



**June 2021**

\$3.95



## Northwest Chess

June 2021, Volume 75-06 Issue 881

ISSN Publication 0146-6941

Published monthly by the Northwest Chess Board.

To see the games online in this issue click:

[http://www.nwchess.com/articles/games/published/NWC\\_2021\\_Published\\_Games\\_cb.htm#202106](http://www.nwchess.com/articles/games/published/NWC_2021_Published_Games_cb.htm#202106)

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Office of Record: Northwest Chess c/o Orlov Chess Academy 4174 148th Ave NE, Building I, Suite M, Redmond, WA 98052-5164.

Periodicals Postage Paid at Seattle, WA  
USPS periodicals postage permit number (0422-390)

### NWC Staff

Editor: Jeffrey Roland,  
[jeffreyroland9@gmail.com](mailto:jeffreyroland9@gmail.com)  
Games Editor: Ralph Dubisch,  
[chesscoaching@gmail.com](mailto:chesscoaching@gmail.com)  
Publisher: Duane Polich,  
[publisher@nwchess.com](mailto:publisher@nwchess.com)  
Business Manager: Eric Holcomb,  
[eric@holcomb.com](mailto:eric@holcomb.com)

### Board Representatives

Aniruddha Barua, Eric Holcomb,  
Alex Machin, Duane Polich, Ralph Dubisch,  
Jeffrey Roland, Josh Sinanan, Wilson Gibbins.

Entire contents ©2021 by *Northwest Chess*. All rights reserved. Published opinions are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the editor or the *Northwest Chess* Board. *Northwest Chess* is the official publication of the chess governing bodies of the states of Washington, Oregon, and Idaho.

### Event Announcement Rates (Upcoming Events listings)

\$40 for three consecutive listings of the same event. \$30 for two consecutive listings of the same event. \$20 for one listing, or \$20 per month for events held every month (may include dates for current month and next month).

Grand Prix events must be advertised in an Upcoming Events listing or in a ¼-page or larger display ad.

Please arrange payment for ads and Grand Prix fees of \$1.00 per player with the Business Manager.

### Advertising & Copy Deadline

Ads and submissions must be received by the fifth of the month for the items to appear in the next issue (e.g., **June 5 for the July issue; July 5 for the August issue**).

**Submit all ads, donations, payments, changes of address & subscriptions to:**

*Business Manager, Northwest Chess*  
Eric Holcomb  
1900 NE 3rd St, STE 106 PMB 361  
Bend, OR 97701-3889  
[Eric@Holcomb.com](mailto:Eric@Holcomb.com)  
[www.nwchess.com](http://www.nwchess.com)

### Northwest Chess Knights

Please donate today to help Northwest Chess!

Patrons, 2018-2021

Ralph Anthony, Ralph Dubisch, Washington Chess Federation, Josh Sinanan, Murlin Varner, Duane Polich, Stephen Buck, Dale Wentz, Kent McNall, Corey Bloom.

### On the front cover:

Two Chess Kings At Monahans Sandhills.  
Photo credit: Philip Peterson. Related short video:  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XO5HbfE\\_8cg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XO5HbfE_8cg)

### On the back cover:

Sandhills And Chess Kings. Photo credit: Philip Peterson.

### Submissions

Submissions of games (PGN format is preferable for games), stories, photos, art, and other **original** chess-related content are encouraged! Multiple submissions are acceptable; please indicate if material is non-exclusive. All submissions are subject to editing or revision. Send via U.S. Mail to:

Jeffrey Roland, NWC Editor  
1514 S. Longmont Ave.  
Boise, Idaho 83706-3732  
or via e-mail to:  
[jeffreyroland9@gmail.com](mailto:jeffreyroland9@gmail.com)

### Chesstoons:

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

**Judged Best Magazine/Newsletter for 2009 and 2014-2020  
by Chess Journalists of America!**

### Subscriptions / Premium Memberships

*Individual residents of WA/OR only.*  
*Washington residents please add sales tax.*  
*Idaho residents see*  
<https://www.idahochessassociation.com/>

		Rate
<b>Adult</b>	1 year	\$ 30.00
	3 years	\$ 80.00
<b>Junior</b> <i>Age U/21 at expiration</i>	1 year	\$ 24.00
	2 years	\$ 43.00
<b>Scholastic</b>	6 months	\$ 14.00
<b>Senior</b> <i>Age 65 or over</i>	1 year	\$ 25.00
	3 years	\$ 65.00
<b>Additional Family Members</b> <i>Residing at same address</i>	1 year	\$ 10.00
	2 years	\$ 18.00
	3 years	\$ 25.00
<b>Tournament/Trial</b>	1 month	\$ 12.00

### Online Subscriptions / Basic Memberships

*Individual residents of Oregon only.*

		Rate
<b>Adult</b>	1 year	\$ 17.50
	3 years	\$ 50.00
<b>Junior (U/21 at expiration)</b>	1 year	\$ 10.00
<b>Senior</b>	1 year	\$ 17.50
<b>Additional Family Members</b>	1 year	\$ 5.00

### Non-Member Subscriptions

		Rate
<b>U.S. addresses</b>	1 year	\$ 30.00
	3 years	\$ 80.00
<b>Canada</b>	1 year	\$ 40.00
<b>Foreign</b>	1 year	\$ 60.00

# Table Of Contents

Two Chess Kings At Monahans Sandhills  
Philip Peterson..... Front Cover

Jeffrey Roland and Duane Polich Alex Machin.....	3	Chesstoon Brian Berger .....	23
OSCF Scholastic State Championships Chad Lykins.....	4	WA State Barber/Rockefeller Open Josh Sinanan .....	24
11th Annual Oregon Senior Open (Half-Page Ad) Portland, OR June 12-13 .....	6	May 8 Seattle Chess Club Quads Josh Sinanan .....	24
Rusty Miller Memorial (Half-Page Ad) Chess.com June 19-20 .....	11	Vancouver Open (Half-Page Ad) Vancouver, WA July 24-25.....	24
Mini-Teams Summer Kickoff (Full-Page Ad) Chess.com June 26.....	15	May 9 Seattle Chess Club Tornado Josh Sinanan .....	25
Maryhill Museum Of Art Karen Schmidt.....	16	Washington Senior Championship Josh Sinanan .....	26
Chess, Death, Freedom Nobel Ang.....	18	Seattle Seafair Open (Half-Page Ad) Chess.com July 31-August 1 .....	28
Washington Scholastic Tournament James Stripes .....	19	5th Annual Seattle Chess Classic (Full-Page Ad) Chess.com August 13-15 .....	30
WA Spring Into Chess960 Open (Half-Page Ad) Chess.com July 18 .....	20	NWC Grand Prix Murlin Varner .....	31
Coaching Corner Ralph Dubisch .....	22	Sandhills And Chess Kings Philip Peterson.....	Back Cover



Taken May 13, 2021 in Boise, Idaho at Casablanca Cuban Grill. (L-R) are Jeffrey Roland and Duane Polich. Photo credit: Alex Machin.

# Oregon Scholastic Chess Federation State Championships

Chad Lykins

The Oregon Scholastic Chess Federation (OSCF) State Championships were held April 9-11, 2021, online via Lichess and Zoom. They were directed by Chad Lykins, Kathryn Schiff, and Rebecca Holt.

This was a historic event not only because it was the first OSCF Championship held online, but also because it was the first time OSCF and Chess For Success combined their state championships for a single event. Chess For Success matched a generous donation from an OSCF student, allowing students from Chess For Success programs to participate for free. This was another bright moment in what has been increasing collaboration between Oregon's two largest scholastic chess organizations, who have been working together to find better ways to offer lessons and tournaments throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

The OSCF State Championship for Individuals ran Friday and Saturday, drawing over 200 participants from across Oregon. Prithiv Arokiadass won first place in the Primary School Division (kindergarten through second) and winning the head-to-head against fellow Elmonica Elementary student and second-place finisher Sriteja Salapati.

Austin Tang and Saahil Gupta emerged after five rounds in a tie atop the Elementary School Division (grades three through five). They were declared state co-champions, then competed head-to-head in a series of blitz games to determine who would earn Oregon's nomination to the Rockefeller National Tournament of Elementary School State Champions. Saahil had beaten Austin earlier in the day in a classical game. However, after the first blitz games ended in draws, Austin finally broke through and got a crucial point that earned him the nomination.

Zoey Tang's path to the Barber National Tournament of Middle School State Championships was somewhat less dramatic than her brother's. Zoey posted a perfect score, winning all five of her games, including a round-three win against her Stoller classmate Havish Sripada, who finished second.

FIDE Master Shunkai Peng posted a perfect score in the High School Division and will represent Oregon at the Denker National Tournament of High School State Champions. His closest competition was US Chess NM Joshua Grabinsky who finished second, losing only to Shunkai.

The OSCF K12 School Team Championships drew approximately 150 students from 30 teams. Attendance was somewhat lower than hoped, partly due to the fact that many schools did not have chess programs this year. Though it might have been a small tournament, it was especially strong, with most of the perennial powerhouses taking part.

ACCESS Elementary won first place in the K5 Open Division as well as Board Awards on boards one, two, and five. Charlemagne French Immersion and Hope Chinese Charter finished second and third, respectively.

Stoller Middle won first place in the K8 Open Division, with three students also winning Board Awards. Roosevelt Middle and Robert Gray Middle took second and third.

Jesuit won the K12 Open Division, with three students winning Board Awards. They were followed by Catlin Gabel K12 and Ida B. Wells K12.

There were also divisions for teams made of players from multiple schools. Mixed K5 Findley won the lower section of this division, with Mixed K12 Southridge earning first place in the upper section.

**Zoey Tang (2097) –  
Will Nobles (1486) [A45]**  
Middle School Platinum  
lichess.org (R1), April 10, 2021  
*[Wilson Gibbins]*

**1.d4 Nf6 2.Bg5 Ne4 3.Bf4 d5 4.e3 g5**

A little out of the ordinary, but playable. 4...c5 is most popular, but White scores well against all moves in this position.

**5.Be5! Nf6**

Engines prefer 5...Rg8, which means that the Trompowsky player has obtained the sort of position where non-stereotyped moves are required.

**6.Bxf6**

Engines suggest 6.h4. Perhaps the engines, along with Zoey and Will, have already sensed that no king can expect to find safety on the kingside in this game.

**6...exf6 7.Nc3 c6 8.Bd3 Bd6 9.Nge2 Nd7 10.Ng3**



*Position after 10.Ng3*

I would be trying to land this knight on the f5-square, but the engines are trying to put it on h5. I guess that makes it a good move—something for everyone.

**10...Bxg3**

Black stops the knight from advancing but gives up his best piece in the process. 10...Nf8 11.Nh5 Ng6 (11...Be6 12.Qf3±) 12.g3 Be6 13.Qf3 Be7 14.0-0-0 and Black can't move his queen to prepare castling long without losing the pawn on f6. So, he is choosing between castling kingside and wondering if his kingside will hold or leaving his king in the center and wondering if he can defend after White's



**Oregon Scholastic Chess Federation**  
Promoting high quality events for scholastic and junior players

*More Kids,  
More Chess,  
More fun!*

e3–e4 opening the center.

11.hxg3 Nf8 12.Qe2 Be6 13.0-0-0 Qe7  
14.Rh6 0-0-0 15.Rdh1



Position after 15.Rdh1

Material is still even, but White is positionally winning.

15...f5 16.Na4 Qc7 17.Nc5 f4 18.gxf4  
gxf4 19.Bxh7 Nxh7 20.Rxh7 Rxh7  
21.Rxh7 Bf5 22.Rh5 Bg6 23.Rh1 Qe7  
24.Qg4+ f5?

24...Kc7 25.Qxf4+ isn't much fun for Black.

25.Qxg6 fxe3 26.Qxf5+ Kb8 27.Qe5+  
Qxe5 28.dxe5 exf2 29.Rf1

1–0

Austin Tang (1852) –  
Ademidun Adebolu (1260) [B71]  
Elementary Platinum  
lichess.org (R5), April 10, 2021  
[Wilson Gibbins]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6  
5.Nc3 g6 6.f4

The Levenfish Variation, not particularly popular, but contains some traps for the unwary.

6...Bg7

This move was once thought a mistake. Today it is considered playable, but it does allow White to set a few problems for Black. 6...Nc6 was once considered the only playable move. The variations are concrete—not much room for positional judgment. 7.Nxc6 bxc6 8.e5 Nd7 9.exd6 exd6; 6...Nbd7 allows Black to avoid the immediate complications of 6...Nc6 and the traps of 6...Bg7.

7.e5!

White is only slightly better, but Black needs to stay on his toes.

7...dxe5

7...Nh5!? is not very popular, but it is playable. White's best move is 8.Bb5+ a move that appears frequently in this line, including on move ten of this game. (8.g4? doesn't win a piece 8...Nxf4! 9.Bxf4 dxe5)

8...Bd7 9.Qe2 Bxb5 10.Qxb5+ Nd7 and 11.Nf3 is best, with a wild position.

8.fxe5 Nfd7

8...Ng4? 9.Bb5+ Nc6 (9...Bd7? 10.Qxg4) 10.Nxc6 Qxd1+ 11.Nxd1 a6 12.Ba4 Bd7 13.h3 Nh6 14.Nxe7 Bxa4 15.Nd5 0-0 16.Nb6

9.e6 Ne5!



Position after 9...Ne5

9...fxe6? 10.Nxe6 Bxc3+ 11.bxc3 Qa5 12.Bb5 Qxc3+ (12...Qxb5? 13.Nc7+) 13.Qd2 Qxa1 (13...Qe5+ 14.Qe2 Qc3+ 15.Kf2 a6 16.Re1) 14.0-0+.

10.Bb5+ Nbc6 11.exf7+ Kf8 12.Bxc6?!

Austin gives his opponent one last chance to scratch back to equality. 12.Nxc6 Qxd1+ 13.Nxd1 bxc6 14.Be2±

12...bxc6?!

12...Nxc6 13.Nxc6 Qxd1+ 14.Nxd1 bxc6=

13.0-0!



Position after 13.0-0

Allowing Black a shot, but foreseeing that when the smoke clears, White will have the advantage.

13...Qxd4+ 14.Qxd4 Nf3+ 15.Rxf3 Bxd4+ 16.Be3 Bf6 17.Raf1 Bf5 18.h3 Kg7 19.g4 Bxc2 20.g5 Bxc3 21.bxc3 e5?

Stops 22.Bd4, but allows something worse. 21...Rhc8 22.Bc5 Bf5±

22.Bc5± Bf5 23.f8Q+ Rhxf8 24.Bxf8+ Rxf8 25.h4 Rd8 26.R1f2 e4 27.Re3 Rd3 28.Rxd3 exd3 29.Rb2 c5 30.Kf2 Bg4 31.Ke3 c4 32.Rb7+ Kg8 33.Rxa7 Be6 34.a4 Bf7 35.a5 Kf8 36.Rxf7+

Kxf7 37.a6 Ke6 38.a7 Kd7 39.a8Q Kc7 40.Qd5

1–0

Joshua Grabinsky (2315) –  
Ryan Lu (1962) [C01]  
High School Platinum  
lichess.org (R4), April 10, 2021  
[Wilson Gibbins]

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Bd3!?

This isn't an objectively testing move, but it is surprisingly tricky for Black to play against. White gives Black equality but not easy equality. There will be a tough game ahead and White will be able to set some problems for Black to solve.

3...dxe4 4.Bxe4 Nf6 5.Bf3! c6

This looks natural, blunting White's bishop. But it is discouraging to discover that White scores 69% from this position. 5...c5 is the engine approved move.; 5...Nbd7 was played by Joshua himself in a States Cup match against Arizona, and scores best for Black.

6.Ne2 Bd6 7.c4

Engines suggest 7.Na3.

7...0-0 8.Nbc3 Nbd7 9.Qc2 h6 10.Be3 e5 11.0-0-0



Position after 11.0-0-0

11...Qe7

Invites White to plant a knight on the juicy f5-square. 11...Qc7 is a safer square for the queen.

