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Letter To The Editor

January 28, 2021

Dear Editor:

Being out of touch with most of the chess news, it was with deep sadness that I received news of Rusty Miller's death. My condolences to Kathy and the Miller family. Rusty and his brother-in-law, Buzz Eddy, were the first tournament directors that I met in 1966. I played Kathy Miller in my third tournament. Rusty and Buzz are still the best tournament directors I have ever known.

Reading through the memorials in the February issue, I was astonished to see no one mentioned how Rusty helped save chess in western Washington and throughout the state. My recollection of 40 years ago is that tournaments were not being held, and activity was nearly dead.

Rusty called for a meeting of some players to finance and hold tournaments on a regular basis. Most of the players at that meeting were there because Rusty called us. The East-West Tournament Association was formed, and tournaments were held on a regular basis backed by funds given or promised at that meeting. The idea was to hold tournaments, and if they made money, the profits were to finance more tournaments. It made money. Only Rusty had the trust and respect to make it happen. I can't recall all who were at that meeting; Duane Polich, Hanniegn Pitre, and Michael Schemm are just a few that I can recall.

Washington chess owes a great debt to Rusty Miller.

Sincerely,

Marvin Hayami

2020 Oregon Junior Closed Championships

By Wilson Gibbins

The Oregon Junior Closed Champions and Challengers round-robin tournaments were held online over the December school break. Officially the five round tournament was scheduled for December 19-21. But modern young people have full schedules which lead to conflicts. Luckily the online format made it easy to reschedule a few games, which meant that the tournament was not decided until Konner Feldman played Shunkai Peng on December 24.

Going into the game, Konner had four points and Shunkai had 3.5, so Konner only needed a draw to win the tournament. Konner managed a draw with the white pieces to earn a spot in the 2021 Oregon Closed Championship. In the Challengers section, Kushal Pai won his first four games while Raj Kodithyala won two and drew two, so Raj needed to win in round five. Raj used the white pieces to secure the win and tie Kushal for first.

Konner played the Jobava Veresov variation in his three games with White. Here are two examples of his practical skills in this line.

**Austin Tang (1852) –
Kushal Pai (1687) [B92]**

Oregon Junior Closed Challenger's Chess.com (R2), December 19, 2020
[Wilson Gibbins]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be2 e5 7.Nb3 Be6 8.0-0

Another one of my dogmas from the 1970s bites the dust. Back then, the received wisdom was that 7...Be6 was

inaccurate because 8.f4 Qc7 (supports the Bishop moving to c4 after White plays f5) (in reality, Black's position is perfectly playable after 8...Be7 9.f5 Bd7 10.g4 h6 11.h4 Bc6 12.Bf3 Nh7) 9.g4! led to White's advantage. Perhaps that is still true, as White scores 73% from this position. (9.f5 Bc4)

8...Be7 9.Kh1 Nc6

Back in the day, everyone played the more "Najdorfy" 9...Nbd7 10.f4 Qc7 because if you wanted to put your Knight on c6, why didn't you put it there on move five? Kids today are a lot more open-minded.

10.f4 exf4

Kushal declines to fight for the tempo by waiting for White to play Be3 before taking White's f-pawn, so Austin gets to develop his dark squared Bishop for free. This seems naive, but a deeper analysis shows that (1) Black has saved a move by compared to the same plan the Scheveningen variation of the Sicilian by playing e7-e5 in one move (in the Scheveningen Black first plays e7-e6, then e6-e5). And sometimes White recaptures with his rook instead of his bishop in these lines. For some examples, check out Karpov's four games from his 1974 Candidates Match against Polugaevsky in your database.

11.Bxf4 0-0 12.Qe1 Ng4

I would instantly play 12...Ne5 to block the pressure from the f4 bishop on my d6 pawn, but White scores 66.7% from that position, so Kushal is correct to steer in the direction of other adventures. Only three games in the database, the engine Leela thinks Black is okay, so why not give it a try?

13.Bxg4 Bxg4

We reach a position where both sides have strongpoint squares for Knights (d5 for White, e5 for Black), isolated central pawns on open files to defend, and active

pieces. Both players will get chances to attack, defend, and most of all, calculate.

14.Nd5 Bh4 15.Qd2 Ne5 16.Ne3 Be6 17.Rad1 Nc4 18.Nxc4 Bxc4

The d-pawn looks doomed, but Kushal's active bishops make it hard for Austin's rooks to find comfortable squares. I would worry about having two loose pieces to potentially drop off, but Kushal seems to have it (barely) under control.

19.Rf3 Re8 20.Na5 Rxe4 21.Nxb7 Qe7 22.Nxd6

Both sides have captured their opponent's isolated center pawn, and Austin has snarfed a b-pawn along the way. Kushal has compensation based on piece activity. Nobody has stable pieces.

22...Re2 23.Qc3 Bd5 24.Nf5



Position after 24.Nf5

24...Qf6 25.Qxf6?!

White is a pawn up and under some pressure, so I would be tempted to simplify too. But this is a small step in the wrong direction. 25.Nxh4 Qxh4 26.Rg3 and the checkmate threat on g7 buys time to secure the bishop on f4, leading to an unclear position.

25...Bxf6. 26.Rg3 Be4 27.Nh6+ Kf8 28.Bd6+ Be7

28...Ke8 is a minor improvement, retaining the two bishops and an attack on the b-pawn. 29.Ng4 Bxb2

29.Bxe7+ Kxe7 30.Rxg7 Bg6?!

Championship Section

	Shunkai Peng	Roshen Nair	Zoey Tang	Konner Feldman	Ryan Lu	Havish Sripada	Total
Shunkai Peng		1.0	1.0	0.5	1.0	0.5	4.0
Roshen Nair	0.0		0.5	0.0	1.0	1.0	2.5
Zoey Tang	0.0	0.5		0.0	0.5	0.0	1.0
Konner Feldman	0.5	1.0	1.0		1.0	1.0	4.5
Ryan Lu	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.0		0.5	1.0
Havish Sripada	0.5	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.5		2.0

Challenger's Section

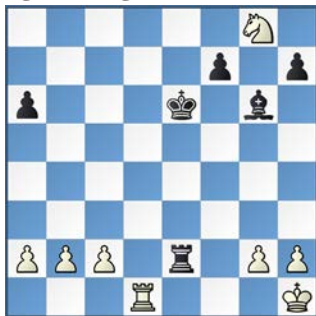
	Raj Kodithyala	Austin Tang	Fedor Semenov	Jack McClain	Kushal Pai	David Roshu	Total
Raj Kodithyala		0.5	0.5	1.0	1.0	1.0	4.0
Austin Tang	0.5		0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	1.5
Fedor Semenov	0.5	1.0		0.5	0.0	0.5	2.5
Jack Woo McClain	0.0	1.0	0.5		0.0	0.5	2.0
Kushal Pai	0.0	1.0	1.0	1.0		1.0	4.0
David Roshu	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.5	0.0		1.0

A human move, trapping the Rook. The cold-blooded-engine move is 30...Rc8 31.Rxf7+ Ke6 and Black is three pawns down but about to get a few of them back after 32.Rg7 Rxc2.

31.Rg8

31.Rf1 is equal after 31...Rxc2 (31...Kf8?? 32.Rg8+) 32.h4 Preparing to drive the Bishop away from defense of the kingside pawns. 32...Rxb2 33.h5 Bxb5 34.Nxf7 Bxf7 35.Rxf7+=

31...Rxb2 32.Nxg8+ Ke6



Position after 32...Ke6

White is still two pawns up, but Black will soon get at least one back, and White's Knight is a long way from contributing to the team effort.

33.c4?

33.g4. is best, so White doesn't get tied down to the defense of the g-pawn, but it will still be hard for White to defend. 33...Be4+ 34.Kg1 Rg2+ 35.Kf1 Rxf4 36.Rd8 (36.Nh6 Rh4) 36...f5

33...Be4+ 34.Rg1 Rxb2 35.h4 Rxa2 36.Kh2 f5 37.Kh3 Kf7 38.Nb6+ Kg7 39.Nxf5+ Bxf5+ 40.g4 Ra3+ 41.Kh2 Bd3 42.Rc1 Ra4

0-1

**Raj Kodithyala (1866) –
Kushal Pai (1687) [B22]**

Oregon Junior Closed Challenger's
Chess.com (R5), December 20, 2020
[Wilson Gibbins]

1.e4 c5 2.c3 d5 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.d4 cxd4 5.cxd4 Nf6 6.Nf3 Bg4 7.Be2 e6 8.0-0 Nc6 9.h3 Bh5 10.Nc3 Qd7 11.Be3 Be7 12.Qb3

The engines recommend 12.g4 Bg6 13.Ne5 as 13...Nxe5? (Black must grovel with a line like 13...Qc7 14.h4 (it must be nice to have the confidence of an engine to move pawns in front of your king)) 14.dxe5 Qxd1 15.Rfxd1 is unplayable due to lines like 15...Ne4 (15...Nd7 16.Bb5 Rd8 17.Rxd7 Rxd7 18.Rd1) 16.Nb5 0-0 17.Rac1 a6 18.Nd6.

12...Bg6

12...Bxf3 13.Bxf3 0-0 is the simplest route to a solid position, though White can hope the two Bishops will amount to something.

13.Ne5!±



Position after 13.Ne5

Raj gets the advantages of the 12.g4 lines described above without weakening his kingside.

13...Nxe5?

Black must play a move like 13...Qc7!±; or 13...Qc8 but it isn't much fun to bring your queen to an open file with your king still uncastled.

14.dxe5 0-0

Black can't save the Knight on f6 14...Nd5 15.Bb5.

15.exf6 Bxf6 16.Rfd1 Qe7 17.Bf3 Bg5 18.Bxg5 Qxg5 19.Ne4 Qe7 20.Rac1 Rad8 21.Rxd8 Rxd8 22.Rd1 b6 23.Rxd8+ Qxd8 24.Qc4 h6 25.b4

1-0

**Konner Feldman (2039) –
Zoey Tang (2097) [D00]**

Oregon Junior Closed Championship
Chess.com (R1), December 18, 2020
[Wilson Gibbins]

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nc3 d5 3.Bf4 a6

This line scores well for Black and ends the eternal vigilance for Nb5 shots. It might look a little slow, but since White doesn't have the c4 or e4 pawn breaks to open the game, perhaps Black can get away with it.

4.e3

I was surprised that my database had no examples of 4.e4 in my database, with an offer to transpose into a Blackmar-Diemer gambit after 4...dxe4 5.f3 and hopes that White's move 3.Bf4 is more useful than Black's 3...a6. Curiously there were six games that started from White's position after 5.f3 in my database, just not from this move order. White won five of them. One of them started out as a Trompowsky, an opening that Zoey knows quite a bit

about. 1.d4 Nf6 2.Bg5 Ne4 3.Bf4 d5 4.f3 Nf6 5.e4 dxe4 6.Nc3 a6 is Galyas, Miklos (2440) – Goday, Laszlo (2155) from the Budapest Spring Open in 2000.

4...e6 5.Nf3 c5 6.dxc5

This is the first choice of the engines and the second choice in database popularity, but it is surprising that trading a center pawn for a wing pawn to develop Black's bishop will give White a good game.

6...Bxc5= 7.Bd3 Nc6 8.0-0 0-0 9.e4

This position looks like it is ready to open up. You will be shocked at how closed it will become in the next half dozen moves.

9...Nb4

Maybe this is the secret of the Jobava Veresov success — it encourages the players of the Black pieces to be ambitious.

10.e5 Nxd3 11.Qxd3 Ne8

Zoey's move does not appear as natural as 11...Nd7 but the engines prefer it. Engines also like the tricky 11...Qc7 discouraging 12.exf6 due to 12...Qxf4

12.Rad1 Qe7 13.Rfe1 b5 14.a3± Bb7 15.b4!?

This is a good positional move, but I can't give it a full exclaim because there is an attacking move that is at least as good. White's c-file looks weak, but it will be hard to maneuver Black's knight on e8 to c4 and Black's rooks are not yet coordinated to attack the backward pawn on c2. The attacking move is 15.Ng5 g6 16.Qh3 h5 17.Nf3

15...Ba7 16.Ne2

The engines prefer 16.Be3 or 16.Bg5 followed by 17.Be3.

16...f5

Both Leela and Stockfish suggest 16...d4! not because it gets Black to equality or better, but because it is more pleasant to play a pawn down with open lines for your two bishops than to be squeezed in a position with a bad bishop. Who says computers don't have feelings too?

17.Be3 Bxe3 18.Qxe3± Rc8 19.Nfd4

White is a long way from breaking through with an attack. But it is hard to see how Black will get any counterplay, so it appears that White will be able to build up the attack slowly and carefully. That is roughly what happens, but Zoey sneaks a shot in along the way to create a moment of drama. Even in "completely winning" positions you always need to be on the lookout. As Andy Grove says, only the paranoid survive.

19...g6 20.Rd3 Rc4 21.Qh6 Qg7 22.Qd2 Bc8 23.h4 Nc7 24.Nf4 Kh8 25.Rh3 Rg8 26.Ree3 Bd7

26...h6 and White is still much better, but it avoids creating more pawn weaknesses.

27.h5 gxf5

The positionally desirable 27...g5? is met by 28.Ng6+.

28.Rxb5

Black's lineup on the g-file looks impressive but there is no way to increase the pressure.

28...Qf7 29.Reh3 Rg7 30.Rh6+-



Position after 30.Rh6+

Still even material, but the engines are evaluating this to be about +6 for White (over a rook advantage).

30...Qg8 31.Rh2 Be8 32.Qe3 Bf7 33.c3 a5

A pointless queenside demonstration, right? How will Zoey follow up these pawn moves, as her only active piece is the rook on c4?

34.Qh3 axb4 35.axb4 Na8

Probably preparing to play the knight to b6 and a4, right?

36.Ndx6 Bxe6 37.Nxe6

The engines spot 37.Ng6+! Rxc6 38.Rxh7+ Qxh7 39.Qxh7#

37...Ra7!

All of a sudden Zoey has created a mate-in-one threat from her seemingly irrelevant moves on the queenside. The move 35...Na8 cleared Black's second rank for the rook to grab the a-file. While it didn't save the game, you have to admit it was clever.

38.f4! d4

38...Ra1+ 39.Kf2 and White stops the checks by approaching the rook on the first and second ranks. 39...Ra2+ 40.Ke1 Ra1+ 41.Kd2 Ra2+ 42.Kc1 Ra1+ 43.Kb2 39.Qxf5 Ra1+ 40.Kf2 Ra2+ 41.Kf1 Ra1+ 42.Ke2 d3+ 43.Kf2 Ra2+ 44.Kf3

1-0

Konner Feldman (2039) – Roshen Nair (2105) [D00]
Oregon Junior Closed Championship Chess.com (R3), December 19, 2020
[Wilson Gibbins]

1.d4 d5 2.Bf4 Nf6 3.Nc3

Konner transposes from the London System to the Jobava Variation of the Veresov Opening (1.d4 Nf6 2.Nc3 d5 3.Bf4) that he also played against Zoey and Shunkai.

3...e6

the most common response in my database.

4.Nb5

This violates the “don't move the same piece twice in the opening” rule, but it is the engine-endorsed and second most popular move in this position. 4.e3 is the most popular.

4...Na6 5.e3 c6 6.Nc3



Position after 6.Nc3

It appears that White has lost two moves in the opening with a premature Knight maneuver. In reality, the position is about even as Black's Knight on a6 isn't particularly well placed.

6...Bb4

Roshen isn't afraid of doubled isolated a pawns. Some players have resorted to moves like 6...Nc7, 6...Nb8, or 6...Qb6 to avoid them.

7.Bxa6

And Konner isn't afraid of Roshen's two Bishops or open b-file.

7...bxa6 8.Nf3

And the game is about equal.

8...Ne4

Roshen goes pawn hunting. But Black has other playable moves. 8...c5; 8...0-0

9.0-0

It is easy to make this pawn sacrifice, as Black's extra a-pawn won't be easy to promote.

9...Nxc3 10.bxc3 Bxc3 11.Rb1 f6

11...0-0 is okay too, but maybe Roshen concerned with defending his c-pawn after 12.Ne5 and seventh rank after 12...Bd7 13.Rb7.

12.Qd3 Ba5 13.Qa3 Kf7 14.c4 Re8

14...dxc4 15.Rfc1 And White gets the pawn back.

15.Qa4 dxc4

This is a better try for equality than the obvious defense. 15...Bd7 which allows 16.Rb7 dxc4 (16...Bb6 17.c5 Qc8 18.Qxa6) 17.Rxd7+ Qxd7 18.Qxa5.

16.Qxc4 Bb6 17.Nd2 Qd5 18.Qc2 e5 19.dxe5 fxe5 20.Bg3 g6?

Black's difficulties stem from this plausible defense of the h-pawn. Black is still equal after 20...Kg8 combining defense of the h-pawn with getting the King out of danger, or the wilder; 20...Be6 21.Qxh7 Qxd2 22.Bxe5 Rg8.

21.Rfd1± Bg4



Position after 21...Bg4

21...Qc5 22.Qa4 Bf5 23.Rbc1 Qa5 24.Qc4+

22.Ne4! Bxd1 23.Rxd1 Kg7

Giving up the queen is no worse than the alternatives. 23...Qa5 allows 24.Ng5+ Kg7 (24...Kf8 25.Qxc6 threatening 26.Qf6+ 25...Qxa2 to defend the f7 square 26.Nxh7+ Kg7 27.Qf6+) 25.Rd7+ Kg8 26.Qc4+; 23...Bd4 24.exd4 Rad8 is equal in material count, but the engines say White is winning.

24.Rxd5 cxd5 25.Nd6 Re7 26.Qc6 Rb8 27.h3 d4 28.Bxe5+ Rxe5 29.Qd7+ Kg8 30.Qf7+ Kh8 31.Qf6+ Kg8 32.Qxe5

1-0

Shunkai Peng (2411) – Ryan Lu (1948) [D42]
Oregon Junior Closed Championship Chess.com (R3), December 23, 2020
[Wilson Gibbins]

1.e4 c6 2.c4

A good move for getting Caro-Kann players out of their comfort zone. Maybe

it will transpose to a Panov-Botvinnik attack, maybe not...

2...d5 3.cxd5 cxd5 4.exd5 Nf6 5.Nc3 Nxd5 6.Nf3 e6 7.d4

We now reach a position that could have come from a Caro-Kann Panov-Botvinnik attack, a Queen's Gambit Declined Semi-Tarrasch (1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Nf3 c5), or even the English (1.c4 c5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.e3 e6 6.d4 cxd4 7.exd4).

7...Be7 8.Bd3 0-0 9.0-0 Nc6 10.Qe2

Shunkai offers a tricky gambit that has been played a few times by Magnus Carlsen. This is the third most popular choice in the position after 10.Re1 and 10.a3.

10...Ndb4

And Ryan courageously takes the offer. Carlsen's opponents were less courageous. Ryan is not being foolhardy — engines and databases rate all three choices as roughly equivalent. 10...Bd7 Carlsen – Leko, Legends of Chess Preliminaries, 2020, 1/2–1/2; 10...Nf6 Carlsen – Harikrishna, Tata Steel India Blitz, 2019, 1–0.

11.Be4

The quibblers will point out that White's 10.Qe2 wasn't technically a gambit, as White can keep the pawn with 11.Rd1 or 11.Be3.

But in an isolated queen's pawn position, White's light-squared bishop is an essential part of the attack, and allowing Black to trade a knight for it is a bigger concession than giving up the d-pawn.

11...Nxd4 12.Nxd4 Qxd4 13.Rd1

This has all been played before, as long ago as Szabo–Portisch, 1960.

13...Qb6

Portisch preferred 13...Qf6 protecting his king but abandoning his b-pawn after 14.Be3 e5 15.Ra1 Be6 16.Bxb7 and leading to a loss in 35 moves.

14.Be3 Qa6 15.Qh5 g6

15...f5 is a little better. Since Ryan plays it on his next move, it might have been nice to keep the dark squares better protected with his pawn on g7 instead of g6. But White still has a slight edge after 16.a3, the move Shunkai used in the actual game.

16.Qh6 f5 17.a3

Leela likes White's position (0.61), Stockfish loves White's position (2.67).

17...fxe4

And both engines display a slight preference for 17...Nc6 though human players would hate to put a piece on a square obstructing Black's queen from kingside defense.

Plus it is nice to get White's light-squared bishop off the board, though in this case Ryan has already created a nice phalanx of light-squared pawns that has lowered the bishop's threat level from red to orange.

18.axb4

Ryan hasn't played badly, but Shunkai is winning.

18...Qc6 19.b5 Qe8 20.b6 a6 21.Bd4 Qf7 22.Nxe4 Bd7 23.Ra3!



Position after 23.Ra3

Okay, in reality, the move 23.Rd3 is just as good, but Shunkai's 23.Ra3 has a demoralizing effect on the defender's state of mind.

23...Bc6

23...Bxa3 24.Nf6+ Qxf6 (24...Kh8 25.Nxh7+) 25.Bxf6 Rf7 (25...Rxf6 26.Rxd7) 26.bxa3

24.Rf3 Bxe4 25.Rxf7 Rxf7 26.Rc1 Bc6 27.Qe3 Bd5 28.Rc7 Re8 29.h4 Rf5 30.Qh6 Rf7 31.h5 g5 32.Rxe7 Rxe7 33.Qxg5+

Notice that material is still even. But White has an overwhelming advantage.

33...Kf8 34.Qe5 Rf5 35.Qh8+ Kf7 36.Bc5 Re8 37.Qxh7+ Kf6 38.Qg6+ Ke5 39.Qg3+

1-0

Ryan Lu (1948) –

Konner Feldman (2039) [C42]

Oregon Junior Closed Championship Chess.com (R4), December 20, 2020
[Wilson Gibbins]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6

I think of the Petrov Defense as a drawing tool, but Konner and Caruana seem to be able to play it for a win. Watch how

Konner develops an attack against Ryan's King that is defended by four(!) pawns.

3.Nxe5 d6 4.Nf3 Nxe4 5.Nc3 Nxc3 6.dxc3 Be7 7.Be3 0-0 8.Qd2 Nd7 9.0-0 0-0 Nf6 10.Bd3 c5

This mainline move leaves a backward pawn on d6, but it does not appear to be an exploitable weakness.

11.h4

11.c4 b5!? 12.cxb5 a6 opens lines against White's formerly well protected King.

11...Be6 12.Kb1 d5

Backward no more.

13.Ng5 c4

And backward again.

14.Nxe6

And backward no more. Kids these days, can't make up their minds :-)

14...fxe6 15.Be2 Rc8 16.f3?!

It is hard to keep worrying about Black playing Ne4 at an uncomfortable moment, but this move might be a little too slow. 16.Bd4 is a little better.

16...Rc6. 17.a3 Qa5 18.Qc1 Ne8!

Bringing another piece to bear on a3 and c3.

19.Ka2?!



Position after 19.Ka2

A clever attempt to defend by bringing the queen to a1 that will end up making things worse. But White is already in trouble.

19...Nc7= 20.Qa1 Nb5 21.a4

Interesting, best, but it doesn't quite hold.

21...Qxa4+ 22.Kb1 Nxc3+ 23.bxc3 Ba3 24.Qa2 Qb5+ 25.Ka1 Ra6

At the temporary cost of a piece, Black's attack has broken through the defenses.

26.Rb1 Qa5 27.Rxb7 Qxc3+ 28.Kb1 Qxe3 29.Qa1 Rb6+ 30.Rxb6 Qxb6+ 31.Ka2 Be7 32.Rb1 Qa5+ 33.Kb2 Bf6+ 0-1

Carol Kleist / August Piper

By Karen Schmidt

I recently had the good fortune to interview two Seattle Chess Club (SCC) members whom I deeply admire. Both have served on the Board of the SCC literally for decades, and have decided to retire from the SCC Board. They will be greatly missed as Board members. Their many years of service to the club have been invaluable. I truly hope we will still see them there for over-the-board games when things return to the “new normal” in 2021.

When we spoke on the phone recently, Carol told me a bit about her life and her experiences in the local chess scene. Carol’s mother and her four children were living in Baker, Oregon, their father having died of tuberculosis when Carol was five years old. Carol’s high-school-age brother taught her the rudiments of the game of chess. She was in elementary school, and he would call her in from playing outside to play chess with him.

When her mother died in 1941, Carol, age 12, moved to Seattle and lived with her older sister, who was 25 and worked at Boeing. Carol majored in music at Cornish and got her music

degree there. After Cornish, she also attended the University of Washington and majored in Philosophy. She later received her PhD in German at the UW. As a college student, Carol rented a studio in the Paramount Building downtown, where she taught piano lessons; she was also teaching music classes at Cornish. By virtue of teaching music classes and private lessons (and eventually selling her grand piano!) Carol was able to travel to Germany in the 1950’s, where she studied music. Piano and violin were her main instruments. She married a German journalist who spoke only German with her (although he also spoke English and had been a translator after the war).

After her return to the United States, she became a Teaching Assistant in the German Department at the UW and taught the first two years of German while she studied for her PhD. After completing the PhD, she had an opportunity to teach at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, but was not able to, as she had two small children at the time. She thought it better to stay in Seattle where she knew people. The children’s father died before they were grown. Carol taught music, German and English in the Seattle Public Schools, at all three levels: first in middle school and then high school, and later 4th and 5th grades. As an orchestra teacher in the schools, she literally learned to play all the stringed instruments, as well as woodwinds and brass. (I find this to be amazing!)

In later years Carol was a member of the Bellevue Symphony, playing violin.

One day she picked up a chess book and began to read all about wonderful things like the King’s Gambit and the Queen’s Gambit Accepted. So, this is what her brother had been talking about when she was a child! She read on and was hooked. She visited the SCC where she met Fred Kleist. She fell in love with him in a parking lot one night as he stood outside her car and expounded on the numerous variations of the Ruy Lopez, not even noticing the heavy rain pounding them! Thus, in 1985, she dropped out of the symphony and took up chess in a serious way. She was still doing full-time teaching and giving private piano and violin lessons.

Carol has been a Seattle Chess Club member since the 1980s. When she joined, the club was meeting at NE 65th and Ravenna Blvd, which is where she met Fred Kleist, who was Tournament Director of the club. After being a club member for several years, she joined the Board. She told me that in 2002, August Piper had volunteered to join the Board, but Fred told him that the club had enough Board members, so “he could be the Club President.” August replied, “That would be an honor,” and was duly elected Club President, which position he held until retirement. Fred Kleist had completed his studies for his PhD in History at the UW, but noting that the SCC needed his help, he became Chief Tournament Director, and has remained the TD for decades. Carol has served as Secretary, Treasurer, and Co-treasurer and also as the informal “Helper with Everything Else.” After getting her US Chess TD certificate, she often served as TD on Friday evenings if Fred was going to play in the Quads the next day; I always looked forward to her serving as TD for the quarterly Novice Tournaments, which my son Peter and I played in. Through discussions of chess and music and other topics, Carol and I became good friends. Once, she even talked me out of dropping out of a tournament, as I cried on her shoulder in the hallway!

Carol still plays piano for her own enjoyment. She speaks English and German and reads French and a little Spanish and Greek. At age 65 she began auditing language and poetry classes at UW. I had hoped to start auditing classes this year myself, but the pandemic has prevented that for now. I was going to audit a choir class which performs in a concert at the end of each quarter!

Carol remains actively playing online chess these days, on chess.com. Her chess.com daily rating has ranged from 1600 to 1798. I am a bit lower on the rating scale and can honestly say that I have never beaten Carol in the several times we have played over the years. I hope Carol and I will have a chance to play over the board again in the near future!

