



\$3.95

November 2021



Northwest Chess

November 2021, Volume 75-11 Issue 886
ISSN Publication 0146-6941

Published monthly by the Northwest Chess Board.
To see the games online in this issue click:

https://www.nwchess.com/articles/games/published/NWC_2021_Published_Games_cb.htm#202111

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

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

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at 2021 Oregon Open. Photo credit: Lilly Tang.

On the back cover:

Pranav Anoop at the 2021 Oregon Open.
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Table Of Contents

(L) Deborah Petzal-Pupols and Viktors Pupols-Petzal
Lilly TangFront Cover

From The Editor's Desk
Jeffrey Roland.....3

71st Oregon Open
Wilson Gibbins4

WA Fall Mini-Teams Championship (Full-Page Ad)
Online via Chess.com November 13..... 14

WA Class Championships (Full-Page Ad)
Bellevue WA November 26-28.....15

Coaching Corner
Ralph Dubisch 16

Washington Chess960 Fall Open
Josh Sinanan19

Chesstoon
Brian Berger19

Washington State Women's Chess Championship
Josh Sinanan22

Shunkai Peng (Pan American Youth Champion)
Chad Lykins.....26

Northwest Chess Winter Open (Half-Page Ad)
Online via Chess.com December 1127

WA Winter Classic (Half-Page Ad)
Online via Chess.com December 26-27.....28

Seattle Chess Club
(Full-Page Ad)30

Northwest Chess Grand Prix Report
Murlin Varner31

Pranav Anoop
Lilly TangBack Cover

From The Editor's Desk

November 2002 to August 2008 and October 2008 (Feb-Mar 2008 was combined issue)	70	Fred Kleist	Seattle, WA
September 2008	1	Ralph Dubisch (Guest Editor)	San Jose, CA
November 2008 to October 2011 (Jun-Jul 2010 was combined issue)	35	Ralph Dubisch	San Jose, CA
November 2011 to July 2012	9	Fred Kleist	Seattle, WA
August 2012 to November 2012	4	Frank Niro	Meridian, ID
December 2012 to November 2021	108	Jeffrey Roland	Boise, ID
TOTAL (excluding Puget Sound Chess News)	886		

Number of Issues Edited as of last update above		
Name of Editor	Born-Died	# Issues
Daniel E. Wade	1918-1998	108
Jeffrey Roland	1962-	108
Robert A. Karch	1930-2010	83.75
Russell (Rusty) Miller	1942-2020	79.75
Fred Kleist	1955-	79.25
Ralph Dubisch	1960-	54.25
Philip Peterson	1961-	47
Kennedy (Kip) Poyser	1945-2009	36
Robert Stork	deceased	24
Peter Prochaska	1951-	24
David Roper	1971-	22.5
Mike Neeley	?-2019	21
Buz Eddy	1940-2016	18
John Braley	1944-2017	18
Lawrence Taro	1891-?	17
Robert Hankinson	1949-1981	15
Willie Skubi	c. 1950-	14
Jack L. Finnigan	deceased	14
Richard Schultz	deceased	13
Richard Parsons		12
Dan Bailey	1951-	12
Nikolay Minev	1931-2017	12
John Howell		11.5
John S. DeWitt	deceased	11
Matthew R. Goshen		8
Gerald (Jerry) B. Schain	c. 1931-?	5
James Blackwood		5
Mary Lasher		4
George Bishop	deceased	4
Frank Niro	1948-	4
O.W. Manney	deceased	1
Total		886
#Editors		31

Northwest Chess has had three names since it began in November of 1947. *Washington Chess Letter* (205 issues from November 1947-December 1964), *Northwest Chess Letter* (40 issues from January 1965-April 1968), and *Northwest Chess* (641 issues from May 1968-November 2021) for a total of 886 issues to date! In all that time we have produced a monthly issue every month except for three months (May 1952, February 2008, and June 2010). There have been 31 editors.