12.Ng3 exd4 13.Bxd4

13.Nf5! Qe6 14.Nxd6 Qxd6 (14...dxe3 15.Rhe1 Ng4 16.Bxg4 Qxg4 17.Rxe3± Qxg2?? 18.Rg3) 15.Bxd4±

13...Ne5 14.Rhe1 Qc7

14...c5 15.Be3 Nxf3 16.gxf3 Be6 17.Nge4 Nxe4 18.Nxe4 Bf5 (18...Bxh2? 19.Rh1 Be5 20.Bxc5±) 19.Rd5 Bxe4 20.fxe4±

15.Nf5 Bxf5 16.Qxf5 Rfe8

16...Nxf3 17.Qxf3 Be7±

17.Be2

It would be hard to voluntarily go into a line such as 17.c5 Nxf3 18.cxd6 Nxd4 19.Rxe8+ Rxe8 20.Qxf6 gxf6 21.dxc7 Ne6 22.Ne4 Rc8 23.Rd7 Rxc7 24.Rxc7 Nxc7 25.Nd6 but Stockfish likes it. Joshua's approach is more pragmatic.

17...Rad8 18.c5

A move later, it doesn't pack the same punch.

18...Bf8 19.f4 Ned7

Black misses an opportunity. 19...Neg4! 20.Bxg4 Rxe1 21.Rxe1 Rxd4

20.Bc4± Re7 21.g4?!

21.Kb1



Position after 21.g4

21...b5

Black has a tricky resource to equalize

21...Rxe1 22.Rxe1 Nd5! 23.Bxd5 (White has a cute perpetual with 23.Qxf7+ Kxf7 24.Nxd5 cxd5 (24...Qa5 25.Nf6+ Kg6 26.Bd3+) 25.Bxd5+ Kg6 26.Be4+) 23...cxd5 24.Nxd5 Qc6 and White threatens to get the pawn back by taking on c5 or playing Qa4, forking the a-pawn and bishop 25.Kb1 Qa4 (25...Nxc5? 26.Ne7+ Bxe7 27.Rxe7 Qh1+ 28.Kc2 Qxh2+ 29.Kc3 Qh3+ 30.Be3 Rf8 31.Qxc5)

22.g5?

22.Bb3!+-

22...hxg5

22...bxc4! 23.gxf6 Rxe1 24.Rxe1 g6! 25.Qe4 Nxc5 26.Bxc5 Bxc5

23.fxg5 bxc4= 24.gxf6 Rxe1 25.Rxe1 g6 26.Qf2 Qa5 27.Ne4

27.Re7!

27...Re8 28.Bc3 Qc7

28...Qxa2!±

29.Qh4= Nxc5 30.Ng5 Rxe1+ 31.Bxe1 Bh6?

31...Qf4+! 32.Qxf4 Nd3+ 33.Kc2 Nxf4=

32.Qxh6+-

A back-and-forth game up to now. White is in the driver's seat the rest of the way.

32...Qf4+ 33.Kb1 Qf5+ 34.Ka1 Qxf6 35.Qh7+ Kf8 36.Qh4 Qd6 37.Qg4 f5 38.Qe2 Nd3 39.Bc3 Qd5 40.Qf3 Qd6 41.Qh3 Ne1 42.Qh8+ Ke7 43.Qg7+ Ke8 44.Qe5+ Qxe5 45.Bxe5 Ke7 46.Kb1 Nd3 47.Bd4 c5 48.Bc3 Kd6 49.Kc2 Nb4+ 50.Kb1 Kd5 51.a3 Nd3 52.Kc2 Nf2 53.Kd2 Kc6 54.h4 Kb5 55.Nf7 Ne4+ 56.Kc2 f4 57.Ne5 g5 58.h5 Nf6 59.h6 Nh7 60.Kd2 Kb6 61.Ke2 Kc7 62.Kf3 Kd6 63.Kg4

1-0

Ishaan Kodarapu (1607) – Zoey Tang (2097) [E90]

Middle School Platinum lichess.org (R4), April 10, 2021 [Wilson Gibbins]

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.d4 0-0 6.h3 c5 7.d5 e6 8.Be3 exd5 9.exd5 Re8 10.Be2 Nbd7 11.0-0 Nf8 12.Qd2 Bd7 13.Rfe1 Qc7 14.Bd3±

We are out of the opening, and White stands a little better. This is the bargain that King's Indian and Benoni players have always made—they give White an objective advantage in exchange for continuing opportunities to create mischief.

14...a6 15.Bf4 Nh5 16.Bh2 f5 17.a3 Nf6

## 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Oregon Senior Open: June 11-13, 2021

### Over-the-Board Tournament!

**Location:** Portland Chess Club, 2025 Lloyd Center, Portland, OR 97232

**General:** Open to all, including out-of-state residents, who will be at least 50 years old on July 31, 2021. Oregon qualifier for the National Senior Tournament of Champions and Challengers section of the Oregon Closed. **All players and spectators must be fully COVID vaccinated.** Masks will be optional unless CDC or local regulations change and masks become required. Free parking. Park on the top level of the NE 10<sup>th</sup> & Halsey St. garage.

**Format:** 5-round Swiss in one section; **choice between a 3-day or a 2-day schedule;** up to 2 half-point byes are available if requested before round one; Regular US Chess rated.

**Time Control:** G/90; inc. 30. Round 1 of the 2-day schedule is played at G/30; inc. 30. **Bring a digital clock.**

**Schedule:** 3-day: Friday 6:30 p.m.; Saturday 12:45 p.m. & 5:00 p.m.; Sunday 10:00 a.m. and 2:45 p.m.

2-day: Saturday 10:00 a.m. then schedule mergers with the 3-day.

**Entry Fee:** \$35. US Chess membership and *NW Chess* subscription required. Advanced registration by email to [mikejmorris@earthlink.net](mailto:mikejmorris@earthlink.net). Pay registration through PayPal to [email@pdxchess.org](mailto:email@pdxchess.org) or by check payable to Oregon Chess Federation and sent to Mike Morris, 2344 NE 27<sup>th</sup> Ave., Portland, OR 97212. Entries received after June 9 or at site must add \$10.

**Prizes:** \$750 based on 30 entries. 1st-\$175, free entry into next year's Oregon Senior Open, and name engraved on the Dr. Ralph Hall memorial perpetual trophy, 2nd-\$125, 1st U2000, 1st U1800, 1st U1600, 1st U1400/unrated-\$75 each. Bonus prizes (only one bonus prize allowed): age 60 & over-\$60; age 70 & over-\$50; age 80 & over-\$40.

18.Rab1 Rad8 19.b4 cxb4 20.axb4 b6  
21.Bf1 h6 22.Rbc1 g5



Position after 22...g5

23.Nd4

Engines say the best move is 23.h4, but I would be reluctant to weaken my kingside when it looks like Black is trying to attack there.

23...f4 24.Kh1 Qb7 25.f3 Ng6

White has maintained his advantage up to here, but the pawn structure imbalances mean that it will take great accuracy to prevent accidents from occurring.

26.Ne4

26.Ne6 Bxe6 27.Rxe6±; 26.Bg1. I would be reluctant to leave the g3-square undefended, but 26...Nh5 27.Bf2 and the bishop defends g3 once again, now from a more active diagonal.

26...Nxe4 27.fxe4 Rc8 28.g3

Weakens the white king's pawn cover and the f3-square—the game is now equal according to the engines. Some of you may notice the annotator's bias in criticizing White's kingside pawn moves but not Black's. As a former King's Indian player, my excuse is that these defenses require risk-taking with one's kingside pawns. The positions are nearly impossible to defend passively, so risky kingside pawn advances are part of the bargain. 28.Bg1 is a safer move that retains an edge.

28...Rf8 29.Nf5 Bxf5 30.exf5 Ne5

At this point, White wishes the pawn were back on g2. 30...Rxf5 31.Bd3 Rf6 32.Bxg6 fxc3 33.Bxg3 Rxc6 is also about even, but Zoey's choice maintains more Mischief Potential (tm).

31.Be2

31.gxf4!? Nf3 32.Qg2 Nxe1 33.Rxe1 gives White some mischief potential.; 31.Qc2∞

31...f3 32.Bd3

32.Bf1♞. White has bigger issues than trying to keep the pawn on f5.

32...g4

32...f2 33.Rf1 b5! 34.cxb5?? (34.Be4 Rxc4+) 34...Qxd5+ 35.Be4 Qxe4#

33.hxg4 Nxg4



Position after 33...Nxg4

34.Re6?

34.Re4! fights for the h-file. Why would one suspect that the h-file would be important in this position? 34...Nxb2 35.Kxb2 (The engines see the knight is trapped and confidently play 35.Rh4 with close to equality.) 35...Rxf5 36.Rh4.

34...Qf7!

Headed for the h-file. Up to now it has been anybody's game, but the rest is kingside carnage.

35.Qe1 Qh5 36.Qg1 Bd4 37.Rg6+ Qxg6 38.Qxd4 Qh5 39.Rc2 Rce8 40.Qg1 f2 41.Qg2 Nxb2 42.Qxb2 Re1+ 43.Bf1 Rxf1+ 44.Kg2 Rg1+ 45.Qxg1 fxc1Q+ 46.Kxg1 Qxf5 47.Kg2 Qxc2+ 48.Kh3 Qf2 49.Kg4 Qf5+ 50.Kh4 h5 51.g4 Qxg4#

0-1

Zoey Tang (2097) –  
Havish Sripada (1895) [D36]  
Middle School Platinum  
lichess.org (R3), April 10, 2021  
[Wilson Gibbins]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.cxd5 exd5  
5.Bg5 c6 6.e3 Be7 7.Bd3 Nbd7 8.Qc2 h6  
9.Bf4

9.Bh4 is more popular, but Zoey's choice is common too. If she can play 10.h3 and keep the bishop on the h2–b8 diagonal she will have a good game.

9...Nh5!

Havish won't allow it.

10.Be5 Nxe5 11.dxe5 d4!♞

Black has a slight edge with the two bishops on an open board. If 11...0-0 12.Be2 is annoying.

12.exd4 Qxd4 13.Nf3 Qg4 14.Be4 0-0

The greedy 14...Qxg2 is best, but it is not pleasant to get your queen out of play against an attacking player like Zoey.

15.h3



Position after 15.h3

15...Qe6

15...Qxg2 no longer works. 16.Rh2.

16.0-0-0 f5

The engines recommend 16...Nf4. I guess it follows the rule of improving your worst placed piece if you don't count the undeveloped bishop on c8 or the bottled-up rook on a8.

17.exf6 Qxf6 18.g3 Bf5 19.Nd4 Qg5+

19...Bxe4 20.Nxe4 Qf7 gains time by attacking the undefended pawn on a2.

20.Kb1 Bxe4 21.Nxe4 Qg6 22.g4!

Zoey is in her element.

22...Nf6

I would be tempted to play 22...Nf4 but it is weaker than Havish's choice. 23.Nf5 Rfe8 24.Rd7 and Zoey's pieces are swarming.

23.Nf5 Rae8?

23...Qf7 24.Rhe1±

24.Ned6!+- Nd5



Position after 24...Nd5

25.Rxd5!

The flashiest way to finish the game off, but White's more prosaic alternatives 25.Nxe7+ Nxe7 26.Nxe8 and 25.Nxe8 Qxe8 26.Rhe1 are also winning.

25...Rxf5 26.Nxf5 Qe6 27.Nxe7+ Qxe7 28.Rdd1

1-0

**Fedya Semenov (1803) –  
Joshua Grabinsky (2315) [C55]**  
High School Platinum  
lichess.org (R1), April 10, 2021  
[Wilson Gibbins]

1.e4 Nf6 2.Nc3 e5 3.Nf3 c6?!

The Ponziani Reversed?

4.d3

White can keep an edge with 4.d4 exd4 (4...Qa5 is more in line with the Ponziani Reversed theme, but 5.Nxe5 Nxe4 6.Qh5 g6 7.Qf3 is good for White.) 5.Qxd4! as the pawn on c6 prevents the usual Nb8–c6 with a gain of time. Or 4.Nxe5.

4...d5!



Position after 4...d5

And Black has the advantage the rest of the game.

5.exd5 cxd5 6.Nxe5 d4 7.Qe2

7.Ne2? Qa5+ picks up the knight on e5.

7...Be7 8.Nb1 0-0

Black's pawn sacrifice was a good investment, as his better development and open e-file with two white major pieces on it give him sufficient reasons to be optimistic about the future.

9.Qd2

This move looks awkward, but it's the best defense. White gets one major piece off the e-file and stops the ...Qa5 check that would fork the knight on e5.

9...Re8 10.Be2 Bd6

Stockfish likes 10...Bb4 11.Qxb4 Rxe5.

11.Nf3

11.Nc4 minimizes White's disadvantage.

11...Nd5 12.Qg5 Qd7

What is up with all these bishop-blocking queen moves? For any descriptive notation fans out there, notice that both sides played Q-Q2 with their bishops on QB1. 12...Bb4+ displaces White's king, as 13.Nbd2 (13.Bd2 f6 14.Qh4 g5 15.Qxd4 (15.Qg3 Bd6)) 13...f6 14.Qh4 g5 15.Qxd4 (15.Qg3 Bd6) 15...Be6. And Black's threat of 16.— Nc6 17.Qe4 f5

18.Qc4 Ne3 means White is in trouble.

13.Nxd4 Re5 14.Qh4 Nc6 15.Nc3



Position after 15.Nc3

15...g5!

Winning a piece, as White's queen is overworked. 15...Nxd4 is also strong: 16.Qxd4 Nxc3 17.bxc3 Qe7 18.Be3 Bc5 19.Qf4 Bxe3 20.fxe3 Rxe3 21.Qf2 Bg4. Joshua's move is more dramatic.

16.Bxg5 Nxd4 17.Qxd4 Nxc3 18.bxc3 Rxg5 19.f4 Rxg2 20.Kd2 Qg4 21.Rae1 Qxf4+ 22.Qxf4 Bxf4+ 23.Kd1 Be6 24.Bf3 Rd2+ 25.Kc1 Rxd3+

0-1

**Kushal Pai (1687) –  
Shunkai Peng (2411) [D02]**  
High School Platinum  
lichess.org (R4), April 10, 2021  
[Wilson Gibbins]

1.d4 Nf6 2.Bf4 d5 3.e3 g6 4.Nf3 Bg7 5.h3 c5 6.e3 Qb6 7.Qc1

7.Qb3 is less of a concession, but I have seen Shunkai grind out some equal-looking endings for wins, so perhaps keeping queens on is the practical approach.

7...0-0 8.Bd3

Engines slightly prefer 8.Be2. I thought it was just a funny engine quirk, as the bishop looks a little more active on d3. But if you look ahead to move 14, you will see that White would have wished that his bishop was on e2 instead of d3.

8...Nc6 9.0-0 Nd7!



Position after 9...Nd7

Uh-oh. White has made normal developing moves, but Black is taking over the center.

10.Nbd2 Re8

10...e5 is also good. Black is in no hurry and spends another move to prepare it.

11.Re1 e5 12.dxe5 Ndx5 13.Nxe5 Nxe5 14.Be2 Bf5 15.Nf3 Nc4 16.b3 Nd6 17.g4?!

This looks a little loosening, but Black is better, so perhaps it is time to try to mix it up before Black improves his position further.

17...Be4?

17...Bd7 is also interesting, planning to place the bishop on c6 to probe the long diagonal and make White wish his pawn were still on g2.

18.Nd2!?

Giving Black some problems to solve, as his bishop is trapped, so Black plays...

18...d4 19.Bxd6 Qxd6 20.Nxe4 Rxe4 21.Bf3 Re7 22.exd4 cxd4 23.Rxe7 Qxe7 24.cxd4 Bxd4 25.Rb1 Qh4

Black has a slight initiative and can apply it to White's weakened kingside.

26.Qf1 Rc8 27.Rd1 Bb6 28.Rd2 Qh6!



Position after 28...Qh6

Black regroups with the short-term threat of a queen and bishop battery on the h2–b8 diagonal, accelerated by an immediate threat of taking White's rook.

29.Re2 Qf4 30.Kg2 Rc1 31.Re1 Bc7!

White's defenses are stretched to the limit.

32.Qe2 Qh2+ 33.Kf1 Qxh3+ 34.Bg2 Rxe1+ 35.Qxe1 Qxg4 36.Bxb7

As White, I'd be hoping the opposite-colored bishops might save me, but I'd be wrong.

36...Qf4 37.Qe4 Qxe4 38.Bxe4

Who would suspect that a pawn-down opposite-colored-bishops ending would be over in just four moves? Stockfish, that is who.

38...f5 39.Bd5+ Kg7 40.b4 Kf6 41.Ke2 g5 42.f3 h5

Resignation might look premature, but Stockfish says -7.37. Probably there weren't any good defensive tries coming to Kushal's mind, because there aren't any.