I also had a chance to catch up with August Piper by phone recently. I must



Carol Kleist at the 2015 Washington Women’s Championship. Photo credit: Josh Sinanan.

admit that I did not realize he had served as the SCC President since 2002, although he graciously told me he was only the “titular” president. He gave much credit to others for the daily running of the club over the years.

August was born in St. Louis, and his father taught him to play chess at about the age of ten. (His two brothers were never interested in chess and do not play.) When he got to college, he was focused and doing well in school and did not play chess during college or Medical School. After receiving his MD, August came to Seattle to do his last year of residency at UW in Psychiatry. In addition to becoming a faculty member at UW, August also had a private practice in Seattle for many years.

During that last year of his residency, he joined the SCC. At that time, the club was quite informal and met wherever it could. I was interested to learn that when he first joined, the club was meeting at the Bush Hotel in the International District. In later years (at the time I first joined) the club met in Lake City. August and I had quite a discussion about the club’s move to a second story space in Lake

City. The space had been used as a junk shop, and there was trash all over the place when the SCC took over the lease. August described how they had daily work parties for several days running, when volunteers came and carted trash out in wheelbarrows, as well as throwing junk out the windows (!) to be collected in a dumpster and taken to the dump. His descriptive word for the condition of the space when the club began leasing it was “a pigpen.” I missed those work parties — I was not a member of the club yet.

One of August’s favorite memories of the SCC is the fundraiser auction, after the club had moved into their most recent comfortable space west of Northgate. Grandmaster Yasser Seirawan was living in Amsterdam at the time but visited Seattle specifically to personally meet the club members and see the club. Bob Ferguson, now Washington Attorney General, served as the MC at the auction. Seirawan had donated several of his own chess books, chess sets and other chess memorabilia. I attended that auction, and it was an enjoyable and successful event. I remember that it was announced that, for the last item to be auctioned, a large

wooden chess set, bidding would begin at \$200. I had a moment of private panic, wondering if anyone would bid that high for a “used chess set.” I believe the first bid came in at \$500 and within a few minutes it had sold for \$1800. I needn’t have worried! The auction was a success and Seirawan graciously donated his time to the club. It’s not often that a GM — and contender for the world championship — comes in person to a local chess club fundraiser.

I would like to thank both Carol Kleist and August Piper, on behalf of the club, for their much appreciated years of service on the SCC Board.

The Seattle Chess Club (a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization) had to give up its offices at Northgate last October due to the pandemic, and it now hosts twice weekly online play on lichess.org (see lichess.org/team/the-seattle-chess-club). All are welcome. The SCC exists based on club memberships and donations. The SCC serves as a home for chess in the Northwest, for players of all ages. Please support the club either by joining or contributing time or money (or both!).



August Piper at the 2014 Washington Open. Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.



Mike Franett. Photo courtesy of John Donaldson.

Michael Franett

By John Donaldson

Going through the game scores of the late Michael Franett (1941-2004) I recently came across the following undiscovered brilliancy which I thought the readers of *NWC* might enjoy.

Mike Franett started his chess career in the late 1950s at the Seattle Chess Club and Olaf Ulvestad's Seattle Chess Center, but it was not until the early 1970s that he reached the peak of his powers, winning three state championships in four years.

That was Mike's highwater mark as a player, but his greatest service to chess began in 1988 when he accepted the position of editor for Yasser Seirawan's magazine *Inside Chess*. Mike served in this capacity until the magazine ended in early 2000, editing close to 10,000 pages along the way! This ironman performance puts him in a very select group of chess journalists alongside Hall of Famers I.A. Horowitz and Herman Helms.

Mike Franett (2243) – James Thinssen (2439) [E47]
Western States Open Reno (R4)
October 31, 1992

Here Mike is matched against Southern California Senior Master James Thinssen who learns the hard way why his opponent, who stood around 6'5", was affectionately nicknamed the Grizzly Bear (*Ursus arctos horribilis*).

The scene of this mauling was the Western States Open in Reno. Michael was a fixture in this event that has been directed by Fran and Jerry Weikel for close to 40 years.

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e3 0-0 5.Bd3 b6 6.Qa4!?

This seems to be a novelty in this position where 6.Nge2 and 6.Nf3 are normally seen. The queen doesn't seem to be particularly well placed here, but it soon retreats to c2 and White has a winning position in less than twenty moves!

6...Bxc3+ 7.bxc3 Bb7 8.f3 c5 9.Ne2 d6 10.0-0 Nc6 11.e4 Na5

11...Ne8, along the lines of the Saemisch Nimzo-Indian (4.a3), was worth a thought. In this case Black might have wanted to defer playing ...d6 to keep that square free for the knight.

12.Bg5 Qe8?!

What could be more natural than offering a trade of queens and breaking the pin

and yet this move is the start of Black's troubles. 12...Rc8 was more prudent.

13.Qc2 Nd7 14.Ng3 Ba6 15.Qe2 Rc8 16.Rac1 Nb8?



Position after 16...Nb8

Black needed to go on defense with 16...f6 17.Be3 Rf7. After the text Black has few defenders around his king and White immediately starts a powerful attack.

17.e5! dxe5 18.dxe5 f5

This shouldn't save Black, but it offers the best chance to put up some resistance. Instead 18...Bb7 is met by the shot 19.Bf6! and Black has no defense. For example: 19...gxf6 (19...Nd7 20.Qe3) 20.Nh5 Nd7 21.Qe3 winning. Trying to win the c-pawn is much too slow: 18...Qa4 19.Qe4 g6 20.Qh4 Bxc4 21.Bf6 h5 22.Qg5 and the attack is successful — not surprising as four White pieces have the lone king cornered.

19.exf6 gxf6 20.Qe4 Qd7 21.Bh6 f5 22.Qe3 Rf6 23.Rcd1 Qf7 24.Bg5



Position after 24.Bg5

The text is perfectly fine and the human choice, but Stockfish 12 points out a faster knockout blow with 24.Ne4! which is not actually that surprising with Black's knights on a5 and b8 and bishop on a6. After 24...fxe4 25.fxe4 Bxc4 26.Bxc4 Nxc4 27.Qg5+ Qg6 (27...Rg6 28.Rd8+) 28.Rxf6 the game is over.

24...f4 25.Qe5 Nd7

[Diagram top of next column]

26.Qd6?

White, with the possible exception of his experimental sixth move, has played



Position after 25...Nd7

a near perfect game up to this point, but here he misses a pretty combination that exploits Black's overloaded queen: 26.Bxh7+! Kxh7 (26...Qxh7 27.Rxd7 Rf7 28.Ne4) 27.Rxd7.

26...fxg3

Now Black is back in the game...

27.Qxg3

...but not for long! Here he misses his chance and never gets another opportunity to save himself.

27...Rg6?

Correct was 27...Qg7 28.Bxh7+ Kxh7 29.Rxd7 (29.Qh4+ Kg6 30.Rxd7 Qxd7 31.Bxf6 Rg8 32.Be5 transposes.) 29...Qxd7 30.Bxf6 Rg8 31.Qh4+ Kg6 32.Be5 Nxc4 33.Qe4+ Kh6 34.Qh4+ and White has perpetual check, but nothing more.

28.Bxg6 hxg6 29.Rfe1 Bxc4



Position after 29...Bxc4

30.Re4! e5?

This loses right away, but even tougher tries fail. For example: 30...Re8 31.Rf4 Qg7 32.Rg4 Nf8 33.Qh4 Nh7 34.Bh6 Qf7 35.Rf4 and Black has no moves as 35...Qe7 is met by 36.Qxe7 Rxe7 37.Rd8+. On 30...Bxa2 31.Rh4 Nf8 32.Rh6 Nc6 33.Qh4 Nh7 34.Rd7! Qxd7 35.Rxg6+ Kf8 36.Qh6+ does the trick.

31.Rh4 Be6 32.Rxd7! Bxd7

32...Qxd7 33.Qxe5 Qd1+ 34.Kf2 Qc2+ 35.Kg3 and the checks run out. Once again Black has no pieces near his king.

33.Qxe5 Qg7 34.Bf6 1-0

Viktors Pupols vs Bobby Fischer

By Daniel Shubin

As many local chess players can attest, Viktors Pupols, is a common face in many, if not all, Washington chess tournaments. Having spent many hours before tournaments and between rounds waiting with Viktors Pupols, my dad and I have heard the story about how he beat Bobby Fischer many times. The more times I heard the story, the more I became intrigued by it and now, finally, I have committed to researching how Viktors was able to complete the impossible and become one of the few people who could claim to have beaten one of the best chess players to ever play the game.

The year was 1955, and 25 talented juniors had signed up for the ten-round US Junior Chess Championship that was being held in Lincoln, Nebraska. The prizes, in addition to the trophies and merchandise offered to the top ten finishers, included a \$75 (that translates to roughly \$728 today) suit for first place. During this time, Viktors, 20, had a US Chess rating of around 2037 while Fischer, 12, was still relatively unknown and had a rating of around 1830.

Going into the confrontation, Fischer had played stable chess throughout the tournament and had drawn three, won one, and lost one, while Viktors, obviously playing with a riskier style had won three but also lost three. Both were going into round seven with a respectable 3.0/6 points and during the day before their match they played a few blitz games together. According to Tom Sawyer, "he (Viktors) played blitz vs Fischer, beating Bobby repeatedly with the Latvian Gambit." He continues to say that "Viktors told him that he would play the Latvian that night vs Bobby in their tournament game. Fischer did not believe him and continued to study the Ruy Lopez and Giuoco Piano all day long." However, Viktors, did not scream wolf and instead told the truth; that night he crushed Bobby in the Latvian Gambit.

**Robert James Fischer –
Viktors Pupols [C40]**

Lincoln ch-US jr Lincoln, NE USA
(R7), July 21, 1955
[Daniel Shubin]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 f5

This is what is typically known as the Latvian Gambit (or Greco Countergambit).

3.Nxe5

3.Bc4 fxe4 4.Nxe5 d5 5.Qh5+ g6 6.Nxg6 hxg6 7.Qxg6+ Kd7 8.Bxd5∞ White has three pawns for the piece with the attack; 3.exf5 e4 4.Ne5 Nf6 5.Be2 d6? 6.Bh5+ Ke7 7.Nf7+-

3...Qf6 4.d4!

4.Nc4 fxe4 5.Nc3 Qf7 6.Ne3 c6 7.d3 exd3 8.Bxd3 d5 9.0-0 Bc5 10.Na4 Bd6

4...d6 5.Nc4 fxe4 6.Nc3 Qg6 7.Ne3 Nf6



Position after 7...Nf6

Personally, I agree with the computer that White is better than Black in this position. They have better development and a safer king (for now?)

8.Bc4?

Now Black gets ...d5 with a tempo.

8.Be2 c6 9.0-0 d5 10.f3±

8...c6 9.d5

9.0-0 d5 10.Be2 Bd6=

9...Be7 10.a4

10.f3 exf3 11.Qxf3 Nbd7 12.dxc6 Ne5 13.Qe2 bxc6 14.0-0 Qh5 15.Qxh5+ Nxh5±

10...Nbd7 11.a5?!

Fischer just wasted two tempos and now the game has flipped in favor of Viktors.

11...Ne5 12.Be2 0-0 13.0-0 Bd7

13...c5!?! 14.Kh1 Neg4 15.Nxg4 Nxg4 16.Bxg4 Bxg4+-

14.Kh1 Kh8 15.Nc4 Nfg4 16.Qe1

[Diagram top of next column]

16...Rf7?!



Position after 16.Qe1

Too slow, allowing White to trade pieces and simplify.

16...Nf3!! 17.gxf3 exf3 18.Bxf3 Rxf3+- 19.Qxe7?? (19.Rg1 Re8 20.Rg2 Bh4) 19...Nxf2+ 20.Rxf2 Rxf2 21.Qg5 Rf1+ 22.Kg2 Raf8 23.Qxg6 R8f2+ Mate in five... Can you find it?

**17.h3 Nf6 18.Nxe5 dxe5 19.Bc4 Rff8±
20.Be3??**

This game is going back and forth.

20...Nh5

20...cxd5!! 21.Bb5 (21.Nxd5 Nxd5 22.Bxd5 Bxh3 23.gxh3 (23.Bxe4 Qxe4 Viktors is up a bishop after a potential undefendable combination) 23...Rf3+-)

21.Kh2 Bd6 22.Bb3

22.dxc6 Bxc6 23.Qe2

22...Nf4 23.Bxf4?? exf4 24.Qxe4??



Position after 24.Qxe4

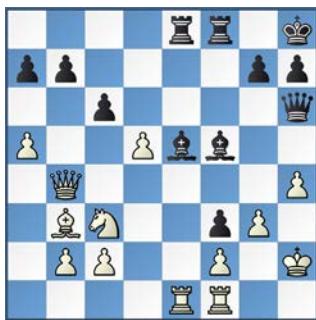
Viktors is completely winning in this position!

24...f3+!! 25.g3 Bf5??

25...Qh5! No way to protect the h3-pawn and White's position falls 26.h4 Rf4.

26.Qh4= Rae8 27.Rae1 Be5 28.Qb4 Qh6 29.h4

[Diagram top of next page]



Position after 29.h4

29...g5

29...Bxg3+!! 30.Kxg3 (30.fxg3 Qd2+ 31.Kg1 Qg2#) 30...Qg6+ 31.Kxf3 Bg4+ 32.Kg3 Bf3+ 33.Qg4 Qxg4+ 34.Kh2 Qg2#

30.Rh1??

30.Rxe5 getting rid of Black's most dangerous piece. The bishop 30...Rxe5 31.a6 c5 32.Qxc5 bxa6 (32...gxh4)

30...gxh4 31.Kg1 h3?

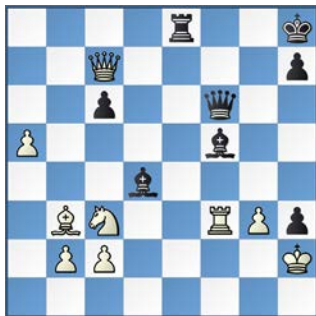
31...c5 32.Qc4 (32.Qxc5 Bxg3 33.Qd4+ Be5 34.Rxe5 Qg7+ 35.Kf1 Rxe5) 32...Bxg3

32.dxc6? bxc6 33.Qc5 Qg7

This is too slow. Black can win with an immediate blow.

33...Bxg3! 34.fxg3 (34.Rxe8 Qc1+ 35.Nd1 Qxd1+) 34...Rxe1+

34.Kh2 Qf6 35.Qxa7 Bd4 36.Qc7 Bxf2 37.Rxe8 Rxe8 38.Rf1 Bd4 39.Rxf3



Position after 39.Rxf3

39...Bxc3

⊔39...Bg1+ 40.Kxg1 (40.Kh1 Be4 41.Qf4 Bxf3+) 40...Qd4+ 41.Kh2 Qd2+ 42.Ne2 Rxe2+

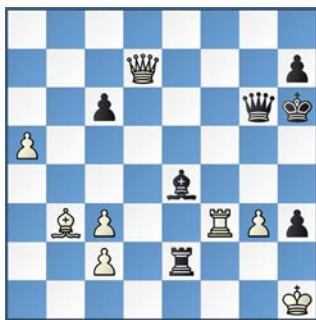
40.bxc3 Re2+ 41.Kh1= Be4

41...Re1+ 42.Kh2 Re2+ 43.Kh1 Re1+

42.Qc8+ Kg7 43.Qg4+?

43.Qd7+ Black's advantage has dissappeared. It is impossible to defend against all of White's checks. 43...Kh6 44.Qxh3+ Kg7 45.Qd7+=.

43...Qg6 44.Qd7+?? Kh6



Position after 44...Kh6

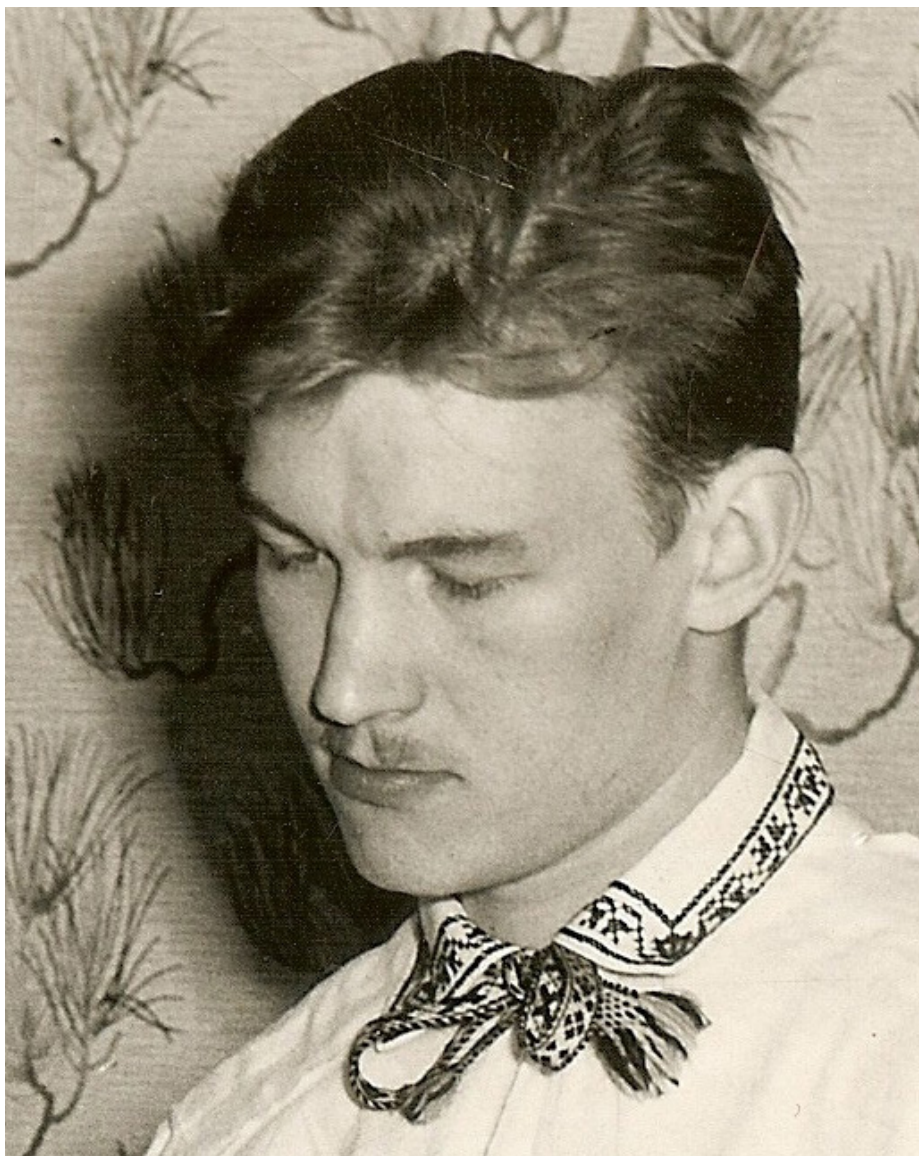
According to many sources, Bobby Fischer lost on time in this position. One of only two games where that happened. However, even if there was no time trouble, Viktors is already completely winning in this position!

45.Qxh3+ Qh5

0-1

After a very complex, back and forth game, Viktors was able to find the knockout blow. In Larry Parr's book, *Viktors Pupols: American Master*, Viktor says, "Bobby lost more Latvian Gambits that afternoon than in all the rest of his life!" Whether that is true or not (I believe that it is) is unknown, however, one thing is certain, after that day Fischer probably spent hours studying the opening which he had previously believed was no good.

Viktor finished the tournament with an impressive 5.5/10 points, tying him for sixth place with five other players, while Fischer finished with a respectable 5.0/10 points to finish 20th on tiebreakers.



Viktors Pupols in 1958. Photo credit: The Idaho Statesman.

WA Spring Mini-Teams Championship



March 13, 2021

Online via  Chess.com



Format: A 5-round, *Team* (3-person team) Swiss-Paired Tournament in four sections: K-3, 4-6, 7-12, and Parents/Friends. K-12 players may play up into higher grade sections and the Parents/Friends section is for post-high school players only. See “Scoring” and “Procedure” below for more information.

Eligibility: Open to all students registered in grades K-12 and their parents/friends. A Chess.com and Zoom account are required. Players are allowed to form their own 3-player teams, or individual players will be added to form additional teams by TD.

Schedule: Zoom Welcome 8:45am. Rounds at 9:15am, 10:30am, 11:45am, lunch break, 1:15pm, 2:30pm.

Entry fee: \$30 (per player)

Time Control: Game in 25 minutes with a 5 sec. increment per move.

Prizes: K-3, 4-6, 7-12 Sections: 1st Place Team Members will each receive \$50 Amazon Gift Cards. 2nd Place Team Members will each receive \$30 Amazon Gift Cards. K-3 and 4-6 Sections will award an additional prize to the top finishing team under 900 average rating. 7-12 will award an additional prize to highest finishing team with all members from the same school. Best Parents/Friends and associated Scholastic Team (K-3, 4-6, or 7-12) combined score will earn a prize.

Rating: NWSRS Rated. Northwest ratings will be used to determine section and pairings. Board order will be determined by NWSRS rating.

Procedure: Pairings will be released and updated prior to the start of each round on a shared spreadsheet. Players will be paired automatically by the TD in the [Live Chess](#) area. Each Round a Team vs Team pairing will be announced, each Team’s Board 1, 2, and 3 will play the other respective team’s Board 1, 2, 3. Please contact Organizer Siva Sankrithi (sivas108@gmail.com) for any pre-determined teams. Team information will be kept on Spreadsheet [HERE](#).

Scoring: Standings based on Team Score. Winning team will receive 1 point for win each round (2.0 points or more across 3-player team). If match is a draw (each team scores 1.5 points), each team receives 0.5 Team Points. Board Points will be used as first tiebreak (combined score of individual team members).

Fair Play Policy: All players and parents are required to sign the [WCF Fair Play Agreement](#) prior to start of the tournament. WCF’s Fair Play Committee will review any suspicious games on a case-by-case basis. Playing fairly is strongly encouraged and cheating of any kind is strictly prohibited.

Online Registration: <https://nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration/> – pay by Credit/Debit/PayPal. **Registration, payment, and fair play agreement deadline Friday March 12th @ 5:00pm.** To register your team, please fill out the [Team Registration Form](#). No registrations will be accepted after the deadline. *Any team member requests must be received by Siva (either via the above form or email) by 5:00pm Wednesday March 10th, no exceptions. Players who register in the final 48 hours, along with those who have not registered a team, will be placed on a composed team.* \$15 Late Fee applied to payments received after the deadline. Unpaid players will receive a zero-point bye for round 1.

Questions? TD: Jacob Mayer | 206.697.5625 | jacob.mayerchess@gmail.com
Organizer: Siva Sankrithi | sivas108@gmail.com

Apropos Adult Swiss Series

By Kent McNall

Beginning in July 2020 (which seems like a long time ago on COVID-19 time), Apropos Chess Events began hosting a series of events for adult players. This January, TD Kent McNall hosting the fifth tournament in the series, Apropos Adult Swiss #5.

The driving idea of the tournaments is to encourage adult chess in the Pacific Northwest, especially during this time when we can't play in person together in regular tournaments. Adult participation in chess in the Northwest has dropped off sharply. With a new resurgence of interest in chess (both due to COVID-19 and the series "The Queen's Gambit"), it continues to be an opportune time to get more adults into the game. This series of online tournament will continue as high-quality regular in-person tournaments throughout Washington when we can safely get together again.

The feedback from players on the series has been very positive, and many players have participated in all five events (and the Apropos Open). While many players are from other states and Canada, most have some ties to the Northwest. Canada is the only country outside of the US whose players can participate.

The events feature cash prizes and no entry fee, are sponsored by the TD. The prize fund grows with more participants. The series continues with #6 in February, #7 in March, and #8, dubbed the "Tournament of Champions" in April. All adults can participate in the Apropos Adult #8 event, but any former prize winner in ANY of the events receives a 50% bonus on any prize they win in the Tournament of Champions. You can register for any of the events at cwchess.com, or by emailing your US Chess ID and chess.com username to kentmcnallchess@gmail.com.

There are many scholastic and junior events in the Northwest, as well as many open events. I think it's only fair that there's at least one Adult event! If you're 18 and over, join us for an Apropos Adult Swiss tournament soon.

Apropos Adult Swiss #5

Our fifth event was our strongest yet, with three FM's and several experts participating. It was also our highest turnout, with 35 players. It

was an enjoyable tournament with good participation on Zoom and good sportsmanship, the latter most usually needed when the TD misses a bye request or makes an error in launching the round!

It was also one of our most competitive tournaments, with four players tying for first place with a 4-1 score. Several players submitted annotated games, for which I'm grateful.

The guaranteed prize fund for the event was \$750.00, but over \$975.00 was paid out when the 30% bonus for 30 or more players was added.

Prize Winners from Apropos Adult Swiss #5, January 16-17 2021 via Chess.com:

FM William Schill has been a welcome guest at several of the Adult Swiss events and provided this game.

Cameron Thompson (1748) – William Schill (2253) [E99]

Apropos Adult Swiss #5
Chess.com (R2), January 16, 2021
[William Schill]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Nf3 0-0 6.Be2 e5 7.0-0

Am I REALLY going to play one of the main theory lines? I dunno! Oh, okay, why not...

7...Nc6

7...exd4 8.Nxd4 Re8 9.f3 Nc6 10.Be3 Nh5. This is a crazy way to get out of theory. Uncle Vik and I had a State Championship game in the last round one time when we both wanted to go home that went like this: 11.g4 Be5 12.gxh5 Bxh2+ 13.Kxh2 Qh4+ 14.Kg1 Qg3+ 15.Kh1 Qh3+.

8.d5 Ne7 9.Ne1 Nd7 10.Be3 f5 11.f3 f4 12.Bf2 g5 13.Rc1

13.a4 a5 14.Nd3 b6 15.b4 axb4 16.Nxb4 Nf6 17.Nc6 Seems like a better (safer) line for White.

13...Rf6



Position after 13...Rf6

Well, here it is, what I have prepared against the main line. Come and get it everyone! Supposedly this just does not work for Black. However, if White makes a mistake he loses his king and if Black messes up he only loses all his queenside pieces. WHATEVER!!

14.Nd3 Rh6 15.b4 Qe8 16.Kh1

16.Be1! Qh5 17.h3 Nf6 18.Nf2+

16...Qh5 17.Bg1 a6

17...Nf6 18.Nb5

18.c5 Nf6 19.cxd6 cxd6



Position after 19...cxd6

20.Na4?

The mistake Black has to hope for. 20.Nf2! is better. It's far from obvious what the problem is, however. This is why crazy people play the King's Indian Defense, so we, once in a while, get to play moves like...

20...Nfxd5!! 21.exd5

21.Qd2 Ne3 (21...Be6!? 22.Nac5! dxc5 23.Nxc5 Bf7 24.exd5 Nf5? 25.Ne4=) 22.Nb6 Nxf1 23.Bxf1 Rb8 24.Rc7 Qe8 25.Nxc8 Nxc8±

21...Nf5 22.Rxc8+!

22.h3?? Ng3+ 23.Kh2 Bxh3

22...Rxc8 23.h3 Ng3+?!

23...e4! 24.fxe4? (24.Nf2 Ne3 25.Qb1 Rc2 This is winning, despite still being a big mess.) 24...Ng3+ 25.Kh2 Qxe2 26.Qxe2 Nxe2.

24.Kh2 e4! 25.Nf2

The position is so unusual Houdini and Stockfish disagree on Black's best plan!

25...Nxf1+

25...Nxe2 26.Qxe2 exf3 27.Qxf3 Qxf3 28.gxf3 Rc2 29.Kg2 Rxa2 30.Nb6 Rc2 31.Re1 Bd4 32.Re8+ Kf7 33.Rc8 Rxc8 34.Nxc8.

