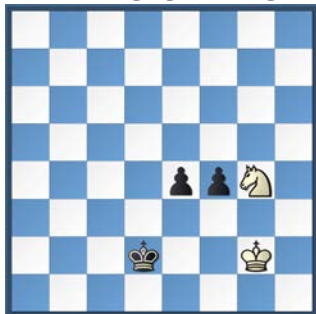
### 59.Nf6

Now White is okay.

59... Kc5 60.Kf2 Kd4 61.Ke2 g3 62.Kf3 f4 63.Nh5 Kd5

No better is 63...e4+ as 64.Kg2 Ke5 65.Ng7 e3 66.Kf3 holds.

64.Nf6+ Ke6 65.Ne4 Kf5 66.Nd6+ Ke6 67.Ne4 Kd5 68.Nf6+ Kc4 69.Ng4 Kd4 70.Nf6 Kd3 71.Ne4 Kc2 72.Ke2 Kb3 73.Kf3 Kc4 74.Nf6 Kd4 75.Nh5 Kd3 76.Nf6 Kd2 77.Ng4 g2 78.Kxg2 e4



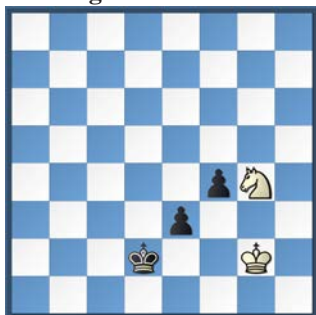
Position after 78...e4

### 79.Kf2?

White collapses when the draw was just within reach with either:

79.Nf6 e3 80.Kf3 e2 81.Ne4+ Kd3 82.Nf2+ Kd2 83.Ne4+ or 79.Nf2 e3 80.Ne4+ Ke2 81.Ng5 Kd2 82.Kf3 e2 83.Ne4+ Kd3 84.Nf2+.

### 79...e3+ 80.Kg2



Position after 80.Kg2

### 80...f3+!

80...e2? 81.Nh2 draws.

81.Kg3 e2 82.Nh2 e1Q+ 83.Kxf3 Qh1+ 84.Kg3 Qg1+ 85.Kh3 Ke3 86.Ng4+ Kf4 0-1

Going into the tenth round it appeared Pal Benko was in a must win situation. He not only trailing Byrne by half a point, but had faced significantly weaker opposition to date and could expect a much tougher schedule the last three rounds.

Pal Benko –  
Robert Byrne [A95]  
U.S. Open Seattle (R10)  
August 23, 1966

1.Nf3 f5 2.g3 Nf6 3.Bg2 e6 4.0-0 Be7 5.c4 0-0 6.b3 c6

Black waits to commit his d-pawn, reserving the option to play ...d5 or ...d6.

### 7.d4 a5

White's idea is to meet 7...d5 with 8.Ba3 while 7...Ne4 is met by 8.Bb2 d5 9.Ne5 Nd7 10.Nd3 followed by Nd2-f3 cementing control of the e5 square.

### 8.Nc3

8.Nbd2 a4 is the plan.

### 8...d5

Black finally commits to the Stonewall. On 8...d6 is answered by 9.Bb2 Na6 10.e3 followed by Qe2 and e4.

9.Ne5 Na6 10.a3 Bd7 11.h3



Position after 11.h3

This is the start of an unusual and double-edged plan, 11.Bb2 is more typical.

### 11...Be8 12.g4

This is it. Benko, who is almost in a much win situation, tries to spice up the play with a double-edged move. The text chips away at Black's center but potentially exposes the White king.

### 12...Nc7

12...fxg4 13.hxg4 Nd7, challenging the knight, looks more precise.

### 13.e3 Bd6 14.Bb2

14.f4 was more solid.

### 14...b5

The more active 14...fxg4 15.hxg4 h5 was another way to handle the position.

### 15.a4 b4 16.Nb1 Ne4 17.f3



Position after 17.f3

### 17...Ng5

More aggressive was 17...Ng3 18.Rf2 Bxe5 19.dxe5 Qh4 20.Nd2 fxg4 21.hxg4 h5, but Byrne prefers not to take risks and plays solidly.

18.Nd2 Nf7 19.Nd3 Bg3 20.f4 Nd6 21.Rf3 Bh4 22.Rf1 Ne4 23.Nf3 Be7 24.Nf2 Bd6 25.Nxe4 dxe4 26.Ne5 h5 27.gxh5!?

27.g5 or 27.Qe1 were less committal.

### 27...Rf6

[Diagram top of next page]

### 28.Kh2?!

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Position after 27...Rf6

Stockfish proposes the imaginative 28.Ng4!? fxg4 29.hxg4 when White will have three pawns for the piece after capturing on e4. Not finding this idea, White soon finds himself in trouble.

28...Rh6 29.Ng6 Bxg6 30.hxg6 Rxg6 31.Rg1 Qh4 32.Qe1 Qh6 33.Bh1 Rxg1 34.Qxg1 Kf7



Position after 34...Kf7

Byrne accompanied his move with a draw offer. Benko must have instantly accepted as after 34...Kf7 35.Qf2 Rg8 36.Rg1 g5 (there was no way to stop this advance) 37.Bc1 Ne8 (followed by ...Ng4) it's clear White's position is extremely difficult, if not lost. His king is vulnerable and the bishop on h1 is completely out of play.

1/2-1/2

Benko had a terrific finish defeating Saidy, Bisguier and Lombardy in the last three rounds to force a tie for first with Byrne at 11-2. Duncan Suttles was third

and not the only Northwest player to do well. Ivars Dahlbergs tied for fourth, while Viktors Pupols, James McCormick and Viesturs Seglins were among those sharing tenth place.

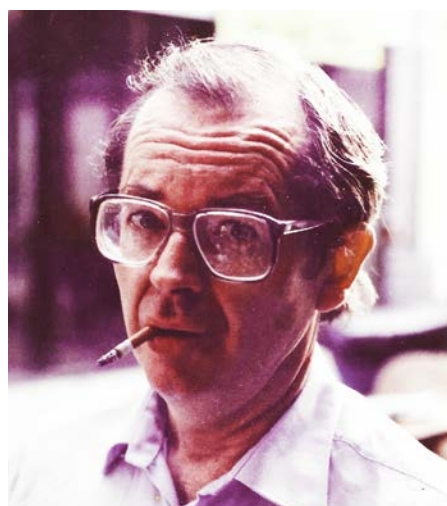
### Top Scorers:

- 1-2. Robert Byrne and Pal Benko 11-2
- 3. Duncan Suttles 10
- 4-9. Anthony Saidy, Arthur Bisguier, Peter Cleghorn, Ivars Dahlbergs, Touradj Saidi and Ron Gross 9 1/2
- 10-16. William Lombardy, Ed Formanek, Andrew Kalotay, Jerry Hanken, Viktors Pupols, James McCormick and Viesturs Seglins 9
- 17-28. Bill Goichberg, Richard Verber, Leroy Jackson, Elod Macskasy, Elmars Zemgalis, Arthur Spiller, Max Burkett, Ken Jones, Peter O'Gorman, Ziad Baroudi, Robert Erkes and Walter Browne 8 1/2

Teenagers did well in Seattle. Seventeen-year-old Leroy Jackson of St. Louis won the Junior prize on tie-break over Walter Browne with 15-year-old Sal Matera and 14-year-old Jim Tarjan a half point back. Three of these players would go on to have distinguished careers. Jackson, who later changed his last name to Muhammad, stopped playing before he could realize his potential. Remarkably, in the summer of 1966 Jackson and Tarjan had less than two years tournament chess experience.

Browne, who received an all-expenses paid trip to the U.S. Open for winning the 1966 U.S. Junior Closed, had an unusual tournament as his score included only one game he lost over the board (Jackson-Browne), but forfeit losses in rounds five and six. Browne, in his game collection and memoir, *The Stress of Chess and its Infinite Finesse*, remembered:

*Between rounds I played several players blitz at once and blindfolded.*



James McCormick, seven-time Washington State Champion, was among those with tied for tenth in the 201-player field. Photo credit: Paul Whitehead.

*However, after a decent start, midway through the event I was involved in a romantic interlude for several days, which took me up to Canada and forced me to give up 3 points! After three days I returned and I still bounced back for a reasonable result.*

Browne's memory was good with one exception — he lost two not three points. Max Burkett and Dennis Fritzinger were among those the blind-folded Browne played blitz with for stakes. They both recall the odds were too much for Walter as he was facing masters and experts.

Near the end of the U.S. Open the Beatles gave a pair of concerts the afternoon and evening of August 25. These two shows, held next door to the playing hall, were among their last live appearances and attracted a combined audience of over 25,000 frenzied fans. Despite the chaos rounds twelve and thirteen went off without a hitch. The 1966 U.S. Open. is remembered as one of the most memorable in the event's 120-year history.

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A Northwest Chess Grand Prix event.

# Seattle Fall Open



September 26-27, 2020

Online via  Chess.com



**Format:** A 5-round Swiss in two sections: Open and Reserve U1700. Co-hosted by Seattle Chess Club & Washington Chess Federation.

