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Oregon Closed Championship



Oregon Closed Challengers

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Players from the Champions Section: (L-R): Carl Haessler,
Champion Matt Zavortink, Nick Raptis, Zoey Tang, Cory
Russel, Konner Feldman, Wilson Gibbins, and Havish Sripada.
Players from the Challengers' Section: (L-R): Ryan
Richardson, Lennart Bjorksten, Darrel Bourne, David Murray,
Ryan Lu, Karl Cosner, Austin Tang, and Jason Cigan.
Photo credit: Mike Morris.

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"Multiple Susans" Photo credit: Philip Peterson.

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“Multiple Susans”
Philip Peterson.....Back Cover

Letter To The Editor

Dear Jeff,

I enjoyed reading Adam Porth's account of grandmaster Kayden Troff's visit to Pocatello (*NWC*, August 2021, p. 22). In his article Adam mentions Alex Yermolinsky and Timur Gareev as the other grandmasters who have visited Idaho the past 30 years. At least two other names can be added to this list, although one might be eliminated on a technicality.

Six-time US Champion Walter Browne won the 1996 Idaho Open which was held near the border of Nevada and Idaho in Jackpot. While in many ways an Idaho town including using Mountain instead of Pacific time, Jackpot is in Nevada, if barely.

The man behind the Jackpot events, Idaho Chess Hall of Famer Barry Eacker, directed many tournaments there at Cactus Petes in the 1990s. He also collaborated with Tom Keelan on the Cutthroat Classics in Sun Valley in the late 1990s which must rank among the strong tournaments ever held in Idaho.

While Browne may or may not be included on the list of grandmasters to visit Idaho, Igor Ivanov certainly should be. One of the last tournaments Igor played in before his death was the 2005 Idaho State University Presidential Challenge held in Pocatello. It is fitting that Igor gave a young Kayden a few chess lessons that as 16 years later they are the only players from Utah to achieve the grandmaster title.

Keep up the good work!

John Donaldson

2021 Oregon State Championship

Mike Morris

The high temperatures in Portland were in the 80's on July 16-19, 2021, a far cry from the record highs seen there just three weeks earlier, as 16 players and support crew coalesced at the historic Portland Chess Club to do battle in the Oregon State Championship and Challengers round robin tournaments.

The event is normally held in February, but of course this year the Covid-19 pandemic, as it has done to so many other facets of normal life, threw a wrench in the works. Five months later it was possible to gather players together, and battle was finally joined.

Matt Zavortink emerged as the Oregon Champion with an impressive 6.5 out of seven points. The tournament was decided in round six when Matt defeated Nick Raptis in a game with several time pressure mistakes. Raptis took clear second with five points and young Zoey Tang turned in a solid performance for third place with 4.5 points.

In the Challengers Section Jason Cigan, Ryan Richardson and Darrel Bourne tied for first with 4.5 points each. Richardson squeaked by on tiebreaks to be seeded into next year's Championship Section.

The tournament was directed by Mike Morris, Greg Markowski, and Mike Janiro.

**Matt Zavortink (2271) –
Nick Raptis (2393) [A11]**

2021 Oregon Closed Championship
Portland, OR (R6), July 20, 2021
[Wilson Gibbins]

When the pairings were published, this sixth-round game looked like it would be the most important game of the tournament, and it did not disappoint. The game was played between the two highest seeded players in the tournament, with the lower-rated player (Matt) getting the white pieces. Both players had 4.5 points out of 5, with one round remaining after this. Both players are motivated to be ambitious, but within reason. So don't expect any Benoni's or Poison Pawn variations, but don't expect any forced draw lines either.

1.Nf3 d5 2.g3 Nf6 3.Bg2 c6 4.c4 dxc4!?

Nick's move scores best in the database and is the first choice of engines. In addition, it gives both players some problems to solve. How hard should White work to get the pawn back? How hard should Black struggle to keep it? The classical developing move 4...Bf5 is played more often. But it leads to just the kind of positions White is aiming for after 5.Qb3.

5.0-0

Matt's choice is the best attempt to obtain an advantage. It is flexible—he may try to regain the pawn, or he may sacrifice it, depending on the approach Nick chooses. 5.Qc2 is one way to start work on regaining the pawn, but Black scores pretty well in these lines. 5...Be6 6.Ng5?! (6.Na3 might lead to an early draw after 6...Qd5 7.Nh4 Qd4 8.Nf3 but this is an approach we would expect more from the annotator, not Matt or Nick.) 6...Bd5 7.e4 h6.

The cowardly way to ensure White regains the pawn is 5.a4 to prevent Black from supporting his pawn with b7-b5. It is slow, so it also ensures that White will obtain no advantage out of the opening. But if there is a cowardly way to play an opening, rest assured that your annotator has researched it :-). Over the next few moves, Matt finds ways to attack the pawn and Nick finds ways to defend it.

5...Nbd7 6.Na3 Nb6 7.Qc2 Qd5

Another way for Black to protect the pawn is 7...Be6. After 8.Ne5 Wesley So and Anish Giri have played the enterprising 8...h5!?

8.b3!

Matt sacrifices a pawn. Punctuation provided by the Chessbase reference tab, not me. White can continue his attempts to regain the pawn with 8.Ne1 but Matt's choice is stronger.

8...cxb3 9.axb3 e6 10.Nc4 Qd8 11.Bb2 Be7 12.Rfc1 Nbd5 13.d4

We are entering a period of 20 moves of trench warfare. White has enduring compensation for the sacrificed pawn in the form of more center pawns and a little pressure on Black's queenside pawns. The engine evaluation will swing back and forth between the two players, but never

by much. No player will be able to claim a +1, much less a winning advantage.

13...Nb4 14.Qb1 0-0 15.Nfe5 Nd7 16.Nd3 Nxd3 17.Qxd3 Nb6 18.Na5 Nd5 19.e4 Nb6 20.Qc3 f6 21.Rd1 Qe8 22.Bc1 Qf7 23.Be3 f5 24.f3 Bd6 25.b4 f4 26.Bf2 Qc7 27.g4 Bd7 28.Rdc1 Rfc8 29.Bf1 Be8 30.Be2 Qe7 31.Rab1 e5 32.Qb2 Rab8 33.Kg2 Bf7 34.h3

And the period of trench warfare ends. Both players are short on time, so inaccuracies start to creep in to what has been high quality play up to this point.

34...Re8 35.Qd2?



Position after 35.Qd2

35...Rbd8?

In time trouble, Nick misses an opportunity. 35...exd4!± 36.Qxd4 (36.Bxd4 Nd5! 37.Bxa7 (37.exd5 Qxe2+) 37...Ra8 38.exd5 (38.Bc5 Bxc5 39.Rxc5 Ne3+) 38...Qxe2+) 36...Be5 37.Qc5 Ba2 38.Qxe7 Rxe7 39.Bxb6 axb6 40.Bc4+ Bxc4 41.Nxc4 with so many pieces gone, White's compensation for the pawn has disappeared. 41...Bc7

36.b5 c5 37.d5 Rc8 38.Ra1 Rc7 39.Ra2 Rec8 40.Bc4 h6 41.Be2?

Matt removes the blockade from Black's c-pawn, and

41...c4!±

Time control at move 40 means both players just got 30 extra minutes to find accurate moves. This time, Nick pounces on the Matt's inaccuracy, and advances his passed-pawn. Matt will suffer over the next ten moves.

42.Qe1 c3 43.Qg1 Bb4 44.Qd1 Qd6±

Maintains a big advantage. But 44...c2!+ turns a big advantage into a winning one. 45.Raxc2 (45.Qf1 Ba3) 45...Rxc2 46.Rxc2 Rxc2 47.Qxc2 Bxa5

45.Rcc2 Ba3 46.Nb3 Nc4 47.Bxc4 Rxc4 48.Na5 R4c7 49.Qb1 Bc5 50.Rxc3

Matt finally gets the pawn back that he sacrificed on move eight. But the cost was too great. Nick has a big edge with control of the only open file, and a safer king.

50...Bxf2!

OK, maybe the exlam should have gone to 49...Bc5, but Nick's idea is great—eliminate the defender of White's dark squares.

51.Rxc7 Qxc7 52.Kxf2 Qc3?

This looks logical, planning to invade with the queen on e3 and perhaps the rook on c1. But the engine points out the less intuitive way to invade on the dark squares. 52...Qd8!

53.Qb2?

53.Kg2!= so when Black plays 53...Qe3 it isn't check which gives White time to organize a defense. 53...Qe3 54.Qg1

53...Qe3+!-+ 54.Kg2 Qb6?=-

54...Rc1! 55.Qf2 Qd3+- makes the engine so happy. In the short run, the only problem I see for White is losing his pawn on b5. But maybe that is enough, as White has to worry about losing his knight on a5, getting his king attacked by Black's queen and rook, and the advance of Black's passed a and b pawns. So the engine is probably correct—White has no way to oppose Black's straightforward ideas.

55.Qd2 Be8 56.d6 Bd7=-

Another logical move, blockading the d-pawn. The illogical, carefree engine is willing to let the d-pawn advance with 56...Bf7 57.d7 Rd8 58.Rc2 Be6 59.Rc8 Rxc8 60.Nc4 Qd4!

57.Qd5+ Kh7 58.Qxb7 Qxd6 59.Qxa7 Rc1 60.Nb3 Rb1?

60...Rd1!-+ keeps White's rook off the d-file. White's b-pawn may look dangerous, but Stockfish assures us that Black is in complete control. 61.Qf2 (61.b6? Qd3 and White's king is in grave danger, which will require him to let Black take the knight on b3.) 61...Qb4 62.Nc5 Bxb5

61.Rd2!± Qf6 62.Qxd7?=-

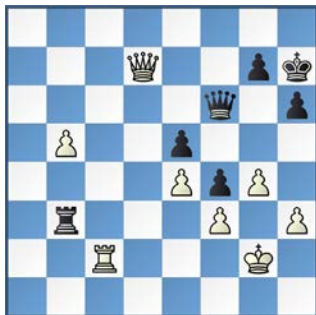
62.Qa2! Attacks Black's rook, brings the queen back for defense, and retains the attack on Black's bishop. 62...Qh4 63.Qxb1 Qg3+ 64.Kh1± (64.Kf1? Bxb5+!-+)

62...Rxb3?

Nick's last chance to maintain equality

was 62...Qh4! White is advised to take the perpetual with 63.Qf5+! (63.Rd1? Qg3+ 64.Kf1 Qxf3+ 65.Ke1 Qxe4+ 66.Kf2 Rxb3 (66...Qe3+ 67.Kf1 Qxb3+ 68.Ke1 Qc3+ (68...Qxb3? 69.Qf5+=) 69.Kf1 Qf3+ 70.Ke1 Qe4+ 71.Kf2 Rxb3 is better but more complicated.)) 63...Kh8 64.Qf8+

63.Rc2!



Position after 63.Rc2

Nick has held a clear edge for many of the last 20 moves or so. But now, for the first time in the game, Matt is winning.

63...h5

The move 63...Qh4 no longer works when White's rook is on the open c-file (Black's queen protected against rook checks on d8). 64.Qf5+ Kg8 65.Rc8+

64.Rc6 Qg5 65.h4 Rd3 66.Qxd3 Qxh4 67.Qe2 hxg4 68.fxg4 Qg3+ 69.Kh1 Kg8 70.Qa2+

If Black plays 70...Kh7, then 71.Qh2+ takes the queens off the board. If Black plays 70...Kf8, then 71.Rc8+ leads to checkmate soon.

1-0



Wilson Gibbins –
Corey Russell [A14]

2021 Oregon Closed Championship
Portland, OR (R1), July 16, 2021
[Fritz & Corey Russell]

For the following seven annotated games, all comments are Fritz except where I add my initials (-cjr) at the end of a comment.

1.c4 e6 2.g3 d5 3.Bg2 Nf6 4.Nf3 c6 5.b3 Nbd7 6.Bb2 Be7 7.0-0 0-0 8.d3 a5 9.Nc3 Qb6 10.Qc2 Re8 11.d4

White is slightly better.

11...Qa6 12.c5 b6 13.cxb6 Nxb6 14.Ne5 Bb7 15.Nd3 Nfd7 16.e4 Rac8 17.Rfe1 c5 18.dxc5 d4 19.Ne2

19.Bf1= keeps the balance.

19...Nxc5± 20.Nxc5 Bxc5 21.Red1?



Position after 21.Red1

21.Qd1± was necessary.

21...Bb4!-+

Black is clearly better.

22.Qd3 Qxd3 23.Rxd3 Ba6

Precision: White = 37%, Black = 75%.

What's unusual about this game is my opponent spent about an hour and I spent three minutes! Some might say that's a bit reckless, however this was not an open position (until the end) and I've been in this kind of position before so knew what I needed to do. Also, I of course thought on my opponent's time and often guessed what his move was which meant I knew what my response was.-cjr

0-1

Corey Russell –
Nick Raptis [E73]

2021 Oregon Closed Championship
Portland, OR (R2), July 17, 2021
[Fritz & Corey Russell]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 0-0 5.Be2 d6 6.Bg5 Na6 7.f4 c6 8.Nf3 Nc7 9.d5 Bd7

9...cxd5= 10.cxd5 Na6

10.e5± Nfe8 11.exd6

White should try 11.0-0±

11...Nxd6. 12.c5 Nf5

Hoping for ...cxd5.

13.d6 Ne6 14.dxe7 Nxe7 15.0-0 Nxc5 16.Nxc5 Nf5

Threatens to win with ...Ne3.

17.Nxf7

17.Qd2♠ is a better defense.

17...Rxf7-+

Don't play 17...Kxf7 18.Bc4+ Be6 19.Bxc6+ Kxc6 20.Re1+ Kf6 21.Qb3.

18.Bc4 Be8 19.Qxd8 Rxd8 20.Rfd1 Rd4 21.Bxf7+ Bxf7 22.Ne2 Rd5 23.Rab1

23.Rxd5♠ was worth a try. 23...cxd5 24.g4

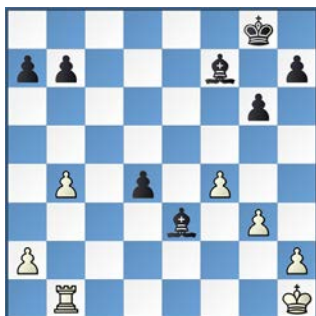
23...Nd4 24.Nxd4 Bxd4+ 25.Kh1 Bxc5 26.Rxd5 cxd5 27.b4?

27.Re1

27...Be3 28.g3

28.g4

28...d4



Position after 28...d4

Black is clearly winning.

29.Kg2 Bxa2 30.Ra1 Bd5+ 31.Kf1 d3

Precision: White = 32%, Black = 75%.

0-1

**Corey Russell –
Havish Sripada [E06]**

2021 Oregon Closed Championship
Portland, OR (R3), July 17, 2021
[Fritz & Corey Russell]

1.d4

This was a curious game where both players are playing fast as if the club's on fire and we want to finish it and get out of there. For me, my explanation is I got horrible sleep at my motel (I rarely sleep good away from home), and as a result don't have the endurance that might have had if I was rested. Not sure what Havish's explanation is...this explains the final blunder.-cjr

1...d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.c4 e6 4.g3 Be7 5.Bg2 0-0 6.0-0 c6 7.Nc3 b6 8.Qd3?!

Had I chance to do this move over, would have chosen Qc2 instead. The text allows a troublesome ...Ba6 though my opponent played quickly so didn't play it.-cjr

8...Bb7 9.e4

9.Bf4±

9...Na6

9...dxc4= 10.Qe2 b5

10.e5

White is slightly better.

10...Nd7

This move is probably ok, but the intermezzo 10...dxc4! 11. Qxc4 Nd5 and Black is doing well.-cjr

11.a3 Nc7 12.Re1 c5 13.h4?!

As distasteful as it was, 13. cxd5 should be preferred.

13...dxc4 14.Qxc4 Nd5 15.Ng5 h6 16.Nh3 cxd4 17.Qxd4 Nc5 18.Qg4 Kh7 19.Be4+

I certainly didn't want to play this move but both ...Nb3 and ...Nd3 were very troublesome, so this was the only way to force that pesky knight off.-cjr

19.Rd1=

19...Nxe4. 20.Nxe4

20.Qxe4+♠ deserves consideration. 20...Kg8 21.Nf4

20...f5♠ 21.exf6 Nxf6 22.Nxf6+ Bxf6 23.Nf4 Bd4

And now ...e5 would win.

24.Be3

Strongly threatening Rad1.

24...e5?!



Position after 24...e5

Instead 24. ...Rxf4! 25. Qxf4 Qd5 seems more enterprising.-cjr

24...Bxb2= keeps the balance. 25.Rad1 Qf6

25.Ne6!± Qd5??

25...Qf6± 26.Bxd4 (26.Nxd4 exd4 27.Bxd4 Qf7±) 26...exd4 27.Qxd4 (27.Nxf8+ Rxf8 28.Re2 Bf3♠) 27...Qxd4 28.Nxd4 Rf7

26.Qxg7#

Precision: White = 31%, Black = 43%.

1-0

Carl Haessler –

Corey Russell [A00]

2021 Oregon Closed Championship
Portland, OR (R4), July 18, 2021
[Fritz & Corey Russell]

1.Nf3 d5 2.b4

It's extremely rare that Carl plays main line anything, so this move came as no surprise. However, after our extensive analysis of the game afterwards, we came to the conclusion that Black was always equal/better because of his passed c-pawn (because White's b-pawn got to b5). Had Carl did a normal move of b3 instead of b4 but everything else the same, he should have had at least small advantage.-cjr

2...Nf6 3.Bb2 e6 4.a3 a5 5.b5 c5 6.e3 b6 7.Be2 Nbd7 8.c4

The position is equal.

8...Be7 9.cxd5 exd5 10.0-0 0-0 11.Nc3 Bb7 12.d4 Re8 13.Ne5 Nxe5

13...cxd4= 14.exd4 Bd6

14.dxe5± Ne4 15.Nxe4 dxe4 16.Bc4 Qxd1 17.Rfxd1 Red8 18.e6

18.h3=

18...fxe6

Black should play 18...f6♠

19.Bxe6+= Kf8! 20.Be5

Hoping for Bc7.

20...Bf6

20...Rxd1+!= 21.Rxd1 Rd8 22.Rxd8+ Bxd8

21.Bc7!± Rdc8!?

I saw that if Carl gave back the exchange and took on b6 it was equal. But I also saw that if Carl keeps the exchange, my king and bishops can help force my c-pawn as well if I play it right, I can keep his QB away from the queen side making progress much easier. Carl, who doesn't want a simple draw, goes for blood, not realizing just yet it's going to be his...however, Carl learned from this game and later was in a similar situation where he was winning/better at one point, but now it was equal, and unless he wanted to lose, he needed to take the draw, which he did that game.-cjr

22.Bxc8 Rxc8 23.Bd6+

23.Bxb6± Bxa1 24.Rxa1

23...Kf7= 24.Rab1 Ke6!

Threatening ...c4.

25.g4

25.Bg3= remains equal. 25...Bd5 26.f4

25...Bd5

25...c4♠ 26.Bg3 Be7

26.Bg3. c4 27.f4!

Black must now prevent f5+. Carl probably thought that if Black goes for the pawns the pin on the e-file would be problematic. However, he missed an intermezzo that Black has which solves all of Black's problems, meaning Carl just threw away two pawns.-cjr

27...exf3 28.e4! Bxe4 29.Re1

29.Rd6+. Kf7 30.Re1

29...Bd4+ 30.Bf2 Bxf2+! 31.Kxf2

Endgame KRR-KRB

31...Ke5 32.Rbd1

Next Rd7 is good for White.

32...c3

And now ...c2 would win.

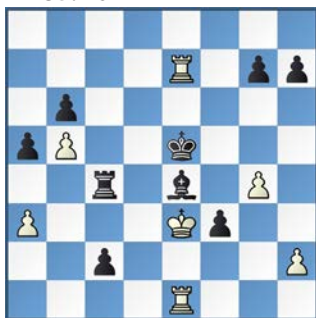
33.Rd7

Aiming for Re7+.

33...Rc4! 34.Ke3?

34.Re7+ 34.Kf4 35.Rf7+ Kxg4 36.Rg1+ Kh5 37.Rfxg7

34...c2+ 35.Re7+



Position after 35.Re7+

35...Kd5! 36.Kd2?

36.Rd7+ Ke6 37.Rd8 c1B+ 38.Rxc1! Rxc1 39.Re8+ Kd6 40.Rxe4

36...f2

Precision: White = 39%, Black = 43%.

0-1

Corey Russell –

Konner Feldman [D04]

2021 Oregon Closed Championship

Portland, OR (R5), July 18, 2021

[Fritz & Corey Russell]

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.e3 c6 4.Be2 Bf5 5.0-0 e6 6.b3 Nbd7 7.Bb2 Ne4 8.a3

The position is equal.

8...Bg6 9.Nbd2 f5 10.c4 Bd6 11.b4 0-0 12.Ne5 Nxe5 13.dxe5 Bc7 14.f4 Nxd2 15.Qxd2 dxc4 16.Qxd8 Rfxd8 17.Bxc4 Kf7 18.Bd4 Bb6

Konner offered a draw here. Objectively I should have taken it as I am about to be worse, but I saw some winning chances so declined. However, even though I did look pretty deep, I missed his later ...b5! which changes the position clearly in his favor (e.g. winning).-cjr

19.Bxb6 axb6 20.Rad1 Bh5 21.Rd6

21.Rxd8! = Rxd8 22.b5

21...Rxd6+ 22.exd6

Endgame KRB-KRB

22...b5 23.Bb3 Rxa3 24.Rb1 Be2

A much easier win is 24...Kf6 25.d7 Ra8 26.Rb2 Rd8 33.Rd2 Ke7 and White will be two pawns down with nothing to show for it.-cjr

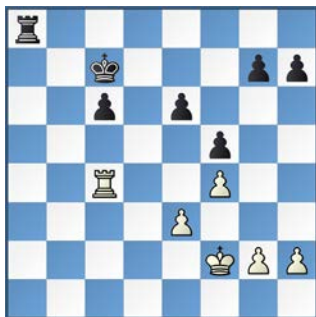
25.d7 Ra8! 26.Kf2

Black must now prevent Ra1!

26...Bc4 27.Bxc4 bxc4

KR-KR

28.b5 Ke7 29.bxc6 bxc6 30.Rc1 Kxd7 31.Rxc4 Kc7



Position after 31...Kc7

I almost resigned here. But I remember that rook and pawn endgames have the reputation for miracle draws, maybe I can pull out a draw? So fought on what do I got to lose?-cjr

32.h3 Kb6 33.Rb4+ Kc7

33...Ka6!

34.Rc4! 34.Rc8

This is the wrong plan. Black probably remembered "Put your rooks behind your passed pawns!" However, the problem is what do with the black king. If he advances the black king too fast, White gets to the seventh, or White gets infinite checks or Black's king is too passive. Therefore, a better way to proceed is 34...Ra5! 35.g4 c5 36.gxf5 exf5 37.Ke2 Kc6 and Black can advance his king without any of the problems of the text.-cjr

Black should play 34...Ra5 35.Rc3 c5

35.g4 Kb6

35...Ra8 36.Rb4+! = Ka5 37.Rb7 c5 38.Ke2 fxc4 39.hxc4 Rd8?