26.Bxf1

I don't think I've ever had two rooks vs three minor pieces before. Whichever team is more active will have a large advantage given that weird imbalance.

26...exf3 27.gxf3



Position after 27.gxf3

Black's advantage is larger in this line. But ONLY if I find the best plan. Which I did not.

27...b5?

27...Qh4! 28.Ne4 I mistakenly thought White was okay here, because I did not see the following breakthrough: 28...g4! 29.fxg4 f3! 30.Qxf3 Rf8. Black gives up two pawns so that he can give up his rook too! 31.Qe2 Rxf1 32.Qxf1 Be5+ 33.Kh1 Qxg4+

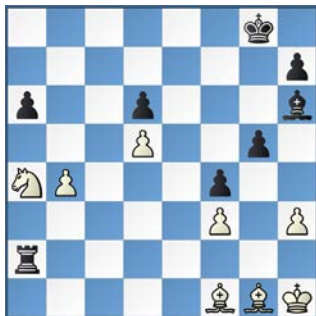
28.Nb6 Rc3 29.Ng4 Qg6!

I am forced to play a whole string of clever 'only' moves to keep a miniscule edge. 29...Rg6?? 30.Nd7 Rc8 31.Bd3±

30.Nxh6+ Bxh6 31.a4 Qc2+ 32.Qxc2 Rxc2+ 33.Kh1

Normally two minor pieces would win in this type of endgame. I had seen that my rook was so active that I wasn't in danger. But can I make something out of this?

33...bxa4 34.Nxa4 Ra2



Position after 34...Ra2

Great play by Cameron. Not only has he made such a fight out of the game, but he has also created some winning chances late in the endgame. I did have enough time to work out what was going on. I would not want to face this move with seconds left.

35.Bxa6!? Rxa4 36.b5 Ra1 37.b6 g4 38.b7 Rb1 39.hxg4?!

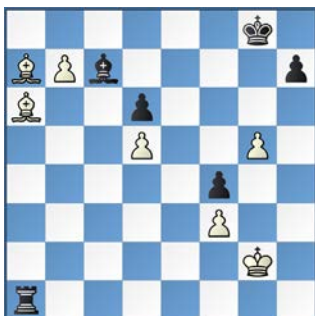
A very small slip by White, but just enough to give Black some hope. 39.Kg2

Rb2+ (39...Bg5? 40.fxg4 Bd8 41.Kf3 Bc7± 42.Bf2) 40.Kh1 (40.Kf1?? gxh3-+) 40...Rb1=

39...Bg5 40.Kg2 Bd8 41.Ba7? Bc7

After missing my big chances on moves 23 and 27 I have fought my way back to a half a pawn advantage. Whoopee My opponent has played the endgame very well indeed, but is about to run out of gas.

42.g5! Ra1



Position after 42...Ra1

43.b8Q+??

43.Bb6! Bb8 44.Bd3. This could go on for a very long time, at least Black is easier to play. 44...Ra3

43...Bxb8 44.Bxb8 Rxa6 45.Kh3 Kf7 46.Kg4 Ke7

The White bishop is trapped.

47.Kh5

47.Kxf4 Kd7 48.Kg4 Ra8 49.Bxd6 Kxd6

47...Ra5

Nothing to think about this way. Even the normally greedy computers approve.

48.Kh6 Rxd5 49.Ba7 Kf7 50.Bf2 Rd1 51.Kh5 Rf1 52.Bb6 Rxf3 53.Kg4 Rf1 54.Bc7 Ke6

0-1

Expert Lawrence Cohen has been a regular at Apropos events. He's an experienced TD himself, and recently ran for a spot on the US Chess Executive Board. His tie for first place at 4-1 is his most successful finish yet. He has submitted the following annotated games.

Samuel Rickert (1265) –
Lawrence Cohen (1957) [E91]
Apropos Adult Swiss #5
Chess.com (R1), January 16, 2021
[Lawrence Cohen]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Nf3 0-0 6.Be2

Prize Winners

Overall	Player	Prize	Score
1st	Tanraj S Sohal	\$154.39	4
2nd	Ryan W Porter	\$154.37	4
3rd	Lawrence S Cohen	\$154.37	4
	Andrew Martin	\$154.37	4
	Sankalp Modwal	\$32.50	3.5
	William Schill	\$32.50	3.5
	T 3rd, other 3.5 score players receiving same or more		
Class A - 1800-1999			
1st (Top4 Spl Top 4 Split (Cohen)		\$0.00	4
2nd	Jason Braun	\$65.00	3.5
Class B - 1600-1799			
1st (split)	Top 4 Split (Martin)	\$0.00	4
2nd	Aaron Nicoski	\$32.50	3.5
	Travis Olson	\$32.50	3.5
Class C - Under 1600 / Unrated			
1st	Joe Gilray	\$81.25	3
2nd	Harrison Keyser	\$81.25	3
Total Payout		\$975.00	

Basic Kings Indian up to this point.

6...c6

6...c5 is probably better, but I was planning on the knight tour to c7 to bolster the d5 push.

7.0-0 Na6 8.Bg5 Nc7 9.Qd2 Re8

Not wanting to trade the dark-squared bishops. As long I am not the one taking that may not be that bad for Black.

10.Bh6 Bh8 11.h3 a6

Going for the ...b5 break, rather than ...d5. Not sure why I changed my mind.

12.Ng5 b5 13.Qf4 Ne6 14.Nxe6 Bxe6 15.e5



Position after 15.e5

Fritz prefers d5 for White, the text gives Black a slight plus. The only problem being that although I thought about it, I did not play ...dxe5. It's blundering time.

15...Nh5??

I actually looked at ...dxe5, but figured on having to move the knight anyway. The blunder is avoided by 15...dxe5 16.dxe5 Nd7—The e-pawn is lost anyway.

16.Bxh5 dxe5

Of course not 16...gxh5 17.Qg5+ mating.

17.dxe5 Bxc4 18.Rfd1 Qc7 19.Re1

Black has only one pawn for the piece but hopes to get more.

19...Be6 20.Bg4 Bxg4 21.hxg4

21.Qxg4 Bxe5

21...Rad8 22.Ne4 Qxe5

Apparently ...Bxe5 is better, but I wanted to get the queens off the board to greatly reduce White's attacking chances.

23.Qxe5 Bxe5 24.Re2

If 24.Rac1 (to trade pawns) I would have responded with 24...Rc8 I do hope to at some point be able to push the c-pawn.

24...a5 25.Rae1 Rc8 26.Nc3 Bd6 27.Ne4 Be5 28.Nc5

I would say White is looking for a win. That means avoiding repetition with the knight and my bishop.

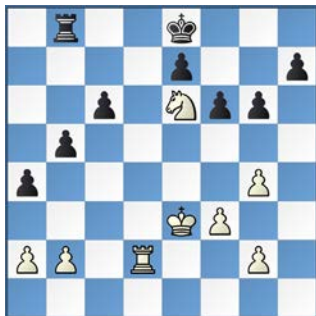
28...Bd6 29.Nb7 Bb4 30.Bd2 Bxd2 31.Rxd2 a4 32.Rd7 Kf8 33.Nc5 f6?

At this point the move should have been ...e6. In place of a good move I make what I thought was a mistake.

34.f3

Fritz prefers 34.Red1; I thought that Ne6+ followed by Nc7 won off the e-pawn. What I missed was 34.Ne6+ Kf7 35.Nc7 Rcd8! holding onto the pawn as 36.Nxe8 Rxd7 wins off the knight.

34...Kf7 35.Kf2 Rcd8 36.Red1 Rxd7 37.Rxd7 Rc8 38.Ke3 Ke8 39.Rd2 Ra8 40.Ne6 Rb8



Position after 40...Rb8

41.Rc2

41.g5 is a better move. Trading off one of the doubled pawns is good. If 41...f5 42.Kf4 followed by either g4 or Ke5 look good for White.

41...Kd7 42.Nc5+ Kd6 43.Ne4+ Kc7 44.Nc5 Kd6 45.Ne4+ Kc7 46.Rd2

Looking to avoid the draw by repetition.

46...Kb6 47.Rd7 Re8 48.Kd4 c5+

I almost didn't make this move as I saw that Kd5 was playable for White. However, I set the trap and my opponent fell for it.

49.Nxc5 Kc6 50.a3 e5+

Here I offered a draw, which my opponent accepted. After the king moves I win the knight, but lose the h-pawn. That creates a rook and pawn ending with five pawns apiece. I have a slight advantage due to White's doubled pawns, but I wanted to rest up for the next game.

1/2-1/2

Lawrence Cohen (1957) – Steven Witt (1930) [D34]

Apropos Adult Swiss #5
Chess.com (R3), January 16, 2021
[Lawrence Cohen]

1.c4 Nf6 2.g3 e6 3.Bg2 d5 4.cxd5 exd5 5.d4 c5 6.Nf3

It is a little rare for me to play the knight

here. I usually like the set up with knights on c3 and e2. Maybe just e3 should have been played.

6...Nc6 7.0-0 Be7 8.Nc3 0-0 9.Bg5 Be6 10.Rb1

Getting the rook of the diagonal, as I was thinking about taking on f6. Better would have been Rcl with the idea of dxc5 followed by Na4 and Nc5.

10...b6 11.Ne5

Maybe e3 was better. I was figuring that I would get the pawn back. I did not think about the kind of play that Black might get.

11...Nxd4 12.e3 Nf5 13.Nc6 Qc7 14.Nxe7+ Nxe7 15.Bxf6 gxf6 16.Nxd5 Nxd5 17.Bxd5 Rad8 18.e4 Bxd5 19.exd5 Qe5 20.Qa4



Position after 20.Qa4

I offered a draw and my opponent accepted. The pawn trade would be fine for White. ...Rd7 can't be played, so only ...Ra8 would guard the a-pawn. If 20...Ra8 21.Rfd1 is even.

1/2-1/2

Cameron Thompson (1747) – Lawrence Cohen (1957) [E91]

Apropos Adult Swiss #5
Chess.com (R4), January 17, 2021
[Lawrence Cohen]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Nf3 0-0 6.Be2 Bg4 7.Be3 c6

I don't know why I like to play this move.

8.Qd2 Re8 9.h3 Bxf3

I could retreat to d7 and then play ...Na6 followed by ...Nc7. I decided to trade.

10.gxf3

An aggressive attacking move.

10...Nbd7 11.f4 e5 12.fxe5 dxe5 13.d5 c5

This is what I hoped for when I played e5. The pawns are pretty well fixed. That makes my opponents bishops a little less effective.

14.h4 h5 15.Rg1 Kh7 16.0-0-0 a6 17.a4

Qc7

Mouse slip.

18.Rg5 Qa5

This was the intended move last turn. I was fortunate that the slip only cost me a tempo.

19.Rdg1 Qb4 20.Kc2 Rab8 21.Qd1 Rh8

I saw the sacrifice coming and took action.

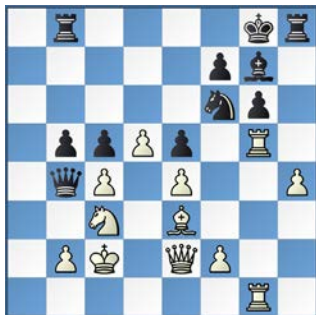
22.Bxh5 Nxb5 23.Qxh5+ Kg8

Not 23...gxh5?? 24.Rxg7#

24.Qg4 Nf6 25.Qe2 b5

I'm not sure why I didn't immediately take the h-pawn.

26.axb5 axb5



Position after 26...axb5

27.b3

27 Nxb5 allows Nxe4 as well as the sacrifice of Rxb4.. If 27 cxb5 Nxe4, 28 Nxe4 Qxe4 when the d5-pawn is hanging.

27...Rxb4 28.f3 bxc4 29.Qxc4 Qxc4 30.bxc4 Bh6 31.Bxc5

31.Rxg6+ fxg6 32.Rxg6+ Kh7 33.Rxf6 Bxe3 Leaving Black up the rook to the two pawns.

31...Bxg5 32.Rxg5 Rc8 33.Be7 Nd7

Best was 33...Rf4 holding the knight and winning a pawn.

34.Rxg6+ fxg6 35.Bxh4

This won White a pawn, but it also means White has less pieces to work with.

35...Rxc4 36.Kd3 Rd4+ 37.Ke3 Kg7

I want to move the knight, but I do not want to allow Bf6 after.

38.Bg5 Nc5 39.Ne2 Rd3+ 40.Kf2 Kf7

To prevent Be7 followed by d6.

41.Be3 Nd7

...Na4 was a little better. I was thinking more of protecting the pawn, while bringing the king around and in.

42.Ng1 Ra3 43.Nh3 Ra2+ 44.Kg3 Re2 45.Bf2 Kf6 46.Kg2 Rc2

If 46...Nc5, 47 Kf1 would be annoying,

although I could follow with Rc2.

47.Kf1 Ke7

Back to the idea of bringing the king around.

48.Be1 Rb2 49.Nf2 Kd6 50.Nd3 Rc2

I can no longer stop Bb4+, so I keep the rook pinning back the king.

51.Bb4+ Kc7 52.Ke1 Rc4 53.Kd2 g5

Planning the pawn trade with the pseudo sacrifice.

54.Ba5+ Kc8 55.Bc3 g4 56.fxg4 Rxe4 57.g5 Kc7 58.Ba5+

Bb4 keeping my king out is much better.

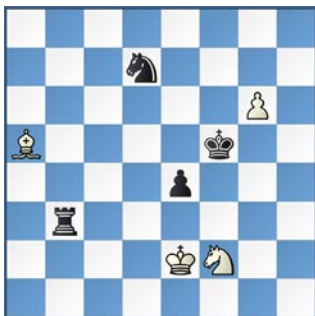
58...Kd6 59.Bb4+ Kxd5 60.Be7 Ke6 61.Bd8 Kf5

I should now be able to win White's last pawn.

62.Nf2 Rf4 63.Ke3 e4

63...Nc5 (or ...Nf8) with the idea of ...Ne6 to win off the pawn is another plan.

64.Bc7 Rf3+ 65.Ke2 Rc3 66.Ba5 Rb3 67.g6



Position after 67.g6

67...Rg3

My mind went blank for a minute here as to how to stop the pawn. Then I saw the obvious move to win it off.

68.Bd2 Rxg6 69.Nd1 Rg2+ 70.Ke1

If Ke3 Nb6 followed by Nc4+ could be a problem.

70...Rh2 71.Ne3+ Ke6 72.Ng4 Rh4 73.Ne3 Ne5

Bringing the knight to the f3 post.

74.Ke2 Rh2+ 75.Kd1 Nf3 76.Bc3 Kd6 77.Ng4 Ra2 78.Bf6 Rd2+ 79.Kc1 Rg2 80.Ne3 Rg6 81.Bc3 Kc5 82.Kd1 Rd6+ 83.Ke2 Rd3 84.Ba5 Kb5 85.Bc7 Rd2+ 86.Kf1 Nh2+ 87.Kg1 Re2

A trade is good for Black.

88.Nf5 Nf3+ 89.Kf1 Ra2

I do not want to allow the king off of the rank.

90.Bf4 Kc4 91.Ne3+ Kd3

The king gets closer, which is not good for White.

92.Nd5 Rb2 93.Bh6 Nh2+ 94.Kg1 Ng4 95.Nf4+ Kc4 96.Bg7 Ra2 97.Kf1 Ne3+ 98.Ke1 Ng2+

The knight trade is forced, and White is thus lost.

99.Nxg2 Rxg2 100.Be5 Kd3

The pawn will push to e2 and eventually the rook will get to f1 costing White the bishop for the pawn.

0-1

Lawrence Cohen (1957) –

Harry Bell (1880) [A36]

Apropos Adult Swiss #5

Chess.com (R5), January 17, 2021

[Lawrence Cohen]

1.c4 e5 2.g3 c5 3.Bg2 Nc6 4.Nc3 f5 5.e3 d6 6.Nge2 Be6 7.b3

I generally do not like playing b3, as my past results have not been good. It is the recommendation in the Soltis book I learned the opening from, although Fritz prefers Nd5.

7...Nf6 8.d4 exd4 9.exd4 d5 10.cxd5 Nxd5 11.dxc5 Nxc3 12.Qxd8+ Rxd8 13.Nxc3 Bxc5 14.Bxc6+ bxc6 15.Bb2 Kf7

Apparently both me and my opponent missed 15...Bxf2+ 16.Kxf2 Rd2+ followed by ...Rxb2 winning a pawn.

16.0-0 Rd2 17.Na4 Be7

Fritz assessment is that Black stands slightly better.

18.Bc3 Rc2 19.Rfc1 Rxc1+ 20.Rxc1 Rd8 21.Kf1 Bd5 22.f4 g5 23.Be5 gxf4 24.Bxf4 Ba3 25.Re1 Be4 26.h4 Bb4 27.Rc1 Bd2

It looks like Black was looking for a simple trade of material overlooking my response. If 28.Bxd2 Rxd2 29.Nc3 should be able to hold for White.

28.Rd1 Ba5 29.Rxd8 Bxd8 30.a3 Be7 31.b4 Ke6 32.Be3

Here I offered a draw. I figured that after 32...a6 33.Nc5+ Bxc5 34.Bxc5 we would have a bishops-of-opposite-color endgame.

32...a6 33.Be5

Changing my mind about the trade. Fritz prefers Ke2. You can later in the game.

33...Bf6 34.Bf8 Kd5 35.Nc5 Bb2 36.Ke2

If 36 Nxa6 Bd3+ wins the knight. That is why I played it and why Fritz suggests it for move 33.

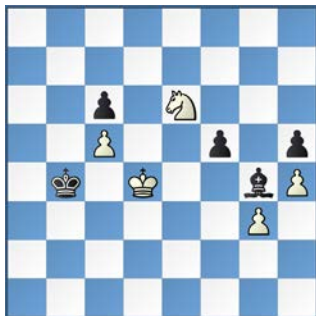
36...Bxa3 37.Nxa6 Kc4 38.Kd2 Kb5
39.Nc7+ Kb6 40.Ne6 Kb5 41.Kc3 Bc1
42.Nd4+ Kb6 43.Nb3

I initially looked at playing the immediate Bc5+. After looking closer I saw that this move left the dark-squared bishop with only two moves.

43...Be3 44.Bc5+ Bxc5 45.bxc5+ Kb5
46.Kd4 Bf3 47.Nd2

The ideal position for me is to get my knight to the e6-square. It will protect the c-pawn allowing the king to become active.

47...Bg4 48.Nc4 Bh3 49.Nd6+ Kb4
50.Nf7 h5 51.Ng5 Bg4 52.Ne6



Position after 52.Ne6

My knight has now reached the ideal square. It protects the pawn on c5 and covers the f4-square.

52...Kb5 53.Ke5 Kc4 54.Kd6 Bf3
55.Ng7

Winning a pawn. I make no progress after 55.Nd8 Kb5 56.Nf7 Be4 57.Ne5 Bd5.

55...Kd3

Black had to lose a pawn and allowing me to have the clear passer looks to be the worst choice.

56.Nxf5 Ke4 57.Ne7 Ke3 58.Nxc6

Now I have won two pawns. With that advantage the rest is just technique.

58...Kf2 59.Nd4 Be4 60.Ke5 Bb7 61.Kf4

Black's king is so horrible placed that this is an easy win from here.

61...Bc8 62.c6

It will only take a few more moves for White to force Black to surrender the bishop for the c-pawn. After that the game is easily won.

1-0

Another very regular player at Apropos events is Mr. Andrew Martin, a Canadian player. He has performed very solidly and continues to do so against strong competition. He tied for first place in this event, his best result yet.

Andrew Martin (1642) –
Andreas Teuffer (1989) [C42]

Apropos Adult Swiss #5
Chess.com (R5), January 17, 2021

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.d3 d5 4.exd5 Nxd5
5.Be2 Nc6 6.0-0 Bc5 7.Bg5 f6 8.Bh4 Be6
9.Nbd2 Qd7 10.a3 0-0-11.Bg3 a6 12.c4
Nde7 13.b4 Bd4 14.Rb1 Nf5 15.Nb3
h5 16.Nfxd4 Ncxd4 17.Nc5 Qf7 18.h3
Nvg3 19.fxg3 c6 20.Bf3 Qe7 21.Qa4 Bf7
22.Rfc1 Bg6 23.Rc3 Qd6 24.Kh1 Nf5
25.Ne4 Qd4 26.Rcb3 Nd6 27.Nc5 Bf7
28.Bxc6 Be8 29.Bxb7+ Nxb7 30.Qxa6
Rd6 31.Qxb7+ Kd8 32.Qxg7

1-0

If Ms Lois Ruff is not the most active Northwest player, I'd be very surprised. I remember playing Lois over 30 years ago at the Seattle Chess Club when it was located in the Ravenna area in Friday night blitz games. Lois had her best result to date in Apropos events. Following is the first of two wins in this event.

Lois Ruff (801) –
Francisco Lopez (1732) [B01]

Apropos Adult Swiss #5
Chess.com (R1), January 16, 2021

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qa5 4.d4 Nf6
5.Bd2 Qb6 6.Nf3 c6 7.Bd3 Bg4 8.Rb1
Bxf3 9.Qxf3 Qxd4 10.0-0 e6 11.Be3 Qh4
12.Bf4 Be7 13.Bg3 Qh5 14.Qf4 Nbd7
15.Be2 Qa5 16.Rfd1 0-0



Position after 16...0-0

17.b4 Qd8 18.b5 Nd5 19.Nxd5 cxd5
20.c4 Nf6 21.cxd5 Nxd5 22.Qf3 Qa5
23.Be5 Rfc8 24.Qg3 Bf6 25.Rxd5 Qxa2
26.Rdd1 Bxe5 27.Qxe5 Rc2 28.Re1 Rac8
29.Qe3 R8c3 30.Bd3 g6 31.Qd4 Rxd3
32.Qxd3 h5 33.Qb3 Rxf2 34.Qxa2 Rxa2
35.Rf1 Rd2 36.Rbd1 Rb2 37.Rd8+ Kg7
38.Rd7 Rxb5 39.Rxf7+ Kh6 40.h4 g5
41.Rf6#

1-0

FM Tanraj Sohoh has been a welcome and successful participant in Apropos events. He held the lead by 1/2 point going into the last round. This hard-fought draw

with FM William Schill assured him of a piece of first place.

Tanraj Sohoh –
William Schill (2263) [E98]

Apropos Adult Swiss #5
Chess.com (R5), January 17, 2021

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6
5.Nf3 0-0 6.Be2 e5 7.0-0 Nc6 8.d5 Ne7
9.Ne1 Nd7 10.Nd3 f5 11.Bd2 c5 12.a3
Nf6 13.f3 f4 14.b4 b6 15.bxc5 bxc5
16.Rb1 g5 17.Nf2 h5 18.h3 Kh8 19.Nb5
Neg8 20.Qe1 a5 21.Kh2 Nh6 22.Rh1
Rg8 23.Kg1 Bf8 24.Kf1 Rg6 25.Bd1
Kg8 26.Ke2 g4 27.hxg4 hxg4 28.Kd3 g3
29.Nh3 Nf7 30.Ng1 Rh6 31.Rxh6 Bxh6
32.Kc3 Ne8 33.Ne2 Qh4 34.Bc2 Bg5
35.Qh1 Qxh1 36.Rxh1 Bd8 37.Kd3 Kg7
38.Nec3 Ng5 39.Ke2 Bd7 40.Bd3 Rb8

1/2-1/2

FM Ryan Porter relates that he's returning to competitive chess, and did so successfully with a portion of first place in this tournament. We hope to see him again soon! This skillfully contested final round game against Mr. Stephen Witt secured his part of first place.

Steven Witt (1951) –
Ryan Porter (2308) [B07]

Apropos Adult Swiss #5
Chess.com (R5), January 17, 2021

1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 c6 4.f4 Qa5 5.Bd3
e5 6.Nf3 exd4 7.Nxd4 g6 8.Nb3 Qc7
9.Be3 Bg7 10.h3 Nbd7 11.Qd2 b5 12.a3
a6 13.Rd1 0-0 14.Be2 Ne8 15.0-0 Nb6
16.Bd4 Bb7 17.Bxg7 Kxg7 18.Na5 Rd8
19.f5 Nd7 20.Nxb7 Qxb7 21.Qf4 f6 22.
fxg6 hxg6 23.Rd3 Ne5 24.Rg3 Nc7 25.
Qe3 Rf7 26.Bd3 Ne6 27.Rf2 Qa7



Position after 27...Qa7

28.Qd2 Rh8 29.Nd1 Kf8 30.Ne3 Rh4
31.Ng4 Nxg4 32.Rxg4 Rxg4 33.hxg4
Kg7 34.Kf1 Qd4 35.c3 Qe5 36.Qe3 d5
37.Bc2 d4 38.cxd4 Nxd4 39.Rd2 c5 40.b4
Nxc2 41.Rxc2 c4 42.Rd2 Rc7 43.Rd5
Qe6 44.g5 fxg5 45.Rxg5 Qf6+ 46.Ke2
Rf7 47.Kd2 Qf1 48.Kc3 Rf2 49.Kd4 Re2
50.Qc3 Qf6+ 51.Re5 Rxg2 52.Kc5 Rg5
53.Rxg5 Qxc3 54.Rd5 Qe3+ 55.Rd4 c3
0-1

Apropos Adult Swiss #7
March 20th-21st, 2021
via Chess.com
USChess ONLINE RATED!!!



Open to players age 18+ with established USChess membership.

Format: 5-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. USChess membership required.

Rounds: Sat. 10am, 2pm, 6pm Sun. 10&2
Time Control: G/90 +5

Prize Fund: \$750 Guaranteed. **20% added** if 20 or more players, +30% added for 30 or more players with all prizes bumped proportionally. 1st/2nd/3rd \$225-\$100-\$50, 1st/2nd U2000 \$75-\$50, 1st/2nd U1800 \$75-\$50, 1st/2nd U1600 \$75-\$50. Prizes without players will be split among other rating classes.

Ratings – USChess Online Rated! USChess regular online rating used.

Byes: Two half-point bye available by end of day March 19th, 6pm. NO EXCEPTIONS.

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

Memberships and Accounts: Current USChess membership required. WCF membership required for WA residents. All must be paid 3/19. Renew USChess at uschess.org. Working chess.com account and Zoom capability required.

Registration: Register online at <https://nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration> OR email USCF ID# and chess.com username to kentmcnallchess@gmail.com by Friday March 19th 6pm

Apropos Chess Events is hosting this tournament and a series for no-entry free online events to promote online chess, and adult chess. Apropos Chess Events is a not-for-profit, private organization.

TD: Kenton McNall, 206-853-8624, kentmcnallchess@gmail.com

APROPOS TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS coming in April 2021!

**50% PRIZE BONUS FOR
FORMER SECTION WINNERS!**

**Apropos Adult Swiss #8
“Tournament of Champions”
April 24th-25th, 2021
via Chess.com**



Open to players age 18+ with established USChess membership. New players welcome, need not have previously competed.

Format: 5-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. USChess membership required.

Rounds: Sat. 10am, 2pm, 6pm Sun. 10&2
Time Control: G/90 +5

Prize Fund: \$750 Guaranteed. **20% added** if 20 or more players, +30% added for 30 or more players with all prizes bumped proportionally. 1st/2nd/3rd \$225-\$100-\$50, 1st/2nd U2000 \$75-\$50, 1st/2nd U1800 \$75-\$50, 1st/2nd U1600 \$75-\$50. Prizes without players will be split among other rating classes. **PRIOR SECTION PRIZE WINNERS RECEIVE 50% BONUS ON ALL PRIZES!**

Ratings – USChess Online Rated! USChess regular online rating used.

Byes: Two half-point bye available by end of day April 23rd, 6pm. NO EXCEPTIONS.