0-1

**Shunkai Peng (2411) –  
Raj Kodithyala (1886) [B67]**  
High School Platinum  
lichess.org (R1), April 10, 2021  
[Wilson Gibbins]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6  
5.Nc3 Nc6 6.Bg5 e6 7.Qd2 a6 8.0-0-0  
Bd7 9.f4 h6



Position after 9...h6

10.Bxf6

The main line is 10.Bh4 and Black has tricky lines to play like 10...g5 (also tricky is 10...Nxe4!? 11.Qe1! (punctuation by Harding and Markland from *The Sicilian Richter-Rauzer* published in 1975); In a must-win last round game of the 2016 Candidates Tournament, Caruana played 10...b5 to which Karjakin responded 11.Bxf6 gxf6 transposing to the 9...b5 “Suicide Variation” with a pawn on h6 instead of h7.

I can think of no reason why the pawn is better on h6 than h7, and I do not have Caruana's contact information to ask him why. I do know that sometimes in the “Suicide Variation” Black plays his bishop to h6, so Caruana's line seems weaker to me. Caruana got chances along the way before Karjakin eventually got the upper hand and beat him to win the opportunity to play Carlsen for the 2016 World Championship.) 11.fxg5 Ng4 gaining the e5-square for the knight, probably regaining the pawn on g5 at some point, and loosening the position, perhaps beyond repair.

10...Qxf6 11.e5?!

Looks like White might blow the game wide open before Black gets his king to safety, but Black has a defense, and

stands a little better here. 11.Nf3 threatens 12.e5 and is about equal. 11.Nxc6 Bxc6 12.Qe3 is also about equal. Black has the two bishops, but White has the annoying threat of Nd5 at some point, and has chances to crack open the kingside by pushing his pawn to g5. Castling long may be playable.

11...dxe5 12.Ndb5 Qd8 13.Nd6+ Bxd6  
14.Qxd6 exf4 15.Ne4 f5?!

15...Qe7! 16.Qc7 and now the unlikely-looking move 16...Bc8! is best. Yeah, I know it looks like a computer move, but my database shows that three flesh-and-blood players have found it, and each of them won. 17.Nd6+ Kf8 18.Qb6 g6 19.Be2 Kg7 and Black is weaseling out. As Homer Simpson points out, weaseling out of things is what separates us from the animals—except the weasels.

16.Be2= h5 17.Qc5?

17.Nc5 Bc8 18.Nxb7!

17...b6?

17...fxe4! 18.Bxh5+ Rxh5 19.Qxh5+ Kf8

18.Nd6+!± Kf8 19.Qf2



Position after 19.Qf2

19...Qg5?

19...Qc7 20.Qxf4 Rh6±; 19...e5 20.Bc4 Qe7 21.Qxb6 Rb8∞ 22.Qxa6? Rh6! and the position is tricky, but engines assure me that Black has more tricks than White. 19...Rh6∞

20.Bf3!± Rb8 21.Rhe1 Qf6 22.Nc4 Be8  
23.Rd6 Nd8 24.Nxb6 Qe7 25.Qc5 Nb7?

25...Rh6±

26.Bxb7+- Qxb7

26...Rxb7 27.Rexe6

27.Rd7+ Kg8 28.Rxb7 Rxb7 29.Rxe6  
Bf7 30.Re5 Kh7 31.Rxf5 Rhb8 32.Nc4  
Bxc4 33.Rxh5+ Kg6 34.Qf5#

OK, so I added a lot of punctuation, based on suggestions from engines and old musty books. This is the nature of the Sicilian Defense, where the game is sharper than a typical Queen's Gambit or Ruy Lopez. The question marks don't indicate the players are playing badly,

only that it is difficult to make all accurate moves in a Sicilian.

1-0

**Shunkai Peng (2411) –  
Joshua Grabinsky (2315) [C60]**  
High School Platinum  
lichess.org (R3), April 10, 2021  
[Wilson Gibbins]

Joshua chooses a slightly offbeat line of the Ruy Lopez, makes no blunders, yet eventually succumbs to Shunkai's pressure.

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 g6

The seventh world champion Vasily Smyslov scored a lot of wins in this line, including one in 1975 over the eventually thirteenth world champion Garry Kasparov. More recently, GM Andrew Tang has used it to score a few bullet wins against the sixteenth world champion Magnus Carlsen.

4.c3 a6 5.Ba4 Bg7 6.0-0 Nge7 7.d4 exd4  
8.cxd4 b5 9.Bc2 d5

The moves 9...0-0 and 9...d6 are more popular and look more solid to me, but 9...d5 has been played by Nakamura, Giri, Aronian, and Mamedyarov, so it seems like a reasonable try.

10.exd5 Nb4

10...Nxd5 11.Bg5

11.Bb3 Nbxd5 12.Bg5



Position after 12.Bg5

For a 1.e4 player, Shunkai seems quite comfortable playing with an isolated queen's pawn. See his game against Ryan Lu on page six of the March 2021 edition of *Northwest Chess* for another example.

12...f6

The engines slightly prefer 12...h6, but it takes courage to willingly enter the line 13.Bxd5 Qxd5 14.Bxe7 Kxe7 15.Nc3. Or Black could try 12...Qd6 13.Re1 0-0 which looks more solid to me, but the engines have a similar opinion of all three moves; an edge for White.

13.Bd2 0-0 14.Nc3 Kh8 15.Re1 Nxc3

16.bxc3 Nf5 17.a4 Bb7 18.Bf4 Nd6  
19.Be6 Re8 20.d5 Nc4 21.axb5 axb5  
22.Rb1 Ra5 23.Qd3 Nb6 24.Nh4!

Lc0 has trouble seeing the power of this move and prefers 24.Rbd1, but Stockfish loves Shunkai's move.

24...Rxe6

Joshua finds the best try for Black, but it isn't good enough. 24...Re7 25.Nxg6+ hxc6 26.Qh3+; 24...Bf8 25.Nxg6+ hxc6 26.Qh3+ Kg7 27.Qh6#

25.Nxg6+ Kg8

25...hxc6 26.Qh3+ Kg8 27.Qxe6+ Kh8 (27...Kf8 28.Bxc7 Qxc7 29.Qe8#) 28.Re3

26.Rxe6 hxc6 27.Qxg6 Ra8 28.Rbe1 Kf8 29.Bxc7

1-0

Saahil Gupta (1584) –

Austin Tang (1852) [A20]

Elementary Platinum

lichess.org (R2), April 10, 2021

[Wilson Gibbins]

Black drifts into a passive position, and White never lets up.

1.c4 e5 2.g3 c6 3.d4 exd4 4.Qxd4 Nf6 5.Bg2 Be7

5...d5 is normal, but 5...Na6 6.Nf3 Bc5 is also known to theory.

6.Nc3 0-0 7.e4 d6 8.Nge2 Re8 9.0-0 Bf8

A little too slow. Black should be developing his queen knight. 9...Nbd7 10.Bf4 Nc5 and now 11.Qd1 is best (11.Rad1 Ne6; 11.Qd2 Ne6 12.Be3 Ng4).

10.Rd1 Qc7

10...Nbd7 isn't much better. 11.Bf4 Nc5 12.Bxd6 Bxd6 13.Qxd6 Qb6.

11.Bf4 Rd8



Position after 11...Rd8

12.c5

12.e5! Ne8 13.exd6 Bxd6 (13...Nxd6 14.c5) 14.c5 Bxf4 15.Qxd8.

12...Ne8 13.Rd2 Qd7 14.Rad1 Qe6 15.Bxd6 Na6 16.Nf4 Qh6 17.e5 Bg4

18.Re1 Rac8 19.b4 Nac7 20.Qe3 Ne6 21.Nxe6 Qxe6 22.Ne4 Nc7 23.Ng5 Qd7 24.h3 Be6 25.Qd3 Bf5 26.Be4 Bg6 27.Bxg6 hxc6 28.h4 Ne6 29.Nxe6 Qxe6 30.Qe3 Rd7 31.Kg2 Rcd8 32.Red1 Be7 33.Bxe7 Qxe7 34.Rd6 f6 35.e6 Rxd6 36.cxd6 Qe8 37.e7 Rd7 38.Qxa7 Kf7 39.Qe3 Kg8 40.Qe6+ Kh7 41.Re1 b5 42.Qxd7 Qxd7 43.e8Q Qxd6 44.Qe4 f5 45.Qb1 Qd5+ 46.Kg1 Kg8 47.Qb3

1-0

Austin Tang (1824) –

Ethan Zhang (1804) [C42]

OSCF Team Upper

Board Three, lichess.org, April 11, 2021

[Wilson Gibbins]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 d6 4.Nf3 Nxe4 5.d4 d5 6.Bd3 Be7 7.0-0 0-0 8.Re1 Nf6 9.Nbd2

This looks drawish to me, but White scores a surprising 74% in the 25 games from my database.

9...Re8 10.Nf1 Nbd7 11.Ng3 Bf8 12.c3 c6 13.Bd2 Nb6 14.Qc2 Nc4

14...h6 prevents White's unpleasant next move.

15.Bg5 h6

15...Rxe1+ 16.Rxe1 g6 keeps Black's kingside pawn structure intact, but White is still attacking after 17.h4.

16.Rxe8 Qxe8 17.Bxf6+ gxf6 18.Re1 Qd8 19.Nh5 Nd6 20.h3 Be6 21.Nh4 Ne8 22.Re3 Bd6 23.f4 Bf8 24.Rg3+ Ng7 25.Bf5 Kh8 26.Nxg7 Bxg7 27.Bxe6 fxe6

Stockfish has been telling us that White is winning since around move 16, but the way forward isn't obvious.



Position after 27...fxe6

28.Rxg7

White tries a direct approach that objectively gives up part of his advantage. But practically it will be very difficult for Black to defend against the combined onslaught of the queen and knight with his rook helplessly watching from a8. White's one pawn-break is f4-f5, so perhaps the best idea is to aim for it under

favorable circumstances. 28.Qg6 Qd7 (28...Qe7 29.Re3 Qc7 (29...Rg8 30.Qf5) 30.Qg4 f5 31.Qh5) 29.f5.

28...Kxg7 29.Qg6+ Kf8 30.Qh7 Ke8 31.Ng6?!

31.f5!

31...h5?

31...Rc8#. A successful defense will require the rook, so Black should hurry to bring it into the fight, no matter the cost in pawns.

32.Nh8?

32.Qxh5! Kd7 33.Qh7+ Kc8 34.h4 and Black will be hard-pressed to stop the h-pawn.

32...Qe7!

Hmmm, maybe a successful defense does not require the rook. Stockfish says it is equal.

33.Qg8+ Qf8 34.Qxe6+ Qe7 35.Qg8+ Qf8 36.Qg6+



Position after 36.Qg6+

Black is in a maze of twisty little passages, all different.

36...Ke7?

Why would this be any different than the other king moves? 36...Kd8= 37.Nf7+ Ke7; 36...Kd7= 37.Qh7+ Qe7.

37.Qh7+!

Black can't interpose his queen like he could with his king on d7.

37...Ke6

The alternatives aren't much fun either. 37...Kd6 38.Nf7+ Kd7 39.Ne5+ Kc8 40.Qd7+ Kb8 41.Ng6 Qc8 42.Qd6+ Qc7 43.Qxf6; 37...Ke8 38.Ng6 Qf7 39.Qh8+ Kd7 40.Qxa8; 37...Kd8 38.Qxb7 Rc8 39.Nf7+ Ke8 40.Qxc8+ Kxf7 41.Qxf8+.

38.f5+ Kd6 39.Nf7+ Kc7 40.Ne5+ Kc8 41.Qd7+ Kb8 42.Ng6 Qc8 43.Qd6+ Qc7 44.Qf8+ Qc8 45.Qxf6 Kc7 46.Qe7+ Qd7 47.Qe5+ Kb6 48.f6 Qf7 49.Nf4 Rh8 50.Qe6 Qc7 51.Ng6

51.Nxd5+

51...Rh7 52.Ne5 Rh6 53.Qf5 Qd6

54.f7 Rh8 55.f8Q! Rxf8 56.Qxf8 Qxf8  
57.Nd7+

1-0

Roshen Nair (2076) –  
Seth Rabacal (2015) [A37]

OSCF Team Upper

Board One, lichess.org, April 11, 2021

[Wilson Gibbins]

1.c4

The symmetrical English isn't known for fast kingside attacks, but Roshen generates one.

1...c5 2.g3 Nc6 3.Bg2 g6 4.Nc3 Bg7  
5.Nf3 e6 6.d3 h6 7.0-0 Nge7 8.a3 0-0  
9.Rb1 d5 10.Bd2 b6 11.b4!



Position after 11.b4

We all know about countering an attack on the wing with an advance in the center, but what about countering an advance in the center with an attack on the wing?

11...cxb4 12.axb4 dxc4 13.dxc4 a5  
14.bxa5 Nxa5 15.Qc1 h5 16.Nb5 Bb7  
17.Rd1 Qb8 18.Bb4 Re8 19.Bd6 Qc8  
20.Nc7 Ra6 21.Nxe8 Qxe8 22.Bc7 Qc6  
23.Rd8+

23...Bf8 24.Qh6, 23...Kh7 24.Ng5+

1-0

Arlo Maslen (1610) –

Ryan Lu (1948) [C42]

OSCF Team Upper

Board Two, lichess.org, April 11, 2021

[Wilson Gibbins]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 Nc6

Playing for complications at a fast time control.

4.Nxc6 dxc6 5.d3 Bc5 6.Be2 h5!?  
7.Bg5?!

Doesn't developing a piece and pinning one of Black's two developed pieces seem like a good idea? The non-piece developing move 7.c3! is best, preparing d3-d4, and keeping Black's queen off d4.

7...Qd4!

White is still fine, but the margin for error is diminishing.

8.0-0 Ng4 9.c3?

9.Bh4! Qe5 (9...Qxb2 10.Nd2) 10.Bg3±.

9...Qe5+



Position after 9...Qe5+

Black's tricks pay off. If this were a website, I would be inserting an advertisement for Tukmakov's book *Risk and Bluff in Chess*.

10.Bxg4 hxg4 11.g3 Qxg5 12.d4 Be7  
13.f4 gxf3 14.Qxf3 Be6 15.Na3 0-0-0  
16.Rad1 Bg4

0-1

## A NORTHWEST CHESS GRAND PRIX EVENT

### RUSTY MILLER MEMORIAL CHESS TOURNAMENT

JUNE 19-20, 2021

Site: Online via Chess.com

Format: A 6-Round Swiss two sections: Open & Reserve (U1600). Co-hosted by Northwest Chess and WCF. Dual US Chess Online and NWSRS Rated.

Entry Fee: \$45. Non-members of WCF/OCF/ICA add \$15. Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs, or US Chess 2400+.

Time Control: G/45;+15. Late Default: 10 min.

Rounds: Sat./Sun. @ 10 AM, 1 PM, 4 PM.

Prize Fund: 60% of paid entries returned as prizes.

Open: 1st 23%, 2nd 17%, 1st U2100/U1900 5% each  
Best NW Player (by TPR) 5%

Reserve: 1st 15%, 2nd 10%, 1st  
U1500/U1300/U1100 5% each, 1st Unrated 5%.

*In Memory of Rusty Miller,  
1942-2020.*

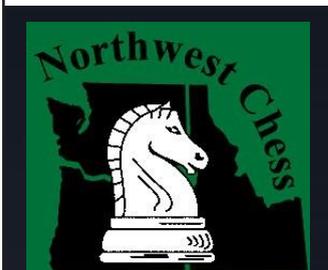
Byes: Two half-point byes available, request by end of round 2.

Memberships: Current US Chess membership required. Memberships must be paid at time of registration. A 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, pairings, and prizes.

Procedure: Pairings will be released prior to the start of each round. Games will be launched 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: Make checks payable to Washington Chess Federation.

Mail To: Washington Chess Federation  
c/o Orlov Chess Academy  
4174 148th Ave. NE  
Building I, Ste. M

Richmond, WA 98052

Contact: Josh Sinanan, WCF President

Phone: 206-769-3757

Email:

WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com

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

Registration deadline Fri. 6/18 @ 5pm.

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

Joshua Grabinsky (2315) –  
Zoey Tang (2097) [A12]

OSCF Team Upper

Board One, lichess.org, April 11, 2021

[Wilson Gibbins]

1.b3 Nf6 2.Bb2 g3 e3

3.Bxf6 is the most popular and scores well, but the engines are unimpressed.