Daniel E. Wade was editor of *Washington Chess Letter* for 20 issues (August 1952-March 1954), five issues (August 1955-December 1955), 37 issues (May 1956-May 1959), ten issues (June 1960-March 1961), 32 issues (May 1962-December 1964) and then we became *Northwest Chess Letter* and he was editor for four more issues (January 1965-April 1965). That is a total of 108 issues! So the April 1965 issue set a record that many thought would always stand and never be broken, that of the most issues by an editor.

This month, with this issue, I hit 108 issues (December 2012-November 2021) tying the record. That means next month, I will break the record and set a new record for someone else to eventually beat (or not!)

I plan to talk more on this in the next issue, for obvious reasons, but tying the all-time record is a big deal and mention should be made. Breaking the all-time record is even bigger, and I do plan to keep going. I don't plan to just stop at 109!

I must mention too that the team and staff of *Northwest Chess* has remained the same throughout the entire time I've been editor. We're a great team. Ralph Dubisch and I work incredibly well together. I can't remember working better with anyone on anything than I have with Ralph on this. And we've become great friends in the process too.

I consider each issue as important as the last, and each one hopefully the best one yet. None of them have been perfect, but I keep trying! Keep sending in material, and keep enjoying *Northwest Chess*!

— Jeffrey Roland, editor

71st Oregon Open

Wilson Gibbins

With comfortable rooms, reasonable rates, two restaurants, a bar, an outdoor pool, and over an acre of meeting space, the DoubleTree by Hilton in the Lloyd District overlooking downtown Portland was once again the site of our premier open event in 2021.

The weather was perfect for outdoor activities, mostly sunny with highs in the 80s. Nevertheless, over 140 chessplayers chose to spend their holiday weekend indoors, rejoining the world of over-the-board, live, in-person chess. Welcome back!

The DoubleTree will also serve as the site for our Class Championships, November 6-7, 2021.

The 2021 Oregon Open might have been confused with the Washington Invitational, as 67 of the 140 players crossed the Columbia River to play over-the-board chess at the Doubletree Hilton over Labor Day weekend. As quantity has a quality all its own, Washington players returned home with many of the top prizes.

In the Open section, Pranav Kurungod Anoop arrived from Washington with a 1956 rating, giving him the unenviable schedule of facing four masters and two experts. But he was up to the challenge, scoring four wins and two draws on his way to winning the 71st Oregon Open. Austin and Zoey Tang upheld Oregon's honor by tying for second place. Zoey was one of the two players to draw Pranav, the other being Roshen Nair in the last round.

Oregon did better in the Under 2000 section, with hometown heroes David Murray and Fedor Semenov tying with Colin Diamond of Washington for first. But it was all Washington in the remaining two sections, as Michael Rabadan was a perfect 6-0 in the Under 1600 section, and Darsh Verma won clear first with 5.5 in the Under 1200 section.

The Blitz Championship was all Oregon, as Steve Breckenridge finished clear first, with Jason Cigan second and Jack Woo McClain third.

Thanks to Chief TD Micah Smith for keeping the show running smoothly,

including patiently setting a variety of electronic clocks to the G/100 +30 second increment time control. He was assisted by Mike Morris and Mike Janniro. Thanks also to Lilly Tang for her constant presence at the TD table, answering the 1001 questions that come up at every tournament. In addition, she worked with Sanjay Nair and Wilson Gibbins to provide the extra administrative assistance required by over-the-board tournament chess in the pandemic era.

I also want to thank Lilly for taking photos at the tournament.

**Pranav K. Anoop (1956) –
Jason Cigan (2184) [B86]**
71st Oregon Open
(R4), September 5, 2021
[Wilson Gibbins]

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6
5.Nc3 a6 6.Bc4 e6 7.Bb3 Be7**

A normal looking development move, but actually less popular than 7...b5 and; 7...Nbd7, moves that were played



Photo credits Lilly Tang.

by Garry Kasparov in his 1993 World Championship match against Nigel Short.

8.g4

Looks exotic, but it is the third most popular choice in this position and scores 71%. Pranav appears to have done his research.