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

Memberships and Accounts: Current USChess membership required. WCF membership required for WA residents. All must be paid 4/16. Renew USChess at uschess.org. Working chess.com account and Zoom capability required.

Registration: Register online at <https://nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration> OR email USCF ID# and chess.com username to kentmcnallchess@gmail.com by Friday April 23rd 6pm

Apropos Chess Events is hosting this tournament and a series for no-entry free online events to promote online chess, and adult chess. Apropos Chess Events is a not-for-profit, private organization.

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Duane Reminisces

By Duane Polich

The article by Jude Acers (see page 36 of this issue) in regard to the organizing skills of Rusty Miller, and all he has done for chess, in the Pacific Northwest and across the country, resonates especially for me. I am a by-product of that chess promoting tandem.

My sister taught me the game of chess while I was in Shriners Hospital in Spokane when I was ten. I developed a friendship with a schoolmate who also played chess. Then I moved to Seattle, and in junior high chess became an escape from math class on Fridays when we were allowed to play board games. We played chess during lunch times, and it was easy to get a pass back into class if we were running late.

At Kennedy High School, I walked into the first meeting of the chess club and was elected club president. The next morning, I was talking to a kid behind me in study class.

“Hey, I got elected to be the chess club president yesterday.”

“Oh, you play chess!” he said in delight.

That was the beginning of a long friendship with D. Leo Stefurak. We were part of the high school chess team.

Then, during another round of surgeries on my legs at Shriners Hospital, I saw a notice that a national chess master was coming to the hospital to give a simul. This was the first time I had heard of a simul. I decided I had to be a part of this.

The simul was one of many that Rusty organized for Jude Acers in a whirlwind tour around the country trying to set the world record for how many people he played at once. Jude would visit various cities to give simul at prisons, hospitals, and all sorts of venues.

I remember playing Jude on the chess set that my sister had given me, and I almost beat him until I patzed a rook. But it was at this simul that Rusty gave me the greatest gift: a copy of *Northwest Chess* magazine. *Northwest Chess* introduced me to the whole world of organized chess; there were a lot of people who loved the game that I also loved. I found out there were chess tournaments I could play in against others for prizes; there were chess clubs; there were chess personalities; there was chess history.

When I returned to Kennedy, I shared my copy of *Northwest Chess* with Leo and my other teammates. Of course I subscribed and decided to play in my first tournament: the 1972 US Junior Open in Portland. I met Peter Biiyasas on the bus down to Portland. He would later become a Grandmaster. I met future friends Paul Eggers and others at the tournament.

Later, Leo and I and some others played in the King County Open, which was part of Rusty’s “Chess to the People” program, in which Rusty helped organize a tournament in each of the 39 counties in the state of Washington. The King County Open was organized into quads, and the winner of each section qualified to play in the Tournament of County Champions in Wenatchee, also Rusty’s idea.

Leo, I, and another friend won our sections and we were stoked to be able to play in the event! As it turned out, my parents wouldn’t let me go. I was super disappointed. I remember talking to Leo and my other friend—how excited they were while they waited for their ride with another adult player to the event. It started getting later and later to get going to Wenatchee, and they would be running late.

Finally, the ride notified them. “Gee guys, I’m sorry. I am having car troubles and won’t be able to make it.”

Of course, Rusty and I became friends, and I stayed a few times at his house in Yakima while playing tournaments there. Rusty was a dedicated promoter of chess and was involved in being an officer of the Washington Chess Federation.

He was the editor and business manager of *Northwest Chess* many times over many years. He would cut and paste

the magazine together and sometimes print it off on a mimeograph machine.

I developed many friendships in part because of Rusty, including with Bill McGeary, Ralph Dubisch, Yasser Seirawan, Eric Tangborn, and Bobby Ferguson to name a few. I have always appreciated these connections.

I feel as if a little bit of Rusty rubbed off on me as well, as I have organized tournaments and served on the board of WCF as President and Vice-President too. I took on the role of publisher of *Northwest Chess* magazine because I was a big proponent of it and the role it plays in promoting and informing about organized chess in the region.

I have many Rusty-related stories, but I will end with just a couple. While playing in the Washington Junior Closed in Wenatchee back circa 1974-75, with the likes of Yasser, John Donaldson, and Eric T., we were out on a walk and came upon a Miller Street. We wondered aloud, “Wouldn’t it be funny if there was a Russell Street?” And sure enough, the high school playing site is right there at the intersection of Russell and Miller streets!

Rusty, as Jude pointed out in the article, didn’t have the best English skills, and it was interesting to see some of his writings in *Northwest Chess*. One of his favorite ways of opening a statement was, “Say do you know that!” and he would end the statement “It is the best there is.”

So Rusty, old buddy, thank you so very much for all that you have done for chess and *Northwest Chess* and what it has meant to so many people. Say! Do you know that... It is the best there is.

Rest in peace.



Russell Miller and Kathy Miller in 2012. Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.

Pan-Am Intercollegiate 2020-2021

By Nicholas Whale

A couple of weeks before Christmas, just as finals week was getting underway, I got a message asking if I wanted to play in the online Pan-Am Intercollegiate Championship, as a member of the University of Washington's team. I was initially unsure about participating, since the timing was rather awkward, but ultimately decided to give it a shot. And things worked out very well, so I'm glad I did!

For those who may not know, the Pan-Am Championship is the pinnacle of university chess. It's open to any postsecondary institution in North, South or Central America or the Caribbean who can field an eligible team, which must be at least three players but can be up to six (with two being alternates). To be considered eligible you must be a degree seeking student enrolled in the Fall quarter or semester prior to the event, with at least a C average. Undergraduates are eligible up to the age of 26, and graduate students can be up to 30. No one can participate in more than six total Pan-Ams, and there are also some additional rules regarding titled players, but if anyone reading this is eligible and interested, I highly encourage you to give it a try next year!

Normally, the Pan-Ams are held in-person as a six round classical team Swiss event during winter break in the week between Christmas and New Year's, usually in a different city each year. For the past couple of years, UW had been able to send only one team, due to (among other things) high travel costs.

However, due to the COVID-19 situation, this year's edition had to be held online, which meant that the only fee involved was to register the team; thanks to a grant from the UW's Registered Student Organization department, we were able to field two teams of four, with one alternate each (there's no limit on the number of competing teams from one university as long as all individual players are eligible). There was a total of 59 teams participating this year, a few less than last time.

The pandemic also caused several other changes to the format of the event for this year: it was held on chess.com as a nine round rapid team Swiss with a time control of G/25 plus a five-second

increment per move, which meant lots of crazy time scrambles, and it was delayed until January 4-6, 2021, with three rounds a day at 9 AM, 12 PM, and 3 PM. Pacific time. This last change was unfortunate because it made the tournament conflict with the start of the academic quarter/semester for many schools (including UW) making people have to skip rounds to attend class (or vice-versa...not that I know of anyone who did this, of course), or even be unable to play entirely.

And of course, such an important event being held online meant that stringent anti-cheating measures had to be taken, including requiring multiple cameras for all players and splitting us up into several separate Zoom rooms based on match/board number to allow the TDs to keep track of everyone more easily. While we could watch each other's games virtually during the round, we couldn't discuss them with one another, even regarding offering or accepting draw offers. Inconvenient though they were, these requirements seemed to work well; I'm not aware of any fair-play violations taking place.

Once we got all of the teams sorted out, I was board two on the A team along with Oscar Sprumont (2100, board one), Kelvin Ng (1937, board three) and Varun Agrawal (1450, board four), with Nick Petregal-Lemay (unr.) as our substitute, which gave us an average rating of 1888. The B team consisted of James Soetedjo (1971, board one), Nate Getz (1701, board two), Dennis Godin (1689, board three), and Kireeti Devarakonda (1625, board four), with Ann Baturyski (1183) as their substitute, and an average rating of 1746.5. We had no real expectations of anything going in, given how tough the competition was (several teams had all GM lineups), but wait and see!

(As a side note, team Swiss events work differently than regular individual tournaments because while pairings are still determined by score and rating, it's the team score and average rating of all the members that matters, not each member individually. Teams are first paired with one another based on those, and then the individual matchups are set (individual players can vary between rounds based on their availability, without affecting the team pairings). If a team is paired as White, they have White on boards one and three, and if paired as Black, they have White on boards two and four. For a match to be counted as a win, a team has to score at least 2.5 points total from the four games, with wins counting as one point each, draws as ½ point each, and

losses as zero points each, like usual. If a match ends two-two, it counts as a draw in the overall standings.)

Round 1

In the first round, the UW A team was just below the halfway point in terms of rating, which meant we had to play way up against the number two seeded team in the entire event, the Saint Louis University (SLU) A team (average rating 2689), comprised of GMs Dariusz Swiercz, Alexander Ipatov, and Benjamin Bok and 2641-rated IM Nikolas Theodorou. UW B also had to play up, but not quite that far, as they faced the University of Missouri (Mizzou) Women's team (2308).

Unsurprisingly, the A team went 0-4. But we did put up a decent fight, especially Oscar, who I thought was holding with Black against GM Swiercz until the last few moments. The B team also lost, but at least weren't shut out as Dennis scored a nice upset draw with a WIM.

Dariusz Swiercz (2733) – Oscar Sprumont (2100) [C63]

Pan-Am Intercollegiate Championship
Chess.com (R1), January 4, 2021

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 f5 4.d3 fxe4
5.dxe4 Nf6 6.0-0 Bc5 7.Bxc6 bxc6
8.Nxe5 0-0 9.Nc3 d6 10.Nd3 Bd4
11.Ne2 Bb6 12.Bg5 Qe8 13.Bxf6 Rxf6
14.Ng3 Ba6 15.Kh1 Bxd3 16.cxd3 Rxf2
17.Rxf2 Bxf2 18.Nf5 g6 19.Qb3+ Kh8
20.Rf1 gxf5 21.Rxf2 fxe4 22.Rf5 Qg6
23.dxe4 d5 24.Qc3+ Kg8 25.h4 h6 26.Rf3
Kh7 27.Rg3 Qf7 28.Qxc6 Rd8 29.e5 d4
30.Qe4+ Kh8 31.e6 Qf1+ 32.Kh2 Rg8
33.Qxd4+ Kh7 34.Qe4+ Kh8 35.Rxg8+
Kxg8 36.e7

1-0

Nicholas Whale (2065) –
Alexander Ipatov (2714) [B00]
Pan-Am Intercollegiate Championship
Chess.com (R1), January 4, 2021
[Nicholas Whale]

Well, not exactly an ideal first round pairing for easing into things...

**1.e4 b6 2.d4 Bb7 3.Nc3 e6 4.Bd3 g6
5.Nf3 Bg7 6.Be3**

There's plenty of other moves here, but I was just trying to play super solidly and avoid getting blown away. This works for a little while...

6...Ne7 7.Qd2 h6 8.0-0-0 d6 9.Kb1 Nd7

I got caught between wanting to attack because I thought (correctly) that I had

a fairly good position, and knowing that the GM would surely out-tactic me. The result is an uneasy mixture of aggression and caution for the following few moves.

10.h4!? a6

Ipatov had only used 21 seconds at this point, while I'm already five minutes in the hole.

11.Ne1?!

Very optimistically trying for a pawn storm. 11.d5! is much more sensible, to try and go after his king, but I wasn't convinced it wouldn't backfire.

11...c5 12.Ne2 b5

Stockfish claims this very natural move is Black's only inaccuracy of the game. It likes 12...d5! immediately opening up the position to try and exploit my weird knights.

13.c3 Qc7 14.f4?!

14.f3 is more sensible. I'm pawn storming the wrong flank and actually just creating weaknesses.

14...0-0-0 15.Nf3 f5!



Position after 15...f5

Putting an end to any attacking ideas I might be dreaming of, and now I'm simply overextended and worse.

16.Ng3 c4 17.Bc2 Nf6 18.e5 Ng4

This is why I should've played f3 before...

19.Qe2 Nxe3

On the bright side, I had managed to get him down to less than three minutes for the rest of the game, so I was actually up on time by about six minutes here. Unfortunately the GM was spending that time working out exactly how to dismantle my position, and plays the rest very quickly and ruthlessly.

20.Qxe3 Nd5 21.Qd2 dxe5 22.Nxe5 Bxe5 23.fxe5 Qe7 24.Rdf1 g5 25.hxg5 hxg5

This was probably the closest thing to a critical position. Black has the nasty threat of ...Nf4, which I chose to passively defend, and walked into something even

worse in the process.



Position after 25...hxg5

26.Ne2?

Especially given the clock situation, 26.Bxf5!? was definitely the move to try. I couldn't get past being down a piece vs. a GM, but this at least changes the nature of the position. 26...exf5 27.Nxf5 Qe6 28.Nd6+ Kb8 29.Qxg5 and I have a very good knight and three pawns to work with. I'm honestly probably still going to lose somehow, but it would be more fun.

26...f4!

I didn't see this coming at all. e3 is obviously an even better square for the knight, and there's nothing at all I can do about it. The rest is no trouble at all for someone of Ipatov's caliber.

27.Qc1 Ne3 28.Rxh8 Rxh8 29.Rh1 Qg7! 30.Rxh8+ Qxh8 31.g3 Nxc2 32.Qxc2 Qh1+ 33.Qc1

33.Nc1 Be4

33...Be4+! 34.Ka1 Qxc1+ 35.Nxc1 f3!

Ouch. 35...fxg3?! allows me to survive a few more painful moves after 36.Ne2 but I was not afforded such a pleasure.

0-1

**Dennis Godin (1689) –
Irina Utiatskaja (2183) [A04]**

Pan-Am Intercollegiate Championship
Chess.com (R1), January 4, 2021

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.b3 g6 3.Bb2 d5 4.g3 Bg7 5.Bg2 0-0 6.0-0 c5 7.d4 cxd4 8.Nxd4 Ne8 9.Nc3 Nc6 10.Nxc6 bxc6 11.e4 Ba6 12.Re1 d4 13.Na4 e5 14.Ba3 Nd6 15.Qd2 Re8 16.Nc5 Bc8 17.Rad1 Nb5 18.Bb2 Qe7 19.Nd3 a5 20.a4 Nc7 21.c3 Be6 22.cxd4 Bxb3 23.Ra1 exd4 24.Rec1 Red8 25.Rxc6 Be6 26.Ba3 Qd7 27.Rac1 Ne8 28.e5 Rab8 29.Nc5 Qa7 30.Nxe6 fxe6 31.Rxe6 Rb3 32.Re7 Qb8 33.Bc5 Bxe5 34.Qxa5 Bf6 35.Re6 d3 36.Rxe8+ Rxe8 37.Bd5+ Kh8 38.Bxb3 Qxb3 39.Qd2 Re2 40.Qf4 Qe6 41.Be3 Be7 42.Qb8+ Kg7 43.Qf4 h6 44.Qxh6+ Kf7 45.Qf4+ Kg7 46.Qh6+ Kf7 47.Qf4+ Kg7 48.Qh6+

1/2-1/2

Round 2

The upside of losing in the first round is that you generally (though not always) get easier pairings in the second. UW A got the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater team (1417), but UW B had to play the University of California Berkeley (UCB) D team (1983). We were hoping to bounce back, but it didn't quite work out that way.

Although I did manage to win and Nick P. scored a strange draw on board four, Oscar also got upset for a draw and Varun lost, so the A team only tied our match. For the B team, Dennis exploited his opponent's time trouble to come back and win from a worse opposite-colored bishops with rooks ending, but unfortunately everyone else lost, so they went down in the match.

**Joseph Zech (1422) –
Nicholas Whale (2065) [B22]**

Pan-Am Intercollegiate Championship
Chess.com (R2), January 4, 2021
[Nicholas Whale]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.c3 Nf6 4.e5 Nd5 5.d4 cxd4 6.cxd4 d6 7.Bc4 e6 8.0-0 Be7 9.Nc3

A natural looking move, but I think it just gives me easy equality.

9...Nxc3 10.bxc3 dxe5 11.Nxe5 Nxe5 12.dxe5 0-0!

There's no need to cede the d-file by trading queens.

13.Qg4

Trying to create some kind of attack, but the queen by herself can't do much damage. If 13.Qxd8?! Rxd8 I have better development, control the open file, and have a weak pawn at c3 to attack.

13...Qc7

Tactically defending against White's next move.



Position after 13...Qc7

14.Bh6?

I had expected 14.Re1 Rd8 (14...h5! is the computer move, which I didn't consider. 15.Qxh5?? Qxc4) 15.Bh6 Bf8 but here 16.Bg5! is pretty annoying.

14...Qxe5 15.Be3 Qf6

Pragmatism. I spent three minutes on 15...Qxc3?! 16.Bd4 e5 which works materially, but after the in-between move 17.Qxg7+! I didn't like it so much. (The idea is 17.Bxc3 Bxg4 18.Bxe5 Rad8 and although White's bishop are nice and active, I have an extra pawn.)

16.Rfd1

I'm still up a pawn, but White has nice activity and it's a little hard to find moves.

16...e5

I didn't really want to do this, but it seemed necessary.

17.Qe4!

A nice centralization.

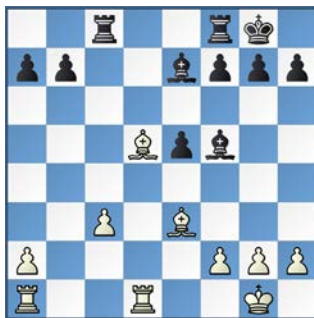
17...Qf5

Again, not really what I wanted to do, but I couldn't see anything better. 17...a6 18.a4 didn't seem to help.

18.Qxf5

18.Bd5! first gains a key tempo, so White can regain his pawn.

18...Bxf5 19.Bd5 Rac8!



Position after 19...Rac8

With the bishop developed, now I can play this move.

20.Bxb7

My opponent was down to four and a half minutes for the rest of the game here, while I still had ten.

20...Rxc3 21.Rac1

21.Bxa7?? Rc7 skewering is the point.

21...Rxc1 22.Rxc1 Rb8 23.Ba6 Rb2 24.Bc8!?

With 50 seconds left to my five minutes, White reasonably starts playing for tricks. The other option was passive defense by 24.Ra1 Rb1+ 25.Rxb1 Bxb1 26.a4 Bc2 27.a5 Bb4 28.Bxa7 Bxa5, which I think

was better since I don't really see how to win this position.

24...g6

24...Bc2! is Stockfish's move, which it gives about -1.3. 24...Bxc8?? 25.Rxc8+Bf8 26.f4 is obviously not good, I'm stuck in a bad pin.

25.Bxf5 gxf5 26.Bh6?

26.g3 is a better chance: 26...Rxa2 27.Rc7

26...f6!

Stopping the back rank tricks.

27.a4 Ra2 28.g3 Rxa4?

Better is 28...Kf7!, which gains a tempo over the game continuation, i.e. 29.Rc7 a5 30.Be3 Ke6

29.Rc7 Kf7 30.Be3

Now I lose the a-pawn due to the threat of Bc5, and things are much tougher.

30...Ke6 31.Bxa7 h5 32.h4?

Stockfish considers this the losing move, and recommends sitting tight with 32.Kg2 instead. Still, it's hard to defend accurately with only 15-20 seconds left.

32...f4 33.Kg2 fxd3 34.fxd3

This should be winning for me now, with the strong passed e-pawn.

2021 Seattle Chess Club Quads

MAR. 7, APR. 4, MAY 8

A NORTHWEST CHESS GRAND PRIX EVENT

Site: Online via  Chess.com

Format: A 3-Round Quad in 4-player sections by rating. Dual NWSRS and US Chess Online Rated.

Time Control: G/75;+10 sec. increment.

Entry Fee: \$25. Non-members of WCF/OCF/ICA add \$15. SCC members receive a \$10 discount. Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs, or US Chess 2400+.

Rounds: 10 AM, 1 PM, 4 PM

Prizes (per quad): 1st \$50.

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



Rating: Highest of current US Chess, US Chess Online, 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.

Fair Play Policy: All players 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. Fair play standards will be strictly enforced.



Info/Entries: Josh Sinanan, WCF President

Phone: 206-769-3757

Email: WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com

Registration: Online at nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration. Registration deadline @ 5pm on the eve of the tournament. \$15 Late Fee for payments accepted after the deadline. Unpaid players will receive a zero-point bye for round 1.

34...Ra2+ 35.Bf2 Bd6 36.Rc6 Kd5
37.Rc1 e4 38.Kf1 Ra3 39.Rd1+ Rd3
40.Ke2?

Trading makes my life easier.

40...Rxd1 41.Kxd1



Position after 41.Kxd1

41...f5?

Down to about a minute myself, I make the win more difficult. 41...Ke6! is kind of weird looking but much more straightforward, for example 42.Ke2 Kf5 43.Ke3 Bc5+ 44.Ke2 Bxf2 45.Kxf2 Kg4 winning.

42.Ke2 Bb4 43.Be3 Bc3 44.Bf4??

Unfortunately this is the worst square to move the bishop to, allowing me to force an easy king and pawn endgame.

44...Be5 45.Ke3 Bxf4+ 46.gxf4 Kc4
47.Ke2 Kd4 48.Kd2 e3+

0-1

**John Keltner (2012) –
Dennis Godin (1689) [B04]**

Pan-Am Intercollegiate Championship
Chess.com (R2), January 4, 2021

1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.d4 d6 4.Bc4 Nb6
5.Bb3 Nc6 6.exd6 cxd6 7.Nf3 g6 8.0-0
Bg7 9.c3 0-0 10.Re1 Bg4 11.h3 Bxf3
12.Qxf3 e5 13.dxe5 dxe5 14.Nd2 Qc7
15.Ne4 Na5 16.Nf6+ Kh8 17.Bc2 Nd7
18.Nxd7 Qxd7 19.b3 Rac8 20.Ba3 Rfe8
21.Rad1 Qe6 22.Bb4 Qb6 23.Rd7



Position after 23.Rd7

23...f5 24.Bxa5 Qxa5 25.Qxb7 Rb8
26.Qxa7 Qxa7 27.Rxa7 Ra8 28.Rxa8
Rxa8 29.a4 e4 30.Rc1 Rd8 31.c4 Rd2

32.Bd1 Bd4 33.c5 Bxf2+ 34.Kh1 Bxc5
35.Kh2 Bd6+ 36.Kg1 e3 37.Kf1 Rf2+
38.Kg1 Bg3 39.Bf3 Rb2 40.a5 Rxb3
41.Ra1 Be5 42.Re1 Ra3 43.Kf1 f4 44.g3
Rxa5 45.gxf4 Bxf4 46.Kg2 Rg5+ 47.Kf1
Rg3 48.Bg4 h5 49.Be6 Kg7 50.Ke2 Kf6
51.Bd7 Ke5 52.Ra1 Rg2+ 53.Kf3 Rf2#

0-1

**Ethan Womack (995) –
Nick Petregal-Lemay [C50]**

Pan-Am Intercollegiate Championship
Chess.com (R2), January 4, 2021

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.Nc3 Nf6
5.d3 h6 6.Be3 Bxe3 7.fxe3 d6 8.Ne2 d5
9.exd5 Nxd5 10.e4 Ne3 11.Qd2 Nb4
12.Bb3 a5 13.Qxe3 a4 14.Qd2 Qd6 15.
Bc4 c6 16.a3 Na6 17.0-0 b5 18.Ba2 0-0
19.Rf2 b4 20.Bc4 bxa3 21.bxa3 Be6
22.Bxa6 Rxa6 23.Qb4 Qc7 24.c4 Rb8
25.Qd2 Rb3 26.Rff1 g5



Position after 26...g5

27.Rfb1 Qb6+ 28.Kf1 Rxb1+ 29.Rxb1
Qxb1+ 30.Kf2 Qa1 31.Nxg5 hxg5
32.Qxg5+ Kf8 33.Qd8+ Kg7 34.Qg5+
Kh7 35.Qh4+ Kg6 36.Qg3+ Kf6 37.Qh4+
Kg7 38.Qg5+ Kf8 39.Qd8+ Kg7 40.Qg5+

1/2-1/2

Round 3

Despite the less-than-ideal start, in the last round of the first day both UW teams got paired down, so we had good chances to win. The A team was also at full strength for the first time, as Kelvin got into the lineup after missing the first two rounds flying back to Seattle. We played the underrated Howard University (825), while the B team got the University of Utah (1455).

In the end the A team's rating advantage was too much to overcome, and we swept our match 4-0. The B team had some sticky moments, but ultimately eked out a 2.5-1.5 win, thanks to James winning a very long and complex endgame and Nate's excellent exchange sacrifice. Both teams thus got a needed morale boost, even if our overall score

(UW A had 1.5/3 match points, UW B had 1.0/3) didn't reflect it.

**James Soetedjo (1971) –
Amin Danie Samani (1786) [E11]**

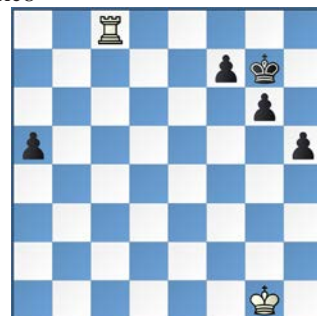
Pan-Am Intercollegiate Championship
Chess.com (R3), January 4, 2021

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.c4 Bb4+ 4.Bd2
Bxd2+ 5.Nbx2 0-0 6.e3 b6 7.Be2 Bb7
8.0-0 d6 9.Qc2 Nbd7 10.Rab1 a5 11.a4
Re8 12.Rfc1 h6 13.b3 Qe7 14.Ra1 e5
15.dxe5 Nxe5 16.Nxe5 Qxe5 17.Bf3
Bxf3 18.Nxf3 Qe4 19.Qxe4 Nxe4 20.Nd4
g6 21.f3 Nc5 22.e4 Kg7 23.Ra1 Nd3
24.Rd1 Nf4 25.Nb5 Re7 26.Kf2 Ne6
27.Nc3 Rc8 28.Nd5 Ree8 29.h4 h5 30.g3



Position after 30.g3

30...Nc5 31.Nc3 Nd7 32.Nb5 Nf6 33.Na7
Rcd8 34.Nc6 Rd7 35.Rd3 Ng8 36.Rbd1
Ne7 37.Nd4 Kf8 38.e5 Nc8 39.exd6
Nxd6 40.Nb5 Rde7 41.Nxd6 Re2+ 42.
Kg1 cxd6 43.Rxd6 Rb2 44.Rxb6 Re2
45.Rb8+ Kg7 46.Rc1 Rg2+ 47.Kh1 Rh2+
48.Kg1 Rbg2+ 49.Kf1 Rxc3 50.Rb5
Rxf3+ 51.Kg1 Rxh4 52.Rg5 Rxb3 53.c5
Rxa4 54.c6 Rb8 55.c7 Rc8 56.Rd5 Re4
57.Rd8 Re8 58.Rxe8 Rxe8 59.c8Q Rxc8
60.Rxc8



Position after 60.Rxc8

60...f5 61.Ra8 Kf6 62.Rxa5 Kg5 63.Kg2
Kg4 64.Ra4+ f4 65.Ra3 g5 66.Rb3 Kf5
67.Rb4 Kg4 68.Rb5 h4 69.Rd5 h3+
70.Kh2 Kh4 71.Rd4 Kg4 72.Rd3 Kf5
73.Kxh3 g4+ 74.Kg2 Ke4 75.Rd7 Ke5
76.Rg7 Kf5 77.Rf7+ Kg5 78.Rd7 Kf5
79.Rd5+ Kg6 80.Kf2 Kf6 81.Ke2 Kg6
82.Kd3 g3 83.Ke4 g2 84.Rd1 Kg5 85.Kf3
Kh4 86.Kxg2 Kg4 87.Rd4 Kf5 88.Kf3
Ke5 89.Rxf4 Ke6 90.Ke4 Kd6 91.Rf5
Ke6 92.Rd5 Ke7 93.Ke5 Kf7 94.Kf5 Ke7

95.Rd4 Kf7 96.Rd7+ Ke8 97.Rb7 Kd8
98.Ke6 Kc8 99.Rh7 Kb8 100.Kd6 Ka8
101.Kc6 Kb8 102.Rg7 Ka8 103.Kb6 Kb8
104.Rg8#

1-0

**Conrad Morris (1517) –
Nate Getz (1701) [E90]**

Pan-Am Intercollegiate Championship
Chess.com (R3), January 4, 2021
[Ralph Dubisch]

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.Nf3 0-0
5.e4 d6 6.Bd3**

A rare choice. The main move here is, of course, 6.Be2, when 6...e5 7.0-0 Nc6 8.d5 Ne7 is a normal continuation.