36.Rb4+! = Ka5 37.Rb7 c5 38.Ke2 fxc4 39.hxc4 Rd8?

Black is under-estimating the power of pawns. Instead ...Rg8 and it's probably equal as White can win the e6-pawn.-cjr

39...g5=

40.Rxg7 41.Rxh7 c3 42.Rc7

42.e4! 42...Rd2+ 43.Kf3 Kb4 44.f5 exf5 45.gxf5

Threatens to win with e4.

45...Rd5?

45...c2= and Black is okay.

46.e4+ Rd1?

46...Rd3+ 47.Kf4 Kb3

47.e5 Kb3 48.f6 Rf1+ 49.Ke4?

49.Kg2+- is the precise move to win. 49...Rf4 50.f7

49...Re1+?

49...c2± 50.Kd4 Rd1+ 51.Ke3 Rf1

50.Kd5 Rd1+ 51.Ke6! c2 52.f7 Rf1 53.Ke7 c1Q 54.Rxc1 Rxc1 55.f8Q Rc7+ 56.Kd6

Precision: White = 53%, Black = 30%.

1-0

Zoey Tang –

Corey Russell [D35]

2021 Oregon Closed Championship

Portland, OR (R6), July 20, 2021

[Fritz & Corey Russell]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.cxd5 exd5 5.Bg5 Be7 6.e3 c6 7.Bd3 Nbd7 8.Nge2 0-0 9.0-0 Re8 10.f3 Nh5 11.Bxe7 Qxe7 12.e4 dxe4

White is slightly better.

13.fxe4 Nb6 14.Qe1 Be6

Zoey instead suggested ...c5 here. I wanted to do that, and that was the idea of my play to this point but was hesitant to do with my development issues. However, I lost a crucial tempo when she did d5 when my bishop was on e6, so she is probably right.-cjr

15.b3 c5 16.d5 Bd7 17.Qf2 Nf6 18.h3↑

White has good play.

18...Nc8 19.Rae1 b6 20.Ng3

Strongly threatening e5.

20...Qe5

I thought Nb5 was really strong here for three reasons: 1) stops ...Nd6 (Nc7 forks rooks) 2) if I take on b5, she gets a temp and then Nf5 is really strong 3) If

I attempt ...a6 then Na3-c4 is strong.-cjr

21.Nce2

Better is 21.Nb1

21...Nd6= 22.Nf4

22.Qf4= keeps the balance.

22...Rac8

22...h5!≠ 23.Nfe2 h4

23.Ba6

Nd3 is the strong threat.

23...Bb5

23...Nfxe4= 24.Bxc8 Bxc8 25.Nxe4 Nxe4

24.Bxb5±

Much weaker is 24.Bxc8?! Bxf1 25.Qxf1 (25.Rxf1 Nfxe4 26.Nxe4 Nxe4.) 25...Rxc8=

24...Nxb5



Position after 24...Nxb5

25.Nfh5! Nxb5 26.Qxf7+ Kh8 27.Nxb5 Nd6 28.Qf4 Qxf4

Surely the losing move. For some reason I was only thinking of squares and not that I was a down a pawn. Zoey pointed out in the post-mortem that instead 28... Qd4+ 29. Kh2 Nxe4 30 Nxb5! Kxb5 (... Qxb5 Rxe4) 31. Qg4+ Kh8 32. Rxe4! Qxd5 (not ...Rxe4?? Qxc8+) and it looked drawish to her.-cjr

29.Rxf4 Re5 30.Ng3 g6 31.Kf2 Kg7 32.Ke3 Rce8 33.Kd2 Rg5 34.Rf3 Rec5

34...c4± deserves consideration.

35.Kd3 h5

35...Re7

36.Re2! Re7 37.Nf1 Nf7

White should prevent ...Ne5+.

38.Rfe3 Ne5+ 39.Kc3 h4 40.Nd2 Kf7

40...Rf7± was called for. 41.Nc4 Kf6

41.Nf3+- Rh5 42.Nxe5+ Rhxe5

Endgame KRR-KRR

43.Kd3 Ke8 44.Rf3 Kd7 45.Rf6 g5 46.a4 Rg7 47.Ref2

47.a5+-

47...g4?

47...Rge7± is tougher.

48.Rf7+ Re7 49.Rxg7 Rxg7

KR-KR

50.e5 gxh3 51.gxh3 Rg3+?

51...Ke8 52.Ke4 Rg1

52.Ke4 Rxh3?

52...Rxb3 53.Rf7+ Ke8

53.Rf7+?

53.e6+ Kc7 54.Rf7+ Kc8 55.d6

53...Ke8?

53...Kc8 54.e6 Rxb3

54.e6

Intending d6 and mate. White is clearly winning.

54...Rxb3 55.d6 Rb4+ 56.Ke5

Threatening mate with d7+.

56...Rd4 57.d7+ Kd8 58.Rf8+ Kc7 59.Rc8+

Precision: White = 67%, Black = 36%.

59.e7 Kb7 60.d8Q Rxd8 61.exd8Q Ka6 62.Qe8 c4 63.Rf7 h3 64.Qb5#

1-0

Corey Russell –

Matt Zavortink [A65]

2021 Oregon Closed Championship
Portland, OR (R7), July 20, 2021

[Fritz & Corey Russell]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.f3 0-0 6.Be3 c5 7.d5 e6 8.Qd2 exd5 9.cxd5 Nbd7?

Objectively ...Nbd7 is fine—however, I was in fighting mood and thus ...a6! would be met by O-O-O. Black is probably faster but was going to play it anyways. With the text I realized I could play positionally and get an advantage (which is what happened).-cjr

10.Nh3 a6 11.a4 Ne5 12.Nf2 h5 13.Be2 Nh7 14.0-0 f5 15.exf5 gxf5 16.Nh3 Kh8 17.Rfd1 Qe8 18.Nf4 Rf6

18...Rg8

19.a5 Bd7 20.b3 Qf7 21.Na4 Rg8 22.Nb6 Bb5 23.Rac1 Bh6 24.Kh1 Nf8 25.b4 Bxe2 26.Qxe2 Nfg6 27.Nxg6+

27.Nxb5 Nh4≠; 27.Ne6!+- Bxe3 28.Qxe3

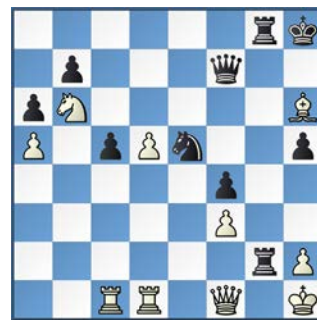
27...Rfxg6± 28.Bxh6

And now Bf4 would win.

28...Rxg2 29.Qf1!

Hoping for Bf4.

29...f4 30.bxc5 dxc5?



Position after 30...dxc5

30...Kh7±

31.Qxg2?

I was playing good up to this point, though I did miss a few wins. However, Matt did a great job to confuse the issue. I am totally befuddled by the gazillion permutations his queen, knight and pawns can do, and thus do not find the correct defense. I'm sure Nick Raptis would say I played too fast, but in my defense I just had a grueling defensive game with Zoey Tang and also was unable to get any sleep at my hotel. As a result, was playing fast as a result of my fatigue.-cjr

31.Rxc5 Kh7±; 31.Nc4!+- Nd7 32.Re1

31...Rxg2= 32.Kxg2

h4 is the strong threat.

32...Qg6+ 33.Kh1?

33.Kf1= and White stays safe. 33...Qf5 34.Kg2 (34.Rxc5 Qh3+ 35.Ke1 Qxf3≠) 34...Qg6+ 35.Kf2 Qxh6 36.d6 (36.Rxc5? Qd6≠)

33...Nxf3→

Black wants a kill.

34.Rc4?

But not 34.Bxf4? Nh4+-; 34.Rf1≠ Qe4 35.Rf2 Ne5+ 36.Kg1 (36.Rg2? f3+-)

34...Nd4 35.Bxf4

Strongly threatening Rxd4.

35...Qe4+ 36.Kg1 Qxf4 37.Rd3?

37.Rf1 is a better defense. 37...Qg4+ 38.Kh1

37...h4

(→...Qg4+)

38.h3?

38.Ra3

38...Nf3+

38...Qg5+ 39.Kh1 Qf5 40.Rxd4 Qxh3+ 41.Kg1 cxd4 42.Rc8+ Kg7 43.Rc7+ Kg6

39.Kf2?

39.Rxf3 Qxf3 40.Rxh4+ Kg7 41.Rg4+ Kh6 42.Rh4+ Kg6 43.Rg4+ Kf5 44.Kh2

39...Qg3+! 40.Ke2 Nd4+ 41.Rcxd4 Qg2+ 42.Ke3 Qxh3+

Don't take 42...cxd4+ 43.Kxd4 Qb2+ 44.Ke4

43.Ke4?

43.Kd2 Qh2+ 44.Kc3 cxd4+ 45.Rxd4

43...Qg4+ 44.Ke5 Qg5+

44...cxd4? 45.d6+-

45.Ke6?

45.Kd6 cxd4 46.Kc5

45...cxd4 46.Rxd4 Qe3+

Precision: White = 26%, Black = 43%.

0-1

David Murray (1859) –
Karl Cosner (2048) [A51]
2021 Oregon Closed Challengers
Portland, OR (R5), July 18, 2021
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e5 3.Bg5?!

An innovative way to meet the Budapest, though it can't be as good as following the main lines: 3.dxe5 Ng4 and White has several decent choices. The only reason to avoid this is fear that Black is better prepared. (3...Ne4 4.a3!? Qh4 (4...Nc6 5.Nf3 d6 6.Qc2) 5.g3 Qh5 6.Bg2 Qxe5 7.Qc2 looks fairly simple and quite promising for White.)

3...Bb4+ 4.Nc3 exd4 5.Qxd4 Nc6 6.Qe3+ Qe7 7.Qxe7+ Kxe7 8.0-0-0?!

8.Rc1

8...Bxc3 9.bxc3 h6 10.Bh4?!

10.Bxf6+ Kxf6 11.Nf3 d6 12.Nd4 Re8 13.e3.

10...g5 11.Bg3 Ne4 12.Kb2



Position after 12.Kb2

12...f5

Why not simply 12...d6?, develop, and play chess with the better pawn structure and minor pieces? The bishop-pair are not a factor here, as long as Black avoids opening up the position.

13.f3 f4

13...Nxc3 14.hxc3 d6.

14.Be1 Nd6 15.e4 fxe3?

Perhaps Black thought he could keep the extra pawn, but this capture opens the center and allows White to activate the bad bishop from f1. Black has a nice advantage with 15...Ne5, aiming to take c4 and perhaps occupy the e3-outpost with a mega-knight.

16.h4 g4?!

Black can hold on with 16...Nf7.

17.c5 Nf7 18.Rd3 d5?!

Self-restricting—and soon self-pinning—the c8-bishop. Better 18...d6 19.Rxe3+ Kf8±.

19.Rxe3+ Be6 20.f4 Kd7 21.Bd3 d4?

21...Ne7±

22.cxd4 Bd5?

22...Rae8 23.Ne2 Bd5 at least avoids entombing the rook.

23.Bf5+ Kd8 24.h5 Ne7 25.Bh4 Ng5 26.Rxe7 Kxe7 27.fxc5 Rhf8 28.g6+ Ke8 29.Bd3 b6 30.g7 Rg8 31.Bg6+ Kd7 32.c6+ Kxc6 33.Bf6 Rae8 34.Bxe8+ Rxe8 35.Rh4 Re4 36.Nf3?!

36.Be5! Re1 (36...Kd7 37.g3 Ke7 38.Rh2) 37.Rxc4 Rxc1 38.g8Q+-

36...Re2+ 37.Kb1

37.Kc1 gxf3 38.gxf3 Rg2

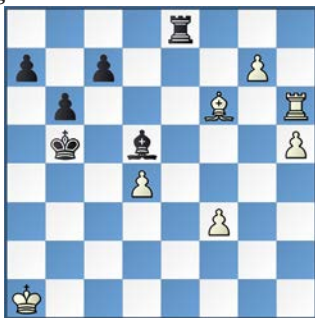
37...gxf3 38.gxf3 Bxa2+ 39.Ka1 Bd5?

39...Rg2±

40.Rg4 Re8

40...Bg8

41.Rg6 Kb5 42.Rxb6



Position after 42.Rxb6

42...Kb4?

Black can create some obscure complications and significant technical difficulties with 42...Re1+ 43.Kb2 Kc4 44.Rg6 Re2+ 45.Kc1 Kc3 46.Bh4 (46.Kd1? Re6! 47.Be5 (47.g8Q?? Bb3+ 48.Kc1 Re1#) 47...Rxc6 48.hxc6 Bxf3+ 49.Kc1 Bd5) 46...Rh2 47.Be1+ Kd3 48.Rg5 (48.g8Q Bxc6 49.Rxc6 Rxb6

50.Bg3 Kxd4 51.Kd2/) 48...Bg8 49.d5±.

43.Be5! c5 44.Rh8 Bg8 45.Rxc6! Rxc6 46.h6 cxd4 47.Bxd4 Kb3 48.h7 Re8 49.g8Q+

1-0

Zoey Tang (2169) –
Konner Feldman (1998) [D00]
2021 Oregon Closed Championships
Portland, OR (R1), July 16, 2021
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.d4 Nf6 2.Bg5 g6 3.Bxf6 exf6 4.e3 d5 5.g3 c6 6.Bg2 Bg7 7.Ne2 0-0 8.0-0 Nd7 9.Nd2 Nb6 10.b3 Bf5 11.c4 dxc4?

Capturing away from the center releases the tension and improves White's central control. Better moves include 11...Re8; and 11...a5, with complex maneuvering ahead in either case.

12.bxc4 Bd3 13.Rc1 Re8 14.Re1 g5?!



Position after 14...g5

This appears to be an attempt to contain White's knights, but the positional damage is too great. 14...Bxe2 15.Rxe2 f5 16.c5 Nd5 17.Nc4± doesn't look at all promising, but hope is not yet lost.

15.Qb3 Bg6 16.c5 Nd7

16...Nd5 doesn't help: 17.Qxb7 claims both material and positional dominance.

17.Qxb7 Ne5 18.dxe5 Qxd2 19.exf6 Bxf6 20.Qxc6 Be5 21.Qd5 Rad8 22.Qxd2 Rxd2 23.a4

23.c6 seems a more direct method, but White's extra material and passed pawn don't need to rush too much.

23...Bc2 24.Nd4 Bxa4

24...Bxd4 25.exd4 Rxe1+ 26.Rxe1 Rxd4 27.c6 Bf5 asks White to prove the win.

25.Nf3 Rd7 26.Rc4 Bb5 27.Re4 Rd5 28.Nxe5 Rdx5 29.Rxe5 Rxe5 30.Rc1 Ba6 31.c6 Bc8 32.Rd1 Kf8? 33.c7 Re7?

33...Kg7 gives up "only" a piece. Black allows a nice finishing tactic.

34.Rd8+ Re8 35.Bc6

1-0

World Champions In The Northwest

Part One: The Early Years 1916-1926

John Donaldson

Chess in the Northwest (defined as British Columbia, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington) has a long and honored tradition. Many World Champions have seen action here in a variety of events including tournaments, matches, simulms and more.

This series will cover visits of the World Champions before they won the title (for example Capablanca in 1916), while they held the crown (Spassky in 1971) and after they were deposed (Lasker in 1926). Their visits will be examined chronologically, even though this isn't necessarily consistent with the order in which they held the title.

The first official World Champion and first American to wear the crown, as he was naturalized in 1888, was William Steinitz. He never made it to the West Coast much less the Northwest, but he does have a connection with the area, albeit tenuous. William Dickey (1862-1939), who is listed as Washington State Champion from 1915-1925¹, lost in a simul to Steinitz held in Elizabeth, New Jersey, in 1885. At the time Dickey was the Princeton University champion. For more on Dickey go to the *Northwest Chess* website and read Robert S. Moore's wonderful article at http://www.nwchess.com/articles/people/William_Andrews_Dickey.htm

José Capablanca

The first World Champion to visit the Northwest was José Capablanca in 1916. Although it would be five more years until he wrested the title from Emanuel Lasker, Capablanca was already famous and had made several previous tours of the East

1 The Washington Chess Federation and the traditional round robin state championship were only established in 1932. The list of titleholders prior to that was compiled by John N. Nourse and reflects his opinion of the best player of the time, often the reigning Seattle Chess Club Champion. His research was published in a series of columns published in the *Washington Chess Letter* in 1950-51.

and Midwest. His first visit to the West Coast saw him give simulms in Seattle, Portland, San Francisco and San Diego.

Up until the 1960s, simulms were the bread and butter of chess professionals. Fewer tournaments meant there was much less prize money available compared to today but also top stars had a certain mystique. Today club players can visit any large Swiss and see plenty of grandmasters in action. That was not the case in the past. Touring pros also benefited from the existence of strong clubs that were the only source of chess activity at the time. Such clubs, whose members often included the leading citizens of the city, welcomed famous players with open arms. These visits were memorable and fondly recalled many years later.

Capablanca arrived in Seattle on April 3, having traveled by train from Salt Lake City, the location of his previous exhibition. Those were the days, before cars and planes took over, when rail was king. The NW was far removed from other chess centers which may have contributed to fewer visits by the World Champions.

Capablanca gave two exhibitions in Seattle and there are some questions about his performance.

Seattle

April 4, 1916 (+14, -1, =1)

This is the result given in *The Unknown Capablanca* by Hooper and Brandreth, which enjoys a well-deserved reputation for accuracy, but note the tally varies slightly from the 14 wins and one draw (with Archie Taft) reported in the *Seattle Daily Times* of April 5, 1916.

April 5, 1916 (+27 -0, =0)

Once again, this figure, as reported in *The Unknown Capablanca*, is disputed by the *Seattle Daily Times* of April 6, which reports Capablanca scored 45 out of 46 during his visit including 31 victories

yesterday.

Capablanca stayed at the Savoy Hotel (Seneca and University) during his stay and the exhibitions were played at the Seattle Chess Club which was then located near Pioneer Square in the Commercial Club.

Much more is known about Capablanca's sojourn in Portland thanks to E.H. Bryant's chess column in the *Oregonian*.

Portland

Portland hosted three exhibitions for Capablanca. This level of activity was no fluke as Casey Bush has shown in his definitive research on the history of chess in the Rose City. Among those to visit Portland besides the World Champions were a young Sammy Reshevsky and the great Hungarian Geza Maroczy – both in the 1920s. Al Horowitz and George Koltanowski made several stops in the decades to follow.

Frank Marshall, who had a friendly competition with Capablanca for the largest simul during their tours in 1915-1916, gave a 92-board exhibition in Rip City on February 23, 1915, scoring +77 -4 =11. This stood as a record until it was broken by Jude Acers on April 21, 1973, when he played 117 boards at the Lloyd Center, scoring +93 -13 =11). Both Marshall and Acers performances were world records at the time.

April 6, 1916 (+37, -2, =0)

Portlanders Defeat Capablanca

José Capablanca made his debut to Portland chess enthusiasts Thursday night at the Chamber of Commerce. About 100 devotees of the game of which ten were women witnessed the Pan-American champion play 39 at last night's sitting. He won 37 and lost two. This marks the first time the champion has been defeated since leaving Kansas City on a tour of

the United States a little over two months ago. The honor of beating the champion goes to R.T. Leonard and H. Kurth, both members of the Portland Chess and Checker Club.²

Here are Capablanca's losses, discovered by Casey Bush in the *Sunday Oregonian* (April 23, 1916, page 4). During his eleven-city tour, which took Capa from Colorado Springs to Seattle then south to New Orleans via San Francisco before ending in Pittsburgh, he played 400 games, winning 385, drawing ten and losing only five³. This was a phenomenal performance. The Northwest can be proud that Seattle and Portland players accounted for three of Capablanca's five losses. The level of play in these two cities was by no means at the level seen in New York City but helps to explain how such talents as Arthur Dake and Olaf Ulvestad were to emerge as national talents in the 1930s.

**José Capablanca –
R.T. Leonard [D46]**

Portland (simul) April 6, 1916

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.c4 e6 4.Nc3 e6 5.e3 Bb4 6.Bd3 0-0 7.0-0 Nbd7 8.Qc2 h6 9.Ne2 dxc4 10.Bxc4 Re8 11.e4 e5 12.Qb3 Qe7 13.dxe5 Nxe4



Position after 13...Nxe4

14.Ned4

14.e6! fxe6 15.Nf4 was quite strong.

14...Nb6 15.Bxf7+ Qxf7 16.Qxb4 c5 17.Qe1 Qd5 18.Nb5 Re7 19.Nc3 Nxc3 20.Qxc3 Bg4 21.Bf4 Bxf3 22.gxf3 Rf8 23.Rfd1 Qf7

[Diagram top of next column]

24.Qxc5?

This blunders a piece. White was somewhat better after 24.Bg3.

24...Rc7! 25.Qd6 Rc6 26.e6 Qg6+ 27.Bg3 Rxd6 28.Rxd6 Nc4 29.Rd4

2 *Oregonian* April 8, 1916, page 5.

3 *The Unknown Capablanca* by Hooper and Brandreth, p.187.



Position after 23...Qf7

Qxe6 30.Kg2 Qf7 31.Rf4 Qd5 32.Re4 Rxf3 33.Kxf3 Nd2+ 34.Ke2 Nxe4 35.Rd1 Nxc3+ 36.hxc3 Qxa2 37.Rd2 b6 38.f4 a5 39.Ke3 b5 40.g4 a4 41.g5 hxc5 42.fxc5 b4 43.Kf4 Qf7+ 44.Kg4 Qf8 45.Rd4 a3 46.bxa3 b3 0-1

Capablanca was noted for his skill at simul play, his intuitive style of play being particularly well suited to this medium. It didn't hurt that he played quickly, leaving his opponents less time to think. On rare occasions his quick decisions cost him as in the following game.

**José Raul Capablanca –
H. Kurth [C78]**

Portland (simul) April 6, 1916

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Bc5 6.c3 b5 7.Bc2 d6 8.d4 Bb6 9.dxe5 dxe5 10.Qxd8+ Kxd8 11.a4 Bb7 12.axb5 axb5 13.Rxa8+ Bxa8 14.Na3 b4 15.Nc4 Nd7 16.Rd1 f6 17.Ba4 bxc3 18.bxc3 Kc8



Position after 18...Kc8

19.Rxd7?

19.Ba3 with equal chances was indicated. Instead Capablanca goes for a combination that does not pan out.

19...Kxd7 20.Nxe5+ fxe5 21.Nxe5+ Ke6 22.Nxc6 Bxc6 23.Bxc6

White has two pawns for the exchange, but after...

23...Rf8

It is clear that Capablanca is lost.

24.Bd5+ Ke5 25.h4 Bxf2+ 26.Kh2 Bxh4

27.g3 Bd8 28.Bf4+



Position after 28.Bf4+

28...Rxf4! 29.gxf4+ Kxf4

Kurth, who was a plumber by profession, has correctly calculated that the connected passed pawns and his advanced king position will carry the day.