**Entry fee:** \$50 by 9/23, \$60 after. \$40 Play-up fee if rated under 1700 playing in Open section. 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/80;+5. **Late Default:** 10 minutes.

**Prize Fund:** (\$1,700 b/o 60 paid entries)

Open: 1<sup>st</sup> \$300, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$200  
1<sup>st</sup> U2200/U2000/U1800: \$75

Reserve: 1<sup>st</sup> \$200, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$150  
1<sup>st</sup> U1550/U1450/U1350: \$75  
Unrated Prize: \$50, Biggest upset:  
\$20/round

Rating Performance Prizes:

Best performance by a female player: \$25  
Best performance by a player from the NW region (i.e., WA, OR, ID, BC): \$25  
Best performance by a junior  
U8/U10/U12/U14/U16/U18: \$10  
Best performance by an adult over age  
40+/50+/60+/70+: \$10

Annotated Brilliancy Prize Competition: \$50 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 September 2020 supplement or foreign ratings used at TD discretion. US Chess Online Rated & 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](http://nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration). Registration, payment, and FPA **deadline Fri. 9/25 @ 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.

**Questions?** Josh Sinanan, WCF President, 206.769.3757, [WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com](mailto:WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com)

# More Games From Emerald City Open

Last month I had to save some games from this event for later issues because of space. This is the second installment, and there may even be more going forward!—Editor.

Rohan Talukdar (2402) –  
Isaac Vega (1972) [B82]  
Emerald City Open  
Chess.com (R4), June 21, 2020  
[Rohan Talukdar]

This game clearly illustrates piece domination.

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 a6 5.Nc3 Qc7 6.Bd3 Nf6 7.f4

This is a pet attacking line that I have employed successfully several times.

7...d6

7...b5 is another main line which leads to complex play after 8.e5 b4 9.Na4 Nd5 10.Be4 Bb7 11.0-0.

8.Qf3

8.Qe2 is another possible setup that I considered 8...Nbd7 9.g4 Nc5 10.g5 Nfd7 11.Bd2 is playable also.

8...b5 9.Be3 Bb7 10.g4 h6!?



Position after 10...h6

This move makes a lot of sense simply playing against my g5. 10...Nc6 is the main move in these situations 11.g5 Nd7 12.0-0-0 seems to be a pleasant situation for White with a complex struggle: 12...Be7 (12...Nc5 13.Kb1 Be7 14.h4 0-0-0 15.h5∞) 13.Kb1 0-0 14.h4 Nc5 15.h5∞.

11.0-0-0

11.g5 is Stockfish's favorite move but 0-0-0 is more logical in my opinion. 11...hxg5 12.fxg5 Nfd7 13.g6 Ne5 14.Qg3! Nbc6 15.Rf1±.

11...Nbd7 12.Kb1

With the idea of delaying a3 waiting for Nc5. 12.a3 is another move that I

considered to stop b4. 12...Nc5 13.Kb1 d5 14.e5 Nfe4 is very similar to the game but White has committed the weakness a3 which may be detrimental in the future so I decided to delay this move.

12...b4

12...Nc5 13.a3 transposes to the line in the last variation.

13.Nce2 Nc5 14.Ng3

The knight has much better attacking prospects on g3 compared to c3 as it can go to h5 and support g5 breaks better.

14...d5?!

Logical, but now I get a good version of the a3 line. 14...Nfd7 is the best for example 15.h4 Nxd3 16.cxd3 a5 17.f5 e5 18.Rc1 Nc5 19.Nb3 a4∞.

15.e5 Nfe4 16.Bxe4

16.f5 is another aggressive option but I wanted to get rid of the knight quickly. 16...Qxe5 17.Bf4 Qf6 18.Nh5 Qe7 19.fxex6 fxe6 20.Bxe4 dxe4 21.Qe2±.

16...dxe4 17.Qf2

The queen makes an interesting battery along the a7-g1 diagonal. In the future there may be Bb6 ideas at the right time.



Position after 17.Qf2

17...Bd5

17...Be7 18.Nh5 g6 (18...0-0 is very risky as the h6 pawn is a big weakness that can be attacked easily 19.Qg3 Rfd8 20.g5 If Black's pawn was on h7 the position would be unclear.) 19.Nf6+ would probably be my choice here (19.Ng7+! is a crazy engine move that I found when analyzing 19...Kf8 20.Ngf5!! gxf5 21.gxf5 Rc8 (21...exf5 22.Nxf5 Ne6 23.Nxe7 Kxe7 24.f5 and the e- and f-pawns are worth more than a piece!) 22.f6 Bd8 23.Rhg1 Ke8 24.Qg3 Rf8 25.f5±. It is amazing how the center pawns dominate a lot of Black's pieces) 19...Bxf6 20.exf6 0-0-0 21.f5 gxf5 22.gxf5 e5 23.Nb3 Nxb3 24.axb3. The doubled f-pawns and the e-pawns are quite a unique position to have. White's king is much safer than Black's so White should be better.

18.Nh5

A very logical human move with the idea of simply tying down Black's kingside. It is cool how the knight from b1 somehow ties up the bishop on f8! 18.f5 directly was engine's best choice: 18...Qxe5 (18...Nd7 is much weaker now than the game 19.fxex6 fxe6 20.Nh5 Nxe5 21.Nf4 the knights make perfect pressure on e6; 18...Na4 19.fxex6 fxe6 20.Rhf1 0-0-0 21.Qe2 and White is better as Black has too many weaknesses.) 19.Rhf1 — the point is that Black is not ready to hold everything as a lot of his pieces are undeveloped — 19...0-0-0 20.Nb3 Nxb3 21.cxb3! All of a sudden the king is too weak. 21...Kb7?! 22.Bf4 Qf6 23.Bc7!! and Black is just lost now.

18...Nd7!

A good prophylactic move against f5.

19.f5?!

At this moment, it was like a now or never moment for f5. I realized that it was much better to make the break last move but I knew that if I waited then Black's resistance will be better. So I decided to choose this sacrifice. 19.Rhf1!? is a very sneaky move. The idea is that after 19...0-0-0 there is 20.Rc1! (20.f5?! was what I considered in the game and this is a worse version that the game 20...Nxe5) 20...Kb8 21.c4! Bb7 22.Nb3. White switches sides to make pressure on the queenside.

19...Nxe5 20.Qg3

Simply protecting everything and making a pin.

20...Qa5?!



Position after 20...Qa5

The idea is to simply get out of the pin and try to create some counterplay. 20...0-0-0 at first it may feel like the king was safer on e8, but the truth is that the king belongs on the queenside as it is not so easy to attack it. Here White has to choose a forced line to achieve equality 21.fxex6 fxe6 22.Nf4 Nc4 23.Ndxe6 Bxe6 24.Rxd8+ Qxd8 25.Nxe6 Bd6 26.Nxd8 Bxg3 27.hxg3 Nxe3 28.Nf7 Rf8 29.Nd6+ Kc7 30.Nxe4=.



## 21.Nb3

A very interesting psychological decision. I figured that because my opponent had an attacking mindset with Qa5 it would be much less likely that he would retreat with Qc7. My intuition told me that he would take my knight. I knew that 21.b3 was the strongest move because it simply stops all of Black's play but I decided to gamble with Nb3. 21...Nf3 was probably my opponent's intention (21...Nd7 is passive 22.fxe6 fxe6 23.Nf4! is an amazing sacrifice pointed out by the engine 23...e5 (23...Bd6 24.Ndx6) 24.Ng6! exd4 25.Rxd4 Rg8 26.Rhd1 Bc6 27.Rc4 Qb5 28.Qc7 White's pieces just dominate everything and Black can't hold himself together) 22.fxe6 fxe6 23.Nf4 Nxd4 24.Nxd5! 0-0-0! (24...Qxd5 25.Rxd4 Qb5 26.Qf4+-, Black is too poorly developed and a lot will fall 26...Be7 27.Qxe4 0-0 28.Qxe6+ Rf7 29.Rd7+-) 25.Rxd4 exd5 26.Qe5 Kb7 27.Rf1±. White's better pieces give him a good position once again.

## 21...Bxb3?

My gamble worked! 21...Qc7 was necessary and here I think I would play 22.Bf4 f6 23.fxe6 Bxe6 24.Rhe1±.

## 22.axb3+-

Although Black is currently up a pawn and it is his turn, there is no sensible continuation. Black is completely lost! He cannot activate his kingside at all.

## 22...f6

The idea is to protect the knight. 22...Rc8 23.fxe6 fxe6 24.Qf4 Qc7 25.Qxe4+-; 22...exf5 23.gxf5 Nd7 24.Nxg7+ Bxg7 25.Qxg7 Qe5 26.Qg2 0-0-0 27.Rd4 Rhe8 28.Rxb4+-; 22...Be7 23.Nxg7+ Kf8 24.Nh5+-.

## 23.fxe6 Rc8



Position after 23...Rc8

## 24.Qf4!

First I improve my queen to take the pawn. The pawn cannot be defended and must suffer its terrible fate.

## 24...Qc7 25.Qxe4 Qc6 26.Rd5

I give up my pawn, but more important my rook is activated properly.

## 26...Qxe6 27.Bd4!

All of Black's army is helpless!