6...Na6

6...Bg4 also looks like a principled response. The light-square bishop gets into the fight for the central dark squares in the only way possible: it pressures the f3-knight.

**7.a3 c5 8.d5 e6 9.0-0 exd5 10.exd5 h6
11.h3 Nc7 12.Bf4**

12.Re1±

12...b5! 13.Nxb5?! Nxb5 14.cxb5 Nxd5



Position after 14...Nxd5

15.Be4?

Careful! That superficially attractive pin is only “relative.” 15.Bg3∞

15...Nxf4! 16.Bxa8 Bxh3! 17.gxh3 Qxa8

Material is roughly equal, but the weakness around the white king is absolutely decisive.

**18.Kh2 Qc8 19.Ng1 Be5 20.Re1 Qf5
21.Qg4 Nd3+ 22.Rxe5 Qxe5+ 23.Qg3
Qxb2 24.Qxd3 Qxa1 25.Qxd6 Qd4
26.Qg3 Re8 27.Nf3 Qd5 28.h4 Kg7
29.Kg2 c4 30.a4 c3 31.Qc7 Qd3 32.Ne5
Qe4+ 33.Nf3 c2 34.Qc3+ Kh7 35.Qf6
Qg4+ 36.Kh2 Qf5 37.Qc3 Rc8**

0-1

**Nicholas Whale (2065) –
Toni Anthony (639) [B51]**

Pan-Am Intercollegiate Championship
Chess.com (R3), January 4, 2021
[Nicholas Whale]

It was tempting to brush this game off as an easy win given the rating difference, but given that this rating was 11 years old, it meant pretty much nothing. And having both dealt and received a few upsets of hundreds of points in my time, you learn to never underestimate anyone.

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Bxc6

I went for a more strategic line, trying to outplay her that way. I was unpleasantly surprised in the opening...

4...bxc6

4...dxc6 is more common, but there’s nothing wrong with the text move.

5.d3 d6 6.0-0

Too routine. 6.e5! disrupts Black’s operations more, and if I had considered what I might be getting myself into after move 13, I would have definitely played this.

6...e5! 7.Nc3?!

The knight is pretty useless here. 7.Nbd2 intending to follow up with Re1 and Nf1-e3 or g3, like in a Ruy Lopez, would be a better idea.

**7...h6 8.Be3 Nf6 9.h3 Be6 10.b3 Be7
11.Nh2 0-0 12.f4 exf4 13.Bxf4 d5!**

A nice thematic push, trying to activate the bishops. I knew I had absolutely no advantage, and according to Stockfish Black is even a bit better. Clearly things haven’t worked out.

14.e5



Position after 14.e5

14...Ra7??

Presumably a mouse slip; unfortunate, but one of the risks of online play... Simply 14...Nd7 and it’s not clear what exactly I’m supposed to be doing here.

15.exf6 Bxf6

Even up a piece, I had more trouble

converting than I would have liked.

**16.Bd2 Bd4+ 17.Kh1 Re7 18.Rb1 Qc7
19.Ne2 Bf6?!**

I was expecting 19...Be5, which offers slightly better resistance.

20.Bxh6

20.Rxf6! is even better. 20...gxf6 21.Nf4 is simply devastating with my queen coming in next. This possibility was available for a couple more moves, so I guess I just wasn’t looking for it. I was very focused on not blundering anything.

20...Qd7 21.Bd2

21.Rxf6!

21...Rfe8 22.Nf4

22.Rxf6! ...sigh.

22...Bf5 23.Qf3 Bg5 24.Rbe1

Yet another tactical opportunity missed: 24.Nxd5!

24...Qd6 25.Rxe7 Rxe7 26.Bc1 Qc7?



Position after 26...Qc7

27.Nxd5!

Finally I see something. Now the rest is simple.

**27...cxd5 28.Bxg5 Re5?! 29.Bf4 Qe7
30.Bxe5 Qxe5 31.Qxf5 Qe7 32.Qxd5 g6
33.Ng4 Kh8 34.Qxf7 Qe2 35.Qf8+ Kh7
36.Nf6#**

A nifty little mating net.

1-0

Round 4

I had to miss this round and the following one to attend class, so I was only able to see bits and pieces of the games. The UW A team was outrated against the California Institute of Technology (Caltech) A team (2186). Interestingly, the B team played UCB E (1978) (yes, they had five teams entered!), after already having played the UCB D team in round two. Ann also subbed in for Kireeti on B’s board four for this round. Kelvin played a great game on board two to beat an FM and Oscar’s opponent blundered

into a mate from an equal position, so UW A was able to overcome losses on the lower boards and tie the match two-two. For the B team, James also played a very nice game to beat his master opponent as part of a personal four game winning streak, but it wasn't quite enough to make up losses on boards two and four.

James Soetedjo (1971) – Jeffrey Wei (2008) [A48]

Pan-Am Intercollegiate Championship Chess.com (R4), January 5, 2021

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.e3 Bg7 4.Be2 0-0 5.0-0 d6 6.b3 Nbd7 7.Bb2 b6 8.Nbd2 Bb7 9.c4 e5 10.dxe5 Ng4 11.Rb1 Ngxe5 12.Nxe5 dxe5 13.Bf3 Bxf3 14.Qxf3 Ne5 15.Rfd1 f5



Position after 15...f5

16.Ba3 e4 17.Qg3 Qe7 18.Bxc5 bxc5 19.f3 Rad8 20.fxe4 Bc3 21.Nf1 fxe4 22.Rxd8 Rxd8 23.Qg4 Rd3 24.Rd1 Qd6 25.Rb1 Qe5 26.Rd1 Rxd1 27.Qxd1 Qe7 28.Qd5+ Kg7 29.Ng3 a5 30.Nxe4 Bb2 31.Qd3 Be5 32.Nd2 Bf6 33.Nf3 h5 34.e4 Qe8 35.Kf1 g5 36.e5 Bxe5 37.Qe2 g4 38.Qxe5+ Qxe5 39.Nxe5

1-0

Kelvin Ng (1937) – Jason Shi (2278) [B13]

Pan-Am Intercollegiate Championship Chess.com (R4), January 5, 2021
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.Bd3 Nc6 5.c3 Nf6 6.Bf4 Bg4 7.Nf3

7.Qb3 is standard here.

7...e6 8.0-0 Bd6 9.Bg3 Bxg3 10.hxg3 h5 11.Nbd2 h4 12.gxh4 Rxh4

12...Ne4!? 13.Nxe4 Bxf3 14.Qxf3 Qxh4 15.Qh3 Qxh3 16.gxh3 dxe4 17.Bxe4 Rxh3 18.Kg2

13.Qb3! Bxf3 14.Nxf3 Rh6 15.Qxb7! Ne7 16.Bb5+?!

Tempting, but the black king is probably safer on f8 than on e8, and White is building a box around his queen. 16.Qb3±.

16...Kf8 17.a4?!

17.Bd3

17...g6

17...Rb8 18.Qxa7 Ra8 19.Qe5 (19.Qb7 Rb8 20.Qa7 Ra8) 19...Ne4 20.Qa3 Kg8 and Black has a force advantage on the kingside.

18.g3 a6 19.Bd3 Ng4 20.Rab1

Perhaps getting queen out of the danger zone and consolidating one extra pawn is again the safest way to play: 20.Qb3±.

20...Kg7 21.Kg2 Rb8 22.Qxa6



Position after 22.Qxa6

22...Qh8

Black needs to find the sneaky trick 22...Ne3+! to stay in the game. 23.fxe3 (23.Kg1!?∞) 23...Rb6 24.Ne5 (The idea is to

2021 Seattle Chess Club Tornadoes

MAR. 14, APR. 25, MAY 9

A NORTHWEST CHESS GRAND PRIX EVENT

Site: Online via Chess.com

Format: A 4-Round Swiss in one section. Dual NWSRS and US Chess Online Rated.

Time Control: G/60;+5 sec. increment.

Entry Fee: \$35. Non-members of WCF/OCF/ICA add \$15. SCC members receive a \$10 discount. Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs, or US Chess 2400+.

Rounds: 9:30 AM, 11:50 AM, 2:10 PM, 4:30 PM.

Byes: 1 half-point bye available (Rd 3/4 must commit at registration)

Prize Fund: \$500 based on 30 paid entries. 1st \$175, 2nd \$135. Bottom Half: 1st \$110, 2nd \$80.

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



Rating: Highest of current US Chess rating, US Chess Online rating, or NWSRS rating will be used to determine pairings and prizes.

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.

Fair Play Policy: All players 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. Fair play standards will be strictly enforced.



Info/Entries: Josh Sinanan, WCF President

Phone: 206-769-3757

Email: WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com

Registration: Online at nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration. Registration deadline @ 5pm the eve of the tournament. \$15 Late Fee for payments accepted after the deadline. Unpaid players will receive a zero-point bye for round 1.

meet 24.Qa5 with 24...Rxb2+ 25.Rxb2 Qxa5, when Black should have some winning chances. 24.Qa7 Nc6 25.Qxb6 Qxb6 26.b4) 24...Rxa6 25.Rxf7+ Kg8 26.Bxa6; 22...Rb6 23.Qa5 Ne3+ 24.Kg1[∞] is a different approach to the trick, though perhaps less sneaky.

23.Qd6+- Nf5 24.Qf4 Rh3

24...Rh2+? 25.Nxh2 Qxh2+ 26.Kf3 and the white king is surprisingly safe.

25.Rh1 Rxb2

25...Nfe3+ 26.fxe3 Rxh1 27.Rxh1 Rxb2+ 28.Kg1 and now Black can lose the endgame following 28...Qxh1+ 29.Kxh1 Nf2+ 30.Kg1 Nh3+ 31.Kf1 Nxf4 32.exf4.

26.Rxb2 Rxb1 27.Qxg4 Rd1 28.Bf1 Qc8 29.Nh4 Nxh4+ 30.Qxh4 Qxc3 31.Rb8 f5 32.Qh8+ Kf7 33.Rb7+ Qc7 34.Rxc7#

1-0

Round 5

As the tournament passed the halfway point, with 2.0/4 match points UW A was again paired up, this time with an obscure Ivy League school called Yale University (2199), while UW B, with one point, faced Reed College (1354).

The conclusion of Oscar's game with

a very strong FM was probably the most exciting one I saw all tournament. The side computer evaluation bar looked like it was having a heart attack as both players missed lots of strong moves in severe time pressure, but in the end Oscar wasn't quite able to finish his opponent off. Kelvin then outplayed his second straight master opponent in an unusual ending where two knights ended up being stronger than two bishops, but with the match tied at 1.5 Varun walked into a sudden mating net, so the A team narrowly lost. However, the B team simply dominated their lower-rated opposition with a four-zero sweep where everyone played well; in particular, Nate had a nice queen sac for a forced mate, and Kireeti also exploited an early blunder to cash in a powerful attack. So, both UW teams had 2.0/5 match points heading into the last round of the second day.

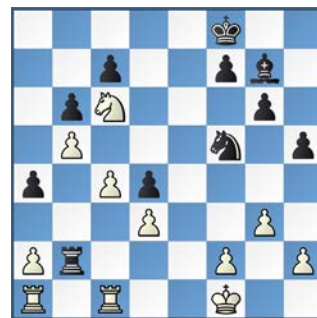
Oscar Sprumont (2100) –

Yoon-Young Kim (2447) [A09]

Pan-Am Intercollegiate Championship Chess.com (R5), January 5, 2021

1.Nf3 d5 2.c4 d4 3.b4 g6 4.d3 Bg7 5.g3 e5 6.Bg2 Ne7 7.0-0 0-0 8.Bb2 a5 9.b5 a4 10.Na3 Nd7 11.Qd2 Nc5 12.Nc2 Re8 13.Rab1 Bf5 14.Ba3 Qd6 15.Qb4 b6 16.

Nh4 Rad8 17.Nxf5 Nxf5 18.Qd2 h5 19. Nb4 e4 20.dxe4 Nxe4 21.Bxe4 Rxe4 22.Nc6 Qxa3 23.Nxd8 Qc3 24.Qd3 Re8 25.Nc6 Bh6 26.Rfd1 Bg7 27.Rdc1 Qxd3 28.exd3 Re2 29.Ra1 Kf8 30.Kf1 Rb2



Position after 30...Rb2

31.Rcb1 Rd2 32.Rd1 Rb2 33.Ke1 Bh6 34.Ne5 Ke7 35.Nf3 Kd6 36.h4 Kc5 37.Ng5 Nd6 38.Rdb1 Rc2 39.Rc1 Rb2 40.Rd1 Kb4 41.Rab1 Ka3 42.Rxb2 Kxb2 43.Rd2+ Ka3 44.Rc2 Bg7 45.Ke2 Bf6 46.Kf3 Be5 47.Ne4 Nb7 48.Nd2 Nc5 49.Nb1+ Kb4 50.a3+ Kb3 51.Rd2 Bg7 52.Ke2 Bh6 53.f4 Bf8 54.Kd1 Ne6 55.Kc1 Bxa3+ 56.Nxa3 Kxa3 57.Kc2 Ng7 58.Rd1 Nf5 59.Ra1+ Kb4 60.Rb1+ Ka3 61.Ra1+ Kb4 62.Rb1+ Ka3 63.Ra1+ 1/2-1/2

WA SPRING INTO CHESS960 OPEN

Info: Josh Sinanan, WCF President
Phone: 206-769-3757
Email: WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com
Registration: Online at nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration. Registration **deadline Sat. 4/10 @ 5 PM.**

SUNDAY APRIL 11, 2021

Site: Online via Chess.com

Format: A 5-Round Swiss in three sections: Open, Premier U2000, Reserve U1400. Sections with <7 players will be played as RR's with no half-point byes allowed.

Entry Fee: \$35 before 4/7, \$40 after. Non-members of WCF/OCF/ICA add \$15. \$20 fee to play-up 1 section. Free entry for GMs/IMs/USCF 2400+.

Time Control: G/30; +10.

Rounds: Sun. 4/11 @ 9 AM, 11 AM, 1 PM, 3 PM, 5 PM.

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

Pize Fund: \$700 based on 30 paid entries.

Prizes awarded to the top 3 finishers in each section:
 1st \$100, 2nd \$70, 3rd \$30
 Best female player (by TPR): \$50
 Best NW-region player (by TPR): \$50

Memberships: Working Chess.com and Zoom account required. No US Chess or State membership necessary. Zoom monitoring with webcam required in all sections.

Rating: Unrated. Section eligibility and pairings based on the highest of April 1st NWSRS, US Chess Online, or US Chess rating.

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. Each round features a different randomized starting position of the back-rank pieces!

Fair Play Policy: All players 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. Fair play violators will be haunted for life by the ghost of Bobby Fischer!

Useful Chess960 links:

🏠 <https://chess960.net/how-to-play/>

🏠 <https://www.chess.com/article/view/chess960-fischer-random-explained>

**Dex Webster (2265) –
Kelvin Ng (1937) [A07]**

Pan-Am Intercollegiate Championship
Chess.com (R5), January 5, 2021

1.Nf3 d5 2.g3 Nf6 3.Bg2 Bf5 4.0-0 c6
5.d3 Nbd7 6.c4 dxc4 7.dxc4 e5 8.Nc3
Bc5 9.Na4 Qe7 10.Nxc5 Nxc5 11.b4 Rd8
12.Qe1 Na6 13.a3 e4 14.Nh4 Bg6 15.Qc3
0-0 16.Nxg6 hxg6 17.Bb2 c5 18.b5 Nc7
19.Rad1 Rxd1 20.Rxd1 Re8 21.e3 b6
22.a4 Ne6 23.Qe5 Nc7 24.Qxe7 Rxe7
25.Rd8+ Kh7



Position after 25...Kh7

26.Bc3 Nfe8 27.a5 f5 28.Rb8 bxa5
29.Bxa5 Nd6 30.Bf1 Ne6 31.h4 g5
32.hxg5 Nxg5 33.Be2 Nf3+ 34.Kg2 Ne5
35.Bc3 Nxc4 36.Bxc4 Nxc4 37.Rc8 Nd6
38.Rxc5 Rb7 39.Rd5 Nxb5 40.Be5 a5
41.Ba1 g6 42.g4 fxg4 43.Rd8 g5 44.Ra8

Ra7 45.Rb8 Na3 46.Re8 Nc2 47.Be5 a4
48.Rc8 Nb4 49.Bd4 Ra6 50.Rb8 Nc2
51.Rb7+ Kg6 52.Rc7 Nxd4 53.exd4 a3
54.Rc1 a2 55.Ra1 Ra3 56.d5 Kf5 57.d6
Ke6 58.Kf1 Kxd6 59.Ke2 Ke5 60.Kd2
Kf4 61.Ke2 Ra4 62.Kf1 Kf3 63.Kg1 g3
64.fxg3 Kxg3 65.Kf1 Kf3 66.Ke1 g4
67.Kf1 Rb4 68.Re1 Rb1 69.Kg1 Rxe1+
70.Kh2 Re2+ 71.Kg1 a1Q#
0-1

**Nate Getz (1701) –
Gregory Post (1267) [D87]**

Pan-Am Intercollegiate Championship
Chess.com (R5), January 5, 2021

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5
5.e4 Nxc3 6.bxc3 Bg7 7.Bc4 c5 8.Ne2
Nc6 9.Be3 0-0 10.0-0 Qc7 11.Rc1 Rd8
12.Qd2 Na5 13.Bd3 c4 14.Bc2 b6 15.f4
Bb7 16.f5 Nc6 17.Bh6 Bf6 18.Bg5 Bh8
19.Qe3 Rf8 20.Nf4 e6 21.fxe6 fxe6
22.Nxe6 Rxf1+ 23.Rxf1 Qd7 24.d5 Ne5
25.Qf2 Qf7 26.Qh4 Qd7 27.Bf6 Re8
28.Bxh8 Kxh8 29.Qf6+ Kg8 30.Qf8+
Rxf8 31.Rxf8#

1-0

**Kireeti Devarakonda (1625) –
Jacob Sharkansky [C50]**

Pan-Am Intercollegiate Championship
Chess.com (R5), January 5, 2021

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.0-0 Nf6
5.d3 0-0 6.Bg5 h6 7.Bh4 d6 8.h3 Ne7
9.Bxf6 gxf6 10.Nc3 c6 11.Nh2 d5 12.exd5
cxd5 13.Bb3 d4 14.Ne4 f5 15.Nxc5 b5
16.Qh5 Kg7 17.Ne4 fxe4 18.Qxe5+ Kg8
19.Qxe4 Rb8 20.Rfe1 Ng6 21.Qxg6+ Kh8
22.Qxh6+ Kg8 23.Qg6+ Kh8 24.Qh5+
Kg8 25.Re5 Re8 26.Qxf7+ Kh8 27.Rh5#
1-0

Round 6

With the same number of match points, our team could have ended up playing each other, which would have been interesting (per the regulations, this was allowed only in rounds five-eight, to prevent collusion). But things didn't work out that way; instead, the A team was paired with Caltech B (1523), and the B team with the Universidad de Guanajuato (1849) from Mexico. Oscar wasn't able to play this round, so I returned to fill in on board 1.

After I won and Kelvin drew, albeit each with some difficulty, to even the score at 1.5 apiece, Varun avenged his painful

Washington Senior Championship

APRIL 16-18, 2021

Highest finishing Washington resident receives the title of Washington State Senior Champion, a seed into the Invitational Section of the 2022 Washington State Championship, and a \$750 travel stipend from the WCF to attend the 2021 National Tournament of Senior State Champions.

Site: Online via  Chess.com

Format: A 5-Round Swiss in one Championship section. Open to Seniors age 50+ (or reaching age 50 by or before August 1, 2021). Playoff round if needed to break tie for 1st place will be resolved later in the year by a G/90 playoff game.

Entry Fee: \$50 by 4/14, \$60 after. Non-members of WCF/OCF/ICA add \$15. Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs, or US Chess 2400+.

Time Control: G/90;+30. Late default: 10 min.
Rounds: Fri: 6 PM, Sat: 10 AM, 3 PM, Sun: 10 AM, 3 PM.

Prize Fund: \$750 (based on 25 paid entries).
1st \$150, 2nd \$125, 3rd \$100, 1st U2000 \$75, 1st U1700 \$75, 1st U1400 \$75. 1st Age 70+ \$75, 1st Age 80+ \$75. There must be at least two eligible players for the age prizes to be awarded. Only one age-based prize allowed per person, cannot win multiple age-based prizes.

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

Memberships: Current US Chess membership required. Membership must be paid at time of registration. A working Chess.com and Zoom account are required.

Rating: US Chess Online Rated and NWSRS Rated. Highest of April 2021 US Chess rating, US Chess Online rating, or foreign rating will be used to determine pairings and prizes.

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.

Fair Play Policy: All players 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. Fair play standards will be strictly enforced.



Info/Entries: Josh Sinanan, WCF President

Phone: 206-769-3757

Email:
WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com

Registration: Online at [nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration](#).
Registration **deadline Thu. 4/15 @ 5pm**. \$15 Late Fee for payments accepted after the deadline. Unpaid players will receive a zero-point bye for round 1.

defeat in the last round by eventually crashing through in a crazy Dutch to give the A team the win. Meanwhile the B team traded up-and-down wins by James and Kireeti on the top and bottom boards with unlucky losses in the middle two, leading to a drawn match. So, after the second day UW A had a 3.0/6 score, and UW B had 2.5/6. Not spectacular, but we saved our best for last.

James Soetedjo (1971) –

Edson Ramirez Esqueda (1927) [A48]
Pan-Am Intercollegiate Championship
Chess.com (R6), January 5, 2021

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.e3 Bg7 4.Be2 0–0
5.0–0 d6 6.b3 Nbd7 7.Bb2 c5 8.dxc5
Nxc5 9.Nbd2 Bd7 10.c4 a5 11.Nd4 Qb6
12.Nb5 Bc6 13.Nf3 Rad8 14.Nfd4 d5
15.Qc1 dxc4 16.Bxc4 Be4 17.Rd1 Rc8
18.Qd2 Rfd8 19.Bc3 Ra8 20.Qe1 Nd5
21.f3 Nxc3 22.Nxc3 Bc6 23.Nxc6 bxc6
24.Rac1 Rxd1 25.Rxd1 Rd8 26.Ne2 Nb7
27.Rxd8+ Qxd8 28.e4 Qb6+ 29.Qf2 c5
30.Qg3 Nd6 31.h4 Nxc4 32.bxc4 Qb1+
33.Kh2 Qb2 34.Ng1 Bd4 35.Nh3 Qxa2
36.Qb8+ Kg7 37.Qe8 Qxc4 38.Qxe7
a4 39.h5 a3 40.h6+ Kxh6 41.Qg5+ Kg7
42.Nf4 a2 43.Nh5+ Kf8 44.Qd8#

1–0

L Dillon Holder (1795) –

Nicholas Whale (2065) [A31]
Pan-Am Intercollegiate Championship
Chess.com (R6), January 5, 2021
[Nicholas Whale]

I think this was the best game I played in the tournament, although it was not without some adventures along the way.

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6
5.Nxc6**

Not bad, of course, but obviously not the most testing line.

5...bxc6 6.Bd3 d6 7.c4

With a kind of Maroczy Bind, except that White doesn't have control of d5, which defeats the whole purpose of the setup.

**7...g6 8.Nc3 Bg7 9.0–0 0–0 10.h3 Rb8
11.Qe2 Nd7!**

I was quite proud of this plan, maneuvering the knight to either c5 or e5.

12.Be3 Qc7

12...Qa5! is more aggressive and better.

13.Rac1 Ne5 14.Bb1 Be6?

However, this move is the start of trouble, by playing too directly to win the c4–pawn.

15.b3 Qa5

Threatening ...Nxc4, but there's a very strong reply.

16.Bd2!

This does several good things for White: covers the knight again to avoid the cheapo and threatens both the obvious Nd5 discovery and a sneaky idea of f4–f5.

16...Bc8

16...c5 was the other choice but I didn't want to give up the d5-square. 16...Qc7?? or some other careless move walks into 17.f4! Nd7 18.f5 trapping the bishop.

17.f4 Nd7 18.Kh1

18.Nd5 can luckily be met by 18...Qd8

18...Qc7 19.Qf2

Obviously, White is the one making progress here. I couldn't see what to do so decided to try and bait him into something, which is obviously a risky strategy.

19...Nb6?! 20.f5

20.c5 is also quite strong.

20...Nd7

Now at least I can use e5.

21.Qh4 Ne5 22.Bg5 f6 23.Bh6?

This was a very pleasant surprise. White should play more patiently with 23.Be3 when my position remains quite unpleasant. After the text, I have a forcing sequence to at least a small advantage.

23...g5! 24.Qh5 Bd7!

Threatening ...Be8, but also setting a more sinister trap.

25.Bxg7 Kxg7 26.h4?

Tempting, but also nearly losing. White should retreat the queen instead.

26...g4!



Position after 26...g4

Again threatening ...Be8 next, which will now trap the queen. I initially thought I was just winning, but not quite...

27.Rf4

The other option was 27.Ne2, but it's still close to being lost: 27...Be8 28.Nf4 Qd7 (28...Bxh5 29.Ne6+) 29.Ne6+ Qxe6! 30.Qxe8 Rfxe8 31.fxe6 c5 and with such an awful bishop, it looks grim for White.

27...Be8 28.Rxg4+ Nxg4

28...Kh8? was my original plan but White can save himself with 29.Qh6!

29.Qxg4+ Kh8

This should be winning, but my technique left something to be desired.

30.Ne2

30.Qf4

30...Rg8 31.Qf4 Qa5?!

The more forcing 31...Bh5 is better, with the idea of ...Rg4xh4+

32.c5?!

Stockfish much prefers 32.g4, when I was going to play 32...Qe5

32...Rd8 33.Nd4 dxc5! 34.Ne6 Qd2!

The point.

35.Qf1 Rd6

Missing the prettier 35...Rg4! 36.Nxd8 Rxd8+ 37.Kg1 Qe3+ 38.Qf2 Qxc1+

36.Rxc5 Qd1

Again 36...Rg4! is stronger.

37.Rc1

37.Qxd1 Rxd1+ 38.Kh2 Rxb1

**37...Qg4 38.Qf2 Rd1+ 39.Rxd1 Qxd1+
40.Qg1**

I was pretty annoyed that White was still hanging around, somehow.

40...Qg4 41.Qf2 Bf7!

Time to bring in the reserves.

42.Nd4

This finally lets me simplify the position, but there's really nothing good to do.

42...Qd1+ 43.Qg1 Qxg1+ 44.Kxg1 Rd8!

Winning another piece, after which the rest is easy.

**45.Nxc6 Rd1+ 46.Kh2 Rxb1 47.Nxa7
Kg7 48.Nc6 Kf8 49.e5 fxe5 50.Nxe5
Rb2**

White has a bunch of pawns, but the rook easily gobbles them up.