30.Kh3 g5 31.Kg2 h5 32.e5 h4 33.e6 g4 34.Kh2 Be7 35.Kg2 Bd6 36.Kh1 Kg3 37.Bc6 Kf4 38.Ba4 h3 39.Bd7 g3 40.Bc6 g2+ 41.Bxg2 hxg2+ 42.Kxg2 Ke3 0-1

**José Capablanca –
A.K. Trenholm [C78]**

Portland (simul) April 6, 1916

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 b5 6.Bb3 d6 7.Ng5?!

This looks quite natural but 7.c3 was stronger.

7...d5 8.exd5 Nxd5?



Position after 8...Nxd5

8...Nd4! would have given Black a very playable position.

9.Nxf7!

White has an improved Fried Liver attack (the extra developing move castles for ...d7-d6-d5) that is crushing.

9...Kxf7 10.Qf3+ Ke6 11.Nc3 Nce7 12.d4 c6 13.Re1 Kd7 14.Nxd5 cxd5 15.Rxe5 Ra7 16.Bxd5 Nxd5 17.Rxd5+ Bd6 18.Rxd6+ Kxd6 19.Bf4+ Kd7 20.Re1 Qg8 21.d5 h6 22.Qe3 Qxd5 23.Qxa7+ Bb7 24.f3 Rf8 25.Qe3 Qf7 26.Rd1+ Bd5 27.Qa7+ Ke6 28.Qxa6+ Kf5 29.Qd6 Be6 30.Re1 Re8 31.g4+ Kf6 32.Qd4+ Kg6 33.Qd3+ Kf6 34.Be5+

April 7, 1916 (+20, -0, =0)

Capablanca, an exceptionally fast simul player, took only an hour and a half to win all his games in this exhibition held at the Chamber of Commerce. According to the *Oregonian*, Capa took only three hours for the 39 boards he faced the day before.

April 8, 1916 (+5, -0, =0)

This small exhibition was held at the Multnomah Amateur Athletic club.⁴

Alexander Alekhine Portland

March 1, 1924 (+31, -1, =2)

Alexander Alekhine, in the only simul he ever gave in the Northwest, scored 31 wins, one loss and two draws while playing two of his games blindfolded. Alekhine had no time to venture to Seattle as he had to get back to New York for the start of the greatest American tournament of the first half of the 20th century—NY 1924.

Alekhine played the first two games blindfold.

**Alexander Alekhine –
Jake Wark [C26]**

Portland (blindfold) March 1, 1924

1.e4 e5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.Bc4 c6 4.d4 exd4 5.Qxd4 Qb6 6.Qxb6 axb6 7.e5 Ng8 8.Bf4 Bb4 9.Nge2 h6 10.0-0 b5 11.Bb3 Ne7 12.Ne4 0-0 13.g4 Ng6 14.Bg3 Na6 15.f4 d5!



Position after 15...d5

16.f5 Nxe5 17.Bxe5 dxe4

17...Re8! would have left White struggling to find an answer.

18.a3 Be7 19.Nf4 Kh7 20.Nh5 f6 21.Bd6 Bxd6 22.Rxd6 Nc5 23.Re1 Bd7

23...b4!

24.Nf4 Nxb3+ 25.cxb3 Rf7 26.Rxe4 b6 27.b4 Rc8 28.Kd2 Rb8 29.Ng6 Rc8 30.Ke3 Re8 31.Rxe8 Bxe8 32.Rd8 1-0

**Alexander Alekhine –
Fred Pelouse [A43]**

Portland (blindfold) March 1, 1924

1.d4 e6 2.e4 c5 3.d5 d6 4.Nc3 a6 5.a4 Be7 6.f4 Bf6 7.Nf3 Bxc3+ 8.bxc3 exd5 9.exd5 Nf6 10.Be2 0-0 11.0-0 Bf5 12.Rb1 b6 13.c4 Nbd7 14.Bd3 Bxd3 15.cxd3 Re8 16.Bd2 Rb8 17.h3 h6 18.g4 Nh7 19.Bc3 Ndf8 20.Qd2 Qd7



Position after 20...Qd7

21.f5

21.Qb2 f6 22.Nh4 intending Nf5 or the immediate 21.Nh4 were stronger. Either would have maintained White's advantage.

21...Qd8?

21...f6 would have blunted White's operations on the kingside and a later ...b5 provided counterplay.

22.Qf4?

22.f6! Nxf6 23.g5 hxg5 24.Nxg5 N8d7 25.Qg2 Ne4 and/or doubling rooks on the f-file would have been very strong.

22...Ng5 23.Nxg5 hxg5 24.Qd2 f6 25.Kf2 Rb7 26.Rfe1 Rxe1 27.Rxe1 Qd7 28.Ra1 b5 29.axb5

29.cxb5

29...axb5 30.Ra6 b4 31.Ba1 Ra7 32.Qa2 Rxa6 33.Qxa6 Kf7



Position after 33...Kf7

34.d4?

34.Qa8 or 34.Qa2 with equal chances. The text creates an entry point into White's position.

34...Qc7

34...Qe7! intending ...Qe4 was even stronger.

35.Ke3 Nd7?

35...Qe7+! 36.Kf3 Qe1 was winning.

36.Kd3 cxd4 37.Bxd4 Ne5+ 38.Bxe5 fxe5 1/2-1/2

**Alexander Alekhine –
Pluylaar [D06]**

Portland (simul) March 1, 1924

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bf4 Bf5 4.c4 e6 5.Nc3 Bb4 6.e3 Bxc3+N 7.bxc3 Bg4 8.h3 Bxf3 9.Qxf3 Nf6 10.Bd3 0-0 11.0-0 Re8 12.Rab1 b6 13.Rfc1 e5 14.cxd5 Qxd5 15.Qxd5 Nxd5 16.Bg3



Position after 16.Bg3

16...e4?

White, with the advantages of the two bishops and a strong center, holds all the trumps, but Black's last move only hastens the end.

17.Bb5 Re6 18.c4 Ncb4 19.cxd5 1-0

**Alexander Alekhine –
J. Van Zante [D46]**

Portland (simul) March 1, 1924

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.c4 e6 4.Nc3 c6 5.e3 Bd6 6.Bd3 Nbd7 7.e4 Nxe4 8.Nxe4 dxe4 9.Bxe4 Nf6

9...0-0 10.0-0 h6 preparing ...e5, which drops a pawn if played immediately, is Black's best try here.

10.Bc2 h6 11.0-0 Be7?!N 12.b3 Qd6 13.Ne5 c5 14.Ba3

14.Bf4! with the idea 14...Qxd4 15.Qxd4 cxd4 16.Nxf7! was White's most precise continuation.

14...Qxd4 15.Qxd4 cxd4 16.Nf3

[Diagram top of next page]

16...Ba5?



Position after 16.Nf3

16...Bd8 17.Nxd4 Be7 was the solid way to shut down White's activity.

17.Nxd4 Bd7

17...Bc3 18.Nb5 Bxa1 19.Rxa1 leaves Black helpless.

18.Rad1 0-0-0 19.h3 Nh5 20.Bd6 Bc7 21.Bxc7 Kxc7 22.f4 g6 23.g4 Ng7 24.Kf2 h5 25.g5 e5! 26.fxe5 Bxh3 27.Nb5+ Kb8 28.Rfe1 Ne6 29.Rd5?

29.Kg3 Bg4 30.Rxd8+ Rxd8 31.Nd6 Nxg5 32.Be4 had to be played with equal chances.

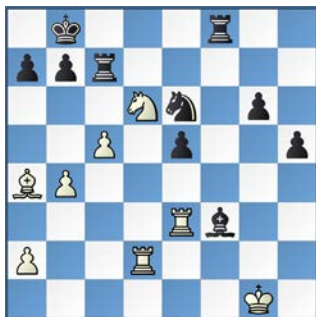
29...Nxg5 30.Red1 Ne6 31.Nd6 Rd7 32.b4 Rf8 33.Ba4 Rc7

33...Re7!

34.c5 Bg4 35.R1d2 f6 36.Kg1 Bf3

36...Ng5

37.R5d3 fxe5 38.Re3



Position after 38.Re3

38...Nxc5?

38...e4 would have given Black much the better of it.

39.bxc5 Rxc5 40.Rc2 Rd5??

40...Rxc2 41.Bxc2 Rf4 with equal chances.

41.Rxf3 1-0

Alexander Alekhine –
Albert Godfrey Johnson [D53]
Portland (simul) March 1, 1924

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 e6 3.c4 Nf6 4.Nc3 Be7 5.Bg5 Nbd7 6.e3 c6 7.Bd3 dxc4 8.Bxc4

b5 9.Bd3 a6 10.0-0 c5 11.a4 b4 12.Ne4 a5?



Position after 12...a5

This move is a fatal loss of time. After 12...cxd4 13.Nxd4 Bb7 White would only have a slight advantage.

13.Rc1

Not bad but, 13.dxc5! was more energetic as 13...Nxc5 is met by (13...Bb7 14.Bxf6 gxf6 15.Bb5! Bxe4 16.c6) 14.Nxc5 Bxc5 15.Qc2 Qb6 16.Rac1 Be7 (16...Nd7 17.Bb5) 17.Qxc8+ when Black's failure to castle has caused his downfall.

13...cxd4 14.Nxd4 Bb7 15.Nc6?

This looks natural but throws all of White's advantage away. Instead 15.Nxf6+ Bxf6 16.Qh5! with the point that 16...Bxg5 (16...g6 17.Bxf6 Qxf6 18.Qb5 Bd5 19.Rc7 Rd8 20.Rfc1 with a winning position.) is answered by 17.Nxe6!

15...Bxc6 16.Rxc6 Ne5? 17.Bb5 Nxc6?

17...0-0 was correct with equal chances.

18.Bxc6+ Kf8 19.Bxa8 Qxa8 20.Nxf6 Bxf6 21.Qd6+



Position after 21.Qd6+

21...Ke8?

This should have lost right away. Correct was 21...Kg8 with the idea that after the trade on f6 the king can find shelter on g7 and the rook developed on d8 or c8.

22.Bxf6 gxf6 23.Rc1 Rg8 24.f3?

An instructive mistake by the future World Champion. The text creates weaknesses in White's camp. Instead 24.g3 Qd8 25.Qa6 would have left Black no chances.

24...Qd8!

Johnson alertly grabs his chance.

25.Qc6+

25.Qa6 is now met by 25...Rxc2+!

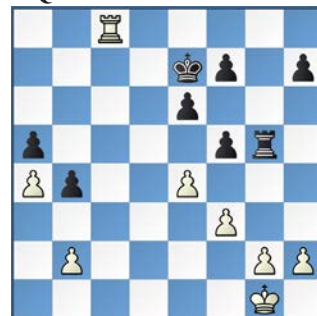
25...Kf8 26.Qc2 Rg5

26...Kg7 was simpler. Johnson wants to activate his rook by swinging it over to d5.

27.e4 f5?

This should lose on the spot. 27...Kg7, with the idea of meeting 28.Rd1 with 28...Rc5!, would have held.

28.Qc8 Qxc8 29.Rxc8+ Ke7



Position after 29...Ke7

30.Rc5?!

This looks natural but 30.e5 was much stronger. Now Black misses a chance to activate his rook.

30...h6?

30...Rg8! 31.exf5 Rd8 32.Rxa5 Rd2 and Black is still fighting.

31.Rxa5 fxe4 32.Rxg5 hxg5 33.fxe4 b3 34.Kf2 Kd6 35.Ke3 Kc5 36.Kd3 Kb4 37.e5 Kxa4 38.Kc4 Ka5 39.Kc5 1-0

Alexander Alekhine
Edward Widmer [C26]
Portland (simul) March 1, 1924

1.e4 e5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.d3 c6 5.f4 d6 6.Nf3 Bg4 7.h3 Bxf3 8.Qxf3 Nbd7 9.a4 a6 10.a5 Bd4 11.Be3 Bxe3 12.Qxe3 Qe7 13.0-0 h6 14.Ba2 0-0 15.f5?!

Opening the f-file with 15.fxe5 was more natural.

15...Rac8 16.g4 Nh7

The central break with 16...d5! was the classic way to counter Alekhine's flank attack.

17.Kg2 Qg5 18.Qg3 Ndf6 19.Nd1 d5 20.Nf2 Qd2

[Diagram top of next page]

21.h4?

Alekhine gets carried away. 21.Bb3 would



Position after 20...Qd2

have maintained a small advantage.

21...dxe4 22.Rad1 Qxa5 23.Bb3 exd3
24.Nxd3 Rfe8 25.g5 hxg5 26.hxg5 Ne4
27.Qh4 Nexg5 28.f6 gxf6 29.Rxf6 e4



Position after 29...e4

30.Nf4

30.Rxf7 Nxf7 31.Bxf7+ Kh8 32.Bxe8
Rxe8 33.Nf2 was White's best chance to
resist although he doesn't have sufficient
compensation for the two pawn deficit.

30...Nxf6 31.Rd5

Alekhine tries to muddy the waters in a
lost position.

31...Nxd5 32.Qxg5+ Kf8 33.Bxd5 Qd2+
34.Kh3 Qe3+ 35.Kh2 Qf2+ 36.Kh3
Qf3+ 37.Kh2 cxd5 38.Qh6+ Ke7
39.Nxd5+ Kd7 40.Nb6+ Kc7 41.Nd5+
Kb8 42.Qd6+ Ka7 43.Qb6+ Ka8
44.Nc7+ Rxc7 0-1

Emanuel Lasker

Seattle

March 18, 1926 (+25, -2, =3)

This is the figure Ken Whyld gives,
but Thomas Piper of Victoria, who served
as referee for the exhibition, reported in
his chess column in the *Victoria Daily
Colonist* chess column of March 28,
1926, a slightly different result: (+24, -2,
=4).

Piper's report, republished in the
*British Columbia Chess Federation
Bulletin* No. 81, continues:

On fifteen boards Lasker moved
first, on the other fifteen his opponents
attacked. He lost a Vienna to Maltby, and
Arvid Johnson defended a Ruy Lopez
with classical accuracy, winning in
thirty-two moves and three hours fifteen
minutes. Maltby, the other winner, took
three hours forty-five minutes.

Hulback, of the Elks, defended
splendidly, and drew by perpetual check.
Storkmarrs, who drew with Dr. Lasker in
Copenhagen, drew in Seattle; Sheets and
C.B. Bagley, of the S.C.C., also drew; the
latter played scores of games with the
writer in 1889-93, and at eighty-two years
of age plays with the freshness and vigor
of nineteen-year youths like Johnson,
Storkmarrs and Sheets, who will go far.

Baseler, ace of the Elks, was the
last to lose of the twenty-four victims of
the chess Moloch. An air of well-bred
decorum pervaded the chapel, much like
the St. George's C.C., the club of the
peers. Lasker moved swiftly, never more
than a few seconds at a board as a rule,
but at the Maltby and Johnson games he
arched his eyebrows, tugged at his ample
locks, and spent two minutes at a move,
evidently exerting all his great power.

Maltby, a veteran, was awarded the
honor of playing the best game of the
evening after a consultation between Dr.
Lasker and Mr. Thomas Piper, of Victoria,
who acted as referee.

Emanuel Lasker – Fred Maltby [C50]

Seattle (simul) March 18, 1926

1.e4 e5 2.Nc3 Bc5 3.Nf3 Nc6 4.Bc4 Nf6
5.d3 d6 6.Bg5 h6 7.Bh4 Bb4 8.Nd2 g5
9.Bg3 Be6 10.h4 Kd7 11.hxg5?

Opening the file only helps Black, 11.Nd5
was indicated.

11...hxg5 12.Bxe6+ fxe6 13.Rxh8 Qxh8
14.Nf1 Rf8 15.a3 Ba5 16.f3?

16.Qd2, preparing to castle, was
imperative.

16...Nh5 17.Bf2 Nf4



Position after 17...Nf4

Black is already winning.

18.g3 Nh3 19.Be3 Qf6 20.Nh2 Nd4 21.
Bxd4 exd4 22.b4 dxc3 23.bxa5 Qe5 24.
Nf1 Ng1!



Position after 24...Ng1

25.Kf2 Nxf3 26.Qxf3 Rxf3+ 27.Kxf3
Qxa5 28.Ne3 b5 29.Kg4 Qb6 30.Re1
Qc5 31.Nd1 a5 32.Rh1 b4 33.axb4 axb4
34.Kf3 b3 35.Ne3 b2 36.Nc4 Qb4 0-1

Note Lasker's willingness to
take Black on half the boards. Unlike
many other giants, Lasker seemed less
concerned about the final result than
making sure everyone had a good time.
Another legend who had the same
approach was Bent Larsen who once took
Black on every board in an exhibition at
the Mechanics' Institute.

Lasker received the princely sum
of \$400⁵ for the Seattle exhibition, the
equivalent of \$6000! today. This was an
extraordinary fee at the time and it would
be interesting to know if he commanded
the same amount in all his 1926 U.S.
exhibitions. To put things into perspective
when Bobby Fischer was paid \$250 a
simul in his 1964 tour it was considered
amazing, the going rate for a grandmaster
at the time being half that. Adjusted for
inflation Lasker received three times (!)
as much as Bobby (\$6000 to \$2000) in
today's dollars.

The C.B. Bagley, the octogenarian
who drew with Lasker, is Clarence
"Pops" Bagley who played an important
role in the early development of Seattle.
His *History of Seattle, Washington* and
History of King County are still regarded
as important works. Bagley Avenue,
which extends northward from the shores
of Lake Union, honors Clarence and his
father Daniel.

Portland

March 20, 1926 (+26, -1, =0)

Lasker had a better result in Portland
but was crushed in the one game he lost.
Albert Godfrey Johnson, was along with

⁵ John Nourse writing in the
Washington Chess Letter, June 1951, p.11.

E.G. Short, the best player in Portland before the emergence of Arthur Dake. The national press sometimes confused him with Arvid Johnson, the 1927 Washington state champion.

Albert Godfrey Johnson – Emanuel Lasker [E16]
Portland March 20, 1926

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.c4 b6 4.g3 Bb7 5. Bg2 Bb4+ 6.Bd2 Qe7 7.a3 Bxd2+ 8. Nbx2 0-0 9.0-0 d6 10.Re1 Nbd7 11.e4 Rfd8 12.Qc2 e5 13.Nh4



Position after 13.Nh4

13...exd4??

13...g6 had to be played.

14.Nf5

14.e5! d3 15.Qc3 was winning on the spot. The text offers Lasker a second chance.

14...Qe5 15.Nf3 Qe8?

Lasker misses his opportunity: 15...Bxe4 16.Nxe5 Bxc2 17.Ne7+ Kf8 18.N5c6 Re8 19.Nxd4 Be4 20.Bxe4 Nxe4 21.Nd5 Rac8 22.Nb5 c6 23.Rxe4 Rxe4 24.Nxd6 Rce8 25.Nxe8 Kxe8 would have held.

16.N3xd4 Nc5 17.b4 Ne6



Position after 17...Ne6

18.e5! Bxg2 19.exf6 Bb7 20.Ne7+ Kh8 21.Nxe6 fxe6 22.fxg7+ Kxg7 23.Rxe6 Qh5 24.Qc3+ Kf7 25.Qf6+ Ke8 26.Nd5+ 1-0

Sources:

Alexander Alekhine's Chess Games, 1902-1946 (McFarland & Company) by Skinner and Verhoeven

Alekhine in the Americas (I.C.E. 1992) by Donaldson, Mineev and Seirawan

American Chess Bulletin 1916, 1924, 1926

Chess Notes by Edward Winter

Northwest Chess (including the *Washington Chess Letter*)

Portland Chess Club Newsletter 1985-86



End of Part One

Washington Women's Championship

September 10 - 12, 2021

Highest finishing WA resident seeded into the Premier section of the 2022 WA State Championship.

Site: Orlov Chess Academy, 7212 Woodlawn Ave. NE Seattle, WA 98115.

Format: A 5-round Swiss in one section. Open to all female chess players. Maximum of 25 players, please register early.

Time Control: G/90; +30. Late default: 10 min.

Prize Fund: \$750 (based on 25 paid entries). 1st \$200, 2nd \$150, 3rd \$100

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

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

Entry Fee: \$50 if postmarked or online by 9/5, \$60 after 9/5 or at site. Free entry for WGMs and WIMs.

Registration: Friday 6:00-6:45 PM.

Rounds: Friday 7:00 PM; Saturday 10:00 AM, 3:00 PM; Sunday 10:00 AM, 3:00 PM.

Rating: Dual US Chess and NWSRS Rated. Higher of current US Chess or NWSRS rating 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 and WCF/OCF/ICA memberships required, other states accepted.

Covid Procedures: Face masks are required for all players and spectators. Please bring your own mask, limited number supplied. Chess equipment will be sanitized between rounds.

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
Redmond, WA 98052

Contact: Josh Sinanan, WCF President
Phone: 206-769-3717
Email: WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com

Registration: Online at nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration

World Champions In The Northwest

Part Two: British Columbia

John Donaldson

Max Euwe in Vancouver

January 17, 1949 50 (+43, -3, =4)

The Great Depression and World War Two caused the Northwest to have to wait twenty-three years for another visit by a World Champion. Max Euwe, who had taken the crown from Alexander Alekhine in 1935 before losing it back two years later, gave a five-hour exhibition in Vancouver in early 1949 at the Alma Academy (3695 West Broadway).

Euwe bowed his king to only W.E.F. Fillery and C.F. Millar, Vancouver, and H. Ostrom, North Vancouver. Draws were forced by B. Arden, North Vancouver, Clarence Carroll, Chilliwack, and R.J. Eminson and G. Panton of Vancouver, according to the *Vancouver Sun*, of January 18, 1949.

The airplane was rapidly replacing trains and ships as the main way to travel after World War Two and Euwe, who had come to North America to play in New York 1948/49 (he finished in a tie for third behind Fine and Najdorf), took advantage of this to made a huge simul tour after the event. This tour included Western Canada and the United States followed by Central and South America.

The four games that are available from this event suggest Euwe must have been a little tired as he made several big blunders. That said the following defeat witnesses something rarely seen in simul

– namely the exhibitor getting ground down in an ending by an amateur.

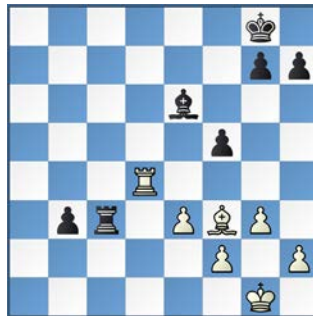
Max Euwe –
Harold Ostrom [D09]

Vancouver (simul) January 17, 1949

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e5 3.dxe5 d4 4.Nf3 Nc6
5.g3 Be6 6.Nbd2 Nge7 7.Bg2 Ng6 8.0-0
Be7 9.a3 Rb8 10.b4 0-0 11.Bb2 Ngxe5
12.b5 Nxf3+ 13.Nxf3 Na5 14.Bxd4
Nxc4 15.Bxa7 Qxd1 16.Rfxd1 Ra8
17.Bd4 Rxa3 18.Rxa3 Nxa3 19.b6 cxb6
20.Bxb6 Nc4 21.Bd4 b5 22.Nd2 Nxd2
23.Rxd2 Rc8 24.Be4 b4 25.Bb2 b3 26.e3
f5 27.Bf3? Bb4 28.Rd4?