8...h6 9.Be3 b5 10.f3 b4 11.Nce2

It looks safer to move the knight to the center instead of the wing, but this isn't a safety-first position. 11.Na4 is often the best way to play these Sozin positions when Black plays an early b7-b5-b4 to attack White's knight on c3. But if you choose to play your knight to a4, you better have a plan to save it after 11...Bd7 Here is one approach: 12.Qd2± Qa5? White's knight on a4 has no escape squares, but 13.a3± (or the messier 13.Nb6!? Qxb6 14.Nxe6) 13...Bxa4? 14.axb4

11...Bd7 12.Qd2 a5

Jason has taken advantage of the less aggressive 11.Nce2 to reach a rough equality. His queenside counterplay is well underway, discouraging White from castling in that direction. But his pawn on h6 means it will be dangerous for him to castle kingside, as White will be able to crack open Black's kingside with pawn advances. Both kings are more comfortable in the center for the time being.

13.c3 Na6 14.Kf1!?



Position after 14.Kf1!

This seems to be the fashionable way for White to play open Sicilians these days, as also seen on move 20 of the game between Shunkai Peng and Daniel Daza on page 28 of this issue. Maybe Pranav and Shunkai have been playing Vladimir Kramnik's "No-Castling Chess" in their training games. :-)

14...bxc3 15.Nxc3 Nc5 16.Bc2 Rb8 17.Rb1 Qb6?!

This looks like a normal Sicilian move, but Stockfish says that this is when Black's game starts to go downhill.

Stockfish suggests putting up a barrier to White's kingside pawn advances with the decentralizing 17...Nh7

18.Kg2 Bc8?

Preparing for White's kingside pawn storm by creating a retreat square for the knight on f6, but it doesn't quite work. White is preparing a kingside attack, but perhaps Black can survive castling into it. 18...0-0 19.h4 Qb7 removing the indirect attack from White's bishop on Black's queen, and adding an indirect attack from Black's queen to White's king 20.g5 Nh5 (Not 20...hgx5? 21.hgx5 Nh7 22.e5) 21.gxh6 g6

19.h4±



Position after 19.h4

This is a good move. Alternatively, Stockfish suggests driving Black's knight on c5 back with 19.a3!+- Δ20.b4

19...Nfd7 20.g5 h5 21.g6

21.a3!

21...Ne5 22.gxf7+ Kxf7 23.b3 Bd7 24.Rbd1 Rbf8 25.Nce2 Qd8 26.Bg5 Bxg5?!

26...Kg8±

27.hxg5 g6 28.a3!

Pranav initiates the plan that Stockfish has been screaming for since move 19.

28...Kg7 29.b4!



Position after 29.b4

As a Sicilian player I would be hoping that my well-placed knight on e5 would provide sufficient counterplay. Back in the real world, White is winning

29...axb4 30.axb4 Nb7 31.Bb3! Qe7

32.Ra1 Ra8 33.Rhc1 Rxa1 34.Rxa1 h4 35.Ra7 h3+ 36.Kh1 Nd8 37.Nf4 Ndc6 38.Nfxe6+ Kh7 39.Nxc6 Nxc6

A possible continuation is 39...Nxc6 40.Rc7 Ne5 41.Qf4 Nf7 42.b5 and Black is too tied up to defend against both White's kingside attack and the advance of the b-pawn.

1-0

Pranav K. Anoop (1956) – Zoey Tang (2201) [B89]

71st Oregon Open (R3), September 5, 2021 [Wilson Gibbins]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 Nc6 6.Bc4 e6 7.Be3 a6 8.Qe2 Qc7 9.Bb3 Be7 10.0-0-0 0-0



Position after 10...0-0

It is great to see young players choose the Velimirovic Attack, a wild line that was popular in the 1970s, but seems to have died out. Is it because White is playing 6.Bg5 instead of 6.Bc4 these days, to claim a clearer theoretical advantage? Is Black ducking these complications by playing the Benko variation 6...Qb6? Or have computers rendered an objective verdict on what once seemed to be unfathomable complications, and that verdict is common knowledge in the 2700 club?