0–1

**Ryan Patric Clark (1317) –
Varun Agrawal (1450) [A90]**
Pan-Am Intercollegiate Championship
Chess.com (R6), January 5, 2021

1.d4 f5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 d5 4.Nf3 c6 5.g3 Nf6 6.Bg2 Bd6 7.0-0 0-0 8.Qd3 Ne4 9.h4 Nd7 10.Bg5 Ndf6 11.Ne5 h6 12.Bf4 Nh5 13.Be3 Qf6 14.cxd5 exd5 15.Bf3 Nhxg3 16.fxg3 Nxxg3 17.Bf4 Nxf1 18.Rxf1 g5 19.hxg5 hxg5 20.Bh2 f4 21.Ng4 Qg7 22.Nd1 Bf5 23.Qd2 Rae8 24.Ndf2 Be4 25.Nh3 Bc7 26.Kh1 Bb6 27.Bg1 Bd8 28.Kg2 Bc7 29.Nhf2 Re6 30.Nh3 a6 31.a4 Rfe8 32.Re1 Kh7 33.b4 Kg6 34.a5 Qh7 35.Bf2 Qe7 36.Ng1 Rh8 37.Nh3 Bd6 38.Ng1 Bxb4 39.Qa2 Bxe1 40.Bxe1 Bxf3+ 41.Kxf3 Re3+ 42.Kg2 Qe4+ 43.Kf1 Rh1 44.Bf2 Rc3 45.Ne5+ Kg7 46.Nd3 f3 47.Qd2 fxe2+ 48.Qxe2 Rxd3 49.Qxe4 dxe4 50.Kg2 Rxxg1+ 51.Bxxg1 Ra3

0-1

Round 7

For round seven, the first round of the final day, both UW teams were outrated yet again, team A by another obscure Ivy League institution, Harvard University (2124), and team B by the University of Iowa's A team (2094). On the bright side, both of our teams were finally at full strength, with everyone available for the last three rounds, so we hoped to finish strongly.

But the path ahead was still difficult. I threw away a drawn endgame and Oscar was forced to accept a draw when up a queen for a rook due to his unfavorable clock situation, but Kelvin won another complex struggle and Varun scored a major upset against an expert on board four to seal the match for us. On the B team, James's win streak finally came to an end as Iowa won the top two boards, but Dennis and Kireeti (though both were down a queen at some point) came through again on the bottom two to earn a tie in the match.

Prateek Piniseti (2179) –

Nicholas Whale (2065) [B33]

Pan-Am Intercollegiate Championship

Chess.com (R7), January 6, 2021

[Nicholas Whale]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bg5 a6 8.Na3 b5 9.Bxf6 gxf6 10.Nd5 f5 11.g3!?

An unusual move, which I had never faced before. 11.Bd3 is the most common continuation.

11...fxe4

I vaguely remembered that taking the pawn was recommended in my Sveshnikov book, but nothing else.

12.Bg2 Bg7 13.0-0 0-0

With my king still in the center, hanging onto the pawn seemed like a bad idea.

14.Bxe4 Be6 15.c3 f5 16.Bg2 Rc8 17.Nc2

This is still pretty even, and so I just decided to play for a draw, figuring that the bottom boards had what seemed to be pretty favorable positions. Unfortunately, sometimes playing it safe can, ironically, be more dangerous.

17...Ne7?!

17...a5 is best, taking advantage of White's last move removing the attack on b5.

18.a4!

A thematic and strong retort, and suddenly I wasn't happy with my position anymore.

18...Rc5 19.Ncb4 Nxd5?

19...e4! was essential, to shut out the bishop and thus encourage White to be the one initiating the exchange and would be more or less ok for me. After the text it's borderline lost, the d5-square is an outpost forever, and White puts it to very good use.

20.Bxd5 Bxd5 21.Nxd5

This knight actually never moves again in the whole game, but clearly it doesn't need to.

21...Kh8 22.axb5?

22.b4! to drive the rook away is much better.

22...axb5?

An automatic, but incorrect, pre-move. Better 22...Rxb5! when at least I can attack something.

23.b4! Rc4 24.Qh5

Uh-oh.

24...f4

Desperately looking for something, anything...

25.Ra7! fxxg3? 26.hxxg3 Qe8 27.Qxe8 Rxe8

An unsurprisingly awful endgame, but there's no immediate knockout.

28.Rfa1 e4!?

The best try. Apparently this came as quite a surprise for my opponent, as he thought for five minutes, leaving himself with only about 30 seconds left, and then made a bad move...

29.Ra8?

After the calm 29.R1a3! I have nothing.

29...Rcc8!

Maybe he was hoping for 29...Rxa8?? 30.Rxa8+ Bf8 31.Rxf8+.

30.Rxc8 Rxc8

Taking off one pair of rooks makes things much more manageable, since I no longer have to worry so much about seventh ranks invasions or back rank mates. But, some caution is still required...

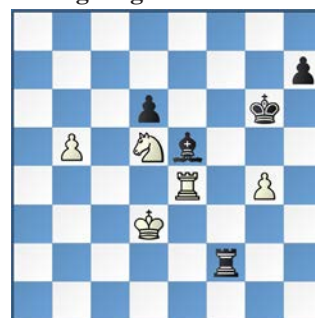
31.Kf1 Be5 32.Ke2 Rf8 33.Ra5 Rf3 34.Rxb5 Bxc3

Trading pawns is good.

35.Rb8+ Kg7 36.Re8 Bd4 37.Rxe4 Rxf2+ 38.Kd3

I momentarily thought that I had just dropped a piece if he played 38.Ke1 but luckily I have 38...Ba7 39.Re7+ Rf7.

38...Be5 39.g4 Kg6 40.b5



Position after 40.b5

The critical position; I have two minutes vs. twenty seconds, and all that's left to do is stop that pawn and the game would be a draw. This would be enough to win the match, since we won on the bottom two boards. I thought for nearly one precious minute, only to play a horrible move:

40...Rf8??

This throws away all of the hard work done to get back into the game. Rooks belong behind passed pawns... 40...Rb2! The move I was afraid of was 41.Rb4 but my opponent pointed out that this can be simply met with 41...Rxb4 42.Nxb4 d5!, sacrificing a pawn to allow the bishop to cover b8, after which White won't be able to force the b-pawn through while still hanging on to his g-pawn.

41.b6 Kg5 42.Kc4 Rc8+ 43.Kb5! Rc5+

With each of us now down to about ten seconds, I miscalculated a tactic, but my position is lost in any case.

44.Ka6 Rxd5 45.b7 Rd1 46.b8Q Ra1+ 47.Kb5 Rb1+ 48.Rb4

Oops. I played on in the hope of a flagging, but it was not to be.

48...Rxb4+ 49.Kxb4 Kxxg4 50.Qg8+ Kf5 51.Qxxh7+ Kf4 52.Kc4 Kf3 53.Kd3 Kf4 54.Qe4+ Kg5 55.Ke3 Kf6 56.Kf3 Ke6

57.Kg4 Kf6 58.Qd5 Kg6 59.Qe6+ Kg7
60.Kg5 Kh7 61.Qf7+ Bg7 62.Kh5 d5
63.Qxd5 Bf6 64.Qf7+ Bg7 65.Qg6+ Kg8
66.Qf5 Bf8 67.Kg6 Bg7 68.Qf7+

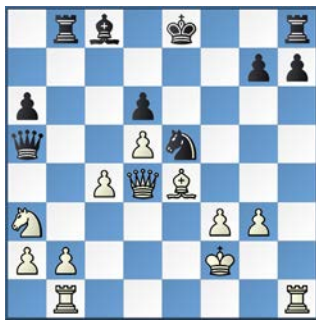
1-0

Kelvin Ng (1937) –

James Toliver (2088) [B33]

Pan-Am Intercollegiate Championship
Chess.com (R7), January 6, 2021

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6
5.Nc3 Nc6 6.f3 e5 7.Ndb5 a6 8.Na3 b5
9.Nd5 Nxd5 10.exd5 Nb8 11.Be3 Be7
12.Qd2 Nd7 13.c4 b4 14.Qxb4 Rb8 15.
Qd2 f5 16.Bd3 Bh4+ 17.g3 f4 18.Bf2
fxg3 19.hxg3 Bg5 20.Qc3 e4 21.Bxe4
Bf6 22.Bd4 Bxd4 23.Qxd4 Qa5+ 24.Kf2
Ne5 25.Rab1



Position after 25.Rab1

25...Rf8 26.Rxh7 Qd8 27.Kg2 Qg5 28.f4
Rxf4 29.Qe3 Rg4 30.Qxg5 Rxg5 31.Rh8+
Ke7 32.b3 Rg4 33.Re1 Ra8 34.Bf5 Bxf5
35.Rxa8 Be4+ 36.Kh3 Nf3 37.Re3 Ne5
38.Rxa6 Bf5 39.Kg2 Rd4 40.Re2 Bd3
41.Rf2 Be4+ 42.Kh3 Rd1 43.Ra7+ Ke8
44.g4 Rh1+ 45.Rh2 Rf1 46.Nb5 Rf3+
47.Kh4 Rf6 48.Re2 Bf3 49.Re3 Kf8
50.Nxd6 Ng6+ 51.Kg3 Rxd6 52.Kxf3
Rf6+ 53.Kg3 Kg8 54.c5 Nf4 55.d6

1-0

Lucas Pao (2039) –

Varun Agrawal (1450) [B13]

Pan-Am Intercollegiate Championship
Chess.com (R7), January 6, 2021

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.Bd3 Nc6
5.c3 Nf6 6.Bf4 Bg4 7.Nf3 e6 8.Nbd2
Bd6 9.Bxd6 Qxd6 10.0-0 0-0 11.Re1
Rfe8 12.Qb3 Nd7 13.Qc2 h6 14.h3 Bxf3
15.Nxf3 e5 16.dxe5 Ndx5 17.Nxe5 Rxe5
18.Qd2 Rae8 19.Rxe5 Nxe5 20.Bb5 Re6
21.Rd1 a6 22.Bf1 Qb6 23.b3 Rd6 24.Qf4
Ng6 25.Qd4 Qxd4 26.Rxd4 Ne7 27.c4
Nf5 28.Rxd5 Rxd5 29.cxd5 Ne7 30.Bc4
Kf8 31.a4 Ke8 32.Kf1 Kd7 33.d6 Kxd6
34.Bxf7 Kc5 35.Ke2 Nc6 36.Ke3 Kb4
37.Kd2 Nd4 38.f4 Nxb3+ 39.Kc2 Nc5
40.Be8 Nxa4 41.g4 Nc5 42.h4 a5 43.g5
Ne6 44.f5 Nd4+ 45.Kb2 Nxf5 46.gxh6

gxh6 47.h5 b5 48.Bg6 Ng3 49.Ka2 a4
50.Kb2 Kc5 51.Ka3 Ne2 52.Be8 Nd4
53.Bg6 Nc6 54.Be8 Na5 55.Bg6 Nc4+
56.Ka2 b4 57.Be8 a3 58.Kb3 Nd2+
59.Ka2 Kd4 60.Bf7 Kc3 61.Bg8 Nc4
62.Ka1 b3 63.Bh7 Ne3 64.Bb1 Nd5
65.Be4 Nb4 66.Bb1 b2#

0-1

Nikhil Patel –

Dennis Godin (1689) [A65]

Pan-Am Intercollegiate Championship
Chess.com (7.3), 06.01.2021

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 e6 4.Nc3 exd5
5.cxd5 d6 6.e4 g6 7.Bg5 Bg7 8.h3 0-0
9.Bd3 h6 10.Be3 b5 11.Nf3 c4 12.Bc2
Re8 13.Nd2 b4 14.Ne2 Ba6 15.0-0 c3
16.bxc3 bxc3 17.Nb1 Nxe4 18.Re1
Nd7 19.Bd4 Qh4 20.Bxg7 Nxf2 21.Qd4
Nxb3+ 22.Kf1 Qxe1+ 23.Kxe1 Rxe2+
24.Kd1 Nf2+ 25.Kc1 Re1+ 26.Qd1
Rxd1+ 27.Bxd1 Kxg7 28.Nxc3 Rc8
29.Kd2 Nxd1 30.Rxd1 Ne5 31.Ne4 Nc4+
32.Ke1 Re8 33.Rd4 f5 34.Kf2 Rxe4
35.Rd1 Ne3 36.Rc1 Ng4+ 37.Kg1 Kf6

0-1

Round 8

Going into round eight UW A finally had a plus score, with 4.0/7, while UW B had three. UW A was paired with the University of Toronto A team (2200), so as a transplanted Vancouver, B.C. resident, this one was personal for me. The B team got to play their second very strong all-female team, the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley women (2076).

Kelvin suffered his only defeat in this round and Varun was unable to pull off a second consecutive 600+ point upset, but Oscar and I fortunately prevailed in two crazy time scrambles to scrape a tie by the skin of our teeth. Although Kireeti got the B team a point on board four, the top three boards all fell to their much higher rated female counterparts, so they lost the match.

Oscar Sprumont (2100) –

Joseph Bellissimo (2332) [C01]

Pan-Am Intercollegiate Championship
Chess.com (R8), January 6, 2021

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Bd3 Nf6 4.e5 Nfd7 5.f4
c5 6.c3 Nc6 7.Nf3 Qb6 8.Bc2 Be7 9.0-0
f5 10.exf6 Bxf6 11.dxc5 Qxc5+ 12.Kh1
0-0 13.Re1 Qd6 14.Na3 Nb6 15.Nb5
Qe7 16.Nbd4 Bd7 17.Nxe6 Bxe6 18.f5
Rae8 19.Rxe6 Qd7 20.Rxe8 Rxe8 21.Bf4
Nc4 22.b3 Ne3 23.Qd3 Nxc2 24.Qxc2
Nb4 25.Qd2 Qxf5 26.Rd1 Nxa2 27.Nd4

Qe4 28.Bg3 Qg4 29.Re1 Rxe1+ 30.Bxe1
Nb4 31.Nb5 Qf5 32.Qe2 Be5 33.cxb4 d4
34.Nxd4 Bxd4 35.Qc4+ Qf7 36.Qxd4
Qxb3 37.Qxa7 Qd5 38.Qc5 Qe4 39.Bc3
h5 40.Qd4 Qb1+ 41.Qg1 Qd3 42.Qe1
Qd5 43.h3 Qf5 44.Kh2 Kh7 45.Qe5 Qf7
46.Qxg7+ Qxg7 47.Bxg7 Kxg7 48.g4
h4 49.Kg2 Kf6 50.Kf3 Ke5 51.Ke3 b5
52.Kf3 Kd4 53.Kf4 Kc4 54.g5 Kxb4
55.g6 Ka3 56.g7 b4 57.g8Q b3 58.Qxb3+
Kxb3 59.Kg4 Kc4 60.Kxh4 Kd5 61.Kg5
Ke6 62.Kg6 Ke7 63.Kg7 Ke6 64.h4 Kf5
65.h5

1-0

Koosha Jaferian (2159) –

Nicholas Whale (2065) [A06]

Pan-Am Intercollegiate Championship
Chess.com (R8), January 6, 2021

[Nicholas Whale]

I was kind of annoyed to be given my third straight Black, but this ended up being the most exciting (and stressful) of all.

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.b3

A totally new move for me, so I just decided to play solidly.

2...d5 3.Bb2 c5 4.e3 e6 5.Be2 Nc6 6.0-0 Bd6 7.d4

If 7.c4 instead I was planning 7...d4! 8.exd4 cxd4 9.Nxd4 Nxd4 10.Bxd4 Bxh2+ 11.Kxh2 Qxd4, when White's king is rather exposed.

7...cxd4 8.Nxd4 0-0 9.c4 Nxd4 10.Bxd4 b6 11.cxd5 Nxd5 12.Bf3 Bc7

I wanted to play 12...Bb7 but got concerned about 13.e4 with the idea of e5 and various discoveries, but the tactics seem to work out, i.e. 13...Nf4 (Even better is 13...Nb4! 14.e5? Bxf3 15.Qxf3 Nc2 16.exd6 Nxd4 since I can absorb the d6-pawn. (Not 16...Nxa1?? 17.Qg3 winning for White.)) 14.e5 Bc5! 15.Bxc5 (15.Bxb7?? Bxd4) 15...Qxd1 16.Rxd1 Bxf3 17.gxf3 bxc5 which peters out to equality.

13.Nd2 Ba6 14.Re1 Rc8 15.Nc4 Qg5!?

15...b5! 16.Ne5 Ba5 wins an exchange, although White gets decent compensation for it with his active pieces. This is an idea for the next few moves as well, but I didn't want to expose my queenside, which could potentially backfire.

16.Rc1 Rfd8

Trying to make White resolve the tension, but he holds off.

17.Qe2 Bd6 18.Qb2 Bc5

18...Bf8 is objectively better, when

Stockfish says equal; but it's also rather passive.

19.Bxc5 Rxc5 20.Ne5 Rdc8

White is just slightly better, but now makes a losing blunder.

21.Bxd5??



Position after 21.Bxd5

21...Rxd5??

An automatic move, continuing with the overall strategy of keeping it simple, stupid. But, as so often happens, the instinctual response overlooks something much stronger... 21...Qxe5!! is the almost brilliancy. 22.Qxe5 Rxc1 and remarkably, because of the weak back rank, White has no way to save either the rook or the bishop, and so loses heavy material. 23.h3 (23.Rxc1 Rxc1#; 23.Rf1 Rxf1#) 23...Rxe1+ 24.Kh2 exd5 25.Qxd5 Re2 is completely winning for me.

22.Nf3 Rxc1 23.Rxc1 Qd8 24.h3 Rd1+ 25.Rxd1 Qxd1+ 26.Kh2 Qd6+ 27.Qe5 Qxe5+ 28.Nxe5

Instead of all that, things quickly simplified into a very drawish looking endgame, which nonetheless turned out to be quite exciting.

28...Bb7 29.g4!?

White is still playing for a win, although with only about a minute left on the clock this is a double-edged sword...

29...Kf8 30.g5 Ke7 31.f4 f6 32.Nc4 Bd5 33.Nd2

Allowing the minor piece trade on c4 would lead to a winning king and pawn ending for me.

33...e5 34.Kg3 exf4+ 35.Kxf4 fxe5+ 36.Kxg5 Kf7 37.e4!?

37.h4 is safer, putting more pawns on dark squares.

37...h6+! 38.Kf4 g5+ 39.Kg3

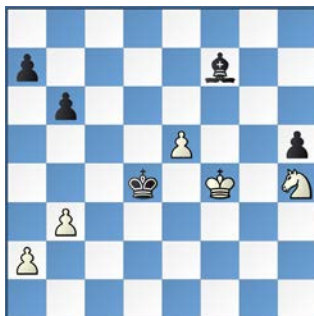
39.Ke5? Be6, winning the suddenly vulnerable h-pawn, is the problem with 37.e4.

39...Be6 40.h4 gxh4+ 41.Kxh4 Kf6

Thanks to the outside passed pawn I have

a glimmer of hope, but I didn't think it would lead anywhere.

42.Nf3 Bf7 43.Kg4 Ke6 44.Kf4 Kf6 45.e5+ Ke6 46.Nd4+ Kd5 47.Nf5 h5 48.Nh4 Kd4!?



Position after 48...Kd4

Now the really exciting part starts. I was also trying for a win, since a draw would still lose us the match by half a point. The plan was to give up my bishop for the e-pawn when necessary in order to take White's queenside pawns, and try to play that position. But it's not as easy as I thought.

49.Kf5 Kc3 50.Kf6 Be8 51.e6 Kb2 52.Ke7

Unfortunately, I now realized that the bishop's diagonals are too short. What we both failed to grasp, with seconds left, is that I'm actually in trouble.

52...Bc6 53.Kd6

53.Kd8! Bd5 54.e7 Bf7 55.Nf3! and I would have to find 55...h4! (not 55...Kxa2?? which loses, as the bishop gets run out of squares after 56.Ne5) 56.Nxh4 Kxa2 which works out to a draw.

53...Be8 54.Ke7 Bb5 55.a4?

The only move I considered but missing a great winning opportunity. 55.Kd8! and if I play 55...Kxa2, I wind up a move too slow: 56.e7 Kxb3 57.Nf3! Kc3 58.Ne5! h4 59.Nd7! Bxd7 60.Kxd7 h3 61.e8Q h2 62.Qh8+

55...Bc6 56.Kd6

56.Kd8 is still a trappy attempt, like at move 53. 56...Kxb3 57.e7 Bxa4 58.Nf3! and again, the only way to draw is 58...h4!

56...Be8 57.Ke7 Bc6

I expected to keep repeating, since a draw would clinch the match for Toronto, but...

58.Nf5!?

Very risky.

58...Bd5!

58...Kxb3?? 59.Nd4+

59.Nd4??

This is the losing move. Stockfish still finds a draw with 59.b4! Kb3 60.a5 Kxb4 61.axb6 axb6 62.Kd7.

59...h4!

Free of its blocker, the pawn can make a run for the end zone.

60.Kd6 Bxe6! 61.Kxe6 h3 62.Nf3 Kxb3 63.Kd5 Kxa4

And now there's just too many passers for the king and knight to deal with on their own.

64.Kc4 b5+ 65.Kc3 Ka3 66.Kc2 Ka2 67.Kc3 a5 68.Nh2 b4+ 69.Kc4 b3 70.Nf3 b2 71.Nd2 b1Q 72.Nxb1 Kxb1

0-1

Round 9

Before the last round, UW A was by far the lowest rated team with 4.5 points; so we were, ironically, matched with the same Iowa A team (2094) that the B team had drawn in round seven, even though they only had four points. The UW B team finished by playing the underrated SLU C team (1242).

I failed to convert what seemed to be a very good position and Oscar got outplayed in a queenless middlegame; but once again Kelvin and Varun came through on the bottom two boards, easily winning against their unrated opponents, and the A team ended the event on a high note!

The B team also got wins from Dennis and Kireeti on boards three and four, but James and Nate ran out of gas after playing every round as the top two boards, usually against very strong competition, so their final match ended in a draw.

Nicholas Whale (2065) – Gokul Thangavel (2066) [E56]

Pan-Am Intercollegiate Championship Chess.com (R9), January 6, 2021
[Nicholas Whale]

1.Nf3 d5 2.d4 Nf6 3.c4 e6 4.Nc3 c5 5.e3 Nc6 6.Bd3 a6 7.cxd5

7.0-0 dxc4 8.Bxc4 cxd4 9.exd4 leaves me with the isolated d-pawn, which I decided to avoid.

7...exd5 8.0-0 Be7 9.h3 0-0 10.a3

An innocent looking move, but with a point.

10...Be6?!

10...c4! is still equal.

11.dxc5! Bxc5 12.b4 Bd6 13.Bb2 Rc8

14.Ne2!

Now I just have a nice, risk-free position. By this time we were also already winning the bottom two boards as Iowa's players both fell into traps, so between Oscar and I, only one total draw was needed.

14...Qe7 15.Rc1 b5

Unfortunately about here I started to make routine moves and lose my advantage.

16.Ned4?

16.Nf4! Bxf4 17.exf4 only opens the e-file in my favor, and the doubled pawn is not really a problem as it could maybe advance to f5.

16...Nxd4 17.Bxd4?!

17.Nxd4 at least allows for more ideas, like if 17...Ne4 18.Bxe4 dxe4 19.Nc6!?

17...Ne4!



Position after 17...Ne4

Black now comes up with some aggressive, but accurate, counterplay.

18.Qe2 f5 19.Ne5

19.Be5 might be better, but I liked my bishop.

19...Qh4! 20.f4

20.Qb2 is another move, but after 20...f4 things get a little too interesting around my king for my liking.

20...Qe7

Of course 20...Ng3?? is a blunder because of 21.Qf2 with a nasty pin.

21.Bxe4

21.Qb2 again was probably a better try. Inserting the trade basically acquiesces to a draw.

21...dxe4 22.Qb2 Bxe5 23.Bxe5

There's some pressure on g7, but as long as Black doesn't blunder, I can't really force anything.

23...Bc4 24.Rfd1 Rfd8 25.Rd4 Rxd4 26.Bxd4

26.Qxd4 keeps things going a little longer.

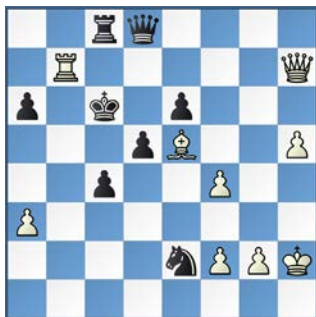
26...Rc6 27.Bc5 Qd7 28.Qe5 Qe6

My opponent offered a draw here. While normally I would have probably played on, by this point I was pretty tired, and couldn't see any way to make progress. Also, a draw would clinch us the match victory; so I had no good reason to refuse.

1/2-1/2

Nigarhan Gurpinar (452) – Kireeti Devarakonda (1625) [D10]
Pan-Am Intercollegiate Championship
Chess.com (R9), January 6, 2021

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.cxd5 cxd5 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.Nc3 Bg4 6.Bf4 a6 7.h3 Bh5 8.Qb3 Bxf3 9.exf3 Nxd4 10.Qa4+ Nc6 11.Rd1 e6 12.Bd3 Bb4 13.a3 Bxc3+ 14.bxc3 Qa5 15.Qb3 b5 16.Bd6 Nge7 17.0-0 0-0 18.Rc1 Rfc8 19.Rfd1 Ng6 20.Qb1 Qd8 21.Bg3 Na5 22.h4 Nc4 23.h5 Nf8 24.Bxc4 Rxc4 25.Be5 Nd7 26.Bd4 Nb6 27.Rd3 Na4 28.Re3 Rac8 29.f4 Qa5 30.Rg3 Nxc3 31.Rxg7+ Kf8 32.Qxh7 Ne2+ 33.Kh2 Ke7 34.Rxf7+ Kd6 35.Be5+ Kc6 36.Rxc4+ bxc4 37.Rb7 Qd8



Position after 37...Qd8

38.Qb1 Qh4#

0-1

Varun Agrawal (1450) – Nehal Patel [A03]

Pan-Am Intercollegiate Championship
Chess.com (R9), January 6, 2021

1.f4 d5 2.Nf3 c5 3.e3 Nf6 4.d4 c4 5.Be2 Bf5 6.0-0 e6 7.b3 b5 8.a4 bxa4 9.bxc4 dxc4 10.Bxc4 Qc7 11.Bb5+ Nbd7 12.c4 a6 13.Qxa4 a5 14.Ne5 Bb4 15.Bd2 Bxb1 16.Bxb4 Be4 17.Bxa5 Rxa5 18.Qxa5 Qxa5 19.Rxa5 Ke7 20.Ra7 Rd8 21.c5

1-0

So, the final standings had UW A with 5.5/9 match points, which was enough to win the top Div. III prize for the highest scoring team with an average rating between 1800-1999! The UW B team finished with a solid 3.5/9 match points.

Our final team and individual breakdown (Rating/performance are according to US Chess online):

As you can see, we didn't really have a single dominating performance from anyone, but instead got it done by committee and a lot of narrow match results. If one or two people had an off game, we were often able to make that up on the other boards, which is one benefit of team events over individual ones.

In addition to our two UW teams, there were a number of other Pacific Northwest alumni playing in the event. In rating order, IM Bryce Tiglon had 4/9 points playing board one for Stanford University, FM Roland Feng had 6.5/9 points on UCB A's board three, Brendan Zhang had 3.5/6 playing board one for the University of Minnesota Twin-Cities, Michael Moore had 3/7 playing board three for Texas Tech University B, and Noah Fields had 4.5/9 also for Stanford, as board four. Sorry if I missed or forgot anyone.