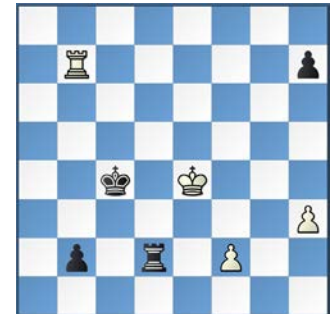
Euwe wants more, but 28.Bd5 was the right course heading for a draw after 28...Bxd5 29.Rxd5 Rc2 30.Rb5 Rxb2 (30...Be1 31.Rxb3 Bxf2+ 32.Kh1 Bxe3 33.Bxg7 is equal) 31.Rxb4.

28...Bc3 29.Bxc3 Rxc3



Position after 29...Rxc3

30.Rb4 Rc2 31.Kg2 b2 32.Bd1 Rd2
33.Bb3 Kf7 34.Rb7+ Kf6 35.Bxe6 Kxe6
36.Kf3 Kd6 37.h3 g6 38.g4 Kc5 39.gxf5
gxf5 40.e4 fxe4+ 41.Kxe4 Kc4



Position after 41...Kc4

42.f4 Kc3 43.Rc7+ Kb3 44.Rb7+ Kc2
45.Rc7+ Kd1 46.Rb7 Kc1 47.f5 b1Q+
48.Rxb1+ Kxb1 49.f6 Rf2 50.Ke5 Kc2
51.Ke6 Kd3 52.h4 h5 53.f7 Ke4 54.Ke7
Ke5 55.f8Q Rxf8 56.Kxf8 Kf5 57.Kf7
Kg4 58.Kf6 Kxh4 0-1

For other games from this event see Stephen Wright's outstanding resource B.C. Base (<http://www.chess.bc.ca/games.php>).

The next visit by a World Champion to the Northwest, in 1967, was again to British Columbia. Boris Spassky and Paul Keres, who had just played in the first super tournament organized in Canada (Winnipeg 1967), headed to B.C. after the event and made several appearances across the province. While it's true that Spassky would not become World Champion for two more years (he had lost a tough title match to Petrosian in 1966), and that Keres never wore the crown (he did finish second in five Candidates competitions), both were World Class

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Email: SSeshadri@srichessacademy.com

players when they visited B.C. and their inclusion in this series is warranted.

The definitive guide to the visit by the Soviet Grandmasters is BCCF E-MAIL BULLETIN #46 (

<https://www.chess.bc.ca/Bulletins/bccfbulletin46.pdf>). This Bulletin has appeared for roughly twenty years without a break, all with Stephen Wright at the helm. Here I will offer a slightly different take on what transpired, including the recollections of several individuals who went on to play important roles in B.C. chess and beyond.

Former British Columbia Champion Brian McLaren recalls the visit by the Soviet duo was made possible because of the financial support of the late John Prentice. This certainly makes sense as Prentice (born Hans Peck) was the great patron of Canadian chess from the 1950s to his death in 1987. It is due to him and geography that Canada has always had its own zone in FIDE, allowing it to hold Zonals to the benefit of a number of Canadian IMs.

Nanaimo – October 14, 1967

Keres 23 (+22, -0, =1)

Spassky 10 (+10,-0, =0)

The late Dan Scoones, who died this past April, has to have been one of the best-liked chess players in the Northwest. He was also one of the most knowledgeable in all areas of the game, in particular anything concerning Soviet chess of which he had an encyclopedic knowledge.

Back in 2004 Dan shared with Stephen Wright his experience of playing Spassky in a clock simul.

The story on Keres and Spassky was a trip down memory lane for me. I was 14 years old at the time, and one of the ten punching bags who took on Spassky in Nanaimo. I know the venue was a local hotel, but I can't remember which one. Ed Seedhouse and Alan Lane also played against Spassky, while George Dinescu played against Keres. We drove up together in the same car. I don't recall there being any other Victoria players. Before the event got underway, local alderman (and future mayor) Frank Ney welcomed the visitors

and participants. Apart from an amusing gaffe (addressing Spassky as Mr. "Konaski") he made a very nice speech. At that time the annual bathtub race was in its infancy, and I clearly recall the alderman decking out the two GMs with little paper hats, paper flags and toy bathtubs marking the event. The look of sheer confusion on Spassky's face was priceless. Keres, however, merely smiled and nodded sagely.

In reply, Keres spoke on behalf of the two of them, having much the better command of English at that time. He said they were enjoying their visit to Canada. The just-concluded Winnipeg GM tournament (won by Darga and Larsen) had been hard work, he said, and they were looking forward to our event as a chance to relax. In my youth and naivete I found that statement surprising—how could playing ten opponents be easier than playing one opponent? Later, of course, I came to understand what he meant. As it turned out, Spassky was just too tough for us, especially having White in every game. I got onto the bad side of a Queen's Gambit Declined and just couldn't defend against Spassky's

Washington G/60 Chess Championship

October 16, 2021

A Northwest Chess Grand Prix Event

Site: Orlov Chess Academy – 7212 Woodlawn Ave. NE Seattle, WA 98115.

Format: A 4-Round Swiss in one section. Maximum of 25 players, please register early to guarantee your spot!

Time Control: G/60; d5.

Entry Fee: \$50 if postmarked or online by 10/9, \$60 after 10/9. 100% preregistered, no on-site registration. Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs.

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

Prize Fund: \$650 (based on 25 paid entries).
1st \$150, 2nd \$120, 3rd \$80
1st U2000/U1800/U1600/U1400/U1200: \$60

Byes: One half-point bye available, request before end of round 2.

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

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

Health/Safety Protocols: Face masks are required for all players and spectators. Please bring your own mask, limited number available. Chess equipment will be sanitized between rounds. All players and parents (if U18) are required to sign the [WCF Health/Safety Protocols & Waiver of Liability](#) form prior to the start of the tournament.



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

Redmond, WA 98052

Contact: Josh Sinanan, WCF President

Phone: 206-769-3757

Email:
WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com

Registration: Online at
nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration.

Registration and payment **deadline 5pm on Wednesday, October 13.**

kingside attack (gee—I wonder why?) I did last for a while, unlike poor Ed Seedhouse, who blundered a piece right in the opening. In a difficult position I set a clever trap for Spassky, but he saw through it in two or three seconds and gave me a wry smile before uncorking the refutation. After the game, he signed my scoresheet and said “You played well.” I said, “Yes, but not as well as Russian kids my age,” which brought a surprised and good-natured laugh. After the ten clock games were finished, we got to chat with Boris for a little while. He couldn’t advise us about what we should have played in our games because, as he said, he didn’t understand English notation (meaning descriptive.) Responding to a question about Fischer, he acknowledged that the American was a “very strong player.” Luckily enough, George Dinescu was booked up on Spassky lore, and said, “Yes, but you beat him.” This got another smile. After the event was over, we all went down to the hotel restaurant for a banquet. When our group eventually prepared to leave, I shook hands with both GMs and thanked them for coming. I looked at Spassky and said, “I think you will get a second chance at Petrosian, and this time you will beat him.” That too got a big laugh from both GMs, but years later I wondered if he ever recalled the prediction made by the young Canadian in Nanaimo...

Today, when you can log onto the Internet and with a few key strokes follow a game played by Magnus Carlsen with top level commentary, it is hard to imagine what an incredible treat it was back then to have the opportunity to meet one of the best players in the world. This was especially so for young players as Dan Scoones vividly remembered many decades later.

He was not the only youngster to face the Soviets who had fond memories of the experience as the following remembrance by Jonathan Berry makes clear.

The Mount Pleasant event was well-attended, especially for chess in Vancouver. But at the Spassky simul at the North Vancouver Recreation Centre, they were, as Peter Biyiasas might have put it, “hanging from the rafters”. All places were taken, I think about 50 in all. Spectators were about 3-deep all around. So, I didn’t get to play Spassky. But it was worth the effort to be there, a level

of enthusiasm for chess that I have rarely witnessed. Spassky, in a gentlemanly move, offered a quick draw against the two (or was there only one?) elderly ladies who played. One was Mrs. L’Hirondelle.

Vancouver – October 15, 1967

Vancouver City Club

Keres 23 (+17, -4, =2)

Spassky 23 (+22, -0, =1)

Spassky’s only draw was with expert George Le Compte de Seattle.

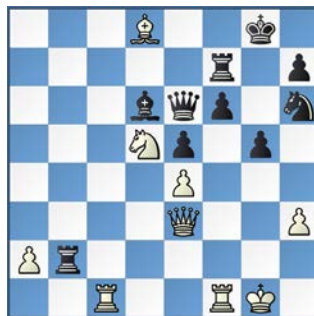
Keres drew two (Schneider, Wuentchek) and lost four (Jonathan Berry, Bruce Harper, Alf Overas and Angus Pitt- the last two from Washington).

Future Northwest legends Bruce Harper and Jonathan Berry were 13 and 14 respectively when the following games were played. Their Northwest ratings of 1633 and 1758 (October 1967 *Northwest Chess Letter*) were far from their peaks which would see them ranked among the top players in Canada.

Paul Keres – Jonathan Berry [E93]

Vancouver (simul) October 15, 1967

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6
5.Nf3 0–0 6.Be2 Nbd7 7.Bg5 e5 8.d5 a5
9.Qd2 Nc5 10.Qe3 Bd7 11.h3 Qc8 12.g4
c6 13.Nd2 cxd5 14.cxd5 b6 15.Rc1 Qb7
16.Bb5 Rfc8 17.0–0 Rd8 18.Bxd7 Qxd7
19.Nc4 Rab8 20.f4 Nxb4 21.Qf3 f6
22.Bh4 Nh6 23.fxe5 dxe5 24.Qe3 g5
25.Bf2 Bf8 26.d6 Bxd6 27.Nd5 Qe6
28.Ncxb6 Nd7 29.Nxd7 Rxd7 30.Be1
Rf7 31.Bxa5 Rxb2 32.Bd8



Position after 32.Bd8

32...Rxa2?

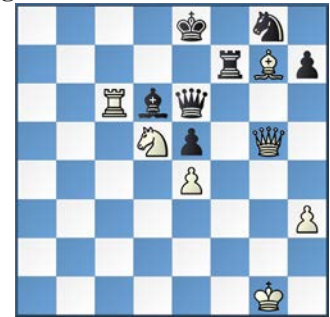
32...f5 33.Bxc3 Rxa2 34.Bxh6 f4 would have kept the balance according to Stockfish.

33.Bxf6

Now White is winning, but the position is

still messy.

33...Raa7 34.Rc6 Kf8 35.Qxg5 Ng8
36.Bg7+ Ke8 37.Rxf7 Rxf7



Position after 37...Rxf7

38.Kg2?

This move, protecting h3, looks natural but costs Keres his advantage. 38.Bxe5 won on the spot.

38...Ne7?

38...Qd7, attacking the rook and the bishop simultaneously, would have forced White to go into the following variation: 39.Bxe5 Qxc6 40.Qxg8+ Bf8 41.Nf6+ Rxf6 42.Bxf6 Qxf6 43.Qxh7 with a draw.

39.Bh6??

39.Nc7+!

39...Nxc6 40.Qg8+ Kd7 41.Nb6+ Kc7
42.Nd5+ Kb7 43.Qg3 Qg6 44.Bg5
Qxe4+ 45.Kh2 Qe2+ 46.Qg2 e4+ 47.Bf4
Qxg2+ 48.Kxg2 Bxf4 0–1

Paul Keres – Bruce Harper [C19]

Vancouver (simul) October 15, 1967

1.d4 e6 2.e4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e5 c5 5.a3
Bxc3+ 6.bxc3 Ne7 7.Nf3 Nbc6 8.Bd3 c4
9.Be2 Qa5 10.0–0 Bd7 11.a4 0–0 12.
Ba3 Qxc3 13.a5 Nf5 14.Bc5 f6 15.g4
Nh6



Position after 15...Nh6

16.g5

16.Qb1 or 16.Qc1, with the unstoppable threat of Ra3, would have caused Black to reconsider his capturing the c3 pawn.

16...Nf5 17.gxf6 gxf6 18.exf6 Rhg8+

19.Kh1 Be8 20.Ra3 Qb2 21.Qb1 Qxb1
22.Rxb1 Bh5 23.Re1 Bxf3+ 24.Bxf3
Nfxd4 25.Bd1



Position after 25.Bd1

25...Rd7

25...Rg6 26.f7 Rf6, preparing to sacrifice the exchange for the dangerous f-pawn, would have held the balance.

26.Rg3! Rxc3 27.fxc3 Rf7 28.c3?

28.Rf1 idea Bh5 28...Nf5 29.g4 Nh4 30.g5 would have been winning but now it is Black who is in control and who goes on to win in fine style.

28...Nb3! 29.Be3 Rxf6 30.Bg5 Rg6 31.h4 Kd7 32.Rf1 h6 33.Bh5 Rxc3 34.hxc3 hxc3 35.Rf7+ Ne7 36.Bg4 Nc5 37.Bf3 Na4 38.Bg4 Nxc3 39.Rf6

Ne4 40.Bxe6+ Kd6 41.Rh6 Nxc3+ 42.Kg2 Ne4 43.Bf5+ Ke5 44.Bxe4 Kxe4 45.Re6+ Kd3 46.Rxe7 c3 47.Rd7 d4 48.Kf3 c2 49.Rc7 Kd2 50.Rxb7 c1Q 51.Rxa7 Qf1+ 52.Kg4 Qf4+ 53.Kh5 g4 54.Rg7 Qf5+ 55.Rg5 Qxc3+ 0-1

North Vancouver – October 17

Spassky 47 (+45, =2)

On Tuesday, October 17, Mr. Spassky gave an exhibition in North Vancouver. He won 45 games and drew two (Mrs. L'Hirondelle and Nicholas Savchenko).

Bruce Harper recalls:

I remember that I was playing with Peter Biyiasas against Spassky and we were the last of 50 (I think) to finish. Spassky offered us a draw. I wanted to take it (giving me 1.5:5 in total), but Biyiasas said "No, I can take him!" and they blitzed out the rest of the game, while I watched. Spassky won. If you need any reason why Biyiasas became a GM and I didn't, that's probably it...

New Westminster – October 17

Keres 46 (+45, -0, =1)

The sole draw was earned by Bob Zuk who four years later would play Spassky in the last round of the Canadian Open.

The two giants would return to play in Vancouver, Spassky tying for first in the 1971 Canadian Open with Hans Ree and Keres winning the 1975 edition of the tournament which would later bear his name and continues to this day.

The 1971 Canadian Open and Bobby Fischer's win in the opening round of the Candidates are covered in *The Magic Year of 1971* which appeared in the June 2020 issue of *Northwest Chess*. Fifty years later that is the last public appearance by a World Champion in British Columbia.



End of Part Two

Washington G/15 Chess Championship

October 17, 2021

Site: Orlov Chess Academy – 7212 Woodlawn Ave. NE Seattle, WA 98115.

Format: A 6-Round Swiss in one section. Maximum of 25 players, please register early to reserve your spot!

Time Control: G/15; d10.

Entry Fee: \$50 if postmarked or online by 10/10, \$60 after 10/10. 100% preregistered, no on-site registration. Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs.

Rounds: Sun. 10 AM, 11 AM, 12 PM, 1:30 PM, 2:30 PM, 3:30 PM.

Prize Fund: \$650 (based on 25 paid entries).
1st \$150, 2nd \$120, 3rd \$80
1st U2000/U1800/U1600/U1400/U1200: \$60

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

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

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

Health/Safety Protocols: Face masks are required for all players and spectators. Please bring your own mask, limited number available. Chess equipment will be sanitized between rounds. All players and parents (if U18) are required to sign the [WCF Health/Safety Protocols & Waiver of Liability](#) form prior to the start of the tournament.



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
Redmond, WA 98052

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

Email:
WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com

Registration: Online at
nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration.

Registration and payment **deadline 5pm on Thursday, October 14.**

World Champions In The Northwest

Part Three

John Donaldson

You have to be a huge sports fan with an excellent memory to remember the Goodwill Games. These quasi-Olympics ran from 1986 to 2001 with the 1990 edition held in Seattle. Organized as a reaction to the politicization of the Olympics (the US boycotted in 1980 and the Soviet Union four years), the Goodwill Games sought to tone down the politics with cultural exchanges as well as athletic competitions.

Why are the Goodwill Games relevant to our topic of World Champions in the Northwest? Because the 1990 edition, put on locally by promoter Bob Walsh and his sidekick Gene Fisher, decided that chess should be included in the activities leading to the main event. These began in the spring of 1987 with a visit to Seattle by reigning Women's World Champion Maya Chiburdanidze and her longtime coach Grandmaster Eduard Gufeld.

Maya Chiburdanidze in Seattle

April 30, 1987 (?, ?, =1)

The *Seattle Post Intelligencer* for May 1 had a photo of Chiburdanidze playing a simul at Shoreline High School against some of the best juniors in the state including future masters John Graves and Dave Roper. The two appear in a *P.I.* photograph playing alongside Vern Glaser.

The newspaper caption says that Chiburdanidze won all her games but in fact she gave up one draw.

Maya Chiburdanidze – John Graves [B66]

Seattle (simul) April 30, 1987

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 d6 6.Bg5 e6 7.Qd2 a6 8.0-0-0 Qc7?!

8...Bd7 and 8...h6 are more commonly seen here.

9.f4 b5?

[Diagram top of next column]

This is asking too much from Black's position. White could have exploited her lead in development with 10.e5! Nxd4



Position after 9...b5

(10...dxe5?? 11.Nxc6 wins on the spot.) 11.exf6 Nc6 12.fxg7 Bxg7 13.Ne4 (13.Qxd6 Qxd6 14.Rxd6 with a solid pawn up is also not bad.) 13...d5 14.Nf6+ and Black is in for a hard time.

10.Bxb5? axb5 11.Ndxb5 Qb8 12.Nxd6+ Bxd6 13.Qxd6 Qxd6 14.Rxd6

White has emerged with three pawns for the piece but no advantage.

14...Ne7?!

14...Bb7 was more precise.

15.Nb5?!

15.Rhd1 was better as well.

15...0-0 16.e5?

This looks like it wins material but Black has resources.

16.Nc3 was the prudent choice but no one likes to retreat a piece they have just advanced.

16...Nfd5 17.c4



Position after 17.c4

17...Rxa2

The text, returning the piece, is fine,

but Stockfish's amazing suggestion of 17...Nf5! would have left Black with the better chances after 18.cxd5 h6 19.Rb6 (19.Rd8 hxg5 20.Rxf8+ Kxf8 fares no better) 19...hxg5 20.d6 gxf4 and the extra piece is much stronger than the pawns.

18.Kb1 Ra5 19.cxd5 Nxd5 20.Nd4 h6 21.Nc6 Ra4 22.Ne7+ Nxe7 23.Bxe7 Re8

1/2-1/2

Black is slightly better after 23...Re8 24.Rhd1 Rxe7 25.Rd8+ Kh7 26.Rxc8 Rxf4 but a draw against a World Champion is always an honorable result.

Seattle

May 1, 1987 (+9, -0, =1)

The May 1987 issue of *Northwest Chess* reported that Chiburdanidze gave a simul (as did Gufeld) at the Seattle Sheraton on May 1.

Ten boards is not large for a simul, but the Women's World Champion faced a strong field which included seven-time Washington state champion James McCormick (he drew) and fellow national masters Alexey Root (then Rudolph) and Dan Marshall. Unfortunately, no games were published from this event but several fine photographs were. They indicate it was well attended with 140 spectators in attendance for Gufeld's lecture that proceeded the simul.

Walsh, a major sport promoter credited by the NCAA with coining the phrase "March Madness", liked chess and was exceptionally ambitious. This unlikely combination of traits resulted in, believe it or not (!), Seattle bidding on the 1987 Kasparov-Karpov World Championship match.

Not surprisingly this didn't come to pass, but two years later Walsh landed the Candidates Quarter Final battle between Karpov-Hjartarson! To emphasize just how big a deal this was the only other Candidates matches held in the United States in the 20th century were Fischer-Larsen (Denver 1971) and Korchnoi-Mecking (Augusta 1974) – Puerto Rico

hosted Spassky-Byrne in 1974 but is a separate member of FIDE.

This match and several side events were extensively covered in the March 1989 issue of *Northwest Chess* and there on page 12 one discovers that a match was held on February 8th at the Seattle YMCA pitting a number of well-known NW masters and experts, including Clark Harmon, John Braley, Mike Franett, Jim Blackwood, David Weinstock, Paul Eggers, John Graves and Tim Kauppila, against a team of Soviets juniors ranging in age from 13 to 16. The final score saw the latter winning by a score of 11½–1½. That might seem surprising until you see who was playing for the Soviets (in board order and with their age at the time included).

1. Sergei Tiviakov 15
2. Michael Oratovsky 14
3. Alisa Galliamova 16
4. Vladimir Kramnik 13
5. Sergei Rublevsky 14
6. Andrei Sokolov 16
7. Sarunas Sulskis 16
8. Akaki Iashvili 15

9. Peter Svidler 12
10. Alex Lugovoi 13
11. Natia Janjgava 16
12. Tea Lanchava 14
13. Ekaterina Kovalevskaya 14

Roughly thirty years later this group produced one World Champion (Kramnik), one several-time FIDE Candidate (Svidler), a PCA Candidate (Tiviakov), a 2700 player (Rublevsky) and the number two female player in the world on two occasions (Galliamova).

Skulskis, Sokolov, Lugovoi and Oratovsky all became respected GMs while Iashvili, Lanchava and Kovaleskaya became IMs and Janjgava a WIM.

The three draws by Team Seattle were earned by John Braley against Oratovsky, Tim Kauppila against Svidler and Rusty Miller(!) against Kovalevskaya. The latter was likely giving up more than 400 rating points but rose to the occasion.

China – USA Summit Match March 2001

America's Foundation for Chess, now First Move Chess, sponsored and organized five U.S. Championships, including three (2000, 2002 and 2003) held in Seattle. The 2000 event, a 12-player round robin with strong GMs top to bottom, was arguably the strongest and most evenly contested US Championship held prior to the past decade. Only two points separated the field top to bottom and locals got to see hometown hero Yasser Seirawan tie for first.

The US Championships were not the only events the organization put on. In March of 2001 the AF4C, personified to me by the hard work and generosity of Erik Anderson, hosted a match between the best players of China and the United States on open, female and junior boards.

Held at the Norton Building in downtown *Seattle* (second and Columbia) from March 14-18, the match was won by China 21-19. Northwest chess fans got to see reigning former Women's World Champion Xie Jun (1991-1996, and 1999-2001), Zhu Chen who would soon take the title (2001-2004) and Xu Yuhua (2006-2008). The first two actually played on open boards in the match.

Washington Blitz Chess Championship

October 17, 2021

Site: Orlov Chess Academy – 7212 Woodlawn Ave. NE Seattle, WA 98115.