3...Bg7 4.Nf3 d5 5.c4

This is the most popular move, and the engines' favorite too, though White's edge is slight. Nakamura played it in a "Titled Tuesday" game against Izoria last September. Nakamura played 5.d4 eight times (!) against Caruana in a blitz match on November 2, 2017, winning two, losing two, and drawing four.

5...c6 6.Be2 0-0 7.Qc2

7.0-0 is the overwhelmingly popular move in this position. Why would Joshua refrain from such a natural move? This is not a rhetorical question—the answer will be given on moves ten and 13.

7...a5

Maybe Zoey has guessed what is coming.

8.Nc3 Na6

Engines like to throw in 8...Bf5 on this move or the next with a rough equality.

9.a3 Nc7 10.h4!?

Justifying the decision to skip castling on kingside earlier.

10...h5 11.Ng5 e5!

Zoey is doing fine. Similar positions result from 11...Bf5 12.d3 e5.

12.f3?!

Joshua continues to try to confuse the issue. It eventually works.

12...Qe7 13.0-0?! b5! 14.g4!

This is the best try to continue the chaos, but Black is better.

14...bxc4 15.bxc4



Position after 15.bxc4

15...e4?

15...Rb8 keeps the pressure on White.

Black is somewhat ahead in the race to open lines against the opponent's king.

16.gxh5 exf3 17.Bxf3

17.hxg6 fxg6= (the tempting move 17...fxe2?! invites trouble after 18.gxf7+ Rxf7 19.Nxe2 and White's constant attempts at confusion will finally pay off.)

17...Bf5

Finally Black plays this move. It isn't too late—Black stands well.

18.e4 dxe4 19.Ngxe4

19.hxg6 keeps Black's advantage to a minimum.

19...Ne6 20.d4 Rab8 21.hxg6 fxg6 22.Nxf6+ Bxf6 23.Qf2 Bg7 24.Rde1 Bh6+ 25.Kd1 Qb7 26.Re2 Nf4 27.Bc1

Engines are recommending giving up a piece with 27.Nb5 to slow Black's attack, so you know the wheels are falling off White's position.

27...Nd3 28.Qg2 Qb3+ 29.Rc2 Nxc1

And Black has an extra piece.

30.Be4

White is dead lost but is keeping things complicated.

30...Kh7 31.h5



Position after 31.h5

31...Qb6?

Black has held a large advantage since about move 19, but this move lets White back in the game. The queen is well-placed on b3, pinning White's rook and keeping pressure on squares around White's king. The engine's first choice is the non-intuitive 31...Na2 32.Nxa2 Qe3 threat: Rb1+ 33.Nc3 Bxe4 34.hxg6+ Kg7 35.Qxe4 Rb1+ 36.Nxb1 Qxe4, but many other moves retain a large advantage for Black.

32.c5! Qd8!

Black defends by threatening to take the d-pawn with check. 32...Qc7? 33.Bxf5 gxf5 34.Qg6+ Kh8 35.Qxh6+

33.d5

33.Bxf5? Qxd4+! 34.Rd2 (34.Ke1

Rbe8+ 35.Kf1 (35.Be4 Nd3+ 36.Kd1 Nf2+ 37.Ke1 Rxe4+ 38.Nxe4 Qd1#) 35...Rxf5+); 33.hxg6+! Kg8.

33...Bxe4 34.Qxe4 Qf6 35.Qxg6+

35.Rf2 Qg5 36.Qxg6+ Qxg6 37.hxg6+ Kg7 (37...Kxg6 38.Rg2+ Bg5 39.Ne4 Rf5 40.dxc6) 38.Rxf8 Rxf8 39.dxc6.

35...Qxg6 36.hxg6+ Kg7!

36...Kxg6 37.Rg2+ Bg5 38.Ne4 Rf5 39.dxc6

37.Rch2! 7

Joshua continues to pose problems.

37...Rh8

Zoey plays the rest of the game with under a minute on her clock. Joshua has nearly ten minutes left at this point.

38.Ne4

38.dxc6

38...Nd3 39.Kc2 cxd5 40.Nd6 Nxc5 41.Nf7

41.Nf5+ Kxg6 42.Nxh6 is getting close to a draw.

41...Rhc8 42.Nd6 Rc7 43.Rxh6 Ne6+

43...Ne4+ 44.Kd3 Rb3+ 45.Kd4 Nxd6 46.Rh7+ Kf6 (46...Kxg6 47.R7h6+ Kg7 48.Rxd6=) 47.Rxc7 Nb5+ 48.Kxd5 Nxc7+ 49.Kc6 Ne6. 50.Rg1 Rxa3 51.Kb6 and engines think White can draw this.

44.Kd1 Rb1+ 45.Ke2 Rxh1 46.Rxh1 Kxg6= 47.Rg1+ Ng5 48.Kd3 Rd7 49.Nb5 Kf6 50.Rc1 Rb7 51.Nd4 Ne4 52.Rc6+ Ke5 53.Ke3 Nd6 54.Nf3+ Ke6 55.Kf4 Rf7+ 56.Ke3 Rb7 57.Ra6 Rb3+ 58.Kf4 Rxa3 59.Nd4+ Ke7 60.Ke5 Nf7+ 61.Kxd5 Ra1 62.Nf5+ Ke8 63.Ra8+ Kd7 64.Ra7+ Ke8 65.Ke6



Position after 65.Ke6

65...a4

65...Nd8+ 66.Kf6 Re1 is the clearest way to a draw.

66.Nd6+!? Nxd6?

White doesn't need the knight to draw 66...Kf8! 67.Rxf7+ Kg8 should be drawable. 66...Kd8? 67.Rd7#.

**Shunkai Peng (2503) –**

**Joshua Grabinsky (2315) [C07]**

OSCF Team Upper

Board One, lichess.org, April 11, 2021

[Wilson Gibbins]

Joshua gets the opportunity to avenge his loss in the individual championship. Unfortunately for him, he gets the Black pieces a second time. Most games have mistakes made by both players. This game has no big errors by either player, but White makes slightly more accurate moves over the course of the game to notch the win. Perhaps this is an occupational hazard of playing Black in half your games.

**1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 a6 4.Ng3 Nf6 5.Bd3 c5 6.dxc5 Nc6 7.0-0 Bxc5 8.exd5 Qxd5 9.Qe2 0-0 10.Ne4 Nxe4 11.Bxe4 Qh5 12.Re1 Re8 13.c3 e5 14.Be3 Bxe3 15.Qxe3 Bg4 16.h3 Bxf3 17.Bxf3 Qg6 18.Rad1 Re7 19.a4 Rae8 20.Bd5**



Position after 20.Bd5

The engines really love White's position. White has the advantage of a bishop vs knight on an open board, and the queenside pawn majority. I normally don't worry much about these factors in the middlegame. White's queenside pawn majority means Black has a kingside pawn majority that he can use to attack White's king, and the bishop vs. knight advantage isn't as big as the two bishops vs. bishop and knight advantage. Black wisely traded one of White's bishops off before trading his bishop for a knight. Haven't the gods placed the middlegame before the endgame? Won't Joshua get a chance to attack before Shunkai exploits his static advantages? As it turns out, White's position is just a little too active and Black's attack just hasn't progressed enough for his kingside majority to take effect. Fischer used White's advantages to win a lot of endgames, and Shunkai is about to do the same.

**20...Kh8**

Unpins the f-pawn, getting ready to exploit Black's kingside majority. 20...h6 is still much better for White but avoids some of the back-rank threats that appear in the notes a few moves from now.

**21.Qc5 Nb8**

This is perhaps the one move that allows White's advantage to jump, but White had already established a significant edge. Some slightly better alternatives are 21...h6, 21...Nd8, and 21...f5, but none are close to equality for Black.

**22.Be4+- Qf6**

It is sad that Black's best move blocks the f-pawn that he spent a move liberating on move 20. This is one of the reasons White stands so much better—his initiative prevents Black from getting play on the kingside. 22...Qg5 allows the surprising shot 23.Bxb7! (23.Qb6 is the prosaic way to win the pawn, and is also good for White, just less flashy.) 23...Rxb7 24.Rxe5 Qxe5 (24...Rxe5 25.Qf8#) 25.Qxe5

**23.Rd6 Qh4 24.Qb6 g6 25.a5 Nd7**

The b-pawn can't be saved, so it is time to reactivate the knight.

**26.Qxb7 Nc5 27.Qb4 Ne6 28.Bc6**



Position after 28.Bc6

White heads for an easily won endgame instead of allowing Black some complications with 28.Rxa6 Nf4.

**28...Qxb4 29.cxb4 Rb8 30.b5 axb5 31.Rxe5 Ra7 32.b4 Ra6 33.Red5 Nf4 34.Rd8+ Rxd8 35.Rxd8+ Kg7 36.Bxb5 Re6 37.a6 Re1+ 38.Kh2 Ra1 39.Bc4 Ra4 40.Rb8 Kf6 41.Rb7 Ke5 42.a7 Nd5 43.Rb5**

**1-0**

**Roshen Nair (2076) –**

**Shunkai Peng (2503) [A90]**

OSCF Team Upper

Board One, lichess.org, April 11, 2021

[Wilson Gibbins]

**1.c4 e6 2.g3 d5 3.Bg2 c6 4.Nf3 f5 5.b3 Nf6 6.0-0 Bd6 7.d4**

The game transposes from an English to

main line of the Stonewall Dutch. The English opening gives you opportunities to transpose into attractive variations, but you carry the burden of preparing for lots of variations.

**7...Qe7 8.Bb2 0-0 9.Qc1 b6 10.Ba3 Bb7 11.Bxd6 Qxd6**

The permanent hole on e5 gives White hopes of reaching a good knight vs. bad bishop position. But it is surprisingly hard to get there without allowing Black some play in the center or the kingside.

**12.Nc3 Nbd7 13.cxd5 exd5 14.e3 Ne4 15.Qb2 Rae8 16.Rfd1**

Up to here we have been following Giri-Radjabov, a speed game from the Chessable Masters tournament played on chess.com on June 21, 2020. That game continued 16.Rac1 Rf6 17.Rfd1 and eventually ended in a draw.

**16...a5 17.Rac1 h6 18.Na4**

Nothing wrong with Roshen's move, but engines suggest the alternative 18.Rc2. I always wondered how White could safely move a rook away from the kingside when Black was loading up for an attack in that sector, but perhaps White can defend his kingside with a rook actively on c2 rather than passively on f1.

**18...b5 19.Nc3**



Position after 19.Nc3

White now has two great dark squares to exploit (c5 and e5), but no good way to use them. If I were Black, I would plan to use the passive-looking bishop on b7 to defend c6 and prevent White from mining the c-file. But Shunkai has more ambitious ideas. 19.Nc5 Ndx5 20.dxc5 Nxc5 21.Qa3 b4 22.Qxa5 maintains a rough balance.

**19...g5 20.Ne2 b4!**

Planning to activate the bad bishop on the a6-f1 diagonal, making it a little more awkward to organize a kingside defense. And the bishop can defend the c6-pawn from an active post on b5, instead of my passive plan of leaving it on b7.

**21.Ne1 Ba6 22.Nd3 Re6 23.Bxe4?**

It is tempting to remove Black's active knight from the board, but this opens the f-file and gives Black a lot of space on the kingside. Disclaimer: I have tried this myself, with similar results to the game.

23...fxe4 24.Nc5 Nxc5 25.dxc5 Qd7 26.Nd4

White has a beautiful knight, has Black tied down to the defense of the pawn on c6, but no longer has enough space to defend the sector of the board where his king resides.

26...Ref6 27.Rd2 h5 28.Kg2 h4 29.gxh4 Qg4+ 30.Kh1 Qxh4 31.Rg1 g4

31...Rh6 is a little quicker: 32.f4 (32.Rg2 Bf1 is the revenge of the bad bishop) 32...exf3.

32.Qc2 Kh8 33.Qb2 Kh7 34.f4 gxf3 35.Ne6



Position after 35.Ne6

Clever, unfortunately wasted in a lost cause.

35...Rg8!

35...Rxe6?? 36.Qg7#

36.Rdd1 f2 37.Rxg8 Kxg8 38.Qe5 f1Q+ 39.Rxf1 Rxf1+ 40.Kg2 Qg4+

0-1



Chad Lykins at 2019 OSCF K12 School Team Championship. Photo credit: Dennis Herron.

# 15th Annual Individual State Championship Winners

Section	Winner(s)
Grades 9-12	
High School Platinum	Shunkai Peng
High School Silver	Elijah Brenn
High School Copper	Emily Song
Grades 6-8	
Middle School Platinum	Zoey Tang
Middle School Silver	Levi McClure
Middle School Copper	Valerie Ostrovsky
Middle School Zinc	David Rodriguez
Middle School Iron	Javen Christensen
Grades 3-5	
Elementary School Platinum	Saahil Gupta and Austin Tang
Elementary School Silver	Alexander Chitty and Kev Thao
Elementary School Copper	Sebastian Smith and Kaleo Look
Elementary School Zinc	Fabian Thompson and Andy Ma
Elementary School Iron	Rohit Bharadwaj Sriram
Elementary School Cobalt	Eesha Juneja
Grades K-2	
Primary School Platinum Elite	Prithiv Arokiadass
Primary School Silver	Noah Ish-shalom
Primary School Copper	Jack Garber

# Mini-Teams Summer Kickoff



June 26, 2021



Online via  Chess.com

**Format:** A 5-round *Team* Swiss tournament in four sections: K-3, 4-6, 7-12, and Parents/Friends. A Team consists of any three players from within the same section. Regular Individual Swiss pairings will be used, but with pairings between fellow teammates blocked. “Play-up” into higher grade level sections is allowed. See “Scoring” and “Procedure” below for more information.

**Eligibility:** Open to all students registered in grades K-12 (based on 2020-21 school year) and their parents/friends. A Chess.com and Zoom account are required. Players may form their own 3-player teams, or individual players will be added to form additional teams by the TD.

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

**Entry fee:** \$25 (per player)

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

**Prizes:** K-3, 4-6, 7-12 Sections: 1<sup>st</sup> Place Team Members will each receive \$50 Amazon Gift Cards. 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Team Members will each receive \$35 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 pairings.

**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. Please contact Organizer Siva Sankrithi ([sivas108@gmail.com](mailto:sivas108@gmail.com)) for any pre-determined teams. Team information will be kept on Spreadsheet [HERE](#).

**Scoring:** Standings based on **Team Score** (sum of the individual scores of each player on your team).

**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 June 25<sup>th</sup> @ 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 June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 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.* \$10 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](mailto:jacob.mayerchess@gmail.com)  
Organizer: Siva Sankrithi | [sivas108@gmail.com](mailto:sivas108@gmail.com)

# Maryhill Museum Of Art

Karen Schmidt

I had been to the Maryhill Museum of Art once when I was about thirteen years old, traveling from Yakima during a family vacation with my parents and younger sister. The beautiful setting on the Columbia River in south central Washington made a huge impression on me, and there was an entire section of the museum containing chess sets from all over the world!

Around this time an older neighbor boy was teaching me how to play chess after school. I distinctly remember wanting to stay on that floor of the museum to look at all of the chess sets. My parents and sister were not chess players, however, and I was forced to move on to other exhibits. (“If you’ve seen one chess set, you’ve seen ‘em all.”)

I recently had occasion to meet the CEO of the museum, Colleen Schafroth, via email. She has been the museum’s director since 1986. Recently, Colleen was very helpful in providing me with internet links in order to research an older Chinese chess set which a high school friend of mine was selling.

When I found myself needing a story for the June issue of *Northwest Chess*, I thought of the Maryhill Museum

and wondered if Colleen would do an interview. She eagerly agreed, and during our April phone conversation I learned many fascinating details about the museum’s history and about the chess collection.

The museum is open from March 15 through November 15. The excellent user-friendly website provides a wealth of good information about the museum and its history. The very reasonable ticket prices are \$12, \$10 for seniors, and less for students and children. This year, due to Covid-19, you should buy tickets ahead online and sign up for the day you plan to visit. I would highly recommend a visit if you have never been there before. Parts of the surrounding farm country have developed over the decades into beautiful wine country, and the views of the Columbia River are just stupendous.

The non-profit museum itself is a magnificent concrete/stucco structure standing all alone above the river, on 30 acres of land out of the 5,300 acres that Sam Hill left the museum. It is about a 15-minute drive from Goldendale, Washington, and 17 miles from The Dalles, Oregon. Some of the museum land is leased to local cattle ranchers and hay farmers. If you cross the Columbia

River at Biggs Junction, that I-84 river crossing is near the museum.