## 27...Rd8

Now I make a couple of trades which remove Black's active pieces. 27...Qxg4 28.Rxe5+!; 27...Kf7 28.Bxe5 fxe5 29.Rxe5 Qc6 30.Rf1+ Kg8 31.Qf5+-.

## 28.Rxd8+ Kxd8 29.Bxe5 fxe5

29...Qxe5 30.Rd1+ Kc7 31.Qa8 and Black's queenside can do nothing.

## 30.Rd1+ Kc7 31.Nf4!

Bringing another piece into the attack.

## 31...Qc6 32.Qxe5+ Bd6

Finally the bishop makes its first move but it is far too late. 32...Kc8 33.Qf5+ Kb7 34.Rd7+ Kb8 35.Qe5+ Kc8 36.Qe8#; 32...Kb7 33.Rd8+-.

## 33.Qxg7+ Kb6 34.Qxh8 Bxf4 35.Qd4+

A beautiful display of how one side can dominate another and make all of Black's pieces helpless.

1-0

## A NORTHWEST CHESS GRAND PRIX EVENT

# WASHINGTON GAME/60 CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

OCTOBER 3<sup>RD</sup>, 2020

Site: Online via 

Format: A 4-Round Swiss in two Sections: Open and Reserve (U1600).

Time Control: G/60;+5.

Entry Fee: \$40 by 9/30, \$50 after. Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs, or US Chess 2400+. \$40 play-up fee if rated under 1600 playing in Open section.

Rounds: Sat. 10 AM, 1 PM, 4 PM, 7 PM.

Prize Fund: \$1,000 (based on 40 paid entries).

Open: 1<sup>st</sup> \$200, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$125, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$100 1<sup>st</sup> U2000: \$75, 1<sup>st</sup> U1800: \$75. Best Upset: \$50

Reserve: 1<sup>st</sup> \$150, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$100, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$75. Best Upset: \$50.


Byes: One half-point bye 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.

Rating: US Chess Online Dual Quick & Regular Rated. NWSRS Rated. US Chess October 2020 rating supplement will be used to determine pairings and prizes. Higher of US Chess or foreign ratings used at TD discretion.

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 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.



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

**Mail To:** Washington Chess Federation  
c/o Orlov Chess Academy  
4174 148<sup>th</sup> Ave. NE  
Building I, Ste. M  
Redmond, WA 98052

**Contact:** Josh Sinanan, WCF President  
**Phone:** 206-769-3757  
**Email:**  
WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com

**Registration:** Online at [nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration](#).  
Registration **deadline Fri. 10/2 @ 5pm.**  
\$15 Late Fee for payments accepted after the deadline. Unpaid players will receive a zero-point bye for round 1.

**Eddie Chang (1887) –  
Sounak Bagchi (1995) [A65]**  
Emerald City Open  
Chess.com (R3), June 20, 2020  
[Sounak Bagchi]

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 e6 4.Nc3 exd5  
5.cxd5 d6 6.e4 g6 7.Bd3 Bg7 8.Nge2 0-0  
9.0-0**

This line was popularized after Penrose won a spectacular game against Tal in the Olympiad when Tal was World Champion. However nowadays the popularity of this line has declined and there are not many strong players that play this system.

**9...Re8 10.Ng3 Na6**

Black has two viable plans: the ...Na6 plan and the ...a6 plan. The ...a6 plan is a little passive and although the engine likes it I don't think it is the best here. I personally like the Na6 plan better.

**11.h3 Nc7 12.a4 b6 13.Rb1?!**

The b4 plan does not turn out to be best, so the rook on b1 is somewhat misplaced. 13.Bf4 leads to normal Benoni positions, although the bishop on f4 is not very effective without a knight coming to c4. Nevertheless White still has some pressure.

**13...Nd7! 14.Qc2 Na6 15.Bxa6?!**

There is no need for White to exchange his light-squared bishop for the knight. This does make sense if White wants to achieve b4 but b4 is not correct. 15.Bb5 Nb4 16.Qd1 a6 17.Bc4 Ne5 Black has very good play but White is still surviving.

**15...Bxa6 16.Re1**

Perhaps 16.Nb5 is better: it blocks the bishop on a6 and if Black decides to exchange with 16...Bxb5 17.axb5. White may have pressure on the a-file.

**16...Ne5 17.b4?**

A bad blunder, but White is in some trouble. 17.Nb5 was what I expected: 17...Bxb5 18.axb5 Qe7 I still prefer Black but White is doing ok.

**17...Nd3?!**

My viewpoint was that, although Black can simply win an exchange with Bd3, Nd3 seems to tie up White's position and also eventually win the exchange. It seemed better than to gain an exchange outright but perhaps the other option is better. 17...Bd3 18.Qb2 Bxb1 19.Qxb1 Nf3+ 20.gxf3 Bxc3 Black has a big advantage.

**18.Rd1 Nxb4 19.Qb3 Bd3 20.Rb2**

[Diagram top of next column]



Position after 20.Rb2

**20...a5!**

Although it may not be objectively best, this is definitely crushing from a practical standpoint because c4 can't be stopped. Here my opponent thought for 54 minutes before playing his next move.

**21.Nb5**

Perhaps the best practical chance. 21.Rbd2 may be more tenacious: 21...c4 22.Qa3 Bc2 23.Re1 f5! Black is still better but White is holding.

**21...Bxb5?!**

Perhaps not best. 21...Rc8!! was actually very strong: 22.Qa3 (The point is a move like 22.Be3? loses to 22...Bxb5 23.axb5

**(Continued on page 22)**



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

**Mail To:** Washington Chess Federation  
c/o Orlov Chess Academy  
4174 148<sup>th</sup> Ave. NE  
Building I, Ste. M  
Redmond, WA 98052

**Contact:** Josh Sinanan, WCF President

**Phone:** 206-769-3757

**Email:**

WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com

**Registration:** Online at  
[nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration](http://nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration).

Registration **deadline Sat. 10/3 @ 5pm.**

\$15 Late Fee for payments accepted after the deadline. Unpaid players will receive a zero-point bye for round 1.

## WASHINGTON BLITZ CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

SUNDAY OCTOBER 4<sup>TH</sup>, 2020

**Site:** Online via chess.com

**Format:** A 9-Round Double Swiss in one section.

**Time Control:** G/3;+2.

**Entry Fee:** \$35 by 9/30, \$45 after. Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs, or US Chess 2400+.

**Schedule:** Starts at 12 noon. Rounds approximately every 10 minutes. 30 min break after round 5.

**Prize Fund:** \$850 (based on 30 paid entries).

**Open:** 1<sup>st</sup> \$300, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$200, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$100 1<sup>st</sup> U1800: \$50, 1<sup>st</sup> U1600: \$50. 1<sup>st</sup> U1400: \$50. Best Upsets: 1<sup>st</sup> \$60, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$40, 3<sup>rd</sup> 1-yr NWC subscription extension.

**Byes:** Up to 3 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.

**Rating:** US Chess Online Blitz Rated. US Chess October 2020 rating supplement will be used to determine pairings and prizes. Higher of US Chess regular/blitz or foreign ratings used at TD discretion.

**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 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.



# 15<sup>th</sup> Susan Polgar Foundation National Open for Boys & Girls

Saturday-Sunday, October 10-11<sup>th</sup> 2020

Online via 



**Info:** [spfno.com](http://spfno.com) **Register:** [nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration](http://nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration)  
**Email:** [WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com](mailto:WashingtonChessFederation@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/70;+10. Dual NWSRS and US Chess Online Rated. Paired by TD using US Chess ratings. Zoom monitoring with webcam required.

**Rounds:** Sat/Sun @ 8 AM, 12 PM, and 4 PM PDT.

**Prizes include \$100,000 in Scholarships to Webster University!**

## 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/25;+5. NWSRS Rated, US Chess Unrated. Paired by TD using higher of NWSRS or US Chess ratings. Zoom help desk available; Zoom monitoring not required.

**Rounds:** Sat 8 AM, 9:15 AM, 10:30 AM, lunch break, 12:15 PM, 1:30 PM

**WA State Elementary Qualifier.**

**Fun Side Events** (via Zoom): Saturday 10/10: 11am-12pm – Parents & Coaches Seminar, 2-3pm – Girls Workshop. Sunday 10/11: 10am-3pm – Polgar Chess Camp, 5-5:30pm – Puzzle Solving Competition, 5:30-7pm – Blitz Championship.

## All Sections:

Registration **deadline Fri. Oct 9<sup>th</sup> @ 5pm.** \$15 Late Fee for payments accepted after the deadline. Unpaid players will receive a zero-point bye for round 1. Trophies for top-scoring individuals and teams. Higher of October 1<sup>st</sup> US Chess or NWSRS rating will be used to determine section and pairings.

**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. Zoom monitoring required during all games in 2-day Championship sections, Puzzle Solving Competition, and Blitz Championship. WCF's fair play committee will review any suspicious games on a case-by-case basis. Cheating of any kind is strictly prohibited.