Format: A 7-Round Double Swiss in one section. (Play 2 games, one as white and one as black, against each opponent.) Maximum of 25 players, please register early to reserve your spot!

Time Control: G/3; +2 (sec. increment per move).

Entry Fee: \$50 if postmarked or online by 10/10, \$60 after 10/10. 100% preregistered, no on-site registration. Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs.

Rounds: Sun. 5 PM, 5:30 PM, 6 PM, 6:30 PM, 7 PM, 7:30 PM, 8 PM.

Prize Fund: \$650 (based on 25 paid entries).
1st \$150, 2nd \$120, 3rd \$80
1st U2000/U1800/U1600/U1400/U1200: \$60

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

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

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

Health/Safety Protocols: Face masks are required for all players and spectators. Please bring your own mask, limited number available. Chess equipment will be sanitized between rounds. All players and parents (if U18) are required to sign the [WCF Health/Safety Protocols & Waiver of Liability](#) form prior to the start of the tournament.



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
Redmond, WA 98052

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

Email:
WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com

Registration: Online at
nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration.

Registration and payment **deadline 5pm on Thursday, October 14.**

Susan Polgar Simul in Portland

Portland –

August 13, 2011 (clock simul)
+10, -0, =0

As part of its celebrations to commemorate its 100th anniversary the Portland Chess Club invited Former World Champion Susan Polgar to give a clock simul which was held at the Doubletree Hotel in the Lloyd Center. Susan also gave a well-attended lecture according to the report in the October 2011 issue of *Northwest Chess*.

Here is one of her wins against a ten-player field that included several masters.

Susan Polgar –

Steven Breckenridge [E14]

Portland (clock simul) August 13, 2011

**1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.e3 b6 4.Bd3 Bb7
5.c4 c5 6.0–0 Be7 7.Nc3 cxd4 8.exd4 d5**

Theory deems this necessary as 8...0–0?! is met by 9.d5!

9.cxd5 Nxd5 10.Ne5 0–0 11.Qg4



Position after 11.Qg4

This variation, which can arise from several different move orders, brought success to Susan on several occasions.

11...f5?!

Also second best is 11...Nxc3 as seen in Donaldson-Kudrin, 2003 U.S. Championship (see *Chess Life*, July 2021, pages 40–41, for the fully annotated game).

Note that the natural 11...Nd7 immediately loses material after 12.Bh6 Bf6 13.Qe4.

Black's main choice is 11...Nf6 which requires good theoretical knowledge.

12.Qe2 Bf6 13.Bd2

13.Bc4 might be more precise when 13...Nd7? again fails, this time to 14.Nc6! Qe8 15.Nxd5 exd5 16.Bxd5+ Kh8 17.Qf3.

13...a6?!

13...Nd7 was now possible as 14.Nc6 can be met by 14...Qe8.

14.Rac1 Re8 15.Bc4 Nd7

15...Nc6 was more active.

16.f4



Position after 16.f4

The text is thematic but trading on d5 might have been stronger as Black can no longer avoid recapturing with a pawn on d5. For example 16.Bxd5 exd5 (16...Bxd5? 17.Nxd5 exd5 18.f4 and White's rooks will soon invade on the c-file.) 17.f4 with a clear advantage for White.

16...Nb8?

This retreat is hard to explain, especially as Breckenridge, a future USCF Senior Master, was already rated 2265 at the time of this game. There was nothing wrong with 16...Nxc3 as after 17.Bxc3 (17.bxc3 b5 18.Bb3 Nb6 looks a little better for the second player who has a firm blockade on the hanging pawns.) 17...b5 18.Bb3 Nb6 19.Rfd1 Black gets a comfortable position with good control over the critical d5 square.

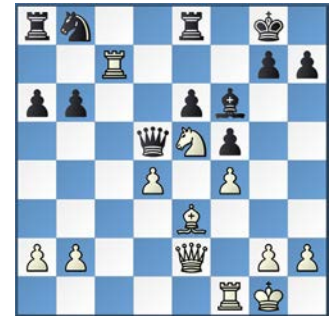
17.Be3

17.Qf3 won material but Susan prefers to keep building her position.

17...Qd6

17...Nxe3 18.Qxe3 b5 19.Bb3 Nc6 was a major improvement maintaining equal chances.

18.Nxd5 Bxd5 19.Bxd5 Qxd5 20.Rc7?



Position after 20.Rc7

This looks natural, but with the benefit of hindsight offered by the Silicon Oracle (in this case Stockfish), it turns out to actually be a mistake. 20.Qc4 was more precise emphasizing White's domination of the c-file and the awkward position of the Black knight.

20...Bd8??

This leads to a quick loss. Amazingly Black could have saved himself with the computer move 20...Nc6!, the point being that 21.Nxc6 can be met by 21...Qd6! Now the game comes to a swift conclusion.

**21.Qh5 Rf8 22.Rf7 Qd6 23.Rc1 Bf6
24.Rcc7 Qd8 25.Rxf8+ Qxf8 26.Qf3 1–0**

Susan Polgar is pictured waiting for Steve Breckenridge to move near the



Photo courtesy of Susan Polgar Foundation and Paul Truong.

end of their game. National Master Karl Schoffstall is seated next to Breckenridge with the late Neil Dale (hands in pockets) among the spectators.

There you have it. Eight World Champions (Capablanca, Alekhine, Lasker, Euwe, Spassky, Fischer, Karpov and Kramnik) and five Women's World Champions (Maya Chiburdanidze, Xie Jun, Zhu Chen, Xu Yuhua and Susan Polgar) have played chess in the Northwest.

On a related topic three Northwesterners have defeated World Champions, in some cases while they held the crown. Today, when American chess is stronger than ever, and teenage Grandmasters seemingly a dime a dozen, it's easy to dismiss the players of the past but that wouldn't be fair nor accurate.

A case in point is the late Arthur Dake of Portland who didn't learn to play until he was 17 but at 21 was board three for the gold medal winning US Olympiad team. The following year he defeated Alekhine at Pasadena 1932 having just failed to beat Capablanca with Black at New York 1931 (through inexperience he played too quickly in a winning position). Dake was but one of the young American stars of the 1930s (Fine and Reshevsky

were even younger). Yes, there were teenage prodigies in the old days – just not as many.

Yasser Seirawan of Seattle also defeated a reigning World Champion – Garry Kasparov at the 1986 Olympiad in Dubai which helped the US to a historic win over the Soviet Union. He also collected the scalps of many others who held the crown. I can highly recommend Yasser's book *Chess Duels* (Everyman 2010) where he annotates his battles with the titans of chess in detail. This is the rare chess book that is both entertaining and instructive.

Finally, we have James Tarjan of Portland. Jim's involvement in chess in the Northwest goes way back, to the 1966 US Open in Seattle, although he lived entirely in California his first chess life (1965-1984).

Possessing one of the most impressive Olympiad records of any American players (four team and three individual board medals in five events with an all-time US top five winning percentage of 75.5 percent), Tarjan has turned in a number of impressive performances since moving to Portland around 2014 and commencing his second chess life.

The biggest was undoubtedly at the Isle of Man in 2017 where he beat Vladimir Kramnik on the way to a 2650 FIDE performance. He also defeated 2600+ Russian grandmaster Pavel Tregubov and former Women's World Champion Alexandra Kosteniuk in the same event. By the way Jim was 65 when he did this.

More recently Tarjan made an even score in the 2021 US Senior Championship in St. Louis despite being both the lowest rated and oldest player in the field (some of his opponents were over a decade younger). It should also be mentioned Jim also had the handicap of starting out with three Blacks in his first four games. Nearing 70 Jim can still play!

As you can see chess in the Northwest has a long and honorable tradition of excellence with every indication it will continue.



End of Part Three



Photo courtesy of Susan Polgar Foundation and Paul Truong.

Hosted by Washington Chess Federation & Susan Polgar Foundation



16th Susan Polgar Foundation National Open for Girls & Boys



October 2-3, 2021

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

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

Email: WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com **Call:** 206.769.3757

2-day Championship Sections

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

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

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

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

1-day Sections (Saturday-only)

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

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

Rounds: Sat @ 9:30am, 11:00am, 12:30pm, 2:00pm, 3:30pm.

WA State Elementary Qualifier.

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

All Sections:

Registration **deadline Fri. Oct 1 @ 5pm**. Check-in required only for those that did not pre-pay: 8 – 8:45am. Unpaid players not checked in by 8:45am will receive a zero-point bye for any missed rounds. Trophies for top-scoring individuals and teams. Higher of US Chess or NWSRS rating will be used to determine section and pairings.

Hotel Information:

Hyatt Regency Bellevue, address above. Phone: 425.698.4250, request the Polgar Chess block. For online hotel reservations: <https://www.hyatt.com/en-US/group-booking/BELLE/G-SPOL> Cut-off date for discounted hotel reservations is 9/3/2021.

38th Annual Sands Regency RENO - WESTERN STATES OPEN

Oct 15-17 or Oct 16-17, 2021, 3 Day or 2 Day Schedule

US Chess
150 GPP (Enhanced)

\$27,500!! (b/275)

\$17,000!! (Guaranteed)

F.I.D.E. Rated
OPEN Section

6 Round Swiss ♦ 6 Sections ♦ 40/2 - G/55 min - d5 ♦ 2 Day (Rds 1-3) G/1 - d5 ♦ Rooms: \$65.30 / \$117.51

Open Section (2200 & above) EF: \$179, (2000-2199) \$250, (1999/below) \$300; GMs and IMs free but must enter by 9/18 or pay late fee at door. Guaranteed (Prizes 1-7 in Open Section plus 1/2 of all other prizes).

\$2,000 - 1,000 - 900 - 800 - 700 - 600 - 500, (2399/below) \$1,000 - \$500, (2299/below) \$1,000 - \$500 (If there is a tie for 1st then a playoff for \$100 out of prize fund plus trophy).

Section Expert	(2000-2199)	EF: \$179 (2-day EF: \$175)	\$2,000-1,000-500-300-300
Section "A"	(1800-1999)	EF: \$178 (2-day EF: \$175)	\$1,800-900-500-300-300
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Top Senior (65+) - \$200; Club Championship - \$600 - 300.

Wednesday 10/13: 7:00 pm - GM Sergey Kudrin - Clock Simul w/ complete analysis of YOUR Game (Only \$30!)

Thursday 10/14: 6 - 7:15 pm - Lecture by IM John Donaldson (FREE)

7:30 pm - GM Enrico Sevillano Simul (\$20); Blitz (G/5 d0) Tourney \$25 - 80% of entries = Prize Fund

Saturday 10/16: 3 - 4:30 pm - FREE Game/Position Analysis - IM John Donaldson



Registration: Thursday (10/14) 5 - 8 pm. - Friday (10/15) 9 - 10 am. - Saturday (10/16) 9 - 10 am.

Round Times: (3-day Schedule) Friday - 12 Noon - 7 pm; Saturday - 10 am - 6 pm; Sunday - 9:30 am - 4:30 pm

2-day Schedule: Sat.- Rd 1 - 10:30 am, Rd 2 - 12:45 pm, Rd 3 - 3:00 pm, Rd 4 merge with regular schedule - 6:00 pm

For more information: Call, Write or E-mail Organizer and Chief TD, N.T.D. Jerome (Jerry) Weikel,

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Room Reservations: Call the Sands Regency - 1-866-FUN-STAY • Reserve by 10/1 for Chess Rate, code: CHESS2021

For TLA and to confirm receipt of entry see player list at: www.renochess.org

ENTRY FORM - 38th Annual Western States Open - Reno, Nevada - October 15-17 OR October 16-17, 2021

Mail to: Sands Regency Casino Hotel - 345 N. Arlington Avenue - Reno NV 89501

PRINT Name _____ Daytime Phone _____ USCF/FIDE Rating _____

Street Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

USCF ID# _____ Exp. Date _____ All pre-registered players please check in at TD desk on arrival.

ENTRY FEE ENCLOSED: (CIRCLE SECTION AND FEE BELOW) BYE(S) REQUESTED FOR ROUND(S): (circle) 1 2 3 4 5 6

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GM/IM Masters 2000-2199 1999-Below 2000-2199 1800-1999 1600-1799 1400-1599 1399-Below Free With

3-Day EF	Free	\$179	\$250	\$300	\$179	\$178	\$177	\$176	\$165	USCF Dues
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2-Day EF	\$175	\$175	\$175	\$175	\$175	USCF Dues
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FEES ALSO ENCLOSED FOR:

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- Hotel Deposit \$117.51* (Fri & Sat)
- \$30 Wed. Clock Simul GM Kudrin
- \$20 Thu Simul GM Sevillano
- \$25 Thursday Blitz (G/5 d0)
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- No Room Needed
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Add \$11 after 9/18. Do not mail after 10/8. \$22 on site. Make check / m.o. payable to THE SANDS REGENCY or provide credit card info and signature. \$5 service charge on credit card entries.

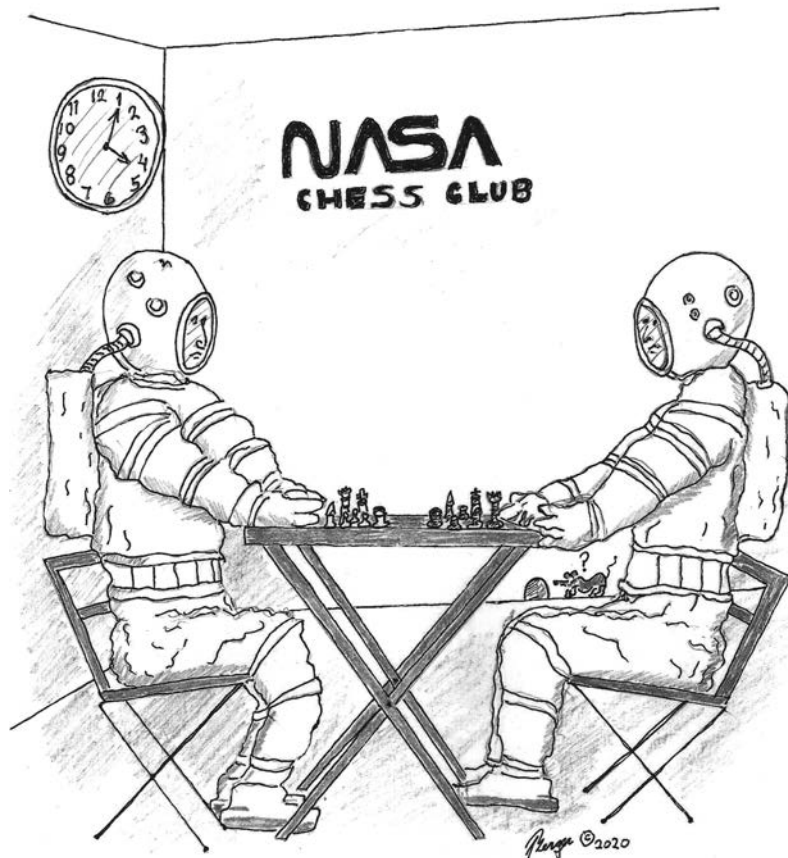
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DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, THE NASA CHESS CLUB CONTINUES TO PLAY OVER THE BOARD.

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September 2020

Northwest Chess



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Chess Journalist Award

2021

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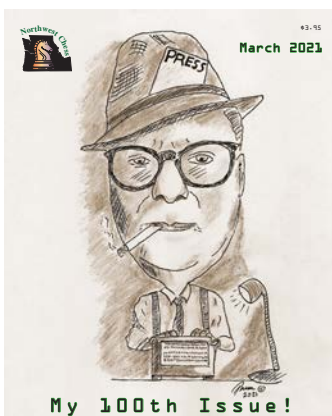
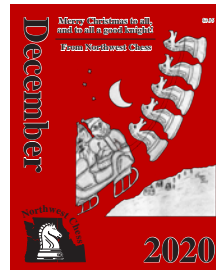
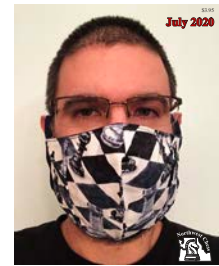
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2021 Best Single Chess Photo—Honorable Mention “Fairy-16”

2021 Best Photography—Cramer Award “Shadow” →

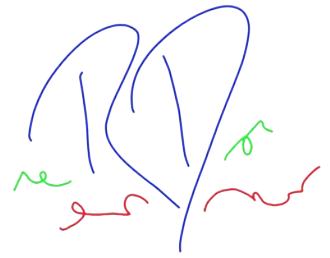






Coaching Corner

Ralph Dubisch



When I wrote the column last month about the fianchetto, I entertained hopes that there would be a dissent from at least one famous Northwest player, who shall remain nameless (but his initials are Grandmaster Yasser Seirawan). After all, I called the idea that the fianchetto is a defensive formation “codswallop,” and he’s on record giving a lecture in 2013 at the St. Louis Chess Club saying that he “loved fianchettoing” his bishop and plays the formation to “create my fortress.” (And as an aside, Yazman, that’s supposed to be pronounced “pEEertz,” not “perk”—and don’t even get me started on the Sicilian Dragon being named for the astronomical constellation Draco the Dragon, which has nothing to do with astrology or planets.) He goes on to show just how meekly and passively he views things by presenting this line:

1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6 4.f4



Position after 4.f4

At this point there was a brief excursion into 40+-year-old theory involving the obviously fortress-like 4.Bc4 Bg7 5.Qe2 Nc6 6.e5 Nxd4!? 7.exf6 Nxe2 8.fxg7 Rg8 9.Ngxe2 Rxc7 10.Bh6 Rg8 11.0-0-0



Analysis

(#Diagram-analysis after 11.0-0-0)

with a position that’s still hard to evaluate even with the aid of computer engines.

4...Bg7 5.Nf3 c5 6.dxc5

In his lecture Yaz didn’t mention his signature drawing tactic that saved this line at the GM level: 6.Bb5+ Bd7 7.e5 Ng4 8.e6 fxe6 9.Ng5 Bxb5 10.Nxe6 Bxd4! 11.Nxd8 Bf2+ 12.Kd2 Be3+ 13.Ke1 Bf2+ with a repetition.

6...Qa5 7.Bd3 Qxc5 8.Qe2 0-0 9.Be3 Qb4!?



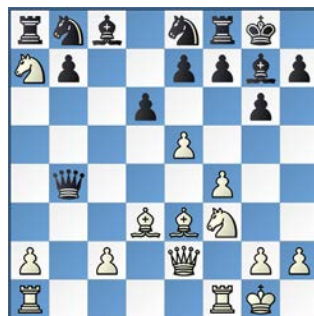
Position after 9...Qb4

So clearly Black plays this position for the secure king position, right? It has nothing to do with the tactical opportunities along that long diagonal.

10.0-0!

It’s a trap! Natural defenses of the b2-pawn are bad: 10.Rb1?? Nxe4!; 10.0-0-0?? Nxe4!

10...Qxb2 11.Nb5 Ne8 12.e5 Qb4 13.Nxa7



Position after 13.Nxa7

13...Rxa7!?

Yasser explains this decision as being due to his “clumsy rook syndrome.” My

Stockfish engine still thinks it’s equal after 13...Nc6 14.Rab1 Qa5 15.Nxc8 Rxc8 16.Rxb7 dxe5.

14.Bxa7 Nc6 15.Be3 dxe5

Here the engine likes White, though it’s quite a difficult position to play. And, I must admit, Black’s king has not come under attack.

I just don’t think that was the main reason to play the fianchetto.

Another online fan of the Pirc Defense is NM Robert Ramirez, who has an extensive collection of online lessons uploaded to YouTube. He also shared the above line, but no longer plays for the trap with 9...Qb4, preferring 9...Qa5 these days. Ramirez recommends the Czech Pirc to get started, reaching playable middlegames with little risk:

1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 c6

Black’s plan is to play ...Qa5, pinning the c3-knight and threatening to take the e4-pawn, and when (if?) that doesn’t work, play ...e5 as a foothold in the center.

4.f4 Qa5 5.Bd3

5.e5 Ne4 6.Bd3 Nxc3 7.Qd2 is interesting.

5...e5 6.dxe5 dxe5 7.fxe5



Position after 7.fxe5

7...Ng4

7...Qxe5? 8.Nf3 is too accommodating, allowing White a large developmental advantage.

To get a bit more depth in the Czech one might want to watch a different St Louis Chess Club lecture by GM Akobian, featuring his game with Black against GM Paraqua:

Mark Paragua (2538) –
 Varuzhan Akobian (2601) [B07]
 Chicago, IL USA (R6), May 26, 2008

1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 c6 4.f4 Qa5 5.
 Bd3 e5 6.Nf3 Nbd7 7.0-0 Be7 8.Kh1 0-0
 9.Be3 b5 10.Qd2 Qc7 11.a4 b4 12.Ne2



Position after 12.Ne2

12...d5 13.fxe5 dxe4 14.exf6 Nxf6
 15.Bf4 Qb7 16.Ng3 exd3 17.Qxd3 Nd5
 18.Bg5?!

18.Bd2 is roughly equal.

18...f6 19.Bd2 Re8 20.Nf5 Bf8 21.N3h4
 g5 22.Nf3 Qa6 23.Qxa6 Bxa6 24.Rfe1
 Kf7 25.Ng3 c5 26.dxc5 Bxc5 27.Ne4 Bf8
 28.Nd4 Bb7 29.Nf2 Bc5 30.c3 Rac8 31.
 Ne4



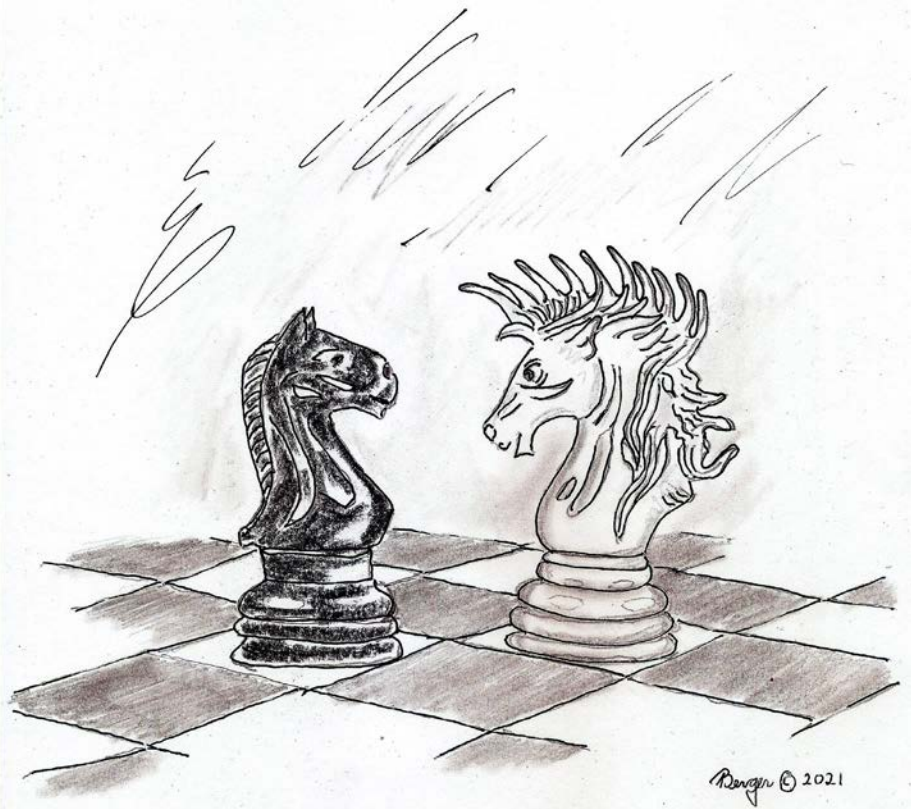
Position after 31.Ne4

31...Rxe4 32.Rxe4 Nxc3 33.Ree1 Bxd4
 34.bxc3 bxc3 35.Be3 Bxe3 36.Rxe3 c2

0-1

While I can unreservedly recommend
 watching these lectures and lessons,

I USED TO PLAY HEAVY METAL BEFORE I LEARNED TO PLAY CHESS.



there are some things on YouTube that
 could prove hazardous to your opening
 health if you latch onto them without
 serious critical consideration. The highly
 entertaining IM Eric Rosen, for example,
 champions the Ponziani with White, the
 Stafford Gambit Russian Defense, and
 the Traxler in the Two Knights Defense
 with Black. He's making a career of traps,
 gambits, and obscure openings. While
 these can be fun in casual blitz games,
 their utility as part of a serious repertoire
 is strictly limited.