In my hour-long phone chat with Colleen, I gathered fascinating details about not only the “founder” of the private home (Sam Hill) which later became the museum, but also about many historic and international figures who had a hand in the development of this amazing site. I plan to read at least one biography of Sam Hill: “The Prince of Castle Nowhere” by John Tuhy. (1983) A bit of history from the website, here below, with permission from the Director:

In 1907, Samuel Hill purchased 5,300 acres of land along the Columbia River with the dream of establishing a Quaker farming community. He formed the Maryhill Land Company, named after his daughter, and set about building a town. The village included a store and post office, a Quaker church, an inn, a blacksmith’s shop, and a stable.

In 1914, work began on a hilltop mansion that was to be Hill’s home. But the remote location of Maryhill and the lack of irrigation proved insurmountable obstacles and the land company failed. Construction of Hill’s mansion stopped in 1917.

It was then that a friend of Hill’s—Loïe Fuller, a pioneer of modern dance living in Paris—convinced him to turn his would-be mansion into a museum of art. Fuller’s close association with well-known artists in France helped build the core of the museum’s collection, including the acquisition of more than 80 works by French sculptor Auguste Rodin. Hill also transferred his own art collections to the museum.

Although still unfinished, the museum was dedicated in 1926 by Sam Hill’s friend, Queen Marie of Romania (the granddaughter of Britain’s Queen Victoria), in a ceremony that received national attention and was attended by more than 2,000 people.



Sam Hill's wife and two children returned to Minneapolis around 1900, not long after moving out to Washington with him. He was a Quaker and she a Catholic, so they never divorced. Their son and daughter stayed in touch with their father and visited at Maryhill in the 1920s.

Sam Hill's work involving road building in the Pacific Northwest and Japan, and the sale of Great Northern Railroad bonds in Europe, gave him many international contacts in France, England, and Japan. He knew Queen Marie of Romania personally. The Queen was a writer, artist and intellectual who loved and supported the arts. She was instrumental in efforts to turn the original mansion into an art museum. She was crowned in 1921 and came to Maryhill for the museum opening in 1926. She donated several personal items belonging to her grandmother, Queen Victoria, to the museum's collection, as well other memorabilia such as icons, Romanian folk items, and more. The museum also owns a replica of Queen Marie's crown, silver with gold overlay, and studded with genuine gemstone cabochons: turquoise, amethyst, and moonstone.

I was intrigued to learn that Sam Hill was not a chess player. The first Director of the museum, Clifford Dolph, was the chess player. He often played chess via postcards sent in the mail. (Another local figure back in those days, Dr. George E. Muehleck, Jr.—the chess gallery is named after him—played by mail with players as far away as Russia.) Dolph was CEO from 1940 to 1960, and he was of the opinion that “a few chess sets” would make a good “temporary exhibit.” Over the years the permanent collection



Northwest Chess



Christopher Gizzi

increased to about 300 sets, and around 90 are on display at any given time. Every two years or so, some sets on exhibit are rotated.

Colleen mentioned that there have even been chess tournaments at the museum. Back in the 1990s, the Portland Chess Club volunteers hosted a rated tournament there. (Oh, how I wish I had known!)

People continue to donate chess collections to Maryhill from time to time. Sometimes museum staff will travel to see a collection in person, before including the sets in the museum's collection. Not all of the chess sets are old. I was rather amazed to learn that the museum's collection includes a Harry Potter set, as well as Bart Simpson, Wizard of Id, Star Wars, and Star Trek sets! One new set is a plastic three-dimensional set designed on a computer. The oldest sets in the collection date to the late 1700s, some of the oldest being from IndoChina and India. The pieces in the antique chess sets can be carved from wood, stone, bone, ivory, or even molded in glass or ceramics.

I am truly gratified that the “world of chess” continues to open doors for me: to new information, reading material, history, and intriguing people, present-day and past. Talking with Colleen about one of my favorite childhood places was wonderful.

I hope to return to Maryhill again in the near future. My first visit, back in the

1960s, truly made an indelible impression on me. Having grown up in Yakima, and never having ventured beyond Seattle and Spokane and the Washington coast, our visit to Maryhill felt like “my first international trip.” From reading reviews on the museum website, I got the impression that many other visitors experienced a similar feeling of wonder while visiting such an unexpected, old-world marvel in the prairies of South-Central Washington.

*All photos courtesy of Maryhill Museum of Art.*



# Chess, Death, Freedom

Nobel Ang

A couple of months ago, I was sitting in a doctor's office waiting for some test results. If you have been in this situation, you probably understand the disconcerting feelings that were running through me. In order to relieve the anxiety and tedium of waiting on something over which I have no control, I took out my phone and promptly submitted myself to another form of anguish. Yes, you guessed it: I got on chess.com and started playing a G10 game with somebody from some other part of this planet (it might have been somebody from Colombia, but I can't be certain). Isn't technology wonderful? You get to play chess with a fellow mortal in real time while waiting to hear about your impending mortality. Reminds me of the movie [The Seventh Seal](#).

Anyway, pawns were pushed, pieces were exchanged, and for a precious few minutes, I forgot that I was sitting in a doctor's office awaiting judgment. I even found a tactic which got me a piece ahead.

Just as I was starting to pound my opponent into the pavement of chess hell, a voice chirped somewhere above me: "Mr. Ang? Are you Mr. Ang?" I looked up, and a brunette in scrubs was looking down at my intense phone chess battle with a slightly bemused expression. I signaled to her to give me a moment and proceeded to offer my almost-vanquished-but-still-worthy opponent a draw. My opponent texted: "Why are you offering a draw? You're winning!" He then proceeded to suggest a possible sequence of moves I could play to push him even more snugly into the jaws of defeat.

Wow. This guy's a glutton for punishment. I don't know about you, but I would have jumped at the draw offer if I were in his unenviable position, no questions asked. "Hey, I gotta go. I'm in the doctor's office. Just take the freaking draw." I responded. He wouldn't buy my story and declined the draw; or maybe he was hoping I would resign the game to attend to my impending mortality. I didn't really feel like resigning on the verge of a victory, so I left the chess.com window open, went with the nurse to the examining room, got my vitals taken, and then proceeded to finish off my worthy opponent with less than 30 seconds left on my clock while waiting for the doctor; I

think I may even have played the move sequence that he suggested. A couple of minutes later, the doctor came in, and I learned that my test results were good. A chess victory, and a reprieve from the grim reaper. I'll take that.

In the summer of 2008, Mark Gonsalves, an American military contractor held captive by the FARC rebel group in the jungles of Colombia, found himself in possession of a broken machete. If this were a kung fu movie, he would have used the machete to hack his way to freedom through an army of armed captors. This being the real world, however, Gonsalves wisely decided on another course of escape: Over the next three months, he used the machete to painstakingly carve a bunch of chess pieces, which he and his fellow hostages then used to play hundreds of chess games on a painted cardboard chessboard.

Gonsalves and his fellow hostages were eventually rescued by the Colombian military in a daring rescue mission aptly titled "Operation Jaque", which, coincidentally or not, translates to "Operation Check" or "Operation Checkmate."

Reflecting on their captivity, Gonsalves and his fellow hostages said that playing chess helped them to survive the ordeal. According to Gonzales, playing chess was "a way for us to stop thinking about the cruel situation we were in." His fellow hostage Keith Stansell added: "[We would sit chained and, thanks to this guy, we were sitting on a piece of plastic, just playing chess... When you are doing that, you are free. Your mind is engaged, you are not a prisoner. That's the gain, that's the victory. And they don't even know it.](#)"

What do the two stories above have in common? Besides the starring role of chess, in both stories, chess also serves as a vehicle for the mind to transcend a certain stressful situation (in my case, waiting on a medical outcome over which I have no control, and in the hostage case, being in captivity and deprived of one's basic rights) and escape into a world of freedom. But what kind of freedom is this? How can one be free while in chains?

In his essay *Two Concepts of Liberty*, the British philosopher Isaiah Berlin distinguishes between negative

and positive freedom. Negative freedom is the kind of freedom that we are most familiar with; it consists simply in being "[free to the degree to which no man or body of men interferes with my activity.](#)" To be free in this negative sense is to be free to do whatever I please, without being constrained by the state or by other individuals. There is much debate among philosophers regarding the rightful amount of negative freedom that we should be entitled to; many philosophers believe that this freedom should not be unlimited, that, for instance, your right to throw a punch ends where my nose begins. But I think it's safe to say that much of contemporary western political philosophy is founded on the belief that nobody can really be free without enjoying at least some measure of negative freedom.

Positive freedom goes beyond negative freedom, and holds that in order to be truly free, it is not enough to simply be able to do whatever I please. Proponents of positive freedom argue that in order for a person to be truly free, she must be the master of her own destiny, and be able to follow plans and purposes of her own choosing. In order to do this, she must be able to rise above her moment-to-moment desires and emotions instead of being controlled by them. It is possible to have plenty of negative freedom without having any positive freedom. For instance, if I have a lot of money and do not have to work for a living and spend all my days eating a ton of junk food and playing lots of video games, I am free in the negative sense that I am doing whatever I please without any interference from others. But proponents of positive freedom would say that in thus living from moment to moment, I am merely a slave to my desires instead of following any plans and purposes in life.

I think we chess players are in a unique position to appreciate the difference between these two kinds of freedom; who was it who said that in chess, a bad plan is better than no plan at all? More particularly, in both the stories above, chess, by engaging the mind in intellectual mortal combat ("finish him!") frees the mind from the bondage of the immediate fears and worries of the world. Who knew that pushing pieces of wood could accomplish so much?

# Washington Scholastic Tournament (A Success!)

James Stripes

The 2021 Washington State Scholastic Championships took place on *Chess.com* May 1. Matters went smoothly enough that those staffing the help desk spent much of the day watching Tim Moroney stream the event on his *Twitch* channel. Of course, with seven other *Zoom* rooms, players, parents, and coaches had options when their questions needed answers.

There were 752 participants who played a total of 1845 games without a single game being aborted due to website glitches. There were a small number of local technical issues for a few players, as expected, but every round for every section started within a couple of minutes of its scheduled time. The tournament had ten sections—seven elementary grade-level sections, two middle school, and a high school. Time control was 25+5, except for the MS Open, which was 45+5.

Back-up to September 2020. The Inland Chess Academy Board, the host organization, had an online meeting where we discussed planning both for an online event and for an in-person event at the Spokane Convention Center, setting a date in January for making a clear commitment to one or the other. A month or so later, the convention center let us know that all in-person events were cancelled well past our scheduled date. Planning proceeded in earnest for an online event.

We began with some meetings with *ChessKid.com*, which had hosted the 2020 event. Washington's scholastic championship was *ChessKid's* first large event. After our pioneering enterprise, the website has regularly hosted such events. They have refined their processes and learned a lot about large scholastic events. We were looking forward to a familiar platform, a professional staff, and a good experience for the players.

Come mid-winter and some numbers frightened us. Online events were drawing one-third of the usual numbers for in-person play. Fewer than 500 Washington students had played rated online chess, and the state qualifier list—a benchmark—showed only 273 players as

of February 1. A query to Kirk Winges confirmed that about 7500 games had been rated, while 20,000 was the norm. It appeared from examining our budget that we would need a minimum of 300 players to avoid financial loss.

We met with *ChessKid* to address our concerns, learning about some options that might reduce costs. We set the end of February as a deadline for the critical decision about platform. Emails went out to members of the WSECC organizing committee, followed up with several *Zoom* meetings. There were optimists who thought we would likely draw 450-500 players, despite low participation trends. Pessimists thought these numbers might represent the upper limits of possibilities. No one predicted that we would exceed 700!

As it turned out, the option that made the most sense financially also offered features that we sought and that *ChessKid* could not fully provide.

Jacob Mayer had been running the largest Washington scholastic events using a system with a lot of promise. Instead of setting up the tournament to be run by *ChessKid* or *Chess.com* (we briefly considered other platforms) as one of their tournaments, Washington's team of tournament directors could pair the event and start games using match commands. *Chess.com* empowered our TDs with this ability. We could run the event on a schedule—not an option with either website running the event. The match commands are entered one at a time, although only a few seconds apart. This process puts less stress on the server than starting hundreds of games at once.

We made the decision to staff and run the event on the model that was proving successful for events put on by Chess Mates Foundation. Most of the work in March and April leading to the event was done by Ben Radin and Mayer. Inland Chess Academy continued to handle some matters as host, including a process for determining and distributing awards. ICA is led by John Dill and Cecelia Valeriotte,

and a board that includes several Spokane-area parents and coaches, some of whom are listed in the next paragraph.

On the day of the event, Mayer and Radin each paired several sections and issued the match commands. The larger sections were paired by Norm May and Todd May, while match commands were issued by Judit Sztaray and Réka Sztaray. Twelve other people watched the games and recorded results, also hosting *Zoom* rooms for each section—Daniel Wilke, Brian Chen, Wendy Ruppel, Megan Ruppel, Connor Sun, Alec Beck, Eddie Chang, Felicia Boyle, Greg Black, Nathan Noggles, David Peoples, and me. Josh Sinanan and Edith Lau ran the help desk. The staff kept in touch with one another using Slack.

For players who are accustomed to playing tournaments online, the instructions to log-in to *Chess.com* live and just wait was difficult in some cases. By round two, most understood the process.

Our event date had been set several years ago for April 24, and we kept this date for the online version. But, then, the US Chess Federation scheduled their national qualifier event for April 24, and we moved our date to May 1 to avoid conflict.

The results listed below are unofficial until fair play review is completed. Congratulations to the top finishers in each section—state champions! Congratulations are also due to all the players who gave their best to the competition.

Kindergarten 29 players  
Samarth Bharadwaj 5.0

First Grade 80 players  
Dann Merriman and Owen Xu 5.0

Second Grade 92 players  
Michael Xiong 5.0

Third Grade 116 players  
Vihaan Jammalamadaka and Atharv Rastogi 5.0

Fourth Grade 124 players  
Alexander Yang, Yiding Lu, and Luca Tessiere 5.0

Fifth Grade 129 players  
 Thomas Miller, Stephen Willy, Meera Shanmugam, William Summerfield, Eshan Reddy, Noah Condit, and Otto Kovarik 5.0

Sixth Grade 56 players  
 Varnika Jammalamadaka 5.0

MS u1200 48 players  
 Lucas Smith and Aditya Kamath 4.5

MS Open 46 players  
 Owen Xuan, Melina Li, and Rahul Peesa 4.5

High School 32 players  
 Gaurang Pendharkar; Brandon Peng 4.5

## Five Games

White offers a lesson in piece coordination.

**Samarth Bharadwaj (1228)** –  
**Nolan Fox (518)** [C29]  
 WA State Kindergarten Championship  
 Chess.com, May 1, 2021  
 [James Stripes]

1.e4 e5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.f4 exf4  
 3...d5  
 4.e5 Ng8 5.Nf3 Ne7 6.d4

White already has a winning advantage.



Position after 6.d4

6...Nf5 7.Bxf4 Be7 8.Bc4 0-0 9.0-0 d6  
 10.Rf2 dxe5 11.Nxe5 Nh6 12.Bxh6 gxh6  
 13.Nxf7 Qd7 14.Ne5+ Kg7 15.Nxd7  
 Rxf2 16.Kxf2 Nxd7 17.Qg4+ Kf8  
 18.Qg8#

1-0

The players raced to major piece ending where White had some advantages.

**Dann Merriman (1570)** –  
**Tristan Dong (1127)** [D43]  
 WA State Grade 1 Championship  
 Chess.com, May 1, 2021  
 [James Stripes]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 e6 5.Bg5

Bb4 6.e3 h6 7.Bh4 Nbd7 8.Bd3 b6

There is something about this position that reminds me of the Capablanca-Lasker World Championship games a century ago.

9.Qa4 Bxc3+ 10.bxc3 Bb7 11.Ne5 c5  
 12.cxd5 Bxd5 13.Bb5 Qc7 14.Bxf6 gxf6  
 15.Nxd7 Ke7 16.Qa6 Bc6 17.Nxc5 Bxb5  
 18.Qxb5 bxc5 19.0-0 cxd4 20.cxd4



Position after 20.cxd4

Getting the minor pieces off the board leaves White with more and better pawns.

20...Rac8 21.h3 Rhg8 22.Rac1 Qd6  
 22...Qxc1 23.Qb4+ Kd7 24.Rxc1 Rxc1+  
 25.Kh2 Rgc8 could be an interesting ending.