11.Rhg1

Back in the 1970s, the main choice was between Pranav's move and 11.g4; Velimirovic himself won a nice game against Csom in 1974 with 11.Kb1 b5 12.Nxc6 Qxc6 13.Bd4 Bb7 14.Rhe1 Qc7 15.a3 Rac8 16.f4 e5 17.fxe5 dxe5 18.Nd5 Bxd5 19.exd5 exd4 20.Qxe7 Qxh2 21.d6 Rce8 22.Bxf7+ Rxf7 23.Qxe8+ Nxe8 24.Rxe8+ Rf8 25.d7 Qd6 26.Rf1 1-0 (26) Velimirovic,D-Csom,I Amsterdam 1974

11...b5 12.g4 b4 13.Nxc6 bxc3

The old main line goes 13...Qxc6 14.Nd5! exd5 (Black can bail out with 14...Nxd5!? 15.exd5 Qb7 (or 15...Qc7)) 15.g5 Nxe4 16.Bxd5 Qa4 17.Bxe4 Be6 18.Bd4 when White's winning attacking chances are

objectively stronger than Black's, but neither side has much room for error.

14.Nxe7+ Qxe7 15.Bd4 cxb2+ 16.Bxb2 Bb7 17.f3

17.e5 is the engine choice, but has led to draws in the two games where it has been played, including one by *Chess Life* columnist Andy Soltis in 1989.

17...a5 18.Ba3 Rfd8 19.g5

19.e5 is tempting, but 19...Nd5 20.exd6 Qf6 gives Black plenty of hope for the pawn investment.

19...Nh5

Keeps the knight active, but allows White to win the pawn on d6 for insufficient compensation. 19...Ne8!

20.e5! Qc7 21.exd6 Qc3 22.Bb2 Nf4



Position after 22...Nf4

23.Qc4

At first I thought 23.Qd2! was an obvious try, but the more I investigated it, the more I realized its strength depends on deep engine analysis 23...Qxd2+ 24.Rxd2 Rxd6 25.Rxd6 Ne2+ 26.Kd2 Nxc1 27.Ke3+- White has the two bishops, a passed pawn, and Black's knight is far away from the action. 27...Nxf3?! seems like Black has chances, but after 28.Rb6 Ra7 29.Bc4 (29.Rxb7?? Rxb7 30.Kxf3 a4) 29...Nxb2 (29...Nxc3 30.Be5!—threatens 31.Bb8)

23...Qe3+!

White is still a little better, but Zoey finds the move that gives Pranav the most problems to solve.

24.Kb1 Bd5 25.Qd4

And now the unintuitive 25.Qa4 is the only way to maintain White's edge.

25...Qxd4 26.Bxd4 Bxf3.

Still a wild position, but now Zoey is the player with an edge. It is Pranav's turn to face the responsibility of finding accurate defensive moves.

27.Rd2 Rxd6 28.Rf1 Ne2 29.Rxf3

29.Be3 keeps Black's edge to a minimum by retaining both bishops.

29...Nxd4? 30.Rfd3 Nxb3 31.axb3 Rxd3 32.Rxd3 g6

32...h6 33.gxh6 (33.h4 hxg5 34.hxg5 Kh7 and Black will be able to harass the pawn on g5 with her king.) 33...gxh6 and Black's connected passed pawns are the most important aspect of the position.

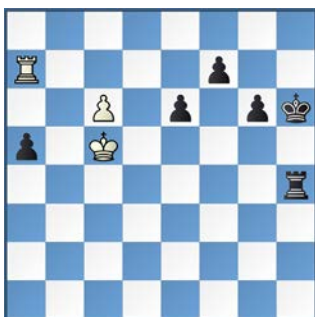
33.c4= Kf8 34.Rd7 Rc8 35.Kc2 Rc5 36.h4 Rf5 37.Ra7 Kg7 38.Kc3 h6 39.gxh6+ Kxh6 40.Kd4 Rf3

Stockfish says 40...Rf4+ 41.Ke5 Rxe5 is equal 42.Rxf7 (42.c5 Rh5+ 43.Kd4 e5+ looks complex to me, but Stockfish says White and Black both have the draw well in hand.; 42.Rxa5?? Rh5+) 42...a4 and pawns are disappearing from the board.