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6

2...Nc6 3.Bc4 (3.c3 d5 (or 3...Nf6 4.d4)
 4.Qa4 is the Ponziani.) 3...Nf6 4.Ng5 Bc5
 5.Nxf7 Bxf2+ is the Traxler, or in the old
 days in the U.S., the Wilkes-Barre.

3.Nxe5 Nc6 4.Nxc6 dxc6 5.d3

5.Nc3 Bc5

5...Bc5

The Stafford Gambit. Unsound, but with
 room for home preparation and some
 decent cheapo potential.

As Yasser might say, "not a classical
 opening."

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Playing Kids And Seeing Ghosts

Nobel Ang

A couple of months ago, I wrote in this magazine that chess could be a way for us to sublimate our warlike egotistic nature and transform it into something more noble and sublime; for instance, many people who have played chess for a while will tell you that chess is as much about winning over your own weaknesses and limitations as it is about beating the person sitting across the board from you.¹

I am definitely not one of those many people. As far as I'm concerned, when I'm playing chess, chess *is* totally about beating the person sitting across from me. While it's easy for me to wax philosophical about the beauty and the sublimity of chess when I'm relaxing over a beer and musing about the many fascinating social and cultural aspects of the royal game, it's a totally different story when I'm actually in the hot seat trying to defend my king from regicide while simultaneously trying to commit regicide.

¹ "Is Chess a Game?", *Northwest Chess* July 2021.

As much as I hate to admit this, a couple of recent tournament games have shown me that instead of a lofty contemplation of the beauty of the game, my actual emotions over the board are often a toxic stew of anger, fear, petty vindictiveness, and vanity.

Consider this game that I played at the recent Summer Classic in Nampa. I had the white pieces, and my opponent was this young girl who played her heart out with the Grunfeld. In order to protect my very fragile ego, I am going to withhold her identity here, even though it is clearly an exercise in futility; if you want to know who she is, all you need to do is look up the crosstable for that tournament. I would very much like to be able to say that after all these years of chess, I have become a much more emotionally mature player, and would be very happy to lose to anybody who played better than me, regardless of age. Alas, that would be a lie. Whenever I find myself playing kids, my ego always rises

to the surface, and I find myself playing way more cautiously than usual so as to not have to suffer the humiliation of losing to them, especially when their parents are around to witness and gloat at my defeat at the hands of their progeny. So, it was with this game. As I said, she played fiercely, but I defended carefully and gained the upper hand. I was three pawns up, and all I had to do, in theory, was to trade away all the pieces and enter into a winning king-and-pawn endgame. But my opponent wouldn't let me off so easy. As it turns out, in the course of gaining my three-pawn advantage, I had traded off my light-square bishop. And as luck would have it (I know there's supposed to be no luck in chess, but just humor me, okay?), she had somehow been able to force me to push my g-pawn in front of my castled king earlier in the game, and she still had both her queen and her light-square bishop. For several scary moves, she attempted to infiltrate my light-squares with her queen and

2021 Norman Friedman Memorial Tournament (FIDE Event!)



Date: Friday – Sunday, Oct. 8 – 10, 2021

Round Times: Friday, 7:00 pm, Saturday 9:00 am, 2:00 pm, Sunday 9:00 am, 2:00 pm

Location: Riverside Hotel, 2900 W Chinden Blvd, Garden City, Idaho 83714

Format: 5SS G/90; +30

Sections: Open Section

Registration fee: \$60/non-members, \$50/ICA members, \$40/scholastic.

Requirements: US Chess membership, chess equipment provided but feel free to bring your own.

Prizes: Guaranteed prizes! 1st place (\$300), 2nd place (\$200), 3rd place (\$100). Class prizes: 1st place (\$50) for each Class B, C, D, E, UNR. 1st – 3rd place scholastic player trophies.

Other Info: Mention chess if staying at hotel; (208) 343-1871.

Side Event: Blitz, Saturday, Oct. 9, 7:00 pm, 7 SS, G/5;+3, \$10 for ICA Members, \$15 for non-members, prizes: \$75/1st place, \$50/2nd place, \$25/3rd place. Payment on site only.

THIS IS A FIDE and US CHESS RATED EVENT — US CHESS MEMBERSHIP IS REQUIRED

Sponsored by the Idaho Chess Association

Details or questions: Adam (208) 450-9048 or idahochessassociation@gmail.com

bishop. After a couple of frantic defensive moves on my part, I was able to get her to give up the attempt. What she did not realize, however, was that she could have tricked me into acquiescing to a draw by three-fold repetition if she had kept up the pressure. I say *tricked*, because blinded by my fear of being checkmated, I failed to see that her threat was actually an empty one. Anyway, here's the position after 29...Bg4:



Position after 29...Bg4

I played 30.Qf1, she responded with 30...Bh3, to which I responded with 31.Qe2. If she had then replied with 31...Bg4, I probably would have played 32.Qf1, to which she could have responded with 32...Bh3, leading to a threefold repetition. But she apparently didn't see this drawing possibility, and played 31.Qe5, to my great relief.

When I went over this position with my coach later, he had this bemused and

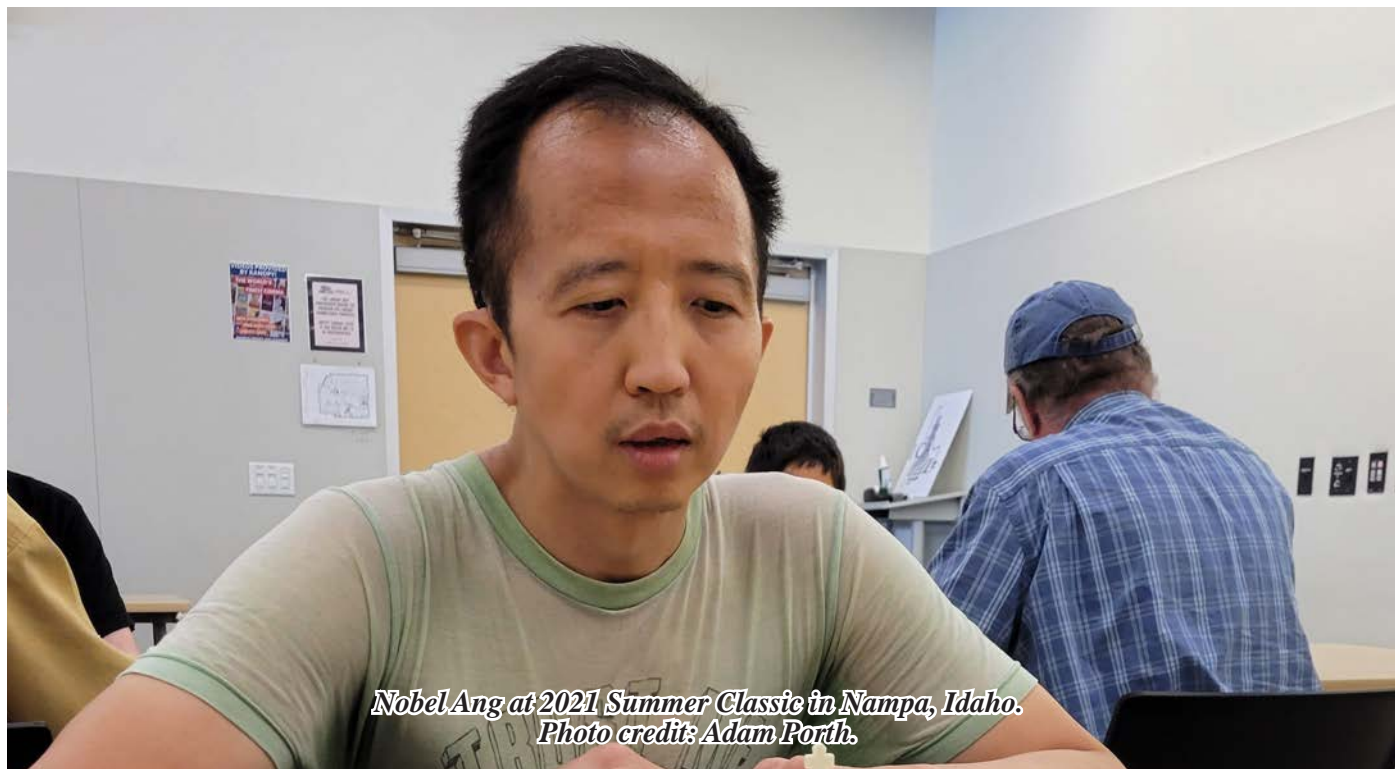
slightly pained smile on his face and told me that I was seeing ghosts. He pointed out to me that I didn't have to go along with the threefold repetition, that I had other defensive resources. Since most of you out there are stronger players than me, you can probably figure out what these resources are, so I won't bore you with the details here.

Then again, perhaps my opponent did see the drawing possibility, but was unwilling to settle for a draw: Maybe her parents offered to take her out to ice-cream, but only if she won? In any event, soon after her unsuccessful attempt at checkmate, I sensed a disturbance in the Force; her fighting spirit waned and her play suddenly became sloppy, probably because she was beginning to see a future without ice-cream. I was eventually able to skewer her king and queen with my dark-square bishop (total cheapo move, I know), and her position quickly crumbled after that. I was relieved to have prevailed, but there was also this vague feeling of shame. I somehow felt that I did not really deserve to win; I felt like a drunken bar brawler who had been backed into a corner, who had then happened upon a shard of broken glass in the nick of time...

Oops, are there any kids reading this? I should probably keep this PG-13, shouldn't I? Then again, chess is a violent game, isn't it?

In all fairness, I am not the first person to relate chess to boxing or bar brawls. For one thing, chess boxing is actually a thing (google it; it's kinda fun to watch). Also, the famous 1980 game between then-World-Champion Anatoly Karpov and English grandmaster Tony Miles has been described by some as a kind of chess bar brawl. Like a trained boxer, Karpov opened with the very classical 1.e4, to which Miles responded with the highly unorthodox 1...a6. Unsettled by this totally legal yet somehow insulting move, Karpov never recovered his equilibrium, played badly, and lost.

Personally, I have always thought of chess as a kind of mental martial art. A lot of the same qualities that are involved in martial arts (grit, discipline, perseverance, strong fighting spirit etc.) are also needed in order to play chess well. Also, perhaps like chess, martial arts is ultimately about taming the ego through disciplining the body; the idea, as I understand it, is that one needs to experience, go through, and then reach beyond the violent impulses within us in order to get to the other side of self-mastery. Seen in this way, perhaps there is hope for me: Perhaps in order to become a more mature and confident player, I need to experience and go through all the petty emotions mentioned above in order to get to the other side, whatever that other side looks like. In the meantime, I will probably continue to play kids and see ghosts for a while.



*Nobel Ang at 2021 Summer Classic in Nampa, Idaho.
Photo credit: Adam Porth.*

Chess Can Get You Into Trouble

Karen Schmidt

I was casting about for an idea for a chess story for this month while waiting for a couple chess friends to agree to be interviewed for future stories. I remembered an incident from a few years ago which illustrates the point that chess can get you into a lot of trouble.

I live in Seattle proper and was invited to join a chess friend over on the Kitsap peninsula for an afternoon of casual chess games. A small group played every Tuesday afternoon at the Barnes & Noble bookstore cafe in the Kitsap Mall, near Silverdale. I decided to take the plunge and go, even though I would be the only female there and I only knew one of the guys. (What else is new in my chess world?)

This involved a drive north to Edmonds, a ferry ride over to Kingston, then a drive south to the mall on the peninsula. I had verbal directions which sounded easy enough. The ferry ride was spectacular, with views of Puget Sound and the Kitsap Peninsula, as well as the mainland, the Olympic Mountains, islands, sailboats, and more. It was a sunny summer day, and I was really enjoying my adventure.

However, the casual verbal driving directions, which I had scribbled onto a piece of notebook paper, turned out to be a little confusing. I must have missed a turn or exit, because I found myself crossing the beautiful Agate Pass Bridge onto Bainbridge Island. I was supposed to be going to

Silverdale! I pulled off to the side of the road and called my friend Gilbert at the mall. He patiently gave me “reverse and

revised directions.” (That was just the first of three times I called and interrupted the group of chess players that afternoon.)

I backtracked back over the bridge, still enjoying the stunning scenic views even though I was basically lost. Eventually, after a couple more calls, I knew I was in the vicinity of the mall but was running low on gas by now, after all the extra driving around. I certainly didn’t want to run out of gas on a country road and have to call AAA (and miss out on the chess games)!

I saw a sign for gas in one mile. But when I came to a T-intersection, there was no sign telling me whether to go one mile to the left, or to the right. I chose the right. (By the way, I am not terribly skilled at electronics in general and had not learned how to use Siri for getting to a driving destination.)

In about a mile I found myself at the entrance to the Bangor Nuclear Submarine Base, as the big sign said. I thought “Whew! What a relief. These guys can tell me how to get to the gas station.” I pulled up to the little booth and rolled down my window. I began to explain about being on my way to play chess and being lost and needing gas...when the man at the window curtly interrupted me and told me to pull over to the side. The next thing I knew, another uniformed man was at my window, asking for my driver’s license and registration. I handed these over. He retreated to a vehicle behind me, and I realized that he was running my driver’s license... probably to see if I had a “record” of any kind. I had also begun to realize that they were thinking I was perhaps a terrorist trying to get onto the base! Rather than a woman trying to find a chess group. (A likely story, right?)

A few minutes later the uniformed guy came back and asked me to pop the trunk. Also, the glove compartment. He took a good look inside both. Then he handed back my stuff. He told me in a no-nonsense fashion that I was to turn my vehicle around and proceed

about two miles east in the opposite direction to the gas station. (I guess I should have made a left turn back at the T.)

Then I was to head south a couple miles after leaving the gas station to get to the mall.

These directions turned out to be perfect. I did find the gas station, the mall, the bookstore, the cafe, and there was actually a group of guys there playing chess. One motivation for making the trip that day was that Viktors Pupols was supposed to be there—our local 80-something chess legend. I had met him at the Seattle Chess Club previously. He lives near the mall and was a regular at

this casual chess Tuesday meet-up. I was awed to watch Viktors play a game, and I got to chat with his wife quietly off to the side. I remember being amazed that she was not a chess player, and in fact she was working on sudoku puzzles. I should mention that when Pupols was 20 and Bobby Fischer was 12, Pupols beat him in a National Juniors tournament. How someone could be married to a chess fanatic and not play chess is truly beyond my comprehension.

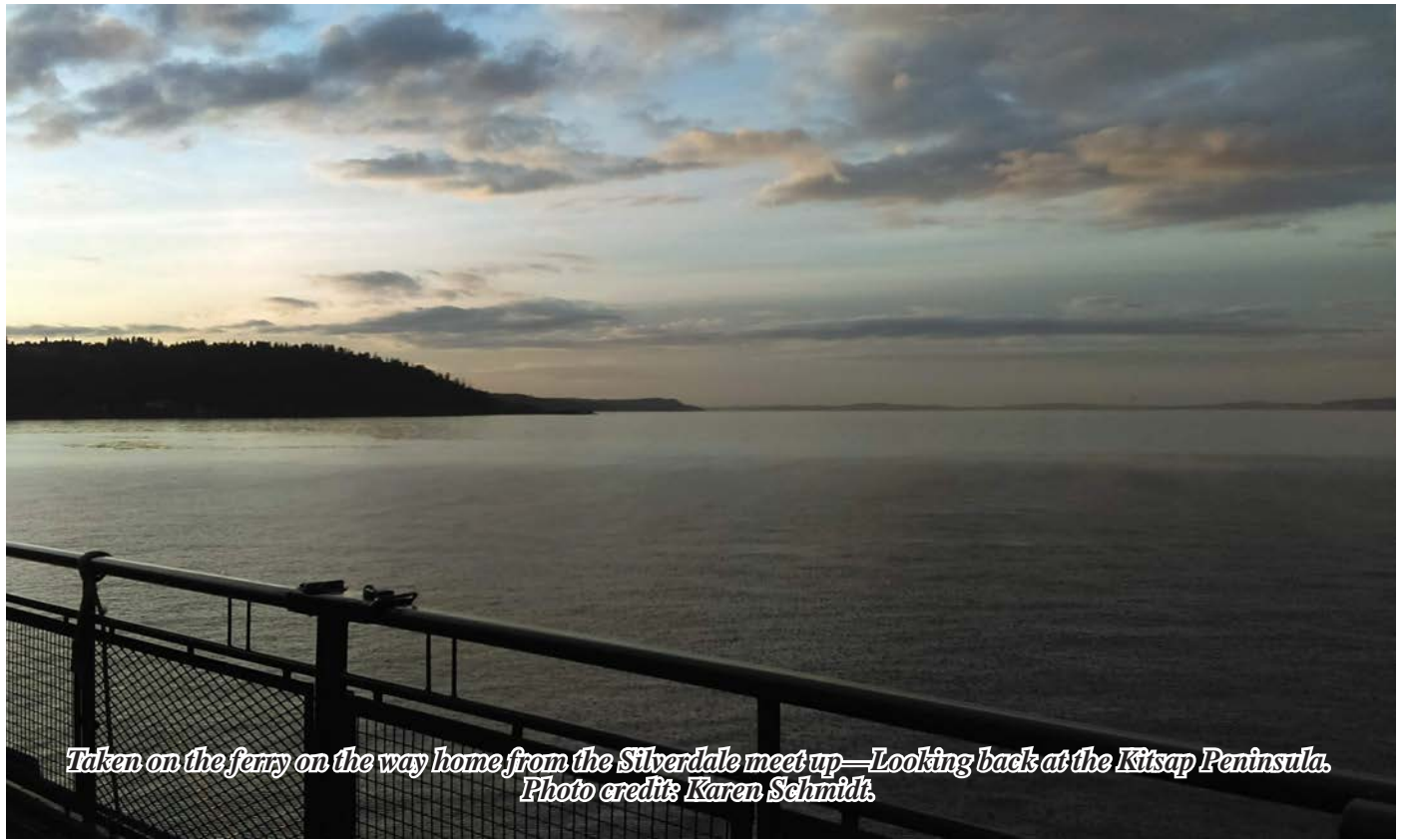
A young college-age kid then asked if I would like to play a game. (!) We did play two or three short games. They were short because I was promptly crushed in each game. I was used to playing with college guys, because I had been sitting in on the University of Washington Chess Club for a few years; I was working at UW and was kind of a “mother figure” to the guys. But *this* casual chess group was clearly made up of higher-level players.

It was really a very enjoyable afternoon, in spite of being crushed in my games. I was on the return half-hour ferry-trip at sunset with more spectacular views of islands, mainland, mountains, seagulls, and other ferries. I had a new cell phone (my first-ever after years of having a vintage flip-phone), and I was taking photos for the first time on my new phone. I remember calling my son in Tacoma and telling him where I was and about the chess group. (He is also a good chess player.) I asked him if there was a way to make an object—such as a seagull or a ferry boat—look larger when taking a photo. There was a silence on the phone at his end. Then he said, “Mom....Do you have a photo in view? (I did.) Put your thumb and index finger on the screen. Now spread them apart.” I followed his instructions and shrieked, “Oh wow...that is just amazing!” Another silence at his end. I can only imagine him just laughing his head off after we hung up. But in my defense, it *was* my first smart phone ever, and I don’t think that spreading your fingers out was exactly intuitive. I mean, how would I have known to do that?

Hopefully there won’t be a next time, but if I ever get lost again and wind up at a military base, I will come up with a better excuse than being on my way to play chess at the mall!



“...if I ever get lost again and wind up at a military base, I will come up with a better excuse than being on my way to play chess at the mall!”



*Taken on the ferry on the way home from the Silverdale meet up—Looking back at the Kitsap Peninsula.
Photo credits Karen Schmidt.*

WASHINGTON CHALLENGER'S CUP



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

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Building I, Ste. M
Redmond, WA 98052

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

Email:
WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com

Registration: Online at
nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration
Registration and payment deadline:
Wed. 10/20 @ 5pm.

OCTOBER 23-24, 2021

A NORTHWEST CHESS GRAND PRIX EVENT

Site: Orlov Chess Academy – 7212 Woodlawn Ave NE, Seattle, WA 98115.

Format: A Swiss event in two sections. One section per day. Maximum of 25 players per section – register early! 5 rounds in Reserve/U1700 section (Oct 23), and 4 rounds in Open section (Oct 24).

Entry Fee: Must be paid by 10/20: no late or on-site registrations or payments. \$50 by 10/16, \$60 after 10/16. Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs. \$40 play-up fee if rated under 1700 and playing in Open section.

Time Control and Schedule of Rounds:

Reserve: G/50; d5.

Sat. 9 AM, 11 AM, 1:30 PM, 3:30 PM, 5:30 PM

Open: G/75; d10.

Sun. 10 AM, 1 PM, 4 PM, 7 PM

Prize Fund: \$1,300 (based on 50 paid entries total)

Reserve: 1st \$150, 2nd \$100, 3rd \$70

1st U1600/U1400/U1200/U1000: \$60; Biggest Upset: \$30

Open: 1st \$230, 2nd \$160, 3rd \$110

1st U2200/U2000/U1800: \$60; Biggest Upset: \$30

Highest finishing Washington resident in the Open Section is seeded into the 2022 Washington State Championship.

Byes: Two half-point byes available in Reserve/U1700 section. One half-point bye available in Open section. Request before end of round 2.

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

Rating: US Chess and NWSRS Rated. Higher of current US Chess Regular, US Chess Online, and NWSRS ratings used to determine pairings and prizes. Higher of US Chess and foreign ratings used at TD discretion.

Health/Safety Protocols: Face masks required for all players and spectators. Please bring your own mask, limited number available. Chess equipment sanitized between rounds. All players and parents (if U18) are required to sign the [WCF Health / Safety Protocols & Waiver of Liability](#) form prior to the start of the tournament.