23.Qb7+ Qd7 24.Qb4+ Qd6 25.Qa4

# WA SPRING INTO CHESS960 OPEN

SUNDAY JULY 18, 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 7/14, \$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. 7/18 @ 9 AM, 11 AM, 1 PM, 3 PM, 5 PM.

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

P prize Fund: \$700 based on 30 paid entries.

Prizes awarded to the top 3 finishers in each section:  
 1<sup>st</sup> \$100, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$70, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$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 July 1<sup>st</sup> 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>

**Info:** Josh Sinanan, WCF President  
**Phone:** 206-769-3757  
**Email:** WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com  
**Registration:** Online at [nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration](http://nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration). Registration **deadline Sat. 7/17 @ 5 PM.**

**Qd7 26.Qa3+ Ke8 27.Rxc8+ Qxc8 28.Rc1 Qb7 29.g3 h5 30.Qd6 h4 31.g4 f5 32.Rc7 Qa8 33.Qe7#**

1-0

Black surrendered the center.

**Vihaan Jammalamadaka (1755) –**

**Derek Wu (1330) [E91]**

WA State Grade 3 Championship  
Chess.com, May 1, 2021

[James Stripes]

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Nf3 0-0 6.Be2 Bg4 7.0-0 Bxf3 8.Bxf3 Nbd7 9.Bf4 e5 10.dxe5 dxe5 11.Be3 Nb6 12.Qe2 Ne8 13.Rad1 Qe7 14.c5 Nd7 15.Nd5 Qd8**



Position after 15...Qd8

Players of the King's Indian Defense don't like to see White having such control of the center. Maybe we should look at choices made on moves six and seven. Maybe problems began later.

**16.Rd2 c6 17.Nc3 Qe7 18.b4 b6 19.b5 cxb5 20.Nd5 Qd8 21.c6 Nb8 22.Qxb5 f5 23.Nxb6**

Ouch!

**23...Qc7 24.Nxa8 Qxc6**



Position after 24...Qxc6

The rest is a mop up operation with a nice checkmate at the end.

**25.Qxc6 Nxc6 26.exf5 Ne7 27.fxg6 Nxc6 28.Rd8 Bf6 29.Rb8 Be7 30.Bh6 Bd6 31.Rc8 Ne7 32.Rd8 Nf5 33.Bd5+ Kh8 34.Bxf8 Bxf8 35.Rxe8 Kg7 36.Rb1 Bd6 37.Rb7+ Kf6 38.Rf7+ Kg5 39.Rg8+ Kf4 40.g3#**

1-0

A hard fought-draw among two of the top high school players.

**Brandon Peng (1819) –**

**Gaurang Pendharkar (1761) [D32]**

WA State Grade 9-12 Championship  
Chess.com, May 1, 2021

[James Stripes]

**1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 c5 4.cxd5 exd5 5.dxc5 d4 6.Ne4 Bf5 7.Ng3 Bg6 8.Nf3 Bxc5 9.Ne5 Qb6 10.Nxg6 hxg6**



Position after 10...hxg6

Black seems better here.

**11.Ne4 Nf6 12.Nxc5 Qxc5 13.e3 Nc6 14.Bd2 dxe3**

14...Rd8 bringing the rooks into play should secure the advantage.

**15.Bxe3 Qe5 16.Qb3 Qa5+ 17.Bd2 Qe5+ 18.Qe3 Qxe3+ 19.Bxe3**

Point count chess says equal, but there is a minor piece imbalance.

**19...Nd5 20.Bb5 0-0-0 21.Bxc6 bxc6 22.0-0 Nxe3 23.fxe3**



Position after 23.fxe3

And the minor pieces are gone. What would Capablanca play? Would Carlsen play the same? Both world champions have won their share of technically drawn rook endings.

**23...f6 24.Rac1 Kc7 25.Rc2 Rd3 26.Rfc1 Rd6 27.h3 Re8 28.Kf2 Re4 29.Kf3 Ra4 30.a3 Ra5 31.Rc4 Rf5+ 32.Ke2 Rg5 33.g4 Re5 34.b4 Rde6 35.R1c3 Kb6 36.Kf3 g5 37.Rd4 Kc7 38.Rcd3 Re7 39.a4 R5e6 40.Rc3 Kb6 41.Rdc4 Rc7 42.Rc5**

42.b5 c5

**42...Rce7 43.R5c4 Rc7 44.Rd4 Rce7 45.Rcd3 Kc7 46.a5 Re5 47.Rc4 Kb7 48.Rdc3 R5e6 49.Rc5 Re8 50.b5 cxb5 51.Rxb5+ Ka6 52.Rd5 R8e7 53.Rdc5 Rd6 54.Rc7 Rdd7 55.R7c5 Rd6 56.Rf5 Rde6 57.Rd5** Game drawn by agreement.

1/2-1/2

The Middle School State Champion shows patience.

**Lucas Huang (1468) –**

**Owen Xuan (1875) [B73]**

WA State MS Open Championship  
Chess.com, May 1, 2021

[James Stripes]

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.Be3 Bg7 7.Qd2 0-0 8.Be2**

8.f3

**8...Nc6 9.0-0**

9.0-0-0

**9...Ng4 10.Nxc6 bxc6 11.Bxg4 Bxg4 12.Bh6 Qb6 13.Bxg7 Kxg7 14.Rab1 Be6 15.Rfe1 Rfd8 16.Na4 Qc7 17.b3 Rab8 18.Qc3+ Kg8 19.Rbd1 c5 20.h3 Rdc8 21.e5 d5**



Position after 21...d5

Watch these pawns.

**22.Qg3 c4 23.Rc1 d4 24.Qf4 Rd8 25.Red1 Rbc8 26.Nb2 Qb6 27.Na4 Qc6 28.Qh4 Qc7 29.f4 c3 30.Rd3**

A mistake.

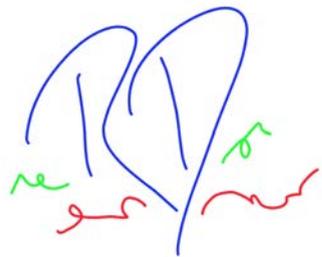
**30...Bf5 31.Rdd1**

Now the pawns have proven their worth.

**31...d3 32.cxd3 c2 33.Rd2 Rxd3 34.Rxd3 Bxd3 35.Qg3 Bf5 36.Qe3 h5 37.Qf3 Kg7 38.Kh2 Qc6 39.Qe2 Qe4 40.Qf2 Rd8 41.Nc3 Qd3 42.Qe1 Rd4 43.a3 Rxf4 44.Qg3 Qxg3+ 45.Kxg3 Rd4 46.Na2 Rd3+ 47.Kf2 Rxb3 48.Ke2 Rxa3 49.Nb4 Rc3 50.Kd2 Rc4 51.Nxc2**

Now Black can exchange into a simple pawn ending.

**51...Rxc2+ 52.Rxc2 Bxc2 53.Kxc2 f6 0-1**



# Coaching Corner

Ralph Dubisch



## The Two Fundamental Rules Of Chess

*“What do you teach a beginner first?”*

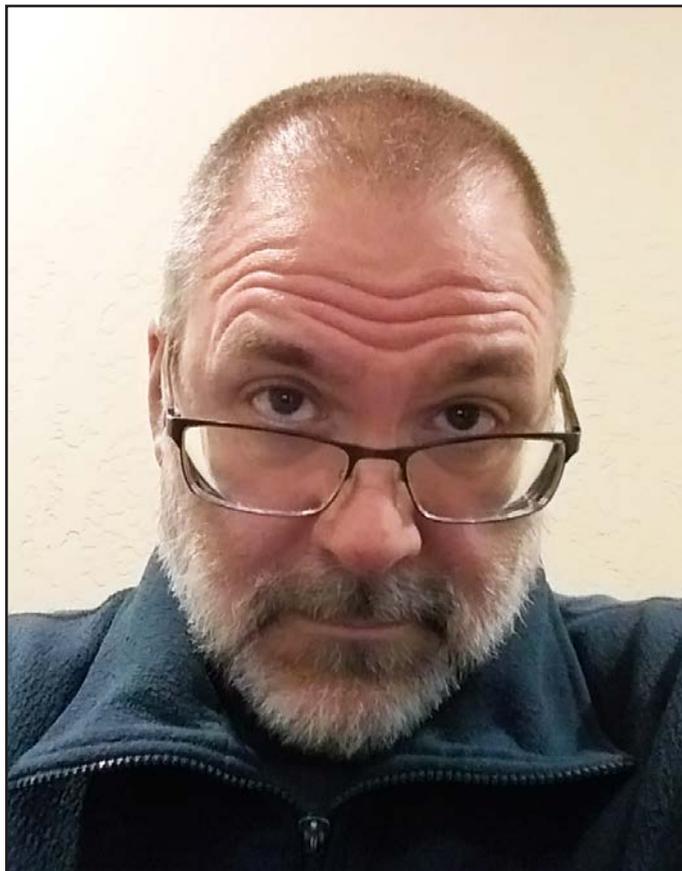
We all know the rules of chess, of course. Obviously. But there are some rules that are so fundamental that we rarely mention them.

Kids are taught how the pieces move, board orientation, and starting set-up; if we're lucky they learn castling, promotion, and en passant correctly; we figure out chess notation so we can replay games; soon we get to the main goals of the opening, Fool's Mate and Scholar's Mate, checkmate with major pieces, maybe some king and pawn endings, and so on.

But that's not really where we need to start.

The two most fundamental rules of the game of chess are these:

- 1) **Play alternates.** You may not pass your turn; you may not take two moves in a row; you may not offer to allow



your opponent to pass. Without this rule it becomes impossible to win king and rook versus lone king! Without this rule, there would be no win in many basic king and pawn endgames. There would be no zugzwang. Even in openings and middlegames it's key, as analysis that thinks only of one player's potential misses most of the fun—the struggle of conflicting ideas—in the game. The only exceptions to fundamental rule #1 are in weird variants, such as multi-move chess, or perhaps extra moves to begin odds games, but let's be honest: those aren't really chess.

- 2) **At the end of your turn, your own king must not be directly attacked.** This is the reason that you can't move your king next to the opponent's king, or counter a check with a check unless your own monarch simultaneously escapes attack. If you attack the enemy king with your own, sure, that *looks* like check, but it breaks this fundamental rule. There's no prohibition on being in check at the *start* of your turn; that would be impossible to enforce, as the opponent is certainly allowed to give check! By the end of your turn, though, you must not be in check. Exceptions? Giveaway (or Suicide) chess, sure. Atomic (Bomb) chess. Again, not real chess. In normal blitz rules, an illegal move loses the game. Under some informal rules, capturing the opponent's king is allowed to illustrate (quickly and violently) that the illegal move was made; theoretically your own king might be under attack at this point. Be careful, though, as official blitz rules generally require that you claim the illegal move without making this final king capture, which itself may be considered an illegal move.

Quick review: there are three ways to escape check: 1) move the king to a square that is not under attack; 2) interpose a piece into the line of the check; 3) capture the checking piece. That's a subset of the more general idea that there are four ways to react to a threat. In this general case, to the above, add: 4) ignore the attack and do something else. That last one doesn't work when the attack is on the king. See fundamental rule #2 above.

## A Beginner's Lament

*“So, I know how the pieces move, and I can usually manage a rook-roller when I've got extra stuff, but I keep missing long-distance attacks. How can I stop hanging pieces?”*

We do better at noticing attacked pieces and threats with experience. As the movement of the pieces becomes more and more familiar, we begin to automatically spot typical threats and we are less-often surprised by long-distance moves.

But I'm not saying that the *only* way to see attacks is to lose hundreds of games.

In fact, when we learn how pieces move, we're missing a key point. We shouldn't think "the rook can move here, or here, or here," we should instead think, "the rook is influencing this line." You cannot think only about individual moves. It's essential to think about areas of control. When a rook (as a consistent action-at-long-distance piece) moves onto an open file, you must "see" that it affects all of the squares along that line. With that in the back of your mind, you are much less likely to accidentally put your queen on that line, right? If you have to look at each enemy piece and ask if it can move to that square, you're probably doomed.

Knight effects are especially useful to see as squares under the control or influence of the knight. When beginners learn knight movement, there's often a significant period when knights seem to have fairly random, generally L-shaped moves. I try not to teach the knight move as the letter L, instead preferring to highlight the opposite-color squares in the second ring out from the knight. For the math-inclined, the knight moves radially, exactly the square root of five! Most of my students give me a blank look around here...

It's also very important to notice squares on which zones of influence converge. In other words, points under attack by multiple pieces (or pawns, of course). Those points could be the site of a sacrificial attack, or even simply overwhelmed by superior numeric force.

The good news? Practicing awareness of zones of control and lines of influence may help you gain that blunder-avoidance experience more quickly than just random play and lengthy suffering.

## Openings

*"What openings should I study?"*

This is a dangerous question. Traditional chess teaching says study endgames first, then gain experience playing open games, symmetric king pawn openings, gambits. All well and good, if you have unlimited time. Some students really should follow this path.

Others, of course, have little need of endgames, since they never survive the opening. And just how much endgame study should they do before absorbing enough opening theory to actually play chess? Do we need to know that in same-color bishop endings the pawns should aim for squares of the opposite color, but in opposite-color bishop endings, pawns tend to want protection by their own bishop? Rooks generally belong behind passed pawns? The theory of the opposition and corresponding squares in king and pawn endings? How to win queen versus rook without any pawns? How to draw rook versus rook and minor piece?

There is no absolute agreement about how much endgame theory is required to start, nor how much opening theory is useful for students who can barely checkmate with king and queen. It's apparent that progress should be made apace, across all areas of

the game. Having a guide, a coach, with a plan is very useful. It's easy for the self-taught to miss important areas and lack critical skills. I'm reminded of the joke that the one word no self-educated person knows is autodidact.

But I notice I've failed to answer the original question. Sigh. The best answer is to learn the first few moves of several different openings, reaching different types of positions. Make sure your choices follow the three main guiding principles of the opening: 1) Control the center; 2) Develop your pieces; 3) Secure your king.

Figure out which openings seem to feel the most comfortable, and you're probably beginning to recognize your current style. Now, focus on both improving your ability to play the comfortable positions, and, at the same time, practice the other uncomfortable ones, too. First, it's almost impossible, or at least non-optimal, to always obtain the kind of position you want in advance, and second, learning more about different structures and strategies will eventually improve your overall play in all structures.

If this kind of discussion proves popular, I'll muse upon more chess and coaching-related subjects in future posts.



**"DO YOU SOMETIMES FORGET HOW  
TO GET WHERE YOU'RE GOING?"**

# 2021 WA State Barber/Rockefeller Open Tournament

By Josh Sinanan

The 2021 Washington State Barber/Rockefeller Open Chess Tournament was held online via Chess.com April 10-11. Scholastic chess players from grades kindergarten through eighth participated from throughout the Pacific Northwest, including the cities of Seattle, Bellevue, Bothell, Sammamish, Camas, Redmond, West Richland, Clyde Hill, Issaquah, Gig Harbor, Mercer Island, Medina, and Chandler, Arizona. The event was hosted by the Washington Chess Federation and directed by WCF Scholastic Coordinator and TD Extraordinaire Jacob Mayer.

This year's event featured a new two-part format consisting of an open Swiss qualifier followed by a closed round robin tournament to select the Washington State Rockefeller and Barber representatives. The highest finishing Washington State resident in both the K-5 Open Section and the 6-8 Open Section automatically qualify for the Barber and Rockefeller closed events on June 5-6. The winners

of the six-player closed events each earn a \$750 travel stipend (donated by the WCF) and will be the official Washington State representatives to the Rockefeller (K-5) and Barber (6-8) Tournament of Champions. A total of 37 players competed in the Barber/Rockefeller Open across four sections separated by grade-level and rating: K-8 U900, K-8 Open, K-5 Rockefeller Open Qualifier, and 6-8 Barber Open Qualifier.

Congratulations to the winners:

K-8 U900: Alex Xu, Decatur Elementary School — 5.0/5 points!

K-8 Open: Krishnaprasath Senthil Kumar, Timberline Middle School — 5.0/5 points!

K-5 Rockefeller Open Qualifier: Lixing Shen, Christa McAuliffe Elementary School — 5.0/5 points!

6-8 Barber Open Qualifier: NM Joseph Levine, Eastside Preparatory School — 5.0/5 points!

## May 8 Seattle Chess Club Quads

By Josh Sinanan

The May SCC Quads were held

online via Chess.com on Saturday May 8 under the direction of WCF Adult Chess Director Rekha Sagar. The SCC Quads are co-organized by the Seattle Club and the Washington Chess Federation. A total of 18 players took part in three four-player quad sections and a six-player Mini-Swiss.