This year, the Pan-Am ended up being won by the number one-rated team, Webster University A, with an impressive 8.0/9 match points. They boasted an all-GM lineup of Lazaro Bruzon Batista, Benjamin Gledura, Aram Hakobyan, and Aleksandr Lenderman, with an average rating of 2708. There aren't any cash prizes handed out at the Pan-Am, but all individual and team category winners do receive commemorative plaques. Additionally, the top four schools get to take part in the chess version of the Final Four in the spring. Besides Webster, these were Saint Louis University, the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, and Texas Tech University. The full pairings, standings, list of prize winners, games, and other information can all be found at: <https://www.milibrary.org/chess-tournaments/2020-2021-pan-american-intercollegiate-championship-online>.

I must commend the organizers Abel Talamantez and Dr. Judit Sztaray, and TDs Glenn Panner, Brian Yang, and John McCumiskey for putting on such a successful and entertaining event even in these COVID times. Also, a shoutout to UW's chess club president Kelvin for handling all of our tedious eligibility/registration processes and lineup submitting for both teams.

Overall, this was a very fun and interesting tournament, which I only wish had happened in-person; but maybe next year!

The Price Is Austin

By Jude Acers

(Part XV of “The Road,” originally published in the *Berkeley Barb*, September 20-26 and September 27-October 3, 1974).

It will be Miller who will watch in absolute awe as you move from \$50 an appearance to a \$1,000 per shot attraction. He is a most curious friend, a most curious opposite of a professional chess player. And he is, stated simply, a genius.

Like US senior chessmaster Kenneth R. Smith, Russell Miller cannot spell. He quit school early, voted for Richard Nixon and until recently was quite proud of it. He lives in Yakima, Washington (apple country) and is the Mr. Wizard traffic controller for Valley Evaporating Company, a job passed on to him by his father. Miller thinks very little of his personality, has very little confidence in his promotional ideas, so he tries a lot of them. He plays chess and has won a few small tournaments in Washington. He finds it difficult to believe that anybody really notices him. Organization is not the source of fame in business or chess. Novelty is. Winning is. Slowly, slowly, Miller is becoming famous, noticed.

One person who has noticed is John Grefe, one of the very strongest professional chess players in the world. He sits on my sofa, incredulous at Russell W. Miller. “How did you find him, this person? I am sure you realize I cannot find a person to represent me, answer mail for me, as is required if you’re going to do chess touring.” I only smile, saying nothing. I found Miller, baby. He is an exclusive booking agent. Nobody, but nobody, gets Miller now.

We are taught, that appearances mean nothing. Miller proves it. He wears clothes that the Lion’s Club of Yakima finds acceptable, down to the undershirt beneath the white shirt. He sounds corpse-coffin dead on the telephone. He is Mr. Plastic. All he does is everything. White socks. Plumpish build, crew cut that would make George Wallace proud. He honestly believes that the people inside prisons are bad guys, while the people outside prisons are good guys. When he heard that Jude Acers was starting a chess tour, he carefully called people in the tour cities to check out exactly how long Jude Acers’ hair really was, you know. Scratch John Braley, Washington chess champion. Hair too long. That’s what mattered. That’s what everyone saw that Russell Miller cared about. And so several United States chess masters made a significant mistake in the sixties. They encountered toothy, awkwardly worded, thick-rimmed glasses Russell W. Miller and spit upon him, ignored him. It cost them several hundred thousand dollars. I mean honestly, that anybody that Miller promoted as a lifetime project would have to make that much in professional appearances worldwide. Miller is that good.

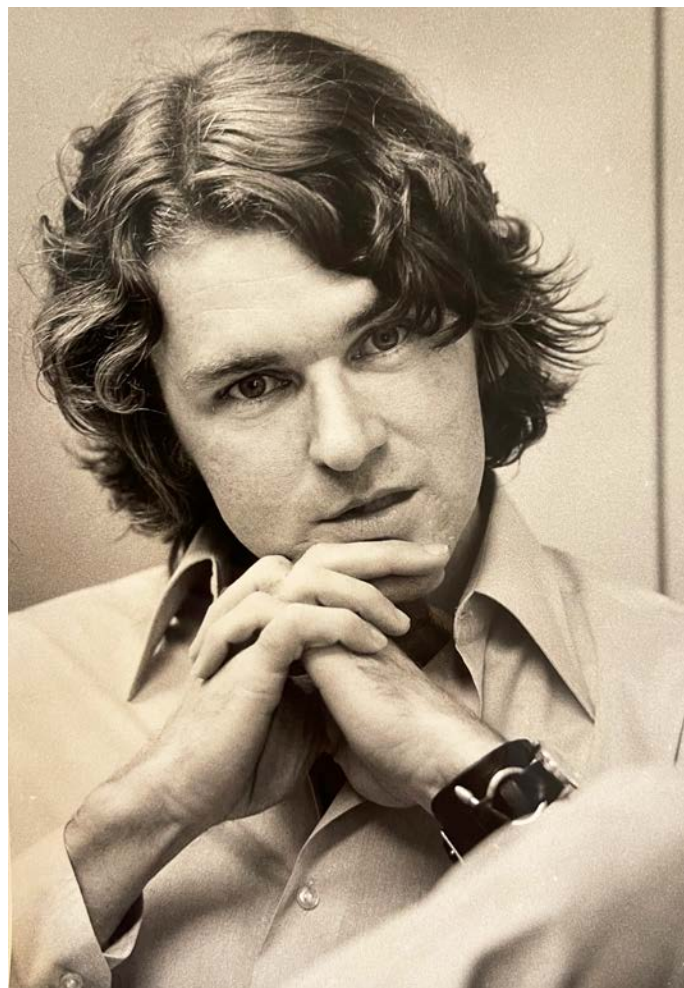
The first hint for most people in Washington was Russell W. Miller’s chess-to-the-people program. It was right out of grass roots Lenin and Che Guevara ideology, although super square Miller did not even dream of this. He patiently sent letters to banks, schools and amateur chess players throughout the state, urging them to hold a one-day chess tournament, a “county championship” of their area. The idea was to have a chess tourney in every county in the state on the same day. He worked hundreds of hours on his chess-to-the-people program for the blast, to do it to ya. No such project has ever happened in North or South America before Miller. True, many of the mini-tournaments had only four or five players in them. But it was a

genuine triumph, which Miller regards as a total failure to this day.

In his early thirties, Miller lives in his own plastic house with his wife, Kathy, and daughter, Ielleen. Half the appliances don’t work. He does not mow the lawn. Housework piles up. . . .

It would not be possible to pick a human being more opposite in all respects from Jude Acers than Russell Miller. That Miller booked 40 chess exhibitions in 15 states virtually overnight (and saved the 1969-1970 Acers tour from collapse and ridicule) only goes to prove that life, like the SLA, like Patricia Hearst, like the Beatles, is far stranger than all fiction. Neither can explain how they work together or even stand each other. Very strange, folks. Ready for Looney Tunes. And, of course, Miller and Acers rode the Fischer-Spassky tidal wave of chess publicity like the Lone Ranger rode Silver. It was an absolute dream. You had to see us to believe us in 1972. We were-a-really-smokin’. Thanks B and B.

As the bus is leaving I remember that, “Gone with the Wind” was the movie I saw at the Arkansas Theater before leaving Little Rock in 1968. Russell Miller was waiting for me with rolled-up white shirtsleeves and a tape recorder at Marysville, Washington’s Strawberry Open chess tournament, just 20 days later, you know. Come here, boy, I’m gonna make you a star. Rockin’-and-a-rolling soon.



Jude Acers circa 1974.

Photo courtesy of Baylee Badawy Promotions/New Orleans.



117 Board Guinness Book Of World Records 1973 Exhibition at Lloyd Center, Portland, Oregon. Above Photos courtesy of Baylee Badawy.

British Columbia Defeats Washington 37.5 to 22.5

By Paul Leblanc and Josh Sinanan

This year's Washington vs British Columbia Challenge match took place on the weekend of 16-17 January. This was the fifth year for this series of WA vs BC matches since the match was revived in 2017. Team BC, after being outscored in the first two years, has now pulled ahead 3-2. During the first two years the match was conducted in a Scheveningen format of two five-person teams on each side with each team member playing the five opponents. In subsequent years that format was replaced by the more flexible and familiar Swiss pairings with the exception that team members were prevented from being paired against each other.

The 2021 match was unique in several ways. Most importantly, it was held on chess.com due to the public health precautions to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Secondly, this match was organized by the Washington Chess Federation rather than Victoria Chess which had organized and hosted all previous matches. And finally, the teams were expanded to 12 players each.

Team BC gained a modest 6.5-5.5 lead after the first round and never looked back, steadily increasing their lead each round thereafter. BC was able to field an amazingly strong team led by IMs Quang Long Le and Raymond Kaufman, which out-rated Washington by an average of about 200 points. However, the real stars of the event were not the FIDE titled players. Andrew Hemstapat with a perfect 5-0 and Jason Kenney with four wins and a draw provided the one-two knockout punch that ensured Team BC's victory. Next came Ray Kaufman and Sherry Tian at 4-1 allowing Team BC to tally up the

four top individual spots in the cross-table.

Team WA's top-finishing player was NM Joseph Levine, who scored 3.5 points, including a draw with Kenney and a brilliant win against IM Le in the final round. Tim Moroney was the next best WA Team player with three points, finishing with three straight wins after a slow start. NM Rushaan Mahajan was Team WA's most solid player, finishing with 2.5 points and holding both of Team BC's IMs to a draw. Four up-and-coming juniors rounded out the Team WA prize winners with two points apiece: WCM Sophie Velea, Advait Vijayakumar, Brandon Jiang, and Ryan Min.

The games were broadcast live on chess.com by our brilliant TD Rekha Sagar, a FIDE Arbiter and Trainer based in Seattle and watched in real time by many BCCF and WCF members. The games were quite entertaining with lots of thrills and spills, unlike many of the dull contests found in professional chess. The event also used ZOOM technology which worked out very well not only for the games but for the players' meeting before round one and the wrap-up after round five. The junior players from both teams were especially impressive, many of whom have honed their online chess skills during the pandemic. It was a pleasure for organizers Paul Leblanc and Josh Sinanan to organize this match and keep tabs on the progress of the games in real time as the action unfolded.

The guaranteed prize fund of \$1,000 was distributed to the top four finishing players on each team. The prize fund also included an upset prize for each team. Gabriel Brown's 62-point upset was sufficient to claim the Team BC upset prize, but it paled in comparison to Aditya Ramkumar's massive 724 point upset for Team WA!

In the end, the 2021 WA vs BC Challenge Match ended in a convincing 37.5 — 22.5 victory for Team British

Columbia! Congratulations to the players and organizers from both teams on a well-played and exciting match. Despite Team Washington's lineup of numerous underrated juniors, the 200+ average rating advantage of Team British Columbia proved to be a decisive advantage. The games were hard fought throughout the weekend and many games were a lot closer than the final score would indicate. With this victory, Team BC now leads the series 3-2 and is on a three-year winning streak. Team WA will have to train hard in the off-season and return stronger next year!

Special thanks to BC Team Organizers Paul Leblanc and Stephen Wright and to our wonderful TD Rekha Sagar for all their hard work in running this historical online WA vs BC Challenge Match! We would also like to thank our sponsors Sridhar Seshadri, Washington Chess Federation, and British Columbia Chess Federation. Thank you also to all the players for their patience and flexibility with the new online format under the circumstances. We look forward to continuing this great tradition, online or face-to-face, for many years to come!

Joseph Levine (2179) –
Quang Long Le (2420) [B10]

2021 BC-WA Match (online)
Chess.com (R5), January 17, 2021
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 c6 2.d3 d5 3.Nd2 e5 4.Ng3 Nd7 5.g3 h5!? 6.Bg2 Be7 7.0-0 h4 8.Re1 hxg3 9.hxg3 d4 10.c3 e5 11.Nc4 f6 12.cxd4 cxd4 13.Nh4 Nb6 14.Ng6 Rh7 15.Ncxe5! fxe5 16.Qb3 Nf6 17.Nxe5 Qd6 18.Qf7+ Kd8 19.Bf4 Be6 20.Qg6 Nbd7 21.Nf7+

Stockfish suggests 21.Ng4! Nf8 (21... Qb6 22.Nxf6 Nxf6 23.e5+-) 22.Qxh7! Qxf4 23.gxf4 N8xh7 24.Ne5 as an edge for White.

21...Bxf7 22.Qxf7 Ne5

22...Qb6!? 23.e5! g5! 24.Qg6 gxf4



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25.exf6 Nxf6 26.g4!∞

23.Qb3 g5?!

23...Rb8 24.Bxe5 Qxe5 25.f4 Qh5 26.e5 Qh2+ 27.Kf1 Qxg3 28.exf6 Qxf4+ 29.Ke2 Qg4+ 30.Kf2 (30.Kd2?? Qxg2+ 31.Kd1 gxf6-+) 30...Qf4+ 31.Kg1 Qh2+ 32.Kf1 Qf4+

24.Bxg5 Qb6?!

24...Rg7

25.Bxf6 Qxb3 26.Bxe7+ Kxe7 27.axb3 Nxd3 28.Red1 Nb4 29.Rxd4 Nc2 30.Rc4 Nxa1 31.Rc7+ Kd6 32.Rxh7 Rb8 33.f4 Nxb3 34.e5+ Ke6 35.Rxb7 Rxb7 36.Bxb7 Nc5 37.Bc8+ Kd5 38.Kg2 a5 39.Bf5 Na4 40.b3 Nc5 41.Bc2 Kd4 42.Bd1 Ke3 43.f5 Kd4 44.e6 Ne4 45.e7 Nf6 46.Bh5

1-0

Andrew Hemstapat (2245) –
Rushaan Mahajan (2209) [B10]
2021 BC-WA Match (online)
Chess.com (R5), January 17, 2021
[Andrew Hemstapat]

1.e4 c6 2.d3!?

I have played my opponent before and I wanted to change things up a bit.

2...d5 3.Nd2 e5 4.Ngf3 Bd6 5.d4!?

An interesting move played before by Carlsen against So.

5...exd4 6.exd5 c5?!

An inaccuracy that allows White a good game. 6.cxd5 or 6.Nf6 was better.

7.Ne4! Be7 8.Bc4!

A somewhat counter-intuitive move blocking the bishop behind the pawn. This was the key move prepared before the round. Discoveries involving d6! appear in many variations as will be seen. 8.c4 or 8.Bb5+ were sound alternatives.

8...Bf5 9.Ng3 Bg6 10.h4!?

The last piece of home preparation. Virtually forces black to give up bishop

pair and White also gains space. An improvement on another game where 10.0-0 was played. 10.0-0 Nf6 11.Re1 0-0 12.c3 dxc3 13.bxc3 Bd6±.

10...Nf6 11.h5!?

The logical follow up. 11.Qe2 might be an even better alternative, examined below. 11.Qe2! Nh5 (11...h5?! 12.Ne5! Bh7 13.d6!+- The c4 bishop comes alive!) 12.Ne5! Nxg3 13.fxc3 0-0 14.h5 Bf5 15.0-0! Bc8 16.h6! g6 17.d6!!+- Here too!

11...Be4 12.Nxe4 Nxe4 13.Qd3 Nd6 14.Bf4 Nxc4 15.Qxc4 Na6?!

Black is getting too greedy, going after the d5 pawn. 15.0-0 is recommended but White has initiative like in the variation below. 15...0-0 16.h6 g6 17.0-0 Bd6 18.Bxd6 Qxd6 19.c3 dxc3 20.Qxc3 f6 21.Rfe1! Qxd5 22.Rad1 Qf7 23.Nd2 Nc6 24.Ne4 Rae8 25.Rd6 Re6 26.Rxe6 Qxe6 27.Nxc5 Qf7±

16.0-0-0



Position after 16.0-0-0

16...Nb4??

The logical expected follow-up, but it is a mistake. It wasn't too late to play 16...0-0 17.h6 g6 18.Rhe1±.

17.h6!?

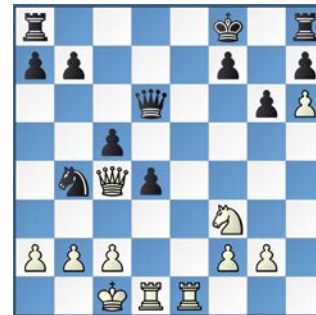
Perhaps wrong move order! I wanted my opponent's K-side to be even weaker so I threw in this move first. The immediate 17.d6 is stronger and limits Black's options. 17.d6!! Bxd6 18.Rhe1+ Kf8 19.Bxd6+ Qxd6 20.Ne5 Nd5

21.Qxc5 Qxc5 22.Nd7+ Kg8 23.Nxc5+- Essentially identical to the variation on move 21 except Black has more options but K-side pawn structure is not fixed.

17...g6?

Black should try either 17...g5, 17...Qxd5, or 17...0-0 with super-slim chances of surviving. 17...g5! 18.d6 gxf4 19.dxe7 Qd5 20.Qxd5 Nxd5 21.Rh5! Nxe7 22.Rxc5±; 17...Qxd5!? 18.hxg7 Rg8 19.Qb5+ Qc6 20.Qxc6+ Nxc6 21.Rxh7±; 17...0-0!? 18.hxg7 Re8 19.Rh5!±

18.d6!! Bxd6 19.Rhe1+ Kf8 20.Bxd6+ Qxd6



Position after 20...Qxd6

21.Ne5!

The point. White threatens mate with 22.Qxf7# which Black does not have a sufficient defense for.

21...Nd5

21...Qd5 22.Qxd5 Nxd5 23.Nd7+ Kg8 24.Nxc5+- Even with equal material, Black's king and as a result the h8 rook is permanently trapped. Effectively, white is up a full rook and is just winning.

22.Qxc5! Rd8

22...Qxc5 23.Nd7+ Kg8 24.Nxc5 Transposes to previous variation.

23.Qxd4! f6 24.Nc4! Qd7 25.Qc5+ Kf7 26.Rxd5!

A short and sweet game that shows what happens when Black doesn't castle!

1-0

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Recap For ICA Online Events

By Jeffrey Roland

Here is a brief recap of the Idaho Chess Association online events of December and January.

December 12: **Western Idaho Open** — 4SS, G/30;+5 (26 total players) (US Chess Rated). Winners: First—Forrest Zeng 4.0/4 (SB 9), Second—Josh Price 4.0/4 (SB 8), Third-Fourth DeWayne Derryberry 3.0/4 (SB 6) and Josh Nelson 3.0/4 (SB 6).

December 16: **ICA Christmas Blitz** — 6SS, G/5;+3 (13 total players) (US Chess Rated). Winners: First—James Wei 5.5/6 (SB 18), Second—Leonardo Wang 5.0/6 (SB 17), and Third—Nobel Ang 4.0/6 (SB 10).

December 26: **Holiday Leftovers (Over 1500)** — 4SS, G/15;+5 (9 total players) (US Chess Rated). Winners: First—Forrest Zeng 4.0/4 (SB 9.5), Second—Jeremy Fugal 2.5/4 (SB 4.75), and Third—Leonardo Wang 2.5/4 (SB 4).

December 26: **Holiday Leftovers (Under 1500)** — 5SS, G/15;+5 (12 total players) (US Chess Rated). Winners: First—Darren Su 4.5/5 (SB 14), Second—Hanford Chong 4.0/5 (SB 11), and Third—Nobel Ang 3.5/5 (SB 5.5).

January 2: **ICA New Year's** — 4SS, G/30;+5 (18 total players) (US Chess Rated). Winners: First—Kaustub Kodihalli 4.0/4 (SB 8), Second—DeWayne Derryberry 3.5/4 (SB 5.25), and Third—James Wei 3.0/4 (SB 6.5).

January 23: **MLK Blitz** — 3SS, G/5;+3 (seven total players) (US Chess Rated). Winners: First—Kaustub Kodihalli 2.5/3 (SB 4.25), Second—James Wei 2.5/3 (SB 3.25), and Jeremy Fugal 2.0/3 (SB 3).

And here is a game from the Western Idaho Open that was the final game to complete. After the game was over, the players stayed on for a lengthy post-mortem analysis that lasted a good half-hour as the other players were able to watch and hear too. While the game was far from perfect, it was still enjoyable to both players.

Josh Price (1903) – Jeffrey T Roland (1544) [D88]

2020 ICA Western Open
Chess.com (R4), December 12, 2020
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5

5.e4 Nxc3 6.bxc3 Bg7 7.Bc4 0–0

7...c5 8.Ne2 Nc6 9.Be3 cxd4 (9...0–0 10.0–0 transposes to the game line or later-mentioned options.) 10.cxd4 Qa5+ 11.Bd2 (11.Qd2 Qxd2+ 12.Kxd2 0–0∞) 11...Qd8 suggests a repetition with 12.Be3, (though 12.Bc3 0–0 13.0–0 Bg4 14.f3 Bd7 is still quite a battle.)

8.Ne2 c5

While some consider the counter-attack on the center with ...c5 an absolute must, Black actually scores quite well with piece play beginning 8...Nc6 9.0–0 b6 (9...e5!?) 10.Be3 Bb7.

9.0–0 cxd4

Black chooses to release the tension, but there doesn't seem to be a strong reason to do so. For example, 9...Nc6 10.Be3 Bg4

a) 10...Qc7 11.Rc1 Rd8;

b) 10...Bd7 11.Rb1 a6;

c) 10...Na5 11.Bd3 b6 12.Qd2 (12.dxc5 bxc5 13.Bxc5 Qc7 14.Bd4 e5 15.Be3 Nc4) 12...e5 13.Bh6∞;

11.f3 Bd7 12.Rb1 Na5 13.Bd3 Rc8. White is quite unlikely to capture on c5 in these lines, as 14.dxc5 Be6 doesn't seem to offer White any extra advantages over more positionally sound plans.

10.cxd4 Nc6 11.Be3 Bd7

There are more active, and more common, plans here: 11...Bg4 12.f3 Na5 13.Bd3 Be6, when 14.d5 Bxa1 15.Qxa1 f6 is an old-school exchange sacrifice line that has been played quite often. 11...Na5 12.Bd3 b6 13.Qd2 Bb7 14.Bh6 e6 (or 14...Bxh6 15.Qxh6 Rc8) 15.Bxg7 Kxg7 16.Ra1 is still interesting for both players. 11...b6 12.Rc1 Bb7 13.Bb5 etc.

12.Rb1 b6?!

An unnecessary weakening of the queenside pawns, and it doesn't even suggest a fianchetto. Instead, develop! 12...Rc8 13.Bd3 (13.Rxb7? Na5?) 13...Na5.

13.Rc1 a6?!

13...Na5

14.f4?!

14.Qd2 Na5 15.Bd3 Bb5!?! shows an interesting positional concept. Black aims to control c4, and it's also convenient to remove the awkward light-square bishop. Stockfish is fond of 14.h4±, apparently planning to undermine the black pawns on the light squares (g6), though I don't see an obvious kingside attack arising along the h-file.

14...Bg4?!

14...Na5 15.Bd3 e6∞

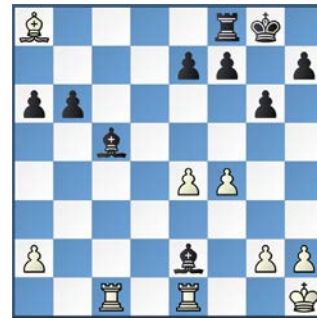
15.Bd5?!

White has at least two superior choices here: 15.d5 Na5 16.Bd3±; 15.Bxf7+ Rxf7 16.Rxc6 Bxe2 17.Qxe2 Bxd4±

15...Nxd4! 16.Bxd4 Bxd4+ 17.Kh1?

17.Qxd4 Bxe2. White's space, kingside play, and rook activity counter the pawn, but not more than that, as Black has few weaknesses.

17...Bc5 18.Bxa8 Qxd1 19.Rfxd1 Bxe2 20.Re1

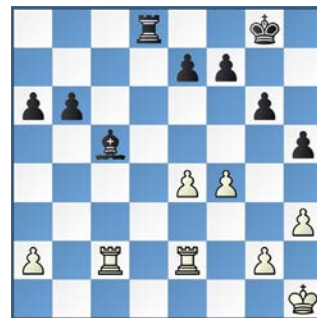


Position after 20.Re1

20...Rxa8?

20...Bb5! takes advantage of congestion caused by the off-side white bishop: 21.Bb7 (21.Bd5 Bf2 22.Red1 Be2 23.Rd2 Be3 24.Rxe2 Bxc1±, when Black enjoys an extra pawn in an opposite-bishops-with-rooks endgame. It's hard to imagine forcing a win after 25.g3 Ba3 26.Rc2 Bc5, but there's definite potential for lengthy torture.) 21...Rb8 22.a4 Rxb7 23.axb5 axb5., and Black has a secure structure and enough material for the exchange.

21.Rxe2 Rd8 22.h3?! h5 23.Rcc2?



Position after 23.Rcc2

23...h4?

Strike while the iron is hot, as my ancient mother might have said. Black is certainly not worse in the complications, and there are plenty of chances for White to go very wrong. 23...Rd1+ 24.Kh2 Bg1+ 25.Kg3 (25.Kh1 Be3+ 26.Kh2 Bxf4+ 27.g3 Be5± is very comfortable for Black.) 25...Rd3+ 26.Kh4 Bh2! Black threatens ...Kg7, ...Bg3+, and ...f6#. 27.g4 Forced. 27...

Bxf4 28.gxh5 g5+ 29.Kg4 Rg3+ 30.Kf5 Rxh3. (Or 30...Kg7 31.h6+! Kxh6 32.e5, according to Stockfish. White definitely needs a plan with e4–e5 in order to have an escape route for his king.)

24.Rcd2 Rxd2?

White has blocked the rook's access, so now Black stands materially worse. In general, though, Black should definitely not exchange rooks. White has two of them, so retains the rook action after an exchange; Black has only the one, and once traded, it's gone forever. 24...Rc8±

25.Rxd2 Be3 26.Rd8+

26.Rb2! b5 27.Rb3 Bxf4 28.Ra3+-

26...Kg7 27.Rb8 Kf6 28.Rc8 Bxf4 29.Rc6+ Ke5 30.Rxb6 Kxe4 31.Rxa6 Bd6 32.Ra4+

32.Kg1

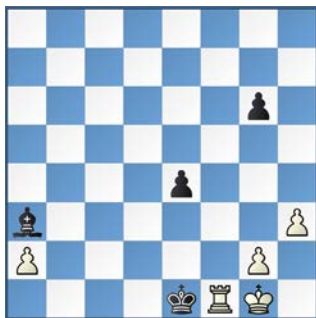
32...Kd3 33.Rxh4 e5 34.Rh7 e4 35.Rxf7 Ba3

35...Bg3 36.Rd7+ Ke2 37.a4 e3 38.a5 Kf1 39.Rd1+ Ke2 40.Rb1+-

36.Kg1 Ke2 37.Rf2+?!

37.g4

37...Ke1 38.Rf1+



Position after 38.Rf1+

38...Ke2

38...Kd2 is a better try, since the a-pawn is still blockaded and Black would gain time in some battles against the separated passed pawns. White still wins, but must be accurate. 39.Rf7 (But 39.Kf2?? only draws: 39...Bc5+ 40.Kg3 e3 41.a4 e2 42.Rb1 Bb6. Cute, but not actually necessary to hold. From here, play might continue 43.h4 e1Q+ 44.Rxe1 Kxe1 45.Kf4 Kd2 46.Kg5 Bd8+ 47.Kxg6 Bxh4 48.a5 Kd3 49.a6 Bf2 50.g4 Kc4 51.Kf7 Kb5 52.g5 Kxa6 53.g6 Bd4.) 39...e3 (39...Ke1 40.g4 e3 41.h4 (41.Rg7 e2 42.Rxg6?? Kd2 43.Re6 Bc5+ 44.Kg2 Be3!-+. Stranger things have happened.) 41...e2 42.Rd7 Bb4 43.h5 gxh5 44.gxh5 Bd2 45.Re7 Kd1 46.h6.) 40.Rd7+! Ke1 41.g4 e2 42.h4+-.