2021 Seattle Seafair Open

By Josh Sinanan and Valentin Razmov

The 2021 Seattle Seafair Open was held online via Chess.com July 31—August 1. As has become typical in recent times, chess players from all ages, skill levels, and geographic locations were represented in the international field, including parts of Washington, Oregon, California, Canada (British Columbia and Ontario), and India! The event was co-hosted by the Seattle Chess Club and the Washington Chess Federation. WCF President Josh Sinanan directed the tournament with assistance from WCF Tournament Coordinator Valentin Razmov and his son Gabriel. The five-

round Swiss tournament featured a total of 37 players competing, according to tradition for this event, in a single Open section spanning two days. The time control of G/60+30 sec. increment allowed time for the players to strategize and come up with deep plans. Despite this, several games curiously finished in under five minutes!

IM Mitrabha Guha, a strong International Master from India who plays regularly in online WCF tournaments despite the huge time zone difference, won the tournament with an undefeated 4.5 points from five games. Guha drew against NM Ojas Kulkarni in the fourth round, then won as Black in a clutch middle-of-the-night game against his compatriot IM Krishna Crg in the final round! Four players tied for second/

third/first U2200 with four points apiece: IM Krishna Crg from Tenali (IND), FM Rohan Talukdar from Ontario (CAN), local chess stud Ryan Ackerman from Seattle, and NM Ojas Kulkarni from Bangalore (IND). Several regional players also posted strong results, outperforming their expectations.

Other Prize Winners Include:

=First U2000/U1800: Edward Cheng, Leonardo Zhou, and Francisco Lopez.

=First U1600: Kiann Skkandann and Katherine Zhuge.

=First U1400: Don Hack, Erich Akin, and Selina Cheng.

=First U1200: Lois Ruff and Saarth Bhargava.

First Unrated: Luke Clyde

Official Standings. Seattle Seafair Open

#	Name	Rtng	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Tot
1	IM Mitrabha Guha	2492	W22	W9	W4	D5	W2	4.5
2	IM Krishna Crg	2605	W14	W19	W12	W3	L1	4
3	FM Rohan Talukdar	2425	W15	W10	W11	L2	W6	4
4	Ryan Ackerman	1922	W17	W24	L1	W16	W10	4
5	NM Ojas Kulkarni	2336	W18	W7	H---	D1	W13	4
6	Edward Cheng	1720	W26	W28	D13	W8	L3	3.5
7	Leonardo Zhou	1629	W34	L5	D15	W23	W20	3.5
8	Francisco Lopez	1793	W32	W16	H---	L6	W9	3.5
9	Aditya Singh	1665	W35	L1	W14	W11	L8	3
10	Michael Shapiro	1641	W31	L3	W28	W12	L4	3
11	Luke Clyde	unr.	W21	W20	L3	L9	W24	3
12	Valentin Razmov	1986	W36	W25	L2	L10	W18	3
13	Aaron Nicoski	1810	H---	W23	D6	W24	L5	3
14	Kiann Skkandann	1469	L2	W27	L9	W33	W25	3
15	Katherine Zhuge	1411	L3	W33	D7	W31	H---	3
16	Lixing Shen	1516	W30	L8	W19	L4	D17	2.5
17	Don Hack	1306	L4	W29	W25	L20	D16	2.5
18	Erich Akin	1378	L5	D31	W26	W22	L12	2.5
19	Daniel Wang	1691	W33	L2	L16	W28	D21	2.5
20	AFM Sridhar Seshadri	1706	W27	L11	H---	W17	L7	2.5
21	Gabriel Razmov	1502	L11	L26	W37	W27	D19	2.5
22	John Christy	1420	L1	W35	H---	L18	W32	2.5
23	Selina Cheng	1312	H---	L13	W34	L7	W31	2.5
24	Sonia Devaraju	1575	W29	L4	W30	L13	L11	2
25	Bohan Zhang	1589	W37	L12	L17	W26	L14	2
26	Lois Ruff	1177	L6	W21	L18	L25	W34	2
27	Saarth Bhargava	971	L20	L14	W29	L21	W37	2
28	Noah Condit	1449	X38	L6	L10	L19	W35	2
29	Arie Trouw	unr.	L24	L17	L27	W36	W33	2
30	Jeff Klink	unr.	L16	W36	L24	H---	H---	2
31	Vihaan Mamtani	574	L10	D18	W32	L15	L23	1.5
32	Nikhil Ramkumar	1179	L8	H---	L31	W35	L22	1.5
33	Mariel Pachucki	951	L19	L15	W36	L14	L29	1
34	Nethra Ramkumar	498	L7	H---	L23	D37	L26	1
35	Deeksha Shankaranand	614	L9	L22	B---	L32	L28	1
36	Aarav Bharathy Mohan	1310	L12	L30	L33	L29	B---	1
37	Vishnu Vijayanandh	473	L25	H---	L21	D34	L27	1
38	IM David Shahinyan	2570	F28	---	---	---	---	0

Best NW Player (by TPR): Valentin Razmov (1910)

Upset Prizes (Per Round):

Round One No upsets!

Round Two Lois Ruff (325 pts.)

Round Three Vihaan Mamtani (605 pts.)

Round Four Michael Shapiro (345 pts.)

Round Five Kiann Skkandann (120 pts.)

**Aditya Singh (1665) –
Mitrabha Guha (2492) [C03]**
Seattle Seafair Open
Chess.com (R2), July 31, 2021
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 a6 4.Bd3 c5 5.exd5!?

5.dxc5 Bxc5 6.Ngf3 Nc6 is a more common sequence.

5...exd5 6.c3 Nc6 7.Ngf3 Nf6 8.0-0 Be7

8...cxd4 9.Re1+ Be7 (9...Be6?! 10.Ng5 dxc3 11.bxc3±) 10.Nxd4±

9.dxc5



Position after 9.dxc5

9...0-0?!

Offers White a surprisingly good chance of holding onto the extra pawn. 9...Bxc5 10.Nb3 Be7 11.h3±

10.b4

10.Nb3!?

10...Bg4?!

10...a5 11.b5 Nb8 12.Qc2 Bxc5 13.c4±

11.h3 Bh5 12.g4?!

The kingside weakness created here may come back to haunt the king later on. 12.a3 a5 13.Bb2±

12...Bg6 13.Bxg6 hxg6 14.Re1 Re8

14...a5

15.Bb2

15.g5!?

15...Qc7 16.Kg2 Nd8?!

16...b6; 16...Rad8

17.Nd4

17.c4!?

17...Nc6 18.N2f3



Position after 18.N2f3

18...Ne4

18...b6 19.cxb6 Qxb6 20.Nxc6 Qxc6 21.Qd3 d4! 22.Rad1± (But 22.Qxd4? Rad8 23.Qf4 Bd6 gives Black too much activity.)

19.c4?

19.Qb3 Rad8 20.Rad1±

19...Nxb4 20.a3 Nxf2!?

Black takes an 800–rating-point gamble. 20...Bxc5 21.axb4 Bxb4 is a different way to give up a piece for pawns and unclear chances.; Clearly bad is 20...Nc6?? 21.cxd5 Nxd4 22.d6.

21.Kxf2 Bh4+ 22.Nxh4 Qh2+ 23.Ng2 Rxe1 24.Kxe1 Qxg2 25.Qe2

It appears the best choice here is 25.Ne2 Nc6 26.cxd5, which looks winning.

25...Nd3+ 26.Qxd3 Qxb2 27.Rb1

27.Rd1 dxc4 28.Qxc4 Qxa3 29.Rd3±

27...Qg2 28.cxd5 Qxd5 29.Kd2

29.Rc1±

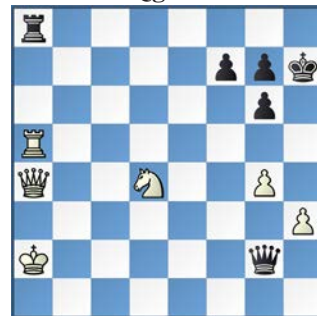
29...Rd8 30.Rb4 Qxc5 31.Qc4

31.Qc3±

31...Qe5 32.Kc2 b5 33.Qd3 Kh7 34.a4 Rc8+ 35.Kb3 Qd5+ 36.Kb2 bxa4 37.Qxa6 Qc5 38.Qxa4 Qc1+ 39.Ka2 Qh1 40.Rb5

40.Qb3

40...Ra8 41.Ra5 Qg2+



Position after 41...Qg2+

42.Kb1?!

42.Ka3 Qxh3+ 43.Kb4 Rc8 44.Rc5 Rb8+ 45.Rb5 Rxb5+ 46.Qxb5 Qxg4 47.Qd5 Equal... but still fun!

42...Qe4+ 43.Ka2 Rxa5 44.Qxa5 Qxd4 45.Qe1 Qd5+ 46.Kb2 Qg2+ 47.Kc1 Qxh3 48.Qe2 Qh1+ 49.Kd2 Qd5+ 50.Ke1 Qe6 51.Qxe6 fxe6 52.g5 Kg8 53.Ke2 Kf7 54.Kd3 e5

Exciting stuff!

0-1



The TD desk during the Seattle Seafair Open featured a dual monitor setup. Photo Credits Josh Sinanan.

2021 Washington Scholastic Summer Chess Fest

By Josh Sinanan

The 2021 Washington Scholastic Summer Chess Fest was held online via Chess.com on Saturday July 17. Scholastic chess players from grades K-12 participated from throughout the Pacific Northwest region, including the cities of Seattle, Kirkland, Sammamish, Richland, Everett, Shoreline, Auburn, Redmond, Olympia, Bellevue, Bothell, Issaquah, Bellingham, West Richland, Yarrow Point, Portland (Oregon), Lake Oswego (Oregon), and Glenn Allen (Virginia). The event was hosted by the Washington Chess Federation and directed by WCF Adult Chess Director Rekha Sagar. A total of 52 players competed across four sections separated by grade level and rating: K-4 U800, K-4 Open, 5-12 U1200, and 5-12 Open. The tournament featured a new seven-round format, as compared to the normal five-rounds typically seen in scholastic events. There were numerous daring attacks and bold sacrifices launched by many wild characters over the course of the afternoon! Moreover, all players demonstrated genuine sportsmanship and integrity while playing their online chess games.

Congratulations to all who competed in this marathon event and to the top finishers in each section:

K-4 U800: =First Place (Co-Champions!) – Caiden Wang (5.0, 400 → 731) & Dylan Ong (5.0, 675 → 719). Third Place – Ian Lu (4.5, 735 → 733).

K-4 Open: First Place – David Xiao (7.0, 1539 → 1585). =Second-Fourth Place – Emily Hung (4.5, 1364 → 1353), Vincent Liu (4.5, 1305 → 1306), and Austin Li (4.5, 1179 → 1239).

5-12 U1200: First Place – Aadi Walimbe (7.0, 1127 → 1297). Second Place – Joshua Ehrenberg (6.0, 1198 → 1230). Third Place – Nathan Race (4.5, 1010 → 1045).

5-12 Open: =First Place (Co-Champions!) – Edward Cheng (6.0, 1659 → 1720) & Stephen Willy (6.0, 1832 → 1841). Third Place – Sean Park (5.5, 1653 → 1692).

2021 Washington Spring into Chess960 Open

By Josh Sinanan

The Washington Spring into Chess960 Open was held online via Chess.com on Sunday, July 18, 2021. Originally planned for early April, the event was subsequently rescheduled due to low attendance. Chess players from far and wide were represented in the 19-player field from locales including Seattle, Kirkland, Shoreline, Vancouver (Washington), Redmond, North Bend, Yakima, Sammamish, Bothell, Lexington (Massachusetts), Winsdor (Ontario), Minsk (Belarus), Chernovtsy (Ukraine), and India. In Chess960, the back-rank pieces are scrambled each round, so players must adapt to the new starting position and rely on their intuition instead of memorized opening theory.

The event was hosted by the Washington Chess Federation under the direction of WCF Adult Chess Director Rekha Sagar. WCF Tournament Coordinator Valentin Razmov and WCF President Josh Sinanan partnered with Rekha to organize the tournament. The tournament consisted of two sections: Open and U2000. The Open section was played as a six-player Round Robin and featured a star-studded cast of two GM's, one IM, and one FM! The U2000 section consisted of 13 players and was run as a

five-round Swiss. Every round featured a different Fischer-random starting position, which the players had a chance to study for three minutes before games were launched.

In the Open section, IM Mitrabha Guha and FM Rohan Talukdar reigned supreme with 3.5/4, winning all their games and drawing against each other in the second round. Guha and Talukdar knocked out GMs Aleksandrov and Bernadskiy in the first round and sent the GMs packing! The brave Benjamin Yin scored third-place honors with two points, despite being a minnow in a pool of sharks!

Top seed and Seattle Chess King Valentin Razmov emerged victorious in the U2000 section with four points from five games, bouncing back after a first round loss to James Hamlett! Young Edward Cheng, an eighth grader from Detective Cookie's Chess School in Seattle and the reigning Washington State Chess960 Champion, captured second place with an undefeated 3.5 points from five games. Four players shared third place honors with three points apiece: Gabriel Razmov, Bohan Zhang, James Hamlett, and Megan Esler. Selina Cheng won the First U1400 prize with three points, just ahead of North Bend's Mariel Pachucki, who finished in second U1400.

Congratulations to the winners, and many thanks to all who contributed to this fun event. Somewhere, Bobby Fischer is smiling!



2021 Vancouver Open

By Josh Sinanan

The Washington Chess Federation hosted the 8th Annual Vancouver Open July 24-25 at the Vancouver Hampton Inn & Suites. The event marked WCF's first completely OTB tournament since the COVID shutdown of March 2020. A total of 53 players turned out for the five-round Swiss tournament, which was held in one Open section instead of the usual two. The tournament, originally capped at 30 players to comply with CDC guidelines, was later expanded to 52 as social distancing guidelines eased in the mid-summer months. To ensure a

safe and healthy playing environment, all players and spectators were required to wear masks while in the playing hall and skittles area. Chess equipment was sanitized between rounds by the TD staff of Chouchan Airapetian and Josh Sinanan.

This year's field consisted of 40 Washington players (including ten Vancouver locals) and 14 Oregon players. An even mix of 27 adults and 26 juniors took part, with many games featuring lopsided age and rating matchups!

When the dust settled, two up-and-coming juniors, Brian Lee (4.5, 1881 → 1924) from Napavine and Zoey Tang (4.5, 2188 → 2189) from Portland, emerged victorious each with an

undefeated 4.5 points and were crowned as Co-Champions! We wish Brian Lee the best of luck as he heads off to college at Western Washington University this fall. If Zoey had won her final-round game against Brian instead of drawing, she likely would have achieved the National Master title, just like Eric Zhang did back in the 2019 Vancouver Open with a clutch final round win against Zoey! No doubt Zoey will make it soon, as she now sits at 2198 live rating at the time of writing after her strong performance in the recent Barber National Tournament of Middle School State Champions in Cherry Hill, NJ.

Four players won their final round game to claim a share of the U2200, U2000, and U1800 prizes: Micah Smith (4.0, 1975 → 1974) from Vancouver, Alex Chow (4.0, 1786 → 1805) from Spokane, Aaron Nicoski (4.0, 1788 → 1806) from Vancouver, and Austin Tang (4.0, 1926 → 1917) from Portland. The U1600, U1400, and U1200 prizes were shared by three players half-a-point back: Henry Benaid (3.5, 1586 → 1617) from Mt. Vernon, Kylie Zhang (3.5, 1200 → 1264) from Mercer Island, and Harishkumar Karthikeyan (3.5, 1313 → 1538) from Redmond. Hunter Morgan (2.5, 382 → 738) from Snohomish, a recent UW graduate and outgoing President of the University of Washington Chess Club, won the upset prize by virtue of scoring a 1242-point upset in the very first round! No doubt Hunter is grossly underrated from his childhood 382 provisional rating, having fine-tuned his chess skills online during the pandemic as many others have. Congratulations to the winners!



2021 Vancouver Open Champions (L) Zoey Tang and Brian Lee.
Photo Credit: Josh Sinanan.

**Sridhar Seshadri (1626) –
Alex Huttelmaier (477) [A00]**
Vancouver Open
Vancouver, WA (R1), July 24, 2021
[Alex Huttelmaier]

1.b4 e5 2.Bb2 d6 3.e4?!

Inaccuracy. 3.c4 was best. 3.c4 Nf6 4.e3 Be7 5.Nc3 0-0 6.Nf3 c6 7.Qc2 Re8.

3...Nf6 4.d3?!

Inaccuracy. 4.Nc3 was best. 4.Nc3 Nc6 5.a3 g6 6.Bc4 Bg7 7.d3 0-0 8.Nge2 Nd4.

4...g6?!

Inaccuracy. 4...d5 was best. 4...d5 5.a3 a5 6.b5 dxe4 7.Nc3 exd3 8.Bxd3 Bd6 9.Nf3.

5.Be2 Bg7 6.Nf3 0-0 7.0-0 Be6 8.a4 Nbd7 9.c4 b6 10.Nbd2?!

Inaccuracy. 10.a5 was best. 10.a5 c5 11.Bc3 Bh6 12.axb6 axb6 13.Na3 Nh5 14.g3 Bh3 15.Re1 Ng7 16.Nb5 Rxa1.

10...Qe7?!

Inaccuracy. 10...a5 was best. 10...a5.

11.d4 exd4?!

Inaccuracy. 11...a5 was best. 11...a5 12.b5

12.Nxd4 Rfe8?!



Position after 12...Rfe8

Inaccuracy. 12...c5 was best. 12...c5
13.Nc6 Qe8 14.b5 Ne5 15.Nxe5 dxe5
16.Qc2 Rd8 17.Rfd1 Qe7 18.Nf1 Ne8
19.Rxd8

13.Nc6 Qf8 14.Qc2?!

Inaccuracy. 14.f4 was best. 14.f4 Nb8

14...Bg4 15.f3 Be6 16.Bd4?!

Inaccuracy. 16.f4 was best. 16.f4 Nb8

16...Nb8?!

Inaccuracy. 16...Ne5 was best. 16...Ne5
17.Nxe5 dxe5 18.Bc3 Nh5 19.Rfb1 Nf4
20.Nf1 Bh6 21.Kh1 f6 22.Ne3 Nxe2
23.Qxe2

17.Nxb8 Rxb8?!

Inaccuracy. 17...Rxb8 was best.
17...Rxb8 18.Bc3 Nd7 19.a5 a6 20.axb6

Rxb6 21.Rab1 Bxc3 22.Qxc3 Qg7 23.Qe3
g5 24.c5

18.Qb2 Qe7 19.f4?!

Inaccuracy. 19.b5 was best. 19.b5 Ne8

19...c5 20.Bxf6??

Blunder. 20.Bc3 was best. 20.Bc3 cxb4
21.Qxb4 Re8 22.Rae1 Rac8 23.h3 Rc5
24.Qb2 Bd7 25.Bf3 Bc6 26.Bd4 Nh5

20...Qxf6?!

Inaccuracy. 20...Bxf6 was best. 20...Bxf6

21.e5?

Mistake. 21.Qxf6 was best. 21.Qxf6
Bxf6 22.e5 dxe5 23.Ne4 Be7 24.bxc5 f5
25.Ng5 Bxg5 26.fxg5 bxc5 27.Rad1 Rb6

21...dxe5 22.Ne4 Qf5?!

Inaccuracy. 22...Qh4 was best. 22...
Qh4 23.g3 Qh6 24.Bf3 f5 25.Rad1 fxe4
26.Bxe4 Bh3 27.Rfe1 exf4 28.Qf2 fxg3
29.hxg3

23.Nd6 Qf6 24.Bf3?

Mistake. 24.Rad1 was best. 24.Rad1 Rd8

24...Rd8??

Blunder. 24...e4 was best. 24...e4 25.Qxf6
Bxf6 26.Bxe4 Bd4+ 27.Kh1 Bxa1
28.Rxa1 cxb4 29.a5 bxa5 30.Bxa8 Rxa8
31.Rxa5

25.Bxa8 Rxa8?!

Inaccuracy. 25...exf4 was best. 25...exf4
26.Qxf6 Bxf6 27.Rad1 Bd4+ 28.Rxd4
cxd4 29.c5 Rxa8 30.Rxf4 bxc5 31.bxc5
Rb8 32.Rxd4

26.Ne4??

Blunder. 26.bxc5 was best. 26.bxc5 exf4
27.Qxf6 Bxf6 28.c6 Bd4+ 29.Kh1 Bxa1
30.Rxa1 Kf8 31.c7 Ke7 32.Rd1 Kd7

26...Qf5 27.Qc2??

Blunder. 27.Ng3 was best. 27.Ng3

27...exf4 28.Rab1 Bd4+ 29.Kh1 Rd8?

Mistake. 29...Qe5 was best. 29...Qe5

30.bxc5 bxc5 31.Rfc1?

Mistake. 31.Rbe1 was best. 31.Rbe1

31...Be3?

Mistake. 31...Bd7 was best. 31...Bd7
32.Re1 Bc6 33.Qe2 Be3 34.Nc3 Rd2
35.Rb2 Rxe2 36.Rbxe2 f3 37.Rxe3 Qg4
38.Rxf3

32.Nc3?

Mistake. 32.Rd1 was best. 32.Rd1 Bd4

32...Bxc1 33.Rxc1 Rd3 34.h3 Bxc4
35.Qe2 a6 36.Qe8+ Kg7 37.Ne4 Bd5
38.Nf2 Rxh3+ 39.Kg1 Qg5 40.Ng4
Qxg4 41.Qe5+ f6 42.Qxd5 Rg3 43.Kf2
a5 44.Qb7+ Kh6 45.Rh1+ Kg5 46.Qd5+
f5??

Checkmate is now unavoidable. 46...Qf5
was best. 46...Qf5

47.Qd8#

White wins by checkmate.

1-0

Suya Metzmaker (802) –

Jair Trejo [C54]

Vancouver Open

Vancouver, WA (R5), July 25, 2021

[Jair Trejo]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.c3 Nf6
5.d4 Bd6 6.Bg5 0-0 7.Bb5

White could take my knight and fork the
knight and bishop that I lined up for her.

7...Be7 8.Bxc6 dxc6 9.Bxf6 Bxf6 10.dxe5
Qxd1+

With this intermezzo I take away castling,
and the open position seemed better for
my bishops than for her knights.

11.Kxd1 Be7 12.Ke2 Be6 13.Re1 Rad8

Bc4+ first would have interrupted her
manual castling.

14.Kf1 Rd7 15.Nbd2 f5

I wanted to attack the central passed
pawns and open up the file for my rook,
but she has Nd4 attacking my undefended
bishop and blocking my d7 rook from the
seventh rank.

16.exf5

This was a mistake, because after taking



(L) Kylie Zhang vs. Pierre Hadrien-Beauchet at the Vancouver Open.
Photo Credit: Josh Sinanan.

back the bishop is no longer undefended. 16.Nd4 2.85/0 Bf7 17.e6 Bxe6 18.Nxe6 Re8.

16...Bxf5 17.Nd4 Bc5 18.Nxf5

Now there are two knights hanging, and the one on d2 is the one I've been after all this time.