**Apropos Adult Swiss #3**  
**October 10th-11th, 2020**  
**via Chess.com**  
**USChess RATED!!!**



**Open to players age 18+ with established USChess membership and rating.**

**Format:** 4-round Swiss System online tournament. Pairings will be made offline by the TD, game launches automatic.

**Entry Fee:** There is no entry fee for the tournament. Players must have current USChess and WCF membership.

**Rounds:** Sat/Sun 10am and 2pm  
**Time Control:** G/90 +5

**Prize Fund:** \$500 Guaranteed. 20% added if 30 or more players, 30% added for 50 or more players with all prizes bumped proportionally. 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> \$125-\$50-\$25, 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> U2000 \$100-\$50, 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> U1800 \$50-\$25, 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> U1600 \$50-\$25. Prizes without players will be split among other rating classes.

**Ratings – USChess Rated!** USChess classical online rating used.

**Byes:** One half-point bye available by end of day October 9<sup>th</sup>, 6pm. NO EXCEPTIONS.

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

**Memberships and Accounts:** Current USChess and WCF memberships required and must be paid before Round One. Working chess.com account and Zoom access required. WCF membership not required for out-of-state players.

**Registration:** Register online at <https://nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration> by Friday October 9<sup>h</sup> 6pm. ALL memberships must be current by 6pm October 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Apropos Chess Events** is hosting this tournament and a series for no-entry free online events to promote online chess, adult and junior chess, and to vigorously advocate for USChess OTB ratings to be used online. Watch for additional A.C.E. adult, open, and junior tournaments each month!

**TD:** Kent McNall, [kent.mcnall@gmail.com](mailto:kent.mcnall@gmail.com)  
206-853-8624. NOTE:

Please Contact Kent McNall at Apropos Chess Events with Questions 206-853-8624

**Apropos Class Swiss #1**  
**October 17-18, 2020**  
**via Chess.com**  
**USChess RATED!!**



**Open to ALL players with USChess and WCF\* membership and a USChess rating (Regular or Provisional). Unrated players welcome in the Under 1600 section.**

**Format:** 5-round Swiss System online tournament. Pairings will be made offline by the TD, games started automatically.

**Entry Fee:** There is no entry fee for the tournament.

**Rounds:** Saturday 10am/2pm/6pm Sunday 10am and 2pm

**Time Control:** G/90 +5

**Prize Fund:** \$850 guaranteed, 20% added if 30 or more players, 30% added for 50 or more players with all prizes bumped proportionally. 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> \$100-\$50 for each class: Over 2200, 2000-2199, 1800-1999, 1600-1799, Under 1600+Unrated.

Additional \$100 distributed to largest Class.  
**TD reserves the right to combine classes with too few participants.**

**Byes:** One ½ point bye available by 6pm October 16<sup>th</sup> NO EXCEPTIONS.

**Ratings – USChess RATED!!** USChess rating required and used for pairing. Unrated may enter U1600 only.

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

**Memberships and Accounts:** Current USChess and WCF\* memberships required and must be paid one day before Round One. Working chess.com account required.

**Registration:** Register online at <https://www.uschess.com/Only/Registration> by Friday October 16<sup>th</sup> at 6pm.

Apropos Chess Events is hosting this tournament and a series for no-entry free online events to promote online chess, adult and junior chess, and to vigorously advocate for USChess OTB ratings to be used online. New USChess online classical rating used for this tournament.

**TD:** Kent McNall, [kent.mcnall@gmail.com](mailto:kent.mcnall@gmail.com)  
206-853-8624.

Please Contact Kent McNall at Apropos Chess Events with Questions 206-853-8624

\*WCF Membership not required for out-of-state players

## (Continued from page 18)

23...c4 24.Qa3 Bxb2 25.Qxb2 c3 26.Qa3 c2 27.Ra1 Qc7 which is completely winning.) 22...Bxb5 23.axb5 Bxb2 24.Bxb2 f6+ Black is easily winning.

22.axb5 a4 23.Qa3 Bxb2 24.Bxb2 Nc2 25.Qc3 Nd4

I am obviously completely winning but a little accuracy is required in order to reel-in the win. I did not play the best but I still nevertheless got the win:

26.Kh1 a3 27.Ba1



Position after 27.Ba1

27...f6?

Missing a nice chance. 27...Qg5!! is very strong: 28.Qd3 Ra4 29.Nf1 a2 Black is just completely winning.

28.f3 Rf8?!

Also inaccurate, though still winning. 28...Nxb5 winning a pawn is just crushing outright.

29.Nf1 Nxb5 30.Qb3 Nd4 31.Bxd4 cxd4 32.Ra1 Qc7 33.Rxa3? Rxa3??

issuing a very easy chance to convert. 33... Qc1 decides matters immediately.

34.Qxa3 Rb8 35.Qa4 b5

35...Qc1 36.Qa6 Qb1 also wins.

36.Qxd4 Kf7 37.Nd2 b4 38.Nb3 Rb7 39.Qd3

Suddenly the win is actually a lot harder than I thought! White has unwanted counterplay with Nd4-e6 and I quickly realized I had screwed things up.

39...Ra7 40.Qd4 Rb7?

Indecisive. 40...Ra2! wins immediately.

41.Qd3 Qb6?

Not great.

41...Ra7 is calling for attention.

42.Qc2 Rc7 43.Qa2 Rc3 44.Qa4 Rc7?

Very indecisive! 44...Ke7! is strong and wins.

45.Qa8 Kg7 46.h4?!

Making the task simpler. 46.Qe8 Qf2 47.Qe6 Rc2 still wins, but is a little trickier.

46...Qf2!

Finally I find a way to breakthrough through the second rank. White has no perpetual check.

47.Qd8 Qxh4+ 48.Kg1 Qe1+ 49.Kh2 Qh4+

For a split second I was intending 49... Qc3?? but I realized that after 50.Nd4 the win is very hard!

50.Kg1 Rc2 51.Qc7+

A final blitz move-like trick. 51.Qe7+ Kh6 52.Qf8+ Kh5 53.g4+ Kg5 54.f4+ Kxg4 55.Qc8+ Rxc8 wins.

51...Rxc7

No Kh6 today. A good win!

0-1



## A NORTHWEST CHESS GRAND PRIX EVENT

### WASHINGTON CHALLENGER'S CUP

OCTOBER 24-25<sup>TH</sup>, 2020

Site: Online via Chess.com

Format: A 5-Round Swiss in two sections: Open and Reserve (U1800).

Entry Fee: \$65 by 10/17, \$75 after. Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs, or US Chess 2400+. \$40 play-up fee if rated under 1800 playing in Open section.

Time Control: G/75;+10.

Rounds: Sat. 10 AM, 2 PM, 6 PM; Sun. 10 AM, 2 PM.

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

Open: 1<sup>st</sup> \$325, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$250, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$175  
1<sup>st</sup> U2100: \$100, 1<sup>st</sup> U1900: \$100, Biggest Upset: \$50

Reserve: 1<sup>st</sup> \$200, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$150, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$100  
1<sup>st</sup> U1600/U1400/U1200: \$100, 1<sup>st</sup> U1000/unrated: \$100  
Biggest Upset: \$50

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

*Highest finishing Washington resident in the Open Section seeded into the 2021 Washington State Championship.*

**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.

**Rating:** US Chess Online Rated and NWSRS Rated. US Chess October 2020 rating supplement will be used to determine pairings and prizes. Higher of US Chess or foreign ratings used at TD discretion.

**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 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.

The logo for the Washington Chess Federation, featuring a green horse head in a circle with the text "WASHINGTON CHESS FEDERATION".

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

**Mail To:** Washington Chess Federation  
c/o Orlov Chess Academy  
4174 148<sup>th</sup> Ave. NE  
Building I, Ste. M  
Redmond, WA 98052  
**Contact:** Josh Sinanan, WCF President  
**Phone:** 206-769-3757  
**Email:** WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com

**Registration:** Online at [nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration](#).  
Registration **deadline Fri. 10/23 @ 5pm**. \$15 Late Fee for payments accepted after the deadline. Unpaid players will receive a zero-point bye for round 1.

# A NORTHWEST CHESS GRAND PRIX EVENT



## WASHINGTON CLASS CHAMPIONSHIPS

NOVEMBER 27-29<sup>TH</sup>, 2020

ONLINE VIA 

### **\$3,500 based on 100 Paid Entries**

**Master (2200+):** \$200, \$125, \$75 U2300 \$50

**Expert (2000-2199):** \$200, \$125, \$75, U2100 \$50

**Class A (1800-1999):** \$200, \$125, \$75 U1900 \$50

**Class B (1600-1799):** \$200, \$125, \$75 U1700 \$50

**Class C (1400-1599):** \$200, \$125, \$75 U1500 \$50

**Class D (1200-1399):** \$200, \$125, \$75 U1300 \$50

**Class E (1199 & Under):** \$200, \$125, \$75, U1000/unr. \$50

**Upset Prizes:** 1<sup>st</sup> \$25 per section, 2<sup>nd</sup> 1-yr NWC subscription extension

**Annotated Brilliancy Prize Competition:** \$25 per section. Submit one annotated game that you consider to be *Brilliant*. A panel of judges will select the winner in each section.

**Format:** A 6-Round Swiss in seven class sections as shown above. Sections may be combined if less than 12 players in a section.