39.g4 Bc5+ 40.Kg2 Kd2 41.a4 e3 42.a5

e2 43.Ra1 e1Q 44.Rxe1 Kxe1 45.h4 Ke2 46.h5 gxh5 47.gxh5 Ke3 48.a6 Kf4 49.h6 Kf5 50.h7 Bd4 51.a7

The split passers overwhelm the lone bishop.

1-0

James Wei (2061) –
Kaustubh Kodihalli (2144) [C95]

MLK Blitz Chess.com
(R3), January 23, 2021
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Be7 6.Re1 b5 7.Bb3 0-0 8.h3 d6 9.c3 Nb8 10.d4 Nbd7 11.Be3 Bb7 12.Nbd2 Nxe4 13.dxe5 Nxe5 14.Nxe4 Bxe4 15.Nxe5 dxe5 16.Qxd8 Raxd8 17.Bc1 Bg6 18.Rxe5 Bf6?!

18...Bd6

19.Rc5 Rfe8 20.Be3 Rd7 21.Rc6 a5

21...Rxe3! 22.fxe3 Be4 23.Rc5 (23.Rxa6 Rd2 24.Rd1 Rxg2+ 25.Kf1 Rh2; 23.Rxf6 gxf6 24.Rd1) 23...Rd2 24.Rd1 (24.Rxc7 h5 25.Rd1 Rxg2+ 26.Kf1 Rxb2 27.Bxf7+ Kh7 28.Bxh5 Bg2+ 29.Kg1 Bg5 30.Re1 Be4) 24...Rxg2+ 25.Kf1 Rxb2∞

22.a4 bxa4 23.Bxa4 Red8 24.Rxf6 gxf6 25.Bxd7 Rxd7 26.Rxa5 Kg7 27.Bd4 Be4 28.g4 Kg6 29.f4 c6 30.Rh5 h6 31.Rc5 Re7 32.Kf2 Bd5 33.f5+ Kg5 34.Kg3 h5 35.h4+ Kh6 36.gxh5

36.c4! Be4 (36...Bh1 37.Bxf6 (37.g5+ fxg5 38.hxg5+ Kh7 39.Be5+-) 37...Re3+ 38.Kh2+-) 37.Bxf6 Re8 38.g5+ Kh7 39.b4+-

36...Kxh5 37.Bxf6?

37.b4+-

37...Re3+ 38.Kf4 Re4+ 39.Kg3 Re3+ 40.Kf4 Re4+ 41.Kg3 Re3+

1/2-1/2

Kaustubh Kodihalli (2144) –
Jeremy Fugal (1891) [B33]

MLK Blitz Chess.com
(R2), January 23, 2021
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bg5 a6 8.Na3 b5 9.Bxf6 gxf6 10.Nd5 Bg7 11.Bd3 0-0

Theory suggests challenging the knight here, with the main line going 11...Ne7 12.Nxe7 Qxe7, and now White chooses between 13.0-0, 13.c4, and 13.c3.

12.0-0 Ne7 13.c4!? Nxd5 14.cxd5 Kh8

14...f5 15.exf5 e4 16.Bxe4 Bxb2 17.Rb1 (17.Nc2 Bxa1 18.Qxa1∞) 17...Bxa3 (17...Re8 18.Qf3 Qf6 19.Rfe1) 18.Qf3

Bc5? (18...Re8 19.f6 looks dangerous for Black. 18...Qh4!? 19.g3 Qh3 20.Qxa3 Bxf5 with a pawn-structure edge for White.) 19.f6+-

15.Nc2 Rg8 16.Kh1

16.Qh5± starts to assert control of key kingside squares.

16...Bd7 17.Rc1 Bh6 18.Ne3 Rc8 19.Qh5 Qf8 20.Rxc8 Bxc8 21.Rc1?! Qg7

Black has an interesting opportunity to activate those bishops by exploiting the pin on the h6–c1 diagonal: 21...Bg4! 22.Qh4 (22.Nxg4 Bxc1 23.Nxf6 Rg7∞) 22...Bg5! 23.Qg3 Bf4 24.Qh4 Qg7∞

22.g3

22.Qe2 Bxe3 23.fxe3 Bd7 24.Qf2 Rc8 25.Rf1±

22...Bxe3

22...Bg4 23.Qh4 f5!? 24.exf5 Bf3+ 25.Kg1∞

23.fxe3 Qg5

23...Bg4 24.Qh4 Qg5 25.Qxg5 fxg5 26.Rc6 Rc8

24.Qxf7?!

24.Qxg5 fxg5 25.Rc6±

24...Bg4 25.Rf1



Position after 25.Rf1

25...Rg6??

25...f5! 26.exf5 Qxe3 There are too many perpetual check ideas for both sides. 25...Qxe3 26.Qxf6+ Rg7 27.Bc2 Bh3 28.Qf2 isn't as clear. Now White takes the slow and steady route and gets the job done.

26.Qf8+ Rg8 27.Qxf6+ Qxf6 28.Rxf6 Rg6 29.Rxg6 hxg6 30.Kg2 Bd7 31.Kf2 Bh3 32.Bf1 Bg4 33.h4 Kg7 34.Ke1 Kf6 35.Kd2 Bf3 36.Bd3 Kg7 37.Kc3 Bg4 38.Kb4 Bc8 39.Ka5 Kf6 40.Kb6 Ke7 41.b3 Kd7 42.a4 bxa4 43.bxa4 a5 44.Kxa5 Kc7 45.Kb5 Kb7 46.a5 Bd7+ 47.Kb4 Ka7 48.Bb5 Bg4 49.Kc3 Bf3 50.Bd3 Bg4 51.Kd2 Kb7 52.Be2 Bd7 53.a6+ Ka7 54.g4 Be8 55.h5 gxh5 56.gxh5 Bf7 57.h6 Bg6 58.Kd3 Kb6 59.Bg4 Kxa6 60.Bf5

1-0

Nine Bobcats In The Morning

By Nick Allison

The Madison Jr. High school in Rexburg, Idaho held its first ever rated tournament on the 30th day of January 2021. The Jr. High is the home of the Bobcats and they are not generally known for playing chess all that well, bobcats I mean. However, our school holds about 1,200 bobcats and nine of them chose to join US Chess and compete. The anticipation was great, and the day finally arrived. Round Robin was the format, and the Bobcats were ready to pounce. Almost every day for two months the students would come into the game room during lunch and pull out the chess mats and clocks to practice with their friends and classmates.

Mr. Allison, the games advisor and chess tournament director, would conduct a short lesson each day during lunch.

The day of the tournament finally arrived on a cold snowy Saturday morning in Eastern Idaho. Although there was a snowstorm blowing through this neck of the woods, all nine of the students and some of their family members showed up. Each of the players were excited to see who they played for each round. The leader board was up, and the scoreboard was also up so that students and spectators could watch the progress of the games. The players were great sports and although losses were inevitable each player demonstrated a wonderful equanimity of emotions and congratulated each other after each round. Bobcats are good sports.

In the end David Gordon won the tournament and went undefeated through all eight games. Second place went to Landon Orr with six games won and Ashton Gibson took third place with five wins and one draw for a total of 5½ points.

It was a grand success for our first ever rated tournament!!



Photo credit: Emmie Blackham.



(L-R): Landon Orr (second place), David Gordon (first place), Ashton Gibson (third place).
Photo credit: Emmie Blackham.



(L-R): Ashton Gibson, David Gordon. Photo credit: Garth Daybell.



(L-R): Jacob Swenson, Jerek Flora. Photo credit: Garth Daybell.



(L-R): Gabriel Ribeiro, Alex Carreno. Photo credit: Garth Daybell.



(Top-Bottom): Jacob Swenson, Gideon Tice. Photo credit: Jessica Goudy.



Nick Allison has worked at the Madison School District for 12 years. He has taken the opportunity to engage with the students through chess and other games. Nick has lived here in Eastern Idaho — Rexburg — for 33 years. Nick is married and has five children and five grandchildren. He was recently published in Chess Life Magazine and he enjoys writing poetry, playing chess, games, walking along the river behind his house, and family history. Photo Credit: Christena Dummar.

Chess Lines Canines Play

By Breck Haining

Zoetis has a commercial out these days promoting Apoquel for dogs suffering from pruritus. The ad features a talking dog who plays chess. If you haven't come across this while watching TV you can see an image of the owner and dog playing chess at <https://www.apoqueldogs.com/Assets/images/Update/chess.png>, or catch the whole advert on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kJxMClwJLjc>. In the commercial we don't see much of the game. The dog, playing White, has a queen, rook, knight, and pawn, while the owner has a rook, knight, two bishops, and a pawn. The hapless owner cringes as the dog uses its nose to play RxQ. We don't see how the game ends, but I surmise the dog goes on to win. Presumably, the owner is a good sport and continues to give her pet the needed medicine.

It may come as a surprise to some that dogs play chess, but this is well documented on the Internet. A quick image search of "dogs playing chess" reveals many photographs, works of art, memes, and other depictions of dogs playing chess. Testimonials also abound. An article published in 2020 by Bay Area German Shepherd Rescue (<https://www.bayareagsr.org/20-doggie-fun/115-can-dogs-play-chess>) reports that one of their adoption counselors, Jim, plays chess with his dog, Brodie. A photo shows Brodie playing White with the position shown here:



Figure 1

As I looked at the board, I began to wonder how this position was achieved. What opening did Brodie play? It didn't hit me right away that the board was set up incorrectly. In Figure 1 I show the light and dark squares as the squares appear on row eight, and then adjust colors for the other rows to provide the checkered

pattern. The actual board appears to be constructed of stone tiles. Some of the dark squares appear light and some of the light squares appear dark. The Sherlock Holmes in me has deduced several facts from this. First, Jim probably set up the board. Any dog who knows how to play chess will undoubtedly know how to set the board up correctly. Humans, however, are known to make mistakes, especially casual players. Second, Brodie is too wise and polite to tell Jim the board is set up incorrectly. Any animal who has taken Pets 101 knows an animal won't remain a house guest for long if it irritates the homeowner by calling attention to his or her failings. Third, Brodie is not the least bit worried about losing to Jim. Fourth, Brodie is not confused by the irregular colors on the actual board. Fifth, Brodie could beat Jim playing blind folded. I don't need to elaborate upon these deductions. They are fairly obvious.

How Jim lost the pawn on c6 is a bit of a mystery. Perhaps players at the master level or above will recognize the opening. I certainly didn't and this sparked a curiosity in me about the openings dogs play. Considering that lots of dogs play chess there is surprisingly little information on the Internet about the openings that dogs play. Remembering that Brodie lives in the Bay Area I thought to write to the San Francisco Mechanics to inquire whether Brodie or other canines had played in their club and to ask surreptitiously what openings they had played, but then realized with so little information available on the lines dogs play these data would be highly prized. The Mechanics would only respond with denials if they responded at all! I set my mind to research the matter further. I write now to share my findings with all readers of *Northwest Chess*.

The first opening I found was discussed on a short thread on Chess.com from early 2017. In this thread, 1.c4 h6 was identified as the "Dog's Defense." (See <https://www.chess.com/forum/view/chess-openings/this-opening-is-call-the-dog-s-defense>.) Some mocked the thread originator, arguing one move is not enough to identify a defense, but this disagreement seemed to fall by the wayside. A respondent offered the following as an example of how the Dog's

Defense is employed:

1.c4 h6 2.h3 c5 3.e4 e5 4.a4 a5 5.g4 g5 6.f3 f5 7.d4 f4 8.d5 d6 9.b4 h5 10.b5 h4 11.Ne2 b6 12.Ng1.



Figure 2

Looking at Figure 2 now makes me to wonder whether this particular respondent was reporting a real game or also mocking the thread originator.

Others on the thread questioned whether the originator had correctly identified the Dog's Defense as a response to the English Opening. One said he understood the Dog's Defense to be a response to the "Collie System." (Yes, gentle reader, I know the correct spelling is "Colle System." The nube who wrote this probably didn't know the correct spelling . . . chuckle, chuckle, chuckle.) Another writer suggested the Dog's Defense is better known as the Carr Defense, 1.e4 h6. Regrettably, there does not appear to be a consensus on what the Dog's Defense is, but what we learn from the discussion is that in response to 1.c4, 1.d4, or 1.e4 a dog might play 1...h6.

On the old Chess Tempo website, the following was offered as the "Mad Dog Attack" (<https://old.chesstempo.com/gamedb/opening/179>):

1.d4 d5 2.e4 dxe4 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.f3 exf3 5.Nxf3 g6 6.Bc4 Bg7 7.h4.

See Figure 3 Top Of Next Page

Little else was said. If you think you might find yourself in a tournament someday facing an angry pooch it might be good to be prepared for this attack.

The best source I found for the openings dogs play comes from a 1989 Czechoslovakian documentary featuring two chess-playing dogs, Štaflík and Špagetka: <https://youtu.be/wisWekQqdcI>.



Figure 3

I think younger players in particular would enjoy this documentary. Using an online translator, I found the names of these two dogs could be translated into English as Stepladder and Spaghetti, which seems appropriate. A picture of the two dogs at the beginning of the documentary shows that Štaflík is a white dog with long legs and Špagetka is a long, black dog with short legs. You can read more about these amazing dogs at: https://cs.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C5%A0tafl%C3%ADk_a_%C5%A0pagetka. Like me, you may need an online translator to read the piece.

Štaflík and Špagetka play on a large board, which I would estimate measures at least 10 feet x 10 feet. The dogs sit on elevated chairs, which give them an excellent view of the board. The chairs are equipped with control boards with multiple buttons. The pieces appear to be controlled via radio telecommunication.

In the documentary the dogs play three games. Over time it becomes clear that these dogs are highly intelligent. The first two games are played outdoors. Their games are disrupted by a pesky bird. To foil the bird the dogs build a fortress with radar to keep watch for the bird. Outdoors the chairs were elevated by scissor lifts, but these were ruined during one of the bird's attacks. In the fortress the dogs' chairs are lifted by hydraulic jacks. Glass enclosures protect the dogs, presumably from "bombing" runs. The chess board can be elevated and retracted in a moments notice should the bird be detected on the radar.

In all three games Štaflík plays White and Špagetka plays Black. These appear to be their favorite colors. Apparently to accommodate this color preference, and to ensure that each has a turn going first, Špagetka sometimes goes first. In an earlier article on cheerleaders and chess, which you may or may not have seen, I kind of smirked at the newbie who started a game playing a black pawn. I shouldn't have been so quick to judge. Maybe the cheerleader had a favorite color and the two simply decided to let

Black go first. (Kids, this cannot be done in a tournament!)

Let's get to the games. In the first game Špagetka leads off with b5:

1...b5 2.g4 Nf6 3.Bg2 d5 4.b4 Qd6 5.Bf3 Nxg4 6.Nc3 Qxb4.



Figure 4

The game is disrupted at this point by the aforementioned pesky bird. Pieces are knocked over helter skelter, but this is no problem for the dogs, who reset the board quickly and continue:

7.Bxd5 c6

An anomaly becomes apparent at this point. The bishop on d5 and pawn on c6 disappear. We don't see what happened. My theory is the pesky bird moved pieces without the dogs noticing. Some years ago, I wrote an article about a simul I played in. I hypothesized that a kid might have moved a piece on my board when I wasn't looking. Although the simul was indoors I suppose it could have been a bird instead of a kid, seeing how disruptive this bird is.

Štaflík and Špagetka continue:

8.a4 bxa4 9.Nxa4

Now the pawn on a7 disappears, but the dogs are so engrossed in their game they take no notice. Play continues:

9...Ba6 10.Nf3

Multiple changes appear on the board. The bishop on d5 reappears. The pawns on c6 and a7 reappear. The black queen on b4 gone. A white knight appears on c3 and a white pawn shows up on a2.

10...cxd5

The black queen reappears on b5, but g6 has been played.

11.Bb2.

I can't make any real sense of the board after this. Too many changes have been made, but the dogs continue playing.

11...Bg6 12.Bxg8 Bxd2+

At this point the whole game is disrupted. I'll leave out the crazy antics

that follow as the dogs chase off the pesky bird. The part we are most interested in is the opening. Those who know chess better than I may immediately recognize the opening played, but I had to attempt to reverse the moves and play them as if White had begun. I came up with:

1.b4 g5 2.Nf3 Bg7 3.d4 b5 4.Qd3 Bf6 5.Nxg5 Nc6 6.Qxb5 Bxd4 7.c3 a5 8.bxa5 Nxa5 9.Ba3 Nf6 10.cxd4 Bb7

The analysis board I used on Chess.com classified this as A00: Polish Opening.

The second game begins:

1.d4 d5 2.Bf4 Qd6.

Botez Gambit offered! Wow! On move two!

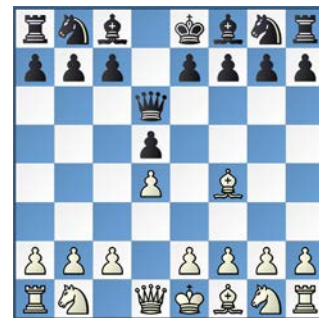


Figure 5

I fully expected Štaflík to snap up Špagetka's queen, but no, Štaflík plays

3.Nh3.

Botez Gambit declined! Double wow! Make that triple wow! I remember a decade ago reviewing one of Anand's games. Anand had the chance to play NxQ but didn't. I did not understand, but then I am a novice. I would have snapped up my opponent's queen in a flash. At the grandmaster level the games are far beyond my level of comprehension. Had I not seen how brilliant these dogs are I would have thought 2...Qd6 was an enormous blunder. Even the chess engines I used to evaluate the position show taking the queen is the right course of action, but the level of understanding these dogs have go far beyond what the best chess engines today can calculate!

Play continues:

3...Bg4 4.Qd3 h5 5.Ng5 Nf6 6.h4.

At this juncture the pesky bird completely disrupts the game. I'll skip over what happens next and simply talk about the opening, since this is our focus. The analysis board I used on Chess.com classified this opening as D00 Queen's Pawn Opening: Accelerated London System (1. d4 d5 2. Bf4).

The third game is played inside Štaflík and Špagetka's fortress:

1.g3 d5 2.Bh3 h5 3.d4 Nf6 4.Bf4.

The bird tries to disrupt the game, but the dogs successfully evade the bird. Play continues:

4...Ng4 5.Qd3 Rh6.

There must be a name for this type of gambit, but I don't know what it is, so I will simply call it a rook gambit.

6.Bxh6

Rook gambit accepted.

6...gxh6.

Perhaps this is simply called a rook for bishop exchange.



Figure 6

That's all we see. Chess.com classified this opening as A00: King's Fianchetto Opening: 1...d5.

From this survey it is apparent that dogs like to play openings from volumes A and D of the Encyclopedia of Chess Openings (ECO). I pondered about this late last night. Why would dogs favor openings from volumes A and D? Do canines play lines from any other volume? As I was falling asleep the answer came to me. How many times has someone scolded a mutt saying: "Bad dog!" Over the years the collective psyche of dogs everywhere must have been deeply wounded. Dogs are highly intelligent. This is clearly seen in the games above. Dogs know when to accept a Botez Gambit and when to decline. I am nearly certain dogs also play lines from volume B. This is their clever way of getting back at those who have shamed them. "You call me a bad dog? I AM a B-A-D dog!" It's remarkable how answers to perplexing questions come to mind while dozing off.

Gentle reader, you now have insight into chess openings that dogs play. You are better able to prepare for an upcoming tournament where you might face Fido, Rover, Spot, Lady or Lassie. Allow me to caution you, though, not to raise your hopes too high. Dogs excel at chess. Have

you ever heard a Grandmaster proclaim that he or she defeated a dog in a game of chess? Even a puppy? I think not! Now, I'm not suggesting you shouldn't prepare for an upcoming game against a canine, only that you should be prepared for the inevitable, and like the woman in the Apoquel commercial be a good sport. Congratulate your opponent when it is over and thank the pooch for a good game.

This brings another point to mind. Before any game with a dog I would recommend that you insist on using your opponent's set on the pretense that the dog will feel more comfortable with the grip of its pieces. In my experience, the objects that dogs play with get all slobbery. Undoubtedly, this is why Štaflík and Špagetka employed remote control technology, so they wouldn't have to touch yucky pieces. Also, dogs tend to chew on objects they play with. If you don't want your good pieces to get ruined, use the dog's set.

One last bit of advice: don't believe everything you read on the Internet. I came across testimonials from cat lovers who claimed their pets also play chess, but I think these people were either fabricating stories to get attention they craved, or they were delusional. Cats don't play chess. This can be shown scientifically.

Set as many cats as you like before chess boards. They will never play a game of chess. Skeptical readers might think the same scientific test could be done with dogs. Set as many dogs as you like before chess boards and see whether any play chess. The fault with this logic is if none play chess no conclusions can be drawn. You can't force a dog to place chess if it doesn't want to play chess. You can't get a cat to play chess no matter what. Sure, a cat will swat pieces, but that isn't playing chess.

Researching leads for this article I came across one report from a man who said his bird plays chess. This could be. Some birds are very intelligent. Possibly, the pesky bird who kept interrupting Štaflík and Špagetka's games simply wanted to be included. The man who reported his bird plays chess also said his bird cheats. Perhaps this is why Štaflík and Špagetka didn't offer to let the bird join them. We may never know.

Here in the Northwest, the Czechoslovakian "documentary" that the author speaks of would more commonly be called a cartoon.—Editor.



Photo from page five of the [May 2015](#) issue of Northwest Chess. This is the famous issue featuring Morgan the Dog on the front cover.

Original caption:

After polishing off Jazon Samillano, Morgan the Dog shows Mike Goffe how to really play the game of chess. Photo credit: Brian Berger.

A NORTHWEST GRAND PRIX EVENT



WASHINGTON OPEN

MAY 29-31, 2021

ONLINE VIA  Chess.com

Format: A six-round Swiss tournament in two sections: Open & Reserve U1600. US Chess Online rated and NWSRS rated. Higher of May 2021 US Chess rating or US Chess Online rating will be used to determine section, pairings, and prizes. Foreign ratings used for players with no US Chess rating. Higher of US Chess or foreign ratings used at TD discretion. **Highest finishing Washington resident in the Open section seeded into the 2022 Washington State Championship.**

Time Control: G/100; +30 second increment. Late Default: 10 min.

Rounds: Sat./Sun./Mon. @ 10 AM & 3 PM. WCF Annual Meeting and Elections at 2 PM on 5/31 via Zoom.

Entry Fee: \$75 if postmarked or online by May 15, \$85 after. Non-members of WCF/OCF/ICA add \$15. Less \$30 for Seniors (age 50+). \$40 play-up fee if rated under 1600 playing in Open section. Re-entry for 1/2 of your original entry fee. Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs, and US Chess 2400+.

Prizes: \$5,000 based on 100 paid entries. Open: 1st \$750, 2nd \$600, 3rd \$450, 1st U2300/U2100/U1900/U1700: \$200.
Reserve: 1st \$550, 2nd \$400, 3rd \$250, 1st U1500/U1300/U1100/(U900/unrated): \$200.

Special Prizes (per section): 1st \$50, 2nd 1-yr NWC subscription ext. for each of the four (4) categories below.

1) Best Upset, 2) Best Female player (by TPR), 3) Best NW-region player (by TPR), 4) Best Annotated Game - Submit one annotated game that you consider to be interesting or well-played. A panel of judges will select the winners in each section.

Registration: Online at <https://nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration/> - pay by Credit/Debit/PayPal. Registration **deadline Fri. May 28 @ 5:00 PM**. No registrations accepted after the deadline. \$15 Late fee for payments received after the deadline. Unpaid players will receive a zero-point bye for round 1. Current US Chess membership required. Memberships must be paid at time of registration. A working Chess.com and Zoom account are required. Up to 2 half-point byes available if requested before the end of round 2.

Procedure and Fair Play Policy: Pairings will be released prior to the start of each round. Games will be started automatically by the TD in the [Live Chess](#) area. All players and parents (if U18) are required to sign the [WCF Fair Play Agreement](#) prior to the start of the tournament (including side events). All players will be monitored via Zoom during the games. WCF's Fair Play Committee will review any suspicious games on a case-by-case basis. Fair play standards will be strictly enforced.

Entries: Make checks payable to Washington Chess Federation. **Mail To:** Josh Sinanan, 4174 NE 148th Ave. NE, Building I, Suite M, Redmond, WA 98052. **Phone:** 206-769-3757 **Info:** washingtonchessfederation@gmail.com

Fun Side Events!

- **Washington Open Chess960 Championship:** Sat 5/29 @ 7:30 PM. Format: A 5-Round Swiss in one section. TC: G/12;+5. Games will be paired by the TD in the [Live Chess](#) area. Pairings based on the highest of current NWSRS, US Chess Online, or US Chess rating.
- **Washington Open G/10 Championship:** Sun 5/30 @ 7:30 PM. Format: A 6-Round Swiss in one section. TC: G/10;+3. Chess.com Rated, games will be paired via Chess.com.
- **Washington Open Blitz Championship:** Mon 5/31 @ 7:30 PM. Format: An 11-Round Swiss in one section. TC: G/3;+2. Chess.com Rated, games will be paired via Chess.com.

Details (per side event): EF: \$25. Rating: US Chess Unrated; US Chess Membership not required. Prizes based on the highest of current NWSRS, US Chess Online, or US Chess rating. Prize Fund: \$500/b25. 1st \$120, 2nd \$80, 1st U2000 \$50, 1st U1700 \$50, 1st U1400 \$50, 1st U1100/unr. \$50. Highest finishing Female player: \$50, Highest Finishing NW-region player: \$50.

80 Glorious Years Of US Chess Federation

(A Special Knight's Tour)

By Awani Kumar, Lucknow, India

US Chess Federation has completed 80 glorious years and let us celebrate it with magic tours of knight on 80 cell boards. Knight is a curious piece because of its crooked move which has not changed since inception of chess before sixth century. Tour of knight is a classical puzzle, over a millennium old, which has been attracting, fascinating, entertaining, amusing and bemusing both chess and non-chess players for centuries.

The challenge is to move a knight over an empty board so that it covers all the cells in successive jumps, without visiting any cell twice.

Figure 1 shows a magic tour of knight on 4x20 (=80) board. Here, sum of all the rows is 810 and all the columns is 162. All the consecutive numbers from 1 to 80 are at knight moves.

3	78	37	42	5	80	7	50	33	72	29	54	27	68	17	56	15	60	19	58	810
38	43	4	79	36	41	34	73	30	49	10	69	12	55	14	65	18	57	22	61	810
77	2	45	40	75	6	47	8	51	32	71	28	53	26	67	16	63	24	59	20	810
44	39	76	1	46	35	74	31	48	9	52	11	70	13	64	25	66	21	62	23	810
162	162	162	162	162	162	162	162	162	162	162	162	162	162	162	162	162	162	162	162	162

Fig.1. Magic tour of knight on 4x20 Board.

Figure 2 shows a magic tour of knight on 8x10 (=80) board. Here, sum of all the rows is 405 and all the columns is 324 and all the consecutive numbers are at knight moves.

3	78	37	44	1	76	35	48	9	74	405
38	41	2	77	36	45	8	75	34	49	405
79	4	43	40	71	6	47	32	73	10	405
42	39	80	5	46	31	72	7	50	33	405
19	62	21	56	15	70	29	54	11	68	405
22	57	18	61	30	55	14	69	28	51	405
63	20	59	24	65	16	53	26	67	12	405
58	23	64	17	60	25	66	13	52	27	405
324	324	324	324	324	324	324	324	324	324	324

Fig.2. Magic tour of knight on 8x10 board.

Eagle eyed readers must have spotted that these are 'open' tours, that is, starting cell (1) and ending cell (80) are not connected by knight moves. It is more challenging to get 'closed' magic tours and readers are encouraged to compose such magic tours on boards of various sizes.