Quad One ended in a clean sweep for Indian IM Mitrabha Guha, who defeated last month's quad winners FM Ignacio Perez of Capitol Hill and Isaac "the Penguin" Vega of Beaverton, Oregon, along the way.

Nicholas Liotta from Seattle emerged victorious in Quad Two with an undefeated 2.5/3 points from three games, conceding only a single draw to second-place finisher Aaron Nicoski.

Quad Three was won by another Seattleite, Emerson Wong-Godfrey, also with 2.5/3 points.

Lois Ruff, The Chess Queen of Seattle, won the six-player Mini-Swiss with a perfect 3.0/3, a full-point ahead of her nearest rivals Selina Cheng and Dr. John Selsky.

Congratulations to the winners! Stay tuned for more events co-hosted by the WCF and SCC in the coming months...

# Vancouver Open

July 24 - 25, 2021

## A Northwest Chess Grand Prix Event

**Site:** Hampton Inn & Suites, 315 SE Olympia Drive, Vancouver, WA 98684. (360) 891-3000.

**HR:** \$169 Standard King/Double Queen Room. Cut-off date July 9.

**Format:** A 5-round US Chess Rated Swiss in one Open section. Maximum of 30 players, please register early. Max attendance may be increased depending on local health and safety regulations.

**Time Control:** Rd. 1: G/60; d10, Rds. 2-5: 40/120, SD/30; d10.

**Prize Fund:** \$1,200 (based on 30 paid entries).  
1<sup>st</sup> \$350, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$200  
1<sup>st</sup> U2200/U2000/U1800/U1600/U1400/U1200: \$100,  
Biggest Upset: \$50

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

**Entry Fee:** \$75 if postmarked or online by 7/17, \$85 after 7/17 or at site. Non-members of WCF/OCF/ICA add \$15. Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs.

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

**Rounds:** Saturday 10:00 AM, 12:30 PM, 6:00 PM  
Sunday 10:00 AM, 3:30 PM.

**Rating:** US Chess Rated. US Chess August 2021 rating supplement will be used to determine pairings and prizes. Foreign ratings used for players with no US Chess rating. Higher of US Chess or foreign ratings used at TD discretion.

**Memberships:** US Chess membership required.

**Covid Procedures:** Face masks are required for all players and spectators. Please bring your own mask, none supplied. Chess equipment will be sanitized between each round.



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

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

**Contact:** Josh Sinanan, WCF President

**Phone:** 206-769-3737

**Email:**  
WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com

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

**Final Standings. Seattle Chess Club Quads: 1st Quad**

#	Place	Name	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Total
1	1 - \$50	Mitrabha Guha	30023743	2441	W4	W2	W3	3
2	2	Ignacio Perez	12689583	2224	W3	L1	W4	2
3	3	Benjamin Yin	15583212	1922	L2	W4	L1	1
4	4	Isaac Vega	14490451	1999	L1	L3	L2	0

**Final Standings. Seattle Chess Club Quads: 2nd Quad**

#	Place	Name	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Total
1	1 - \$50	Nicholas Liotta	12990023	1660	D2	W4	W3	2.5
2	2	Aaron Nicoski	12797931	1810	D1	D3	W4	2
3	3	Edward Cheng	16257118	1717	D4	D2	L1	1
4	4	Leif Carman	30099283	1599	D3	L1	L2	0.5

**Final Standings. Seattle Chess Club Quads: 3rd Quad**

#	Place	Name	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Total
1	1 - \$50	Emerson Wong-Godfrey	17103947	1587	W3	W2	D4	2.5
2	2	Noah Condit	30176946	1464	W4	L1	W3	2
3	3	Stephen F Weller	12535404	1365	L1	W4	L2	1
4	4	Don Hack	16687214	1331	L2	L3	D1	0.5

**Final Standings. Seattle Chess Club Quads: Mini Swiss**

#	Place	Name	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Total
1	1 - \$50	Lois Ruff	12559533	1101	W2	W4	W5	3
2	Tied 2nd - \$12.50	Selina Cheng	17236746	1306	L1	W3	W6	2
3	Tied 2nd - \$12.50	John Selsky	16276056	707	W6	L2	W4	2
4	4-5	Ivy Edmond	17355215	1228	W5	L1	L3	1
5		Rhadean Rubaiyat	30015512	1101	L4	W6	L1	1
6	6	Holden Hawkins	30094680	1121	L3	L5	L2	0

**Official Final Standings. Seattle Chess Club Tornadoes: Open**

#	Place	Name	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Total	Prize
1	1-2	David Shahinyan	17351144	2574	W4	W9	W3	D2	3.5	Tied 1st/2nd
2		Mitrabha Guha	30023743	2441	X10	W6	W5	D1	3.5	Tied 1st/2nd
3	3-4	Edward Cheng	16257118	1717	W12	W5	L1	W6	3	
4		Emerson Wong-Godfrey	17103947	1587	L1	W10	W9	W8	3	1st U1700
5	5-8	Ignacio Perez	12689583	2224	W7	L3	L2	W11	2	
6		Aaron Nicoski	12797931	1810	W8	L2	W11	L3	2	
7		Gordon Winter	15336888	1443	L5	L11	B---	W9	2	Tied 2nd U1700
8		Aaron Xiao Gu	17345251	1255	L6	W12	W10	L4	2	Tied 2nd U1700
9	9-11	Mudit Johar	16694728	1821	W11	L1	L4	L7	1	
10		Ujwal Garine	17094456	1530	F2	L4	L8	B---	1	
11		Selina Cheng	17236746	1306	L9	W7	L6	L5	1	
12	12	Lois Ruff	12559533	1101	L3	L8	U---	U---	0	

## May 9 Seattle Chess Club Tornado

By Josh Sinanan

The May SCC Tornado was held online via Chess.com on Mother's Day Sunday, May 9, under the direction of WCF Adult Chess Director Rekha Sagar. The SCC Tornadoes are co-organized

by the Seattle Chess Club and the Washington Chess Federation. A motley mix of 12 players spanning nearly 1500 rating points and 76 years of age took part in one open section!

IM David Shahinyan from Armenia tied for first place with fellow IM Mitrabha Guha from India, drawing each other in the final round and each scoring 3.5/4 points. Sharing third- and fourth-

place honors, a half-point back at 3.0/4 were Seattleites Edward Cheng and Emerson Wong-Godfrey. Gordon Winter from San Diego, California, and Aaron Gu from Redmond split the second-place U1700 prize with two points apiece. Congratulations to the winners, and many thanks to the players and organizers who support these events! Next up is the Seattle Seafair Open on July 31-August 1. Hope to see you there!

# 2021 Washington Senior Championship

By Josh Sinanan

The 2021 Washington Senior Championship was held online via Chess.com April 16-18. Eleven seniors (age 50+) from parts of Washington State and British Columbia took part in the three-day, five-round tournament. Cities represented included Seattle, Shoreline, Kirkland, Edmonds, West Richland, Anacortes, Surrey, Prince Rupert, and Vancouver. The event was hosted by the Washington Chess Federation and directed by WCF Adult Chess Director Rekha Sagar, with assistance from WCF President Josh Sinanan. Of special note is that the 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 John T. Irwin National Tournament of Senior State Champions.

WCM Mary Kuhner and FM Ignacio Perez, both Seattleites, tied for first place with 4.0/5 points. Kuhner, the defending Washington State Senior Champion, started off with a bang by defeating Perez in the first round in a tense Staunton Gambit. Mary extended her lead in rounds two and three with wins over Fritz Scholz and Andrew Martin, and she was

the only player on 3.0/3 after the first two days of play. Mary finished solidly with draws against the two Richards (LaVoice and Ingram) in the final two rounds. After his loss to Kuhner in round one, Perez rebounded well, scoring key wins against Harry Bell in round four and Richard LaVoice in round five to catch up with Kuhner. Congratulations to our 2021 Washington State Senior Co-Champions: WCM Mary Kuhner and FM Ignacio Perez! Richard Ingram from Vancouver, B.C. finished in clear third place with an undefeated 3.5/5. Other prize winners include Richard LaVoice (U2000), Andrew Martin (U1700), and Don Hack (U1400).

Many thanks to all who contributed to this fantastic event!

**Ignacio Perez (2229) – Richard LaVoice (1911) [C19]**  
Washington Senior Championship  
Chess.com (R5), April 18, 2021  
*[Ralph Dubisch]*

**1.d4 e6 2.e4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e5 c5 5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.bxc3 Ne7 7.Nf3**

7.Qg4 Qc7 8.Qxg7 Rg8 9.Qxh7 cxd4 10.Ne2 Nbc6 11.f4 Bd7 12.Qd3 dxc3 is a well-traveled path, certainly known to both players.

**7...Qa5 8.Bd3**

8.Bd2 is the main move here, with play often going 8...Nbc6 9.Be2 (9.a4) 9...Bd7 (9...cxd4 10.cxd4 Qa4 11.Rb1 Nxd4 12.Bd3 seems sufficient compensation for

the pawn.) 10.0–0 c4∞

**8...cxd4 9.0–0 dxc3 10.Re1 Bd7 11.Rb1 Qc7 12.h4**

12.Be3

**12...Nbc6 13.h5 h6 14.Rb3 Na5 15.Rb4 0–0–0 16.a4 f6**

16...Nc4! 17.Bxc4 a5! ♯

**17.Rg4 fxe5?**

17...Nec6

**18.Nxe5 Rhg8 19.Bf4 Qb6 20.Be3 Qc7 21.Bf4 Qb6 22.Bg3 Be8 23.Rf4 g6 24.hxg6 Bxg6**



Position after 24...Bxg6

**25.Bh4?**

25.Nxg6 Nxg6 26.Rf7 seems quite straightforward, and very much in Ignacio's style, so I'm not sure what problem he may have seen here. 26...Rd7 (26...Ne7 27.Qf3 Rde8 28.Rf6; 26...Nf8 27.Rc7+ Qxc7 28.Bxc7 Kxc7 29.Qh5) 27.Qf3 Ne7 28.Bb5 Nac6 29.Rxe6+-

**25...Rde8 26.Rf6?!**

26.Bb5 Nac6 27.Rf6±

**26...Bxd3 27.Qxd3 Nf5 28.Qxc3+ Qc7 29.Qxc7+ Kxc7 30.Rf7+ Kc8**



Position after 30...Kc8

**31.Bf6?!**

White chooses to maintain the bishop, though there are also chances to target the e6 and h6 pawns if White allows the exchange on h4. 31.Nf3 Nc6 (31...Nc4 32.Rf6) 32.g3 Nxh4 (32...a5 33.Rf6 Kd7.) 33.Nxh4 Nd8 34.Rf6∞

**31...Nd6?!**



## Final Standings. Washington Senior Championship

#	Place	Name	ID	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total
1	1-2	FM Ignacio Perez	12689583	2229	L2	W8	W10	W6	W4	4
2		WCM Mary Kuhner	12005060	1878	W1	W7	W5	D4	D3	4
3	3	Richard Ingram	13212044	1880	W10	W5	D4	H---	D2	3.5
4	4-5	Richard LaVoice	12536519	1911	W9	W11	D3	D2	L1	3
5		Andrew Martin	17354117	1542	W6	L3	L2	W11	W7	3
6	6	Harry Bell	10176191	2000	L5	D9	W7	L1	W8	2.5
7	7-10	Fritz Scholz	12570766	2012	W8	L2	L6	W9	L5	2
8		James Hamlett	12374510	1561	L7	L1	B---	W10	L6	2
9		John P Christy	12561334	1400	L4	D6	W11	L7	H---	2
10		Don Hack	16687214	1267	L3	B---	L1	L8	W11	2
11	11	Lois Ruff	12559533	1027	B---	L4	L9	L5	L10	1

31...Ref8±

**32.Rh7 Nf5?!**

32...Ne4 33.Rxh6 Ref8 34.Bh4 Rh8  
35.Be7 Rxh6 36.Bxf8±

**33.Kh2 Ref8 34.Nf7**

34.Nd7! Re8 35.Bc3 Re7 (35...Nc6  
36.Nf6 Rh8 37.Rxe6!) 36.Rxe7 Nxe7  
37.Nf6 Rg6 38.Rxe6±

**34...Rg6 35.Rxe6**



Position after 35.Rxe6

**35...Kd7?**

The position is quite complex, but Black doesn't actually stand worse. He should bring his wayward piece, the knight on a5, back into the game on c6 or c4. 35...Nc6 36.c3 d4 37.cxd4 Nxd4 38.Rd6 Nc6, when White has nothing better than the repetition. (Not 38...Nxd6 39.Nxd6+

*Kb8 40.Bxd4, though, when White is winning.)*

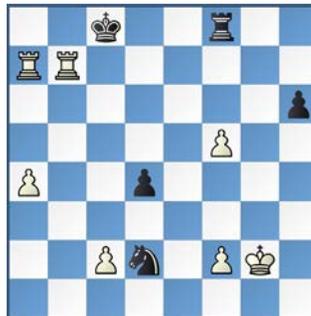
**36.Nd8+! Kc8 37.Bc3**

Or 37.Be5! Rxe6?? (37...Rfg8 38.Rxg6 Rxg6 39.Nxb7! Nxb7 40.Rc7+ Kb8!? (40...Kd8 41.Rxb7 leaves Black with a very steep hill to climb.) 41.Rg7+ Rd6 42.Rf7! Kc8 43.Rxf5 Re6 is actually comfortably winning for White, too.) 38.Nxe6

**37...Rxd8?**

37...Rfg8 38.Rxg6 Rxg6 39.Bxa5 b6 is likely just winning for White as well, but Black can put up some resistance.

**38.Rxg6 Nc6 39.g4 d4 40.Bd2 Ne5 41.gxf5 Nf3+ 42.Kg2 Nxd2 43.Rgg7 Rf8 44.Rc7+ Kb8 45.Rxb7+ Ka8 46.Rxa7+ Kb8 47.Rhb7+ Kc8**



Position after 47...Kc8

**48.Ra8+**

More or less instantly mating is 48.a5—49.a6—50.Ra8#, with some dodging of spite checks along the way.

**48...Kxb7 49.Rxf8 Ne4 50.f6 Kc7 51.f7 1-0**

**Ignacio Perez (2229) –  
Mary Kuhner (1878) [A83]**  
Washington Senior Championship  
Chess.com (R1), April 16, 2021  
*[Ralph Dubisch]*

**1.d4 e6 2.Nf3 f5 3.Bg5 Nf6 4.Nbd2 Be7 5.Bxf6 Bxf6 6.e4 fxe4**

6...d5 7.exf5 exf5 8.Bd3 0-0 9.0-0; 6...d6 7.Nxe4 0-0



Position after 7...0-0

Orlov Chess Academy  
IM Georgi Orlov  
2540 US Chess

Offers time-tested program,  
challenge and quick progress!

Chess Camps, Tournaments  
Chess Classes, Private Lessons

info@chessplayer.com  
www.chessplayer.com  
(206)-387-1253



## Chess4Life™

- Premium Center Classes
- Rated Tournaments
- Private Chess Lessons
- Chess Camps
- After School Clubs
- Workbooks & Materials

**LEARN LIFE | IMPROVE CHESS | HAVE FUN**

**KIDS@CHESS4LIFE.COM | 425-283-0549 | WWW.CHESS4LIFE.COM**

Join Us Today!

Black waves the red cape in front of the bull. Presumably Mary was aware of the risks.

### 8.Bd3 Nc6 9.h4

The solid 9.c3 is certainly an option. Black's kingside remains a juicy target even without sacrificing the center pawn.