**Entry Fee:** \$60 if postmarked or online by Nov. 20, \$70 after. Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs. Rated players add \$40 to play up one class only (can't play up two classes). Reentry for 1/2 of your original entry fee. Canadians may pay C\$ at par for entry fee.

**Time Control:** G/90;+30.

**Rounds:** Fri./Sat./Sun. @ 10 AM & 3 PM.

**Byes:** Two half-point byes available. Request before end of round 2.

**Online Registration:** <https://nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration/> – pay by Credit/Debit/PayPal. **Registration deadline Thurs. Nov 26 @ 5:00pm.** \$15 Late Fee for payments accepted after the deadline. Unpaid players will receive a zero-point bye for round 1.

**Rating:** US Chess Online Rated. US Chess November 2020 rating supplement will be used to determine pairings and prizes. Foreign ratings used for players with no US Chess rating. Higher of US Chess or foreign ratings used at TD discretion.

**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 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.

**Info/Entries:** Make checks payable to Washington Chess Federation. **Mail To:** Josh Sinanan, WCF President c/o Orlov Chess Academy: 4174 148<sup>th</sup> Ave. NE Building I, Ste. M Redmond, WA 98052. **Phone:** 206-769-3757 **Email:** [WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com](mailto:WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com)

**Washington Class Blitz Championship:** Sunday 11/29 at 7 PM. Format: A 9-Round Swiss in one section. Games start at 7 PM in the [Live Chess](#) area. TC: G/3;+2. EF: \$25. Prize Fund: \$400/b20. 1<sup>st</sup> \$120, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$80, 1<sup>st</sup> U2000 \$50, 1<sup>st</sup> U1700 \$50, 1<sup>st</sup> U1400 \$50, 1<sup>st</sup> U1100/unr. \$50. US Chess Online Blitz rated. Current US Chess and WCF membership/Northwest Chess subscription required. A Chess.com and Zoom account are required.

# 2020 WA vs OR Chess Match

By Josh Sinanan

August 8, 2020

The 2020 Washington vs Oregon Chess Match ended in a convincing 22.5 — 5.5 victory for Team Oregon! Congratulations to the Oregon players and organizers on a well-played match! Team Oregon pulled out to a strong 10-4 lead in the first round, led by victories from their highest rated players in the Master, Expert, Class A, and Class B sections. Team Washington tried valiantly to mount a comeback in round two with the white pieces, but was only able to score 1.5 points from 14 games in what turned into a blowout finale! Many of the games were hard fought throughout the day and the match was a lot closer than the final score would indicate.

Team OR	USChess	Score	Team WA	USChess	Score
James Tarjan	2469	2	Daniel Shubin	2161	0
Wilson Gibbins	2221	2	Anne-Marie Velea	2103	0
Zoey Tang	2097	2	Derin Goktepe	1930	0
Konner Feldman	2054	2	Ryan Min	1915	0
Havish Sripada	1895	2	Sophie Velea	1790	0.5
Austin Tang	1852	1.5	Stephanie Velea	1700	0
Bob Malone	1720	1	Sophie Szeto	1496	2
James Nelson	1678	1	Iris Zhang	1387	0
Chad Lykins	1596	1	Ethan Chung	1373	1
Geoff Kenway	1390	2	Michelle Zhang	1267	0
Michael Schuff	1342	2	Tanush Bhatia	1091	0
Saarthak Malakar	1270	1	Edward Cheng	1010	1
Thomas Schuff	1165	2	Michael Zhang	977	0
Anisha Sripada	1060	1	Arjun Yadav	553	1
<b>TEAM OR TOTAL</b>		<b>22.5</b>	<b>TEAM WA TOTAL</b>		<b>5.5</b>

Congratulations to the players from both teams on an exciting and close match, our first Washington vs Oregon Match since 2008 at the Hoquiam Castle! Team Oregon gained a strong lead after the first round and was able to hold onto it, ultimately building their lead in the second round to score a Pyrrhic match victory. The young players from both teams were especially impressive, having honed their skills over the past few months playing copious amounts of online chess during the corona virus pandemic. It was a pleasure for Captain Mike Morris and yours truly to organize this match and keep tabs on the progress of the games in real-time!

Special thanks to Team Oregon Captain Mike Morris and to our wonderful TD Rekha Sagar for all their hard work in setting up this historical online Washington vs Oregon Chess Match. Thank you also to all the players for their patience and flexibility with the new online format given the circumstances. We look forward to continuing this great tradition, online or in-person, for many years to come!



Photo credit: Philip Peterson.

Anne Marie Velea –  
Jim Tarjan [B06]

Oregon vs. Washington  
Chess.com (R2), August 8, 2020  
[Jim Tarjan]

**1.e4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.Nc3 d6 4.Be3 a6 5.Bc4**

Opening theory mavens will know this opening's bible, Hillarp Persson's *The Modern Tiger*. Remarkable to me is the fact that, at least in my 500-plus-page edition, we are already "out of book!" One might think that Tiger covers every conceivable White setup but no, he skips this one.

**5...b5**

And in fact, as I saw only after the game, it is my second time in this position! In Chessbase there is a 2017 game, Victor Plotkin vs. Tarjan, where I played 5...e6 setting up a Hedgehog and hoping that the bishop on c4 is blocked and misplaced. There was a time I would have automatically remembered my prior game, but apparently that time has passed.

**6.Bb3 Bb7 7.f3**

So a Dragon setup, but with a twist, that B already out on b3. Good or bad?

**7...Nd7 8.Qd2**

8.a4 is a thought, aiming to break up Black's queenside before my ...c5.

**8...c5 9.Bd5**

Looking to avoid the blocking of her bishop after a ...c4, or the trade of one of the bishops after 9.dxc5 Nxc5, she trades off B for B. I thought OK, it spends some time and at least I will get out of the opening alive, though whether standing better or worse remains unclear.

**9...Bxd5 10.Nxd5 Ngf6**

10...e6!? driving the knight back is of course the tempting move, and perhaps the right one: but after 11.Nc3 Black must take into account the potentially weak d6 pawn. For example 11...cxd4 12.Bxd4 Ne5 with a different sort of game.; 10...Rc8!? is a useful waiting move. But I have lost many a game getting too fancy in the opening, especially with the Black pieces, and after 10...Nxf6 at least I am sure to get my king castled.

**11.Nxf6+ Bxf6 12.Ne2**

As White I would play 12.c3 establishing the classical e4-d4 center and thinking, I cannot be worse with such a center and no weaknesses. On 12...Nb6 13.b3 Black has loosened up White's queenside pawn structure a bit, but no more, and the knight's usefulness on b6 is at an end.



## 12...cxd4 13.Bxd4

Finally some resolution of the pawn structure, into a Sicilian. Indeed, it would take that opening maven to recognize the position as coming from a Modern rather than some oddball Dragon Sicilian! About even chances, but with the complicated and double-edged struggle ahead that this pawn structure practically guarantees.

## 13...Rc8

A useful move in any case, and let's wait to see which way which side she castles: if she goes long maybe I will need to strike quickly on the queenside.

## 14.Bxf6 Nxf6 15.0-0

Certainly White could castle long: 15.0-0-0 put the K on b1, and then let the Sicilian-style fun begin. Especially with that hole on g7 where Black's bishop used to be. However the objective evaluation remains unclear: seems to me I have an extra tempo or two compared to the usual Sicilian positions. Though that may be nothing but wishful thinking on my part.

## 15...0-0 16.c3 Rc4 17.Nf4 Qc7

In a few moves my queen moves again to b6 so if my plan is 17...b4 just do it right away, perhaps.

## 18.Nd5

Unless White can get something worthwhile going on the e-file or on the kingside, this exchange moves the game closer to a simplified position where Black has a positional advantage based on the better pawn structure.

## 18...Nxd5 19.exd5 b4

Not a bad move, but after playing it I regretted it, thinking it better to prepare with 19...a5.

## 20.exb4 Qb6+ 21.Kh1 Rxb4 22.b3 Qd4



Position after 22...Qd4

## 23.Rfd1?!

Over the last moves I was not at all sure I knew what I was doing or that I was getting anywhere, but after the exchange of queens things settle down in a nice way. Black gets what he has been playing for: a

favorable endgame. 23.Qe2! attacks two pawns. One logical continuation would be: 23...Qxd5 24.Qxe7 Rd4 25.Qe2 Rd2 26.Qxa6 Ra8 27.Qc4 Qxc4= (or 27...Qg5 28.Qg4=)

## 23...Qxd2 24.Rxd2 Rc8

Taking control of the only fully open file in what is now a rook endgame cannot be wrong.

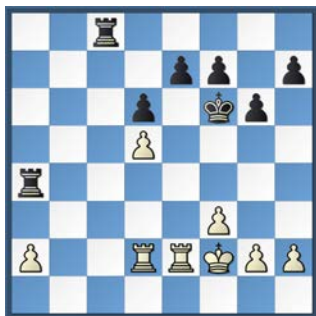
## 25.Kg1 Kg7

Heading up to f6 to guard the e7-pawn in the most active way.

## 26.Kf2 a5

In many if not most positions Black would not want to voluntarily create a passed pawn for the opponent; here is an exception to the rule. With two black rooks blockading and attacking it, the passed pawn is more a target than an advantage.