41.c5 Rxb3 42.c6 Rb4+

42...Rb8!=

43.Kc5 Rxe4



Position after 43...Rxe4

44.Rxa5

44.Rxf7! Still too much for humans to calculate, but White has chances to win Black's rook for the c-pawn and round up Black's three isolated pawns.

44...Rh1

44...Kg5! to prevent Black's king from being cut-off on the third rank and struggling to help the pawns advance.

45.Ra4

White can win with 45.c7 Rc1+ 46.Kd6 Rxc7 (46...Kg7 47.Rc5) 47.Kxc7 and Stockfish says Black's pawns are too slow without the king to help them advance, though it isn't obvious to me at this point.

45...Kg5

While it still looks unclear to me, Stockfish assures me that it is clearly drawn the rest of the way.

46.c7 Rh8 47.Kd6 Kf5 48.Rc4 e5 49.c8Q+ Rxc8 50.Rxc8 e4 51.Kd5 Kf4 52.Kd4 f5 53.Rc1 Kf3!

The only move that draws. 53...e3? 54.Rf1+ Kg3 55.Kxe3; 53...Kg5? 54.Ke5 Kg4 and 55.Rc3! is inexplicably the only winning move. (55.Rg1+ Kf3 56.Rxg6 e3

57.Kxf5 e2=)

54.Rf1+ Ke2 55.Rg1 e3 56.Rxg6 f4 57.Ke4 Kf2 58.Kxf4 e2 59.Re6 e1Q 60.Rxe1 Kxe1

1/2-1/2

Pranav K. Anoop (1956) – Nick Raptis (2385) [C14]
71st Oregon Open
(R1), September 4, 2021
[Wilson Gibbins]

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 Be7 5.e5 Nfd7 6.h4 0-0



Position after 6...0-0

This might look like castling into the attack, but Viktor Moskalenko recommends it in *The Even More Flexible French* and it scores better than the four most popular moves. 6...a6; 6...Bxg5; 6...h6; 6...c5

7.Bd3 c5 8.Qh5 g6 9.Qh6



Position after 9.Qh6

Uh, maybe Grandmaster Moskalenko mislead us about this line, as Stockfish 14 hates Black's position. Or perhaps engines didn't hate the position as much back in 2015 when he wrote the book. Stockfish waits until it gets to a depth of about 28 or so before it develops a deep hatred.

I wonder if Moskalenko's new book *The Fully-Fledged French* has anything to say about this position. Anyway, Pranav has a nearly winning advantage. He plays steady chess the rest of the way, and Nick can't get out of the hole that Moskalenko dug for him. (Disclaimer—I have no idea

whether Nick actually reads Moskalenko chess books.)

9...Re8 10.Bxe7 Rxe7 11.h5 Qf8
12.hxg6 fxg6 13.Qg5 Nc6 14.f4 cxd4
15.Nce2 Rg7 16.0-0-0 Qb4 17.Nf3 Nc5
18.Nexd4 Na4

18...Nxd4? 19.Qd8+ Kf7 20.Ng5#; 18...
Bd7 is best, but White still has a big
advantage.

19.Nb3 Bd7 20.Rh4 Qb6 21.Rdh1 Be8
22.f5 gxf5 23.Rxh7! Rxg5 24.Rh8+ Kf7
25.Nxg5+ Kg6 26.Rg8#

1-0

**Brent Baxter (1892) –
Dave Murray (1854) [A15]**
71st Oregon Open
(R6), September 6, 2021
[David Murray]

1.b3

And I was out of book. In this last-
round game, Brent had 4.5 points and

only needed to draw to tie for first in the
U2000. I had 4.0 and a strong desire to
win. I decided to go all-in on a King's
Indian Defense setup and ...f5-plan that
leads to unbalanced, attacking positions.

1...e5 2.Bb2 d6 3.c4 Nf6 4.Nc3 g6 5.g3
Bg7 6.Bg2 0-0 7.Nf3 Nc6 8.d3 Ne8

Non-subtly intending ...f5. Surprising me,
the position up to 8.d3 is in my database
a number of times, including in three top
games. Those top players normally play
...Nh5 with the same idea of ...f5 and ...g5.