### 9...Nxd4 10.Nfg5!? g6 11.Nxh7!? Kxh7



Position after 11...Kxh7

### 12.Qg4?

This amounts to a loss of tempo in some important lines. We don't know that the queen belongs on g4—perhaps it wants to swing to h5 in one move after the h-pawn is cleared away—so it's important to be incisive here. 12.h5! is the logical follow-up. Black may have a defense; this may even all be advance prep. But White

has chosen the path, and only walking it offers the chance to succeed. 12...Kg7 (12...Nf5?? 13.hxg6+ Kg7 (13...Kg8 14.Qh5 Qe7 15.Nxf6+) 14.Rh7+ Kg8 15.Qh5 illustrates my previous point.) 13.Qg4 (13.hxg6 Rh8! 14.Rxh8 (14.Rh7+ Rxh7 15.gxh7, and here 15...Be7!! is the surprising key to the defense, getting the bishop out of hock: 16.Qh5 d6 17.0-0-0 Kh8, and while White will certainly play on, he'll be attacking a king well-covered by White's own pawn, and dealing with an extra black piece.) 14...Qxh8 15.Nxf6 Kxf6 16.Qg4 Qh1+ 17.Bf1 Nf5 is still lacking a knock-out. (17...Nxc2+ 18.Kd2 Nxa1 (18...Qh6+ 19.Kxc2 Qxg6+ 20.Qxg6+ Kxg6 21.Bd3+∞) 19.Qf4+ Kxg6 20.Bd3+ Kg7 21.Qg5+ Kf8! 22.Qf6+ Kg8 and White must take the perpetual, not being able to bring sufficient force to mate.)) 13...g5 14.f4 Kh6 15.fxg5+ Bxg5 16.Nxg5 Qxg5 17.Qxd4 d5 looks like something of a defensive success, with both kings feeling a mite drafty.

### 12...Nf5! 13.f4

After 13.h5 g5 14.f4 even 14...gxf4 is possible.

### 13...Nh6 14.Ng5+ Kg8 15.Qg3 Nf5?!

15...Bxb2 16.Rb1 Qf6—

### 16.Qh3?

16.Bxf5! exf5 (16...Bxb2 17.Rb1 Rxf5 18.Rxb2 Qf6 is messy.) 17.0-0-0 and White is developing compensation.

### 16...Qe7 17.0-0-0



Position after 17.0-0-0

Now it's Black's initiative that matters, and she never looks back.

17...Qb4 18.Rdf1 Bxb2+ 19.Kd1 Qd4 20.Rf3 b6 21.h5 Bb7 22.hxg6 Bxf3+ 23.gxf3 Qg7 24.Nf7 Qxg6 25.Bxf5 exf5 26.Nh6+ Kg7 27.Rh2 Qg1+ 28.Kd2 Qd4+ 29.Ke1 Rae8+ 30.Kf1 Qd1+ 31.Kg2 Re2+ 32.Kg3 Qg1+

Perhaps picky to point out, but 32...Qe1+ is mate next move.

0-1

# Seattle Seafair Open

July 31 - Aug 1, 2021

A Northwest Chess Grand Prix Event



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

**Mail To:** Washington Chess Federation  
c/o Orlov Chess Academy  
4174 148th Ave. NE  
Building 1, Ste. M  
Redmond, WA 98052

**Contact:** Josh Sinanan, WCF President  
**Phone:** 206-769-3757

**Email:**  
WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com

**Registration:** Online at [nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration](http://nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration).  
Registration **deadline Fri. 7/30 @ 5pm.**  
\$15 Late Fee for payments accepted after the deadline. Unpaid players will receive a zero-point bye for round 1.

**Site:** Online via [Chess.com](https://www.chess.com)

**Format:** A 5-Round Swiss in one Open section. Co-hosted by the Seattle Chess Club & the Washington Chess Federation. Dual NWSRS and US Chess Online Rated. Accelerated pairings will be used if >60 players.

**Entry Fee:** \$50 by 7/24, \$60 after. Non-members of WCF/OCF/ICA add \$15. SCC members receive a \$15 discount. Free entry for GM/IM/WGM or US Chess Rating 2400+.

**Time Control:** G/60; +30. Late Default: 10 min.

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

**Prize Fund:** 60% of paid entries returned as prizes. Additional prizes may be added if >60 players.  
1<sup>st</sup> 22%, 2<sup>nd</sup> 15%, 3<sup>rd</sup> 10%  
1<sup>st</sup> U2200/U2000/U1800/U1600/U1400/U1200: 6% each  
Unrated Prize: 6%, Biggest Upset: 1% per round  
Best NW Player (by TPR): 6%

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

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

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

Fritz Scholz (2012) –  
 Mary Kuhner (1878) [D35]  
 Washington Senior Championship  
 Chess.com (R2), April 17, 2021  
 [Ralph Dubisch]

1.c4 e6 2.Nc3 c6 3.d4 d5 4.cxd5 exd5  
 5.Nf3 Nf6 6.Bg5 Be7 7.e3 Bf5 8.h3

This is hardly a blunder, but I'm really at a loss as to why White would want to play 8.h3 here. If the idea is to play Bd3 next move anyway, what does h3 do? 8.Bd3 Bxd3 9.Qxd3 (9.Bxf6!? Bxf6 10.Qxd3) 9...Nbd7 10.0-0-0

8...Nbd7 9.Bd3 Bxd3 10.Qxd3 Nf8?!



Position after 10...Nf8

I'm calling the plan to redevelop the knight dubious, because Black likes the bishop on e7, rather than f6, to slow the minority attack on the queenside. So not only does Black no longer have a knight available to recapture on f6, but if the f8-knight heads to e6 it only manages to encourage White's capture on f6. 10...0-0  
 11.0-0

11.Bxf6 Bxf6 12.b4± White starts his minority attack.

11...Ng6?!

The knight is misplaced on this square in terms of battling the queenside minority attack. Stockfish actually shows a strong preference for 11...N8d7 (!), claiming equality.; 11...Ne6 may make a little more sense than ...Ng6 in terms of positioning the knight for play against b4-b5, as it could support ...c5 in response. 12.Bxf6

Bxf6 13.b4±

12.Ne5?!

No, this isn't White's natural play. In no particular order, get the rooks over to b1 and c1, take f6, and push the queenside pawns. 12.Bxf6 Bxf6 13.b4± is a fine start.

12...Nxe5 13.dxe5 Nd7 14.Bxe7 Qxe7  
 15.f4 0-0 16.Rae1 f6 17.exf6 Nxf6 18.e4  
 dxe4 19.Nxe4 Nxe4 20.Rxe4 Qc5+  
 21.Kh2 Rad8 22.Qb3+ Qd5 23.Rf3  
 Qxb3 24.Rxb3



Position after 24.Rxb3

24...Rf7

With a series of very natural exchanges, we've managed to reach a completely equal double rook ending. Now White apparently feels the need to "do something."

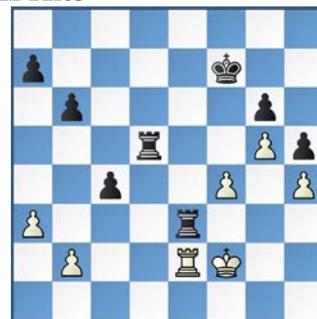
25.g4 h6 26.Kg3 Rfd7 27.Ree3 Kf7 28.  
 h4 b6 29.g5 h5 30.Rf3 Rd4 31.a3 c5  
 32.Rbe3 R8d5 33.Re2 g6 34.Rfe3 Rd3  
 35.Kf3 c4



Position after 35...c4

White is still fine here. The kingside pawn advances have slightly weakened the h4-pawn and f5-square. These are more cosmetic than actual problems, though.

36.Kf2 Rxe3



Position after 36...Rxe3

37.Rxe3?

Now this causes real damage. 37.Kxe3 is correct. White was probably worried about the h-pawn, but Black doesn't really have time to chase it down.

For example: 37...Rd3+ (37...Ke6 38.Ke4) 38.Ke4! Rh3 (38...Ke6 39.f5+ gxf5+ 40.Kf4+ Kf7 41.Kxf5 Rf3+ 42.Ke4 Rh3 43.Kf5) 39.Rd2 Ke6 40.Rd8 Rxh4 41.Rg8 Kf7 42.Rc8.

37...Rd2+ 38.Re2 Rxe2+ 39.Kxe2 Ke6  
 40.Ke3 Kf5 41.Kf3 b5 42.Ke3 a6 43.Kf3  
 a5 44.Ke3 b4

44...a4! 45.Kf3 b4! 46.axb4 c3!

45.Kd4

45.axb4 axb4 46.Kd4 Kxf4 47.Kxc4 Kg4 48.Kxb4 Kxh4 49.Kc5 Kxg5 50.b4 Kf6! avoids the need to play the queen and pawn versus queen ending:

a) 51.b5 Ke6 52.Kc6 (52.b6 Kd7 53.b7 Kc7) 52...h4 53.b6 h3 54.b7 h2 55.b8Q h1Q+ 56.Kc5 (56.Kc7 Qh2+) 56...Qd5+ 57.Kb4 (57.Kb6 Qb3+) 57...Qd6+;

b) 51.Kd6 h4 52.b5 h3 53.b6 h2 54.b7 h1Q 55.b8Q Qh2+;

45...c3!

0-1

Supporting and promoting chess related activities  
 throughout Washington State since 1946.

Josh Sinanan  
 President  
 joshsinanan@gmail.com

(206) 769-3757  
 4174 148th Ave NE, Building I, Suite M, Redmond, WA 98052

Sri Chess Academy  
 "Two Eyes and 64 Squares"

20405 123rd Ave NE  
 Bothell WA 98011

Also classes in Sammamish, Redmond and Bellevue

We train kids with age groups 6 and above.  
 Monday to Friday 6:30pm-8:00pm  
 Saturday and Sunday 9am-9pm  
 Contact: Sridhar Seshadri, Ph 425-492-4176  
 Email: SSeshadri@srichessacademy.com

# A Northwest Chess Grand Prix Event

## 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Seattle Chess Classic



August 13-15, 2021

Online via  Chess.com

**Format:** A 9-round Swiss in two sections: Open and Reserve U1800. Hosted by the Washington Chess Federation. Dual US Chess Online and NWSRS Rated.

**Entry fee:** \$90 by 8/6, \$100 after. Non-members of WCF/OCF/ICA add \$15. \$40 Play-up fee if rated under 1800 playing in Open section. Free entry for GM/IM/WGM or US Chess Rating 2400+.

**Time Control:** G/75; +15. Late Default: 10 minutes.

**Schedule:** Fri./Sat./Sun. @ 10 AM, 2 PM, 6 PM.

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

Open: 1st \$300, 2nd \$200, 3rd \$150, 1st U2200/U2000: \$100, Best NW Player (by TPR): \$50

Reserve: 1st \$200, 2nd \$150, 1st U1600/U1400/U1200/U1000: \$100, Biggest upset: \$50

Annotated Game Competition: \$50 per section. Submit one annotated game that you consider to be well-played or interesting. A panel of judges will select the winner in each section.

**Registration:** Please register online at [nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration](http://nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration). Registration **deadline Thurs. 8/12 @ 5pm**. \$15 Late Fee for payments received after the deadline. Unpaid players will receive a zero-point bye for round 1.

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

**Memberships:** Current US Chess membership required. Memberships must be paid at time of registration. A 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, 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:** Make checks payable to Washington Chess Federation. Mail To: Washington Chess Federation: c/o Orlov Chess Academy, 4174 148<sup>th</sup> Ave. NE, Building I, Ste. M, Redmond, WA 98052.

**Contact:** Josh Sinanan, WCF President, 206-769-3757, [WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com](mailto:WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com)

# The 2021 Russell “Rusty” Miller Memorial Northwest Grand Prix

Murlin Varner, Tally Man

Ok, April snuck by with barely a whimper, and now it is May. Or June to you, I suppose. The only activity added to our Grand Prix totals was the Seattle Chess Club April Quads (online), with twelve participants. The SCC Tornado for April was cancelled due to low registrations. Is online chess losing its allure? A few more are scheduled, so we'll have to see how those turn out.

The month of May offered two more attempts at the SCC monthlies, plus the venerable Washington Open. Since the Washington Open is scheduled for the last three days of the month, you may actually be reading this before it occurred, in which case, hurry up and register! Anyway, I hope to have a little more work in May than I had in April.

Looking ahead to the summertime, we have just one GP event for June, one for July, one which straddles July and August, and then one more in August. That's just four for the whole summer, so make the most of it. The June event is the Rusty Miller Memorial Open. Can't really call it the “First Annual” until there is a second one, just as the First Battle of Bull Run didn't get that name until after the Second Battle of Bull Run. (Don't know what that is? Better hit those history books in that case.) The prize fund at the Rusty Miller Memorial Open is a percentage of fees collected, so it is a non-multiplier event.

Those July-August events are three events which have earned the “Annual” title. The Vancouver Open in July is slated as our first attempt at OTB since March 2020. It is limited to 30 entrants, unless Covid limitations allow for more. If everybody would just get their shots, it could be gone by then. I got mine and it is easy to do. Did you know, even with vaccination appointments going unclaimed, an event near Spokane in late April resulted in over 100 new infections among people who hadn't even tried to get their shots? Seems dumb to choose sickness over a poke or two in the arm. And it makes the rest of us wait even longer to get back to “normal.”

Following the Vancouver Open are two more online events, the Seattle Seafair Open, and the Fifth Annual Seattle Chess Classic. I think this should be the Seventh Annual for the Vancouver Open, and someone from SCC will have to do the counting for me on the Seafair, because the US Chess computer records don't go that far back. I really hope that these will be the last of our Covid-inspired online events. It might be an idea to continue a few events where travel is not a thing, but it would be good to get back to the board. But for that, we need all of you to step up to the needle. Do it!

All data in the following chart is current through May 5.

Washington			Other Places				
last	first	pts.	last	first	state	pts.	
<b>Masters</b>			<b>Masters</b>				
1	Perez	Ignaco	13.5	1	Mitrabha Guha	IND	31.5
2				2	Lenderman Aleksandr	NY	23.0
3				2	Bernadskiy Vitaliy	UKR	23.0
4				4	Sharikov Alexander	RUS	22.0
5				5	Talukdar Rohan	CAN	16.0
<b>Experts</b>			<b>Experts</b>				
1	Vijayakumar	Advait	10.0	1	Guha Eshan	NJ	11.0
2	Levine	Joseph	9.0	2			
3				3			
4				4			
5				5			
<b>Class A</b>			<b>Class A</b>				
1	Razmov	Valentin N	10.0	1	Vega Isaac	OR	4.0
2	Ackerman	Ryan	8.0	2			
3	Bell	Harry	7.0	3			
4				4			
5				5			
<b>Class B</b>			<b>Class B</b>				
1	Nicoski	Aaron M	15.5	1	Ingram Richard	CAN	22.0
2	Ramkumar	Aditya	8.0	2			
2	Vemparala	Nikash	8.0	3			
4	Lu	Yiding	7.0	4			
5	Wang	Felicity	4.5	5			
<b>Class C</b>			<b>Class C</b>				
1	Cheng	Edward	19.0	1	Vasey Daniel	OR	25.0
2	Takayoshi	Evan R	12.0	2	Wei Brian	OR	13.0
3	Smith	Catherine	11.0	3	Kypriotakis Kyriakos	OR	11.0
4	Willy	Stephen	9.0	4	He Justin S	TX	8.0
5	Boey	Chad	4.5	5	Metzmaker Robert D, Jr.	IL	4.5
<b>Class D and below</b>			<b>Class D and below</b>				
1	Ruff	Lois A	23.5	1	Hack Don	CAN	8.0
2	Cheng	Selina	23.0	2	Guan Marie	CAN	2.0
2	Ehrenberg	Joshua B	18.0	3			
4	Carman	Leif J	17.5	4			
5	Kamel	Yaseen	16.0	5			
<b>Overall standings</b>							
1	Ruff	Lois A	23.5	1	Mitrabha Guha	IND	31.5
2	Cheng	Selina	23.0	2	Vasey Daniel	OR	25.0
3	Cheng	Edward	19.0	3	Lenderman Aleksandr	NY	23.0
4	Ehrenberg	Joshua B	18.0	3	Bernadskiy Vitaliy	UKR	23.0
5	Carman	Leif J	17.5	5	Ingram Richard	CAN	22.0
6	Kamel	Yaseen	16.0	5	Sharikov Alexander	RUS	22.0
7	Nicoski	Aaron M	15.5	7	Talukdar Rohan	CAN	16.0
8	Joshi	Atharva	14.0	8	Wei Brian	OR	13.0
8	Shen	Lixing	14.0	9	Yu Jiangwei	CA	11.0
10	Perez	Ignaco	13.5	9	Guha Eshan	NJ	11.0
11	Takayoshi	Evan R	12.0	9	Kypriotakis Kyriakos	OR	11.0
11	Zhang	Michelle	12.0	12	Hack Don	CAN	8.0
13	Meiyalagan	Ruban S	11.5	12	He Justin S	TX	8.0
14	Smith	Catherine	11.0	14	Aleksandrov Aleksej	BLR	5.5
14	Razmov	Gabriel	11.0	15	Metzmaker Robert D, Jr.	IL	4.5

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

Periodicals Postage

PAID

Seattle, WA