## 27.Re1 Kf6 28.Ree2 a4 29.bxa4 Rxa4



Position after 29...Rxa4

Three pawn islands vs. one; active rooks vs. passive rooks. Even so, victory is a long way away. I was thinking, if White waits, the next step would be to push up the kingside pawns, try to force another White weak pawn or square over there.

## 30.Ke3

Makes sense, trying to bring the king into the game over on the queenside.

## 30...Rc5 31.Rd4 Ra3+ 32.Kf2

On 32.Rd3!? I wasn't going to take the pawn: 32...Rxd3+ (I would move the rook somewhere: 32...Raa5; 32...Ra7) 33.Kxd3 Rxd5+ 34.Kc4 and the a-pawn becomes a factor. The objective evaluation I leave to you and your computer, but practically speaking Black has gone from a one-sided favorable endgame to a mess.

## 32...g5

Not a pawn move I was eager to make, but I saw no good choice: White is intending Rf4+.

## 33.h4 h6 34.Kg3

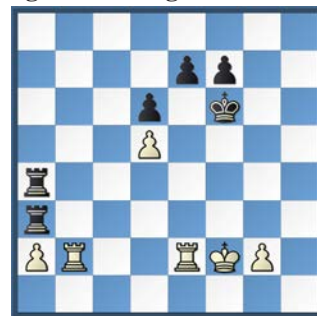
I don't see the point of this: the K

goes back to f2 in a few moves. When defending an inferior endgame, one rule is, all else being equal, trade down as many pawns as possible to get closer to the draw. By this rule, White should trade off the h-pawns, as she does in a couple of moves. And yet, I wonder about 34.h5!? My thought being to stick Black with a target on h6, to give White something to attack and to slow down Black later on. If Black goes after the h5-pawn with a rook, that rook is out of play, White's rooks get freed and something good will happen for White.

## 34...Rca5 35.Rdd2 R5a4 36.hxg5+ hxg5 37.Kf2 g4 38.fxg4

Here we can ponder: Should White play with a pawn on f3, or on g2? The pawn on f3 would make my maneuver later in the game less effective, not allowing Black the two passed pawns in the center.

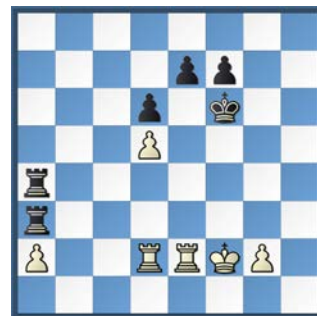
## 38...Rxc4 39.Rb2 Rga4



Position after 39...Rga4

Probably better in this moment to play with more subtlety: 39...Rg5! to answer 40.Rb7 with 40...Re5.

## 40.Rbd2



Position after 40.Rbd2

40.Rb7!? Rxa2 (40...e5 41.dxe6 fxe6 42.Rh7!= White's rooks are active enough to hold the draw) 41.Rbx7 Rf4+ just to push White's king away one square 42.Kg3 Rxe2 43.Rxe2 Rd4 White's d pawn falls. On page 183 of my Dvoretsky he informs us that in rook and two vs. rook and one, Disconnected Pawns, One of Them Is Passed: "If one or two files separate pawns of the stronger side, the position is most often a draw." First,

one would have to decide that the best chance for White is to voluntarily go into this endgame a pawn down, rather than continuing to defend with even pawns; and then second, have the technique and strength to actually hold the draw, in a practical game with the clock ticking. You notice that Dvoretzky waffles in his judgment (“the position is most often a draw”). It is good to recognize the proper evaluations of as many of these basic endgames as possible. However, in my experience many strong players resort to percentages: one move is 50 percent winning chances, the other move only 25 percent winning chances, and make their choice accordingly. Highly educated guesswork.

Back to the actual game. Black has isolated all three of White’s pawns, and White’s rooks are stuck defending. But, so what? How to make progress?

40...Ra6 41.Ke1 e5



Position after 41...e5

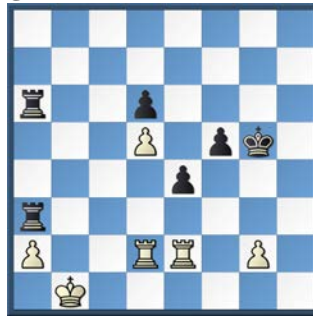
This was my plan. I was proud of it, and it worked. But was it the right way to play? Depends on the evaluation of the position in the next note. And whether Black could

do better somehow first improving the position of his pieces.

42.Kd1?

After this White is definitely lost. White must try 42.dxe6 fxe6 and at the board I thought: it may take some time to advance them, but those two connected passed pawns should triumph in the end. White cannot wait forever, she has to do something, push her g-pawn and look for checks, but likely she will accomplish nothing but dropping one or the other of her pawns. However, my computer does not agree with me. It only grants me a meaningless “slight advantage,” with long obscure variations. Who is right? Always a bad idea to bet against the computer, or almost always. I will leave it to those so inclined to search for the ultimate truth of this position.

42...Kg5 43.Kc1 f5 44.Kb1 e4



Position after 44...e4

Now everything is clear. If nothing else Black’s king can come back to e5 after which the d5 pawn falls.

45.Rc2 Kf4 46.Rc6 Ke5 47.Rxa6 Rxa6 48.Rf2 e3 49.Re2 Kd4

The end is near, and I don’t need to stop for the d-pawn; my e-pawn will do the job.

50.Kb2 Kd3 51.Re1 Kd2 52.Rh1 Rb6+ 53.Ka1 e2 0-1

Aninsha Sripada (OR) (1060) –  
Arjun Yadav (WA) (553) [A48]  
WA vs OR Match  
Chess.com (R1), August 8, 2020  
[Arjun Yadav]

I really loved this game and giving it the title “An epic journey: A pawn destined to be a queen.”

1.d4 Nf6 2.Bf4 g6 3.e3 Bg7 4.Nf3 0-0 5.Be2 d6

...d6 was the last book move for the Indian Game, East Indian, London System opening. At this point we were both equal.

6.0-0 Nbd7 7.c4 b6 8.Nc3 Bb7

Both of us almost completed our opening piece development and respective kings short castled to safety.

9.Qc2

My opponent connected the rooks, and I went after the dark-squared bishop with...

9...Nh5 10.Bg5 h6 11.Bh4 g5

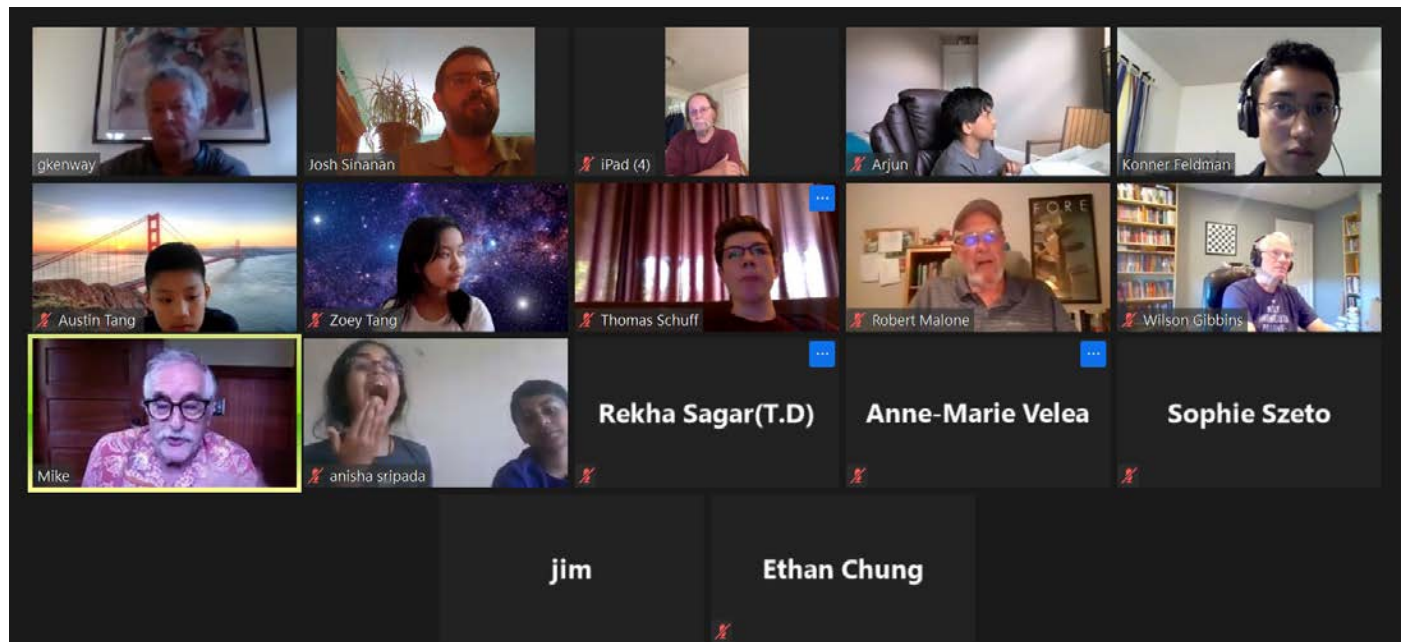
My opponent attacked my knight on h5 with the move...