9.0-0 Bg4?!±

With the idea of capturing on f3 to
remove a defender and create one more
imbalance. I was doing this for the sake
of creating an imbalance without regard
to whether it would be favorable for me.

10.h3 Bxf3 11.Bxf3 f5

The top engine suggestions are 12. b4,
12. a3, and 12. Rb1. The idea might be to
crash through on the queenside faster in
King's Indian style.

12.Bd5+ Kh8 13.f4?!

And now Black is slightly better.

13...exf4 14.Rxf4 Be5 15.Qd2

Daring Black to capture. But White's
prospects after 15...Bxf4 16.Qxf4 looked
dangerous, and I wanted to keep the game
complicated.



Position after 15.Qd2

15...Ng7

The move I wanted to play was 15...Qg5.
But thinking hard for my opponent,
I spotted 16.Ne4, where 16...fxe4??



(L) Isaac Vega vs Roshen Nair. Photo credit: Lilly Tang.

would lose to 17.Rxf8. This is next-level thinking: you need to think for yourself, think for your opponent, and think for the person playing on the board next to you. (Next-next-level thinking is realizing that 15...Qg5 16.Ne4 Qe7 is good for Black, who got to play ...Qe7 for free after the knight retreats.) The idea of 15...Ng7 is to solve the problem after 15...Qg5 16.Ne4, since the f8-rook would be protected.

16.Raf1

And now 16...Qg5 17.Ne4 fxe4 loses again, since White captures twice on f8. Black has better than 17...fxe4, but this was what I was concerned with over the board.

16...Bxf4 17.Rxf4 Qg5? 18.Ne4!±

Wait... Ne4 was still a threat?! Now the point is that ...exf4 fails to Rxf8+ and Qxg5. And for the first time, White is better after a retreat like ...Qe7, since he has a resource to come...

18...Qe7 19.Rh4!

[Diagram top of next column]



Position after 19.Rh4

The only move that keeps an advantage. Now 19...fxe4 20. Qh6 is lights out.

19...Ne5

An only move. 19...Qxh4 20.gxh4 fxe4 was considered. Stockfish gives White +5.5, so I'm glad it was rejected. White's bishops are too strong for Black to survive.

20.Ng5 Nh5 21.Bf3 f4

One of two viable moves, along with 21...Nf6. I saw one of the tactical points

and found out about the other when it appeared.

22.gxf4 Rxf4

What I saw when I played ...f4 is that 23. Rxf4 loses to 23...Qxg5+. And surely White doesn't have anything better, so...

23.Rxh5!

The only move for White! Now he will have two pieces for the rook and will be winning...

23...gxh5 24.Qxf4 Rg8

The other tactical point of 21...f4. Now Black will win the piece back and nothing exciting will happen again.

25.h4± h6 26.Bd5 Rg7?+-

Black had to play 26...hgx6, when I didn't see a way to meet 27.Qf3 (27...g4 28. Qf5). If you like computer lines, Black had 27.Qf3 gxh4+ 28.Bxg8 Qg7+! 29.Kf2 Nxf3 30.Bxg7+ Kxg8 with a slight edge in the knight vs. bishop endgame.

[Diagram top of next page]



(L) Henry Benaïd vs Corey Russell after 23.Nc3.
Photo credit: Lilly Tang.



Position after 26...Rg7

27.Qf5!

The best move by far, after which I spent about 20 minutes deciding between 27...Qe8 and 27...Qd8. As a diversion, I started wondering whether I was a character in a movie about Brent or he was a character in mine. After all of these resources, I also felt a sense of peace about any outcome of the game: I don't expect myself to see this many gotchas ahead of time.

27...Qd8

Best, but White is still clearly better if he finds one more only move.

28.d4?±

Instead he played the move I had calculated to be best, when I got to show the idea that had escaped me for most of the 20-minute think. 28.Bc1+ continues to press.