18...Rxd2 19.Ne3 Rxf2+ 20.Kg1 Rxd2+ 21.Kh1 Rxh2+ 22.Kg1 Rdg2+ 23.Kf1 Rxb2 24.Kg1



Position after 24.Kg1

I finally convinced myself that there was no mate, but after taking so many pawns I felt like the endgame would be better for me and decided to take the knight and

look for a rook trade. It would have made more sense to attack the knight with my rook first, which would have won a rook.

24...Bxe3+

24...Rh3 25.e6 Bxe3+ 26.Rxe3 Rxe3

25.Rxe3 Rbg2+ 26.Kf1 h5

No problem, I'll just bring my pawn up to help.

27.e6

Oof, scary, I'll block it with my king.

27...Kf8 28.e7+ Ke8 29.Rd1 Rd2

The aforementioned rook trade.

30.Rxd2 Rxd2 31.a4 Ra2 32.Rf3 Rxa4 33.Rg3 Rf4+ 34.Ke2 Re4+ 35.Kd3 Rxe7 36.Rg5 b5 37.Rxh5

That's fine, I only need one passed pawn on each side... or so I thought.

37...Rd7+ 38.Kc2 a5 39.Rc5 Rd6 40.c4 a4 41.cxb5 a3 42.Kb3 Rd3+ 43.Ka2 cxb5 44.Rxb5 Rg3

The rook can protect this pawn while the king goes to help the other two.

45.Rc5 Kd8 46.Rd5+ Kc8 47.Rf5 g5

48.Rf8+ Kb7 49.Rg8 c5 50.Rg7+ Kb6 51.Rg6+ Kb5 52.Re6 Ka4 53.Re4+ Kb5 54.Re6 Ka4 55.Re4+ Kb5

I didn't realize she could repeat a third time!

56.Re5 Kb4 57.Rf5 Rg2+ 58.Kb1 c4 59.Rf3 c3 60.Re3

I got her against the ropes, time to keep pushing.

60...a2+ 61.Ka1 Kb3

The drawing mistake. I got tunnel vision about mating by pushing the rook.

62.Rxc3+

And now if I don't take, she has got perpetual up and down the board.

62...Kxc3

1/2-1/2

Zoey Tang (2097) –
Alex Chow (1786) [A45]

Vancouver Open
Vancouver, WA (R3), July 24, 2021
[Ralph Dubisch]



The Vancouver Open playing hall. In the foreground (L) Suyu Metzmaker faces Nikash Vemparala on board 13. Photo Credit: Josh Sinanan.

1.d4 Nf6 2.Bg5 g6 3.Bxf6 exf6 4.e3 Bg7
5.g3 d5 6.Bg2 0-0 7.Ne2 c6 8.0-0 Be6
9.Nd2 f5?!

9...Bh6∞

10.b3 Nd7 11.c4 Nb6 12.Qc2 Rc8 13.c5
Nd7 14.b4 Nf6 15.a4 h5 16.h4 Ng4 17.
Nf4 Qe8 18.b5 f6 19.a5 g5 20.Nxe6
Qxe6 21.a6 Nxe3



Position after 21...Nxe3

Desperation.

22.fxe3 Qxe3+ 23.Kh2 f4 24.Rf3 fxe3+
25.Rxe3 Qf4 26.Rf1 Qxh4+ 27.Rh3
Qxd4 28.axb7 Rc7 29.Rxh5 Qe5+
30.Kh1 Rxb7 31.Nf3 Qe4 32.Qxe4 dxe4
33.bxc6 Rb5 34.Nd4 Rb4 35.Nf5 Kf7
36.Rh7

1-0

Austin Tang (1852) – Hung Le (1629) [B01]

Vancouver Open
Vancouver, WA (R3), July 24, 2021
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qa5 4.d4 c6
5.Bd2 Nf6 6.Be4 Bf5 7.f3?!

Theory offers several choices here. 7.Nd5
Qd8 8.Nxf6+ gxf6 9.Nf3 e6; 7.Nf3 e6
8.Qe2 Bb4 9.0-0-0 Nbd7 10.a3 Bxc3
11.Bxc3 Qc7 12.Ne5; 7.Qe2 e6 8.d5 cxd5
9.Nxd5 Qd8 10.Nxf6+ Qxf6

7...Qd8 8.Nge2

8.g4!? is consistent, offering a justification
for White's choice on move seven.

8...e6

8...h5

9.Bg5

9.g4

9...Be7 10.Qd2 Nbd7 11.g4 Bg6 12.h4
h6 13.Be3 b5 14.Bb3 b4 15.Na4 Nd5
16.Bf2 Rc8 17.Bg3 0-0 18.0-0-0 c5
19.dxc5 Nxc5 20.Nxc5 Rxc5

20...Bxc5 21.Nd4 a5 Black seems to be
faster here.

21.Bf2 Rc8 22.Kb1

22.Nf4 Nxf4 23.Qxf4 Qa5∞

22...Qa5 23.f4 Rfd8 24.Qe1?

24.Nd4∞



Position after 24.Qe1

24...Be4

Or 24...Bxc2+! 25.Bxc2 Rxc2 26.Kxc2
Qxa2 with a huge attack.

25.Rg1 Bf3

25...Bxc2+

26.f5 exf5 27.gxf5 Re8?

27...Bf6

28.Bd4! Bf8 29.Bxg7! Bxg7 30.Qg3+-
Nc3+ 31.Nxc3 Qe5 32.Qxf3 Qf6

32...bxc3 33.f6+-

33.Na4 Rc5 34.Qg2 Rxf5 35.Rgf1 Ree5
36.c3 bxc3 37.Nxc3 Rxf1 38.Rxf1 Qe7
39.Rxf7 Re1+ 40.Kc2 Qxf7

1-0



*Tournament Director Josh Sinanan posts the pairings at the Vancouver Open as players eagerly await their matchups.
Photo Credits: Sha Sha Zong-Metzmaker*

Final Standings. Vancouver Open

#	Name	Rtng	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Tot
1	Brian Lee	1881	W29	W17	W15	W3	D2	4.5
2	Zoey Tang	2097	W34	W21	W4	W7	D1	4.5
3	Micah Smith	2003	W36	W9	W18	L1	W15	4
4	Alex Chow	1786	W37	W23	L2	W22	W17	4
5	Aaron Nicoski	1789	W47	W16	D10	D11	W20	4
6	Austin Tang	1852	D8	W52	W20	D10	W16	4
7	Isaac Vega	1972	W12	W13	W35	L2	D10	3.5
8	Harishkumar Karthikeyan	1139	D6	W28	W14	D26	D18	3.5
9	Edward Li	1620	W49	L3	W33	W19	D11	3.5
10	Nikash Vemparala	1684	W43	W50	D5	D6	D7	3.5
11	Michael Hosford	1883	W39	W22	H---	D5	D9	3.5
12	Kylie Zhang	1281	L7	W44	W40	D25	W35	3.5
13	Henry Benaid	1578	W44	L7	W51	D18	W26	3.5
14	Brent Baxter	1903	H---	W38	L8	W32	W25	3.5
15	Ralph J Anthony	1692	W30	W19	L1	W23	L3	3
16	Will Nobles	1486	W24	L5	W42	W21	L6	3
17	Ross Gordon	1527	W40	L1	W27	W35	L4	3
18	Harrison Toppen-Ryan	1712	W33	W41	L3	D13	D8	3
19	Marc AndrySCO	unr.	W25	L15	W34	L9	W36	3
20	Hung Le	1629	W48	W42	L6	W36	L5	3
21	Sridhar Seshadri	1626	W51	L2	W29	L16	W39	3
22	Ishaan Kodarapu	1607	W45	L11	W41	L4	W37	3
23	Aaron Probst	1516	W46	L4	W50	L15	W33	3
24	Daniel Vasey	unr.	L16	L33	W43	W41	W34	3
25	Pierre-Hadrien Beauchet	1615	L19	W53	W37	D12	L14	2.5
26	Rickie Likens	1890	H---	D32	W39	D8	L13	2.5
27	Hunter Morgan	382	W28	L35	L17	W47	D31	2.5
28	Elaine Walquist	1624	L27	L8	W52	D31	W42	2.5
29	Michelle Zhang	1183	L1	W48	L21	W49	H---	2.5
30	Michael M Zhang	831	L15	L34	W45	W38	H---	2.5
31	Jon Strohhahn	1457	L38	W43	H---	D28	D27	2.5
32	Christopher Korda	1624	H---	D26	H---	L14	W47	2.5
33	Joseph S Tucker	909	L18	W24	L9	W40	L23	2
34	Michael Rabadan	1449	L2	W30	L19	W48	L24	2
35	Cameron Caleb Deyoung	1708	W53	W27	L7	L17	L12	2
36	Emma Li	1343	L3	W49	W38	L20	L19	2
37	Anisha Sripada	1060	L4	W46	L25	W50	L22	2
38	Cameron Deyoung	unr.	W31	L14	L36	L30	W48	2
39	James Tucker	1251	L11	W45	L26	W51	L21	2
40	Nick Rowland	unr.	L17	W47	L12	L33	W49	2
41	Darsh Verma	841	X54	L18	L22	L24	W50	2
42	Evelyn Huttelmaier	103	B---	L20	L16	W52	L28	2
43	Suya Metzmaker	802	L10	L31	L24	B---	D46	1.5
44	Nikhil Ramkumar	unr.	L13	L12	L47	D45	W51	1.5
45	Varun Prabhu	unr.	L22	L39	L30	D44	W52	1.5
46	Javier Jair Trejo Garcia	unr.	L23	L37	L48	W53	D43	1.5
47	Susan Koenig	1124	L5	L40	W44	L27	L32	1
48	Kyrene Zhang	484	L20	L29	W46	L34	L38	1
49	Likhit Arnav Pusuluri	unr.	L9	L36	W53	L29	L40	1
50	Vishnu Vijeyanandh	unr.	X55	L10	L23	L37	L41	1
51	Alex Huttelmaier	477	L21	B---	L13	L39	L44	1
52	Nethra Ramkumar	unr.	H---	L6	L28	L42	L45	0.5
53	Lebron Sims	865	L35	L25	L49	L46	U---	0
54	Alex Kaelin	1705	F41	---	---	---	---	0
55	Sonia Devaraju	1543	F50	---	---	---	---	0

ANSWERS
TO LAST
MONTH'S
CROSSWORD
PUZZLE

M	A	L	E			P	I	N		R	Y	E
A	D	O	R	E		I	O	U		E	A	R
L	O	G	O	S		C	A	D	E	N	Z	A
			T	S	A			E	N	D		
	F	R	I	E	N	D	S		V	E	T	
H	A	E	C		A	R	T		Y	V	E	T
A	M	E			N	O	R		O	N	O	
L	E	N	D		D	N	A		M	U	T	E
	D	T	I		S	U	N	M	A	S	S	
		R	D	S			D	A	G			
B	R	I	O	C	H	E		G	N	O	M	E
A	C	E		A	O	L		Y	U	K	O	N
H	A	S		T	W	O		S	A	N	E	

Washington Class Championships



November 26-28, 2021

Hilton Bellevue

300 112th Ave SE, Bellevue, WA 98004

Format: A 6-round Swiss across 7 class sections:

Master / Expert / Class A / Class B / Class C / Class D / Class E

Schedule: 3-day or 2-day option; up to 2 byes available. A Northwest Chess Grand Prix Event.

Rating: Dual Rated - US Chess & NWSRS, plus FIDE rated in top sections.

Online Registration: nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration

Two Players Win ICA Summer Classic

By Adam Porth

The first ICA West over-the-board tournament commenced on July 17 and 22 players from the West Region competed in four G/30;d5 games at the Nampa Public Library. I drove all the way from Coeur d'Alene to help future ICA Tournament Director Jeff Price learn the ropes of running tournaments. We will be able to host monthly tournaments at the Nampa Public Library every third Saturday.

I thought it was a fun tournament to get everyone back together, and the scholastic players were the surprise as John Glenn kept saying throughout the

day, "Wow, those kids are really going somewhere. They're really good." With chess players relegated to computer chess (or no chess!) during the past year, it is clear that the younger players grew the most. Only half the players were scholastic.

Andrea Chimenton was on the way to make a clean sweep of the tournament needing only to beat Kaustubh Kodihalli, but Kodihalli was able to focus his middlegame and take home the point when Andrea dropped a bishop.

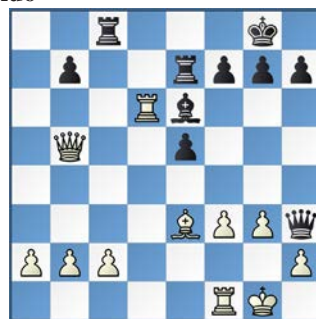
James Wei won against Finn Belew which then placed Kodihalli and Wei at 3.5 points each.

Rather than use tie-breakers to decide who won the prize donated by chessinart.com (Klára Severová), Kodihalli and Wei decided to engage in a playoff game

(G/15;d5) to determine the winner. Each battled until James Wei emerged as victor and eagerly grabbed the book. I don't know if he was surprised or disappointed that the book did not contain any "instructional games," as he asked for, but I do know that the book will help James learn about the culture of chess that spans centuries in paintings and other artwork.

Kaustubh Kodihalli (1723) – Andrea Chimenton (1769) [C42]
Summer Classic Nampa, ID (R3), July 17, 2021

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 d6 4.Nf3 Nxe4 5.Nc3 Nxc3 6.dxc3 Be7 7.Be3 Nd7 8. Bd3 0-0 9.0-0 Ne5 10.Nxe5 dxe5 11. Qe2 Bd6 12.Rad1 Qh4 13.g3 Qh3 14.f3 Be6 15.Bc4 Rae8 16.Bb5 Re7 17.c4 a6 18.c5 axb5 19.cxd6 cxd6 20.Qxb5 Rc8 21.Rxd6



Position after 21.Rxd6

21...Bc4 22.Qxc4
1-0

Finn Belew – James Wei [C20]
Summer Classic Nampa, ID (R3), July 17, 2021

1.c4 e5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.e4 Bc5 4.d3 Nge7 5.g3 h5 6.Nge2 d6 7.Bg2 h4 8.a3 hxg3 9.hxg3 Rxh1+ 10.Bxh1 Nd4 11.Nxd4 Bxd4 12.Qh5 Ng6 13.Qh7 Qf6 14.f3 Be6 15.Qh2 0-0-0



Position after 15...0-0-0

16.Nd5 Bxd5 17.cxd5 Rh8 18.Qg2 Ne7 19.f4 Qh6 20.fxe5 Qxh1+ 21.Qxh1 Rxh1+
0-1



Brian Lange. Photo credit: Adam Porth.

Seattle Chess Club Tournaments

Address ↙
 → 7212 Woodlawn Ave NE ←
 → Seattle WA 98115 ←
 ↗ Info ↖
 ↗ www.seattlechess.club ↖
 kleistcf@aol.com
Addresses for Entries
 SCC Tnmt Dir
 2420 S 137 St
 Seattle WA 98168
 —or—
 www.seattlechess.club

The Seattle Chess Club is still open and still housed at the *Orlov Chess Academy* at Green Lake. **Thanks, Georgi!!!** In response to recent CDC and WA state guidelines, we will be requiring masks. In addition, vaccination is required for all those eligible.

The SCC was unable to secure a reasonably priced site for the **Fall Open**; so it will be held as a smaller event at our temporary site (see ad below left). Our first weekend event, the July Quads, attracted sixteen players.

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

Seattle Fall Open September 25-26

A 1-section, 4-round Swiss chess tournament with a time control of 40/120 & SD/60 and a 5-second delay with a prize fund of **\$400 based on 20** paid entries, 4 per prize group.

A Northwest Grand Prix event

First	\$120
Second	\$80
U2100	\$60
U1800	\$55
U1500	\$50
U1200/UNR	
\$35	

Entry Fees: \$36 by 9/20, \$48 at site. SCC members –subtract \$10. Members of other dues-req'd CCs in BC, OR, & WA – subtract \$5. Unrated players **FREE** with purchase of 1-yr US Chess & WCF. Make checks payable to SCC.

Registration: Sat. 9-9:45 am.

Rounds: Sat. 10-4:30, Sun. 10-4:30.

Byes: 1 available. Rounds 3 or 4 must commit at registration.

Misc.: US Chess & WCF required. OSA. NS. NC.

Sept. 11 Saturday Quads

Format: 3-RR, 4-plyr sec. by rtg. **TC:** G/120;d5. **EF:** \$10(+\$8 fee for non-SCC). **Prizes:** Free quad entry. **Reg:** 9-9:45 a.m. **Rds:** 10:00-2:15-6:30. **Misc:** US Chess, WCF; OSA. NS, NC.

Sept. 19 Sunday Tornado

Format: 4-SS. **TC:** G/60; d5. **EF:** \$18 (+\$8 fee for non-SCC). **Prizes:** 1st 35%, 2nd 27%, Bottom Half 1st 22%, 2nd 16% (\$10 per EF to prize fund). **Reg:** 10:30-11:15 a.m. **Rds:** 11:30-1:50-4:10-6:30. **Byes:** 1 (Rd 3/4 –commit at reg.). **Misc:** US Chess, WCF; OSA. NS, NC.

SCC Championship

Sept. 10, 17; Oct. 1, 8, 22 **date change**, 29;
Nov. 12

Format: 7-rd Swiss held on Friday evenings. **TC:** 35/100 and 25/60. **EF:** \$32 if rec'd by 9/6, \$45 thereafter. SCC memb. req'd—\$30 special tnmt memb. **Prize fund:** 75% of EFs. **Prizes:** 23%-16%, U2000 9%, U1800 8%, U1600 7%, U1400 6%, Unrated 3%, Endurance 3%. **Reg:** Fri. 7-7:45 p.m. **Rds:** Fridays 8 p.m. **Make-up Games for Rds 1-4:** G/75;d5 make-ups may be scheduled for any Monday 9/20 through 10/18. **Byes:** 4 (1 in rds 5-7, commit by 10/18). **Misc:** SCC/US Chess memb. req'd. NS. NC.

Note that Championship players will be given preference in Friday sign-ups.

The 2021 Russell "Rusty" Miller Memorial Northwest Grand Prix

Murlin Varner, Statistician

Over-the-board (OTB) is back! Kinda, sorta, a little bit, just in time for the Delta variant, etc. The Vancouver Open played host to over 50 eager souls in July, hopefully with all the behaviors necessary to prevent spread of this little virus. This was the only Grand Prix event for July, but it added many names to the list among those who didn't get into all the online activities.

With the return of some OTB events, the ratings policy for our Grand Prix standings is changing. Where we have based classes on regular online ratings so far this year, now we will be using the highest peak rating from regular online and regular OTB. This has resulted in a few class changes, but not too many. It also results in a bit more work for me, but it is not too onerous. By next January, we should be back to using just the OTB ratings, even if a few online events remain in our system.

My next report should have the results from two online events, the Seattle Seafair and the Seattle Classic, and two OTB events, the SCC Tornado and Quads, all of which will have taken place in August. For September, the calendar at nwchess.com indicates that I may be taking a vacation. There are no Grand Prix events currently planned, although the Seattle Quads and Tornado may yet pop up. There are events in Portland and Boise which used to be GP events, and maybe will be again in the future. Just not right now.

On a personal note, I am relocating in the next few days. I have purchased a home in Tumwater and will try to become a part of the Olympia chess scene. (Is there an Olympia chess scene? Someone let me know.) May be time to revive the Olympia Open.

All data is current through July 31.



Washington			Other Places			
last	first	pts.	last	first	state	pts.
Masters			Masters			
1	Perez	Ignaco	41.5	1	Mitrabha Guha	IND 76.5
2	Porter	Ryan	26.0	2	Lenderman Aleksandr	NY 51.0
				3	Talukdar Rohan	CAN 44.0
				4	Shahinyan David	ARM 30.5
				5	Bernadskiy Vitaliy	UKR 23.0
Experts			Experts			
1	Vijayakumar	Advaith	32.0	1	Jorajuria Mei Algol	MEX 22.0
2	Levine	Joseph	31.0	2	Guha Eshan	NJ 11.0
3	Whale	Nicholas	20.0			
4	Shubin	Daniel	10.0			
5	Deshpande	Aaryan	4.0			
Class A			Class A			
1	Razmov	Valentin N	32.0	1	Vega Isaac	OR 30.0
2	Bell	Harry	31.0	2	Murray David E	OR 18.0
3	Ackerman	Ryan	24.0	3	Yin Benjamin	MA 3.0
4	Chang	Eddie	22.0			
4	Van Weerdhuizen	Lane	22.0			
Class B			Class B			
1	Nicoski	Aaron M	49.0	1	Ingram Richard	CAN 38.0
2	Vemparala	Nikash	26.0	2		
2	Szeto	Sophie	22.0	3		
4	Lu	Yiding	21.0	4		
5		Three Tied at	18.0	5		
Class C			Class C			
1	Cheng	Edward	53.0	1	Vasey Daniel	OR 25.0
2	Zhu	Jamie Z	28.0	2	Wei Brian	OR 13.0
3	Devadithya	Lavindu	25.0	3	Kypriotakis Kyriakos	OR 11.0
4	Cordero	Rowland	24.0	4	He Justin S	TX 8.0
5	Liotta	Nicholas J	22.5	5	Metzmaker Robert D, Jr.	IL 4.5
Class D and below			Class D and below			
1	Cheng	Selina	54.5	1	Hack Don	CAN 35.0
2	Ruff	Lois A	49.5	2	Kulkarni Ojas	CA 24.0
2	Kamel	Yaseen	36.0	3	Krzykawski Tomasz	OR 20.0
4	Razmov	Gabriel	35.0	4	Winter Gordon	CA 4.0
5	Devadithya	Hiruna	32.0	5	Guan Marie	CAN 2.0
Overall standings						
1	Cheng	Selina	54.5	1	Mitrabha Guha	IND 76.5
2	Cheng	Edward	53.0	2	Lenderman Aleksandr	NY 51.0
3	Ruff	Lois A	49.5	3	Talukdar Rohan	CAN 44.0
4	Nicoski	Aaron M	49.0	4	Ingram Richard	CAN 38.0
5	Perez	Ignaco	41.5	5	Hack Don	CAN 35.0
6	Kamel	Yaseen	36.0	6	Shahinyan David	ARM 30.5
7	Razmov	Gabriel	35.0	7	Vega Isaac	OR 30.0
8	Vijayakumar	Advaith	32.0	8	Vasey Daniel	OR 25.0
8	Razmov	Valentin N	32.0	9	Kulkarni Ojas	CA 24.0
8	Devadithya	Hiruna	32.0	10	Bernadskiy Vitaliy	UKR 23.0
11	Levine	Joseph	31.0	11	Sharikov Alexander	RUS 22.0
11	Bell	Harry	31.0	11	Jorajuria Mei Algol	MEX 22.0
11	Ejsing	Simon K	31.0	13	Krzykawski Tomasz	OR 20.0
14	Zhu	Jamie Z	28.0	14	Murray David E	OR 18.0
14	Karthikeyan	Harishkumar	28.0	15	Wei Brian	OR 13.0
14	Suess	Wade	28.0			

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