12.Nd2

I played the correct line I prepared with...

12...Ndf6

by supporting the knight on h5 and



maintaining the pressure on the king side.

**13.Bxh5 Nxh5**

And we traded on h5, and I was happy to get the bishop pair.

**14.Bg3 Qd7 15.Rfe1 Rae8 16.Nb3**

My opponent started to play on the queen side, but I had this idea of checkmate on g2. Hence I played...

**16...Qc6**

threatening mate with ...Qxg2# and attacking the c4-pawn at the same time.

**17.d5 Qxc4**

17...Qxc4 was the only move as the checkmate was defended d5.

**18.e4 e6 19.e5**



Position after 19.e5

My opponent wanted to trap my queen and did a mistake with e5.

**19...exd5**

This is exactly the point in the game when the epic pawn journey started for my pawn on e6.

**20.exd6 Nxg3**

My opponent wanted to open the lines for the rook and pushed her pawn for counterplay and took the pawn on d6. I went ahead and grabbed the dark-squared bishop on g3 I was eyeing for as the position opened up.

**21.hxg3 d4**

The pawn continued on its journey, attacking the knight on c3, which is pinned to the white queen on c2.

**22.d7 Rxe1+ 23.Rxe1**

My opponent kept pushing the d-pawn for promotion and attacking my rook on e8. I traded the rooks and finally took knight on c3 with...

**23...dxc3**

The pawn has now traveled from e7 to c3.

**24.Re8 Qd5**

I spent time thinking about ...Qc6 or ...Qd5. I went with ...Qd5 as the line was much clearer to me and it was a nice centralization move.

**25.f3 Qxd7 26.Re1 cxb2**

The pawn continued its capture on b2, well supported by my bishop.

**27.Rd1 Qc6 28.Qb1 g4**

Please note, fxc4 runs into ...Qxg2 mate.

**29.Rd3**

White played Rd3 protecting the f3-pawn, but ran into...

**29...Ba6**

attacking the rook.

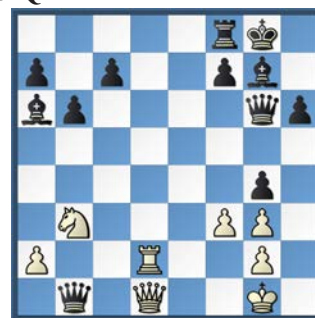
**30.Rd2 Qg6**

Since I was already a piece up and threatening pawn promotion, I wanted to simplify the position and trade queens. But my opponent refused to trade and made a mistake with...

**31.Qd1**

That's when my pawn from e7 finally got promoted to a Queen on b1...

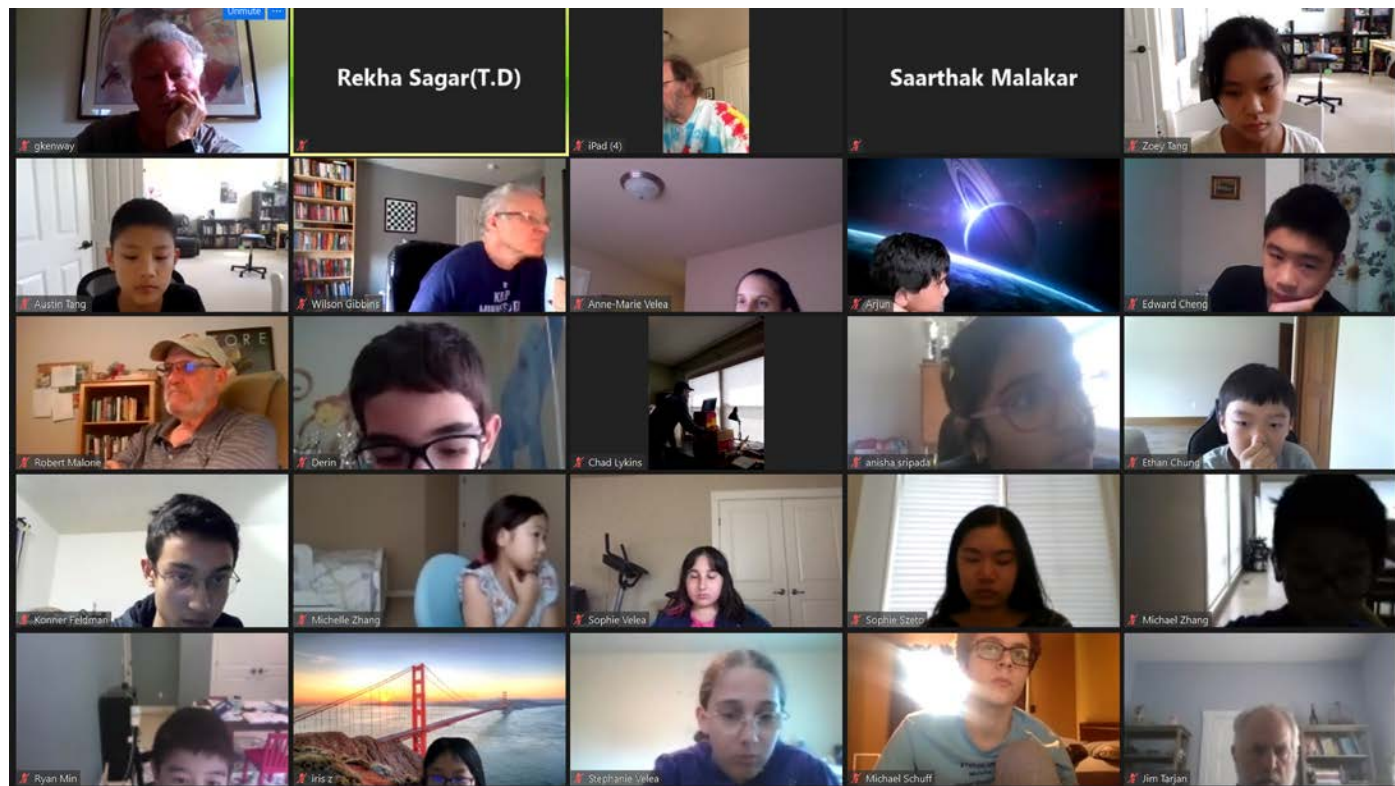
**31...b1Q**



Position after 31...b1Q

and my opponent resigned.

0-1



# Humor In Chess

By Karen Schmidt

Last month my topic was women in chess, and I have switched gears to humor in chess for this month. I was thinking back on my “chess world” experiences and realized there are many that were incredibly funny, or even very heartwarming. Instead of writing one person’s interesting story, I decided to put down several short vignettes, for your enjoyment. Most of you chess players out there probably have a wealth of good or humorous chess memories of your own. It’s good to have and share these memories during our current time of world pandemic.

I suppose the one that takes the cake is when I first officially met Viktors Pupols at the Seattle Chess Club (SCC). I had seen him at the Club for many years, and knew he was a local chess legend and still one of the top players in Seattle. In fact, I had even bought a little paperback book about his life, published in 1983 (*Viktors Pupols: American Master*, by Larry Parr). In 1955, when they were both very young (Bobby was 12!), Pupols beat Bobby Fischer in a Lincoln, Nebraska, U.S. Junior Championship chess tournament! That game appears in the 1983 book. I had never spoken to him; he always looked like a big, wild haired, scary Russian. (As Viktors is quick to point out, he is actually Latvian.)

At the tournament I was sitting on a love-seat at the SCC, waiting for round one pairings to be posted. Suddenly Viktors plopped down beside me and struck up a casual conversation. Within a few minutes I realized he was not scary at all; in fact he was very gregarious, friendly and funny. He is quite the storyteller and launched into a tale about when he was new to the U.S., and was working in the Pioneer Square neighborhood (where I frequently play casual chess). He told me that he got off work late in those days and would frequent an “after hours club” where one of the “acts” was a snake-charmer. I was pretty intrigued, because I didn’t realize there was such a thing as a snake charmer in Real Life. Let alone in Seattle. The snake charmer carried his ten-foot python in a canvas bag with zipper. One night before he started his act at the club, he discovered that his bag — with snake inside — had been stolen. Imagine the thief’s face when he discovered that instead of money or valuables, the stolen bag contained a huge snake.



Viktors Pupols at the Seattle Chess Club circa Feb 2019. Photo credit: Karen Schmidt.

So...Viktors told me that everyone at the bar fanned out in the neighborhood in search of the bag. Unfortunately the bag and dead snake were eventually found in a garbage can in an alley. Viktors turned to me and asked, “Do you know how these days, they do those Go Fund Me things on the internet?” I acknowledged that I did, and he said, “Well, we all did something like that. We pooled our money and came up with enough to buy him a new snake.” I was mesmerized by this little story, and I heard a couple more good ones before round one started.

I was quite honored that day during one of the rounds, when Viktors came over (with his clock running) and watched my game for a few minutes. I was debating the best move, and one of the possible moves was *en passant*. Later that day, Viktors sought me out to make sure I knew about the potential *en passant* move; I told him that I did, but I had decided to make a different move I considered to be better. This man is a gentle giant, a brilliant chess player to this day, and very caring of others.

Another favorite chess story is from my days working for UW in one of the accounting departments. One of my fellow workers, Alice, and her husband, Eugene, were originally from Belarus and Ukraine, respectively. I had actually met Eugene at the SCC a couple times, and he knew I was a chess player — albeit a novice compared to him. One day over lunch in the break room, Alice told me the story of one of their early dates. Now, Alice was not a chess player. So when she volunteered to attend and watch a U.S. Championship chess tournament (January 2002 at the Northwest Rooms of the Seattle Center), she probably had no idea what she was in for. Eugene was attending to watch, not play. If I remember correctly, Alice said she didn’t bring a book or a magazine, and the tournament part of the “date” lasted about five or six hours. I still just crack up when I think about this scenario. It would be kind of like a non-golfer (me) going to an all day golf tournament on a date. I told her I was amazed that she ever went on additional dates with her future husband!

They are still married and now have a six-year-old son who plays chess, of course. Incidentally, in 2009 when GM Nakamura played a simul at Microsoft, Eugene was one of only two players to come away with a win. (No draws.)

Another incident which comes to mind happened at Westlake Park downtown, where I have been playing casual chess since 2016. One day a fellow came over to my table where my board was set up. I asked him if he would like to play a game, and he replied, “no, I only play the best.” I was a bit taken aback but just said “OK,” and waited for another prospective opponent. A couple weeks later I was back at Westlake with board ready when the same guy came by and asked me if I wanted to play. I was surprised, thinking I was now one of the best, and I said “sure.” Then he said, “how about two dollars on the game.” I declined and told him I don’t bet on chess

games. He wandered off. A week or two later, he saw me and *again* asked if I wanted to play. I said sure, and this time there was no mention of money. We had a medium-length casual game, which was a solid win for me. After the game, it took all my will power to shake his hand and say merely “good game.”

Another fond memory is the time I lost a game to ten-year-old Alec Beck at the SCC. (In my defense, he was rated top in the country for his age level, which I didn’t know at the time.) After my defeat, he asked politely if I would like to go over the game in the skittles room next door. I said sure, so we reviewed the game and he graciously pointed out where I could have made better moves, etc. In the course of our conversation I learned that his coach was some GM or former national champion of a European country... which made me feel much better about my loss. Then as we finished up our review, he

asked me quite seriously if I would like to see his lucky two-dollar bill. I said that I would indeed. He had a hardback book where he recorded all his games, and inside the front cover there was taped not only a two-dollar bill, but a real, flattened four-leaf clover. I was impressed by the fact that such a talented young player was such a humble person, and also still an innocent child at heart. He’s a few years older now and is getting close to a rating of 2000 the last time I checked.

I’m sure most of you have some heartwarming chess memories. I like to look back on mine and keep a sense of humor about chess... especially when I am having a losing streak. One of my favorite chess aphorisms is a statement from GM Yasser Seirawan: “You have to lose 1000 games before you get good.”

Until next time, keep playing until you get good!



(L) Eugene Rozenfeld and his son, Dennis. Photo credit: Alice Bukengolts.

# The 2020 Mike Neeley Memorial

## Northwest Grand Prix

Murlin Varner, Administrator

Due, in part, to the disruption of the current pandemic, the structure of the Grand Prix has been changed for the current year. As of the end of July, there had only been two Grand Prix events held in Oregon and only one in Idaho. The prospects of any future events this year was slim to none, and the prospects of getting the fees paid for those three events was not any better, so the Northwest Chess managing board has implemented a change. (Our hope is that the change is temporary, with a return to normalcy in 2021, but I make no promises.)

For 2020, there will be cash prizes paid for Washington players only. The fees collected based on players from outside of Washington will be placed in a pool for subscription prizes for those players, to be known as "The Others." Since the state of the art is online for the foreseeable future, "The Others" can come from just about anywhere. As of the end of July, we have had players from 18 states and seven other countries.

To create the standings based on this new plan, I first had to back out the three unpaid events; the Neil Dale Memorial, the Dake Memorial and the Idaho Closed. That left us with thirteen events to date, eight of which had point multipliers. August added two additional events to this total, with the Apropos Swiss #1 and the Seattle Chess Classic. As of this writing, there are no events shown on the calendar for September. Keep an eye on the Northwest Chess website for any updates in that regard.

Since the WCF online events have not been rated by US Chess, I have 20 players in my database who are classed as "unrated". These players are currently rolled into the "Class D and Below" category. Some have played in multiple events and are really NOT Class D. Since the events have been rated in our local Northwest rating system, by next month I will have updated the unrated players with their NWSRS ratings, which will remain in use until over-the-board chess finally resumes. Regular US Chess ratings will continue to be used for those who have them.

Data below current through August 1.

2020 Memorial Northwest Grand Prix Standings								
Washington				Other Places				
	last	first	pts.		last	first	place	pts.
<b>Masters</b>				<b>Masters</b>				
1	Mahajan	Rushaan	47.0	1	Raptis	Nick	OR	84.0
2	Levine	David	25.0	2	Lenderman	Aleksander	NY	61.5
3	Pupols	Viktors	24.5	3	Shahinyan	David	ARM	45.5
4	Orlov	Georgi	22.5	4	Martinez Alcantara	Jose	PER	31.5
5	Kaufman	Ray	19.5	4	Tarjan	James	OR	31.5
<b>Experts</b>				<b>Experts</b>				
1	Vijayakumar	Advaith	63.0	1	Vega	Isaac	OR	58.0
2	Shubin	Daniel	56.5	2	Sairam	Pranav	CA	39.0
3	Bell	Harry	53.0	3	Huang	Patrick M	CAN	37.5
4	Whale	Nicholas	49.0	4	McConnell	Griffin	CO	25.5
5	Jiang	Brandon	42.5	5	Guha	Eshan	NJ	21.0
<b>Class A</b>				<b>Class A</b>				
1	Tien	Sophie	90.0	1	Moore	Michael	OR	74.0
2	Razmov	Valentin N	79.0	2	Ingram	Richard	CAN	30.5
3	Qian	Daniel	61.5	3	Lu	Ryan	OR	19.0
4	Chen	Minda	54.5	4	Five tied at			18.0
5	Beck	Alec	44.0					

Washington				Other Places				
	last	first	pts.		last	first	place	pts.
<b>Class B</b>				<b>Class B</b>				
1	Wang	Felicity	55.0	1	Guo	Yu Han (Veronica)	CAN	30.0
2	Gottumukkala	Ananth	51.5	2	Pai	Kushal	OR	21.0
3	Vemparala	Nikash	51.0	2	Zhao	Maxwell Z	IL	21.0
4	Li	Edward	48.0	4	Herr	Griffin G	ID	16.5
5	Johar	Mudit	43.5	4	Kaur	Aradh	WI	16.5
5	Lopez	Francisco J	43.5					
<b>Class C</b>				<b>Class C</b>				
1	Singh	Saket	71.5	1	Zhu	Florina	NJ	31.5
2	Brown	Northern	69.5	2	Martin	Andrew	CAN	22.0
3	Li	Emma	67.0	3	He	Justin	ID	19.5
4	Ramkumar	Aditya	60.5	4	Gabunia	Davit	OR	18.0
5	Devaraju	Sonia	59.0	5	Gilton	Terry	ID	15.0
				5	McSally	Ian R	MO	15.0
<b>Class D and Below</b>				<b>Class D And Below</b>				
1	Kona	Vidip	81.5	1	Hack	Don	CAN	54.5
2	Ruff`	Lois	75.5	2	Arul	Sharvesh	AZ	44.0
2	Shanmugam	Meera	75.5	3	Wang	Jalen	OR	30.0
4	Devadithya	Hiruna	74.0	4	Malakar	Saarthak	OR	24.0
5	Willy	Stephen	65.0	5	LI	David	IL	22.0
<b>Overall Standings</b>								
1	Tien	Sophie	90.0	1	Raptis	Nick	OR	84.0
2	Kona	Vidip	81.5	2	Moore	Michael	OR	74.0
3	Razmov	Valentin N	79.0	3	Lenderman	Aleksander	NY	61.5
4	Ruff`	Lois	75.5	4	Vega	Isaac	OR	58.0
4	Shanmugam	Meera	75.5	5	Hack	Don	CAN	54.5
6	Devadithya	Hiruna	74.0	6	Shahinyan	David	ARM	45.5
7	Singh	Saket	71.5	7	Arul	Sharvesh	AZ	44.0
8	Brown	Northern	69.5	8	Sairam	Pranav	CA	39.0
9	Li	Emma	67.0	9	Huang	Patrick M	CAN	37.5
10	Willy	Stephen	65.0	10	Martinez Alcantara	Jose	PER	31.5
11	Vijayakumar	Advaith	63.0	10	Tarjan	James	OR	31.5
12	Qian	Daniel	61.5	10	Zhu	Florina	NJ	31.5
13	Tran	Nugen	61.0	13	Ingram	Richard	CAN	30.5
13	Zhang	Michelle	61.0	14	Guo	Yu Han (Veronica)	CAN	30.0
15	Ramkumar	Aditya	60.5	14	Wang	Jalen	OR	30.0

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