28...Nd7=

The only place to put the knight. 28...Nc6 allows 29. Bxc6 with tempo and then 30. d4. 28...Ng6 breaks the pin on the g-file so 29. Nf7+ is possible. The idea is to move the knight back to e5 whenever d4–d5 is played.

29.Be6 hxg5 30.Bxd7?–+

Amazingly, White's best is to let Black capture ...gxh4+ and put his king on h2. Black has no way to proceed with the attack, and neither does White. For example: 30.d5 Ne5 31.c5 gxh4+ 32.Kh2 Rg5 33.Qf7 is 0.00/0

30...gxh4+ 31.Kh1 Qxd7

And I was surprised to learn that I was winning. 32.d5 is obviously not possible because the queen on f5 is hanging.

32.Qxh5+ Kg8 33.Qd5+ Qf7 34.Kh2 Qxd5

For full disclosure I first played 34...Qf2+!! and was shown that it was illegal.

35.cxd5 Re7

I managed to steer the game toward

complications and Brent did an amazing job finding resources and securing a winning position after a positional exchange sac. I solved just enough of the problems he posed and was lucky that he mis-stepped once, which is the game that we inexplicably play.

0–1

**Henry Benaid (1591) –
Corey Russell (2204) [D04]**
71st Oregon Open
(R5), September 6, 2021
[Corey Russell]

**1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.e3 g6 4.Be2 Bg7
5.0–0 0–0 6.b4 b6 7.a4 Bb7 8.Nbd2**

The position is equal.—Fritz.

**8...Nbd7 9.Bb2 c5 10.bxc5 bxc5 11.c4
Rb8 12.cxd5 Nxd5 13.Qc2 cxd4 14.Bxd4
e5! 15.Bb2**

White wisely declines to take the bait on a7. It's clear that 15.Bxa7 Ra8 16.Bc5 Rc8 and White's in a bad spot. At the very least Black has compensation for his pawn.

15...Nb4 16.Qd1

16.Qc3!= might be stronger.

**16...e4 17.Nd4 Ne5 18.Ba3 Bd5 19.Rb1
a5 20.Nb5**

So here I had to choose—lose a pawn, giving White a passer on the queen side, or sacrifice an exchange but in compensation would have a knight deep into White's position on d3. I chose the latter.

20...Nbd3 21.Nb3?

Fritz thinks White should take the bait on f8. I don't see a reason for White to decline either. White probably really likes his QB and didn't want to give it up for my rook on f8 which at the moment wasn't doing anything. However, considering the important role the rook soon plays, perhaps White should have thought the better of that.

21...Qg5

21...Re8. 22.N3d4 Qd7. This is Fritz's comment.

22.N3d4 Rfd8

Threatens to win with ...Nc4.

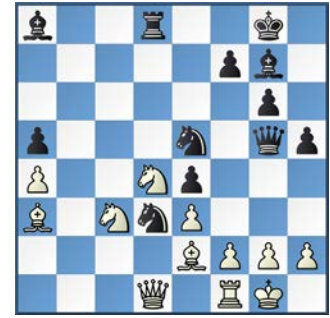
23.Nc3 Rxb1 24.Nxb1

Fritz thinks 24.Qxb1 is better, but I thought White needed to guard f3. My opponent, I think, thought the same thing.

24...h5

24...Nc4+ 25.Bc1 Bxd4—Fritz

25.Nc3± Ba8



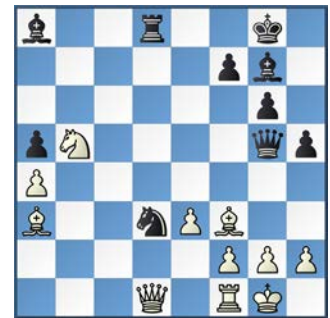
Position after 25...Ba8

Hoping for ...Rxd4!

26.Ncb5 Nf3+→

Black attacks.

27.Nxf3 exf3+ 28.Bxf3



Position after 28.Bxf3

28...Ne1!

Fritz wants me to play ...Ne5 instead. But that would allow 29.Bxa8 Rxd1 30.Rxd1 and White gets my QB (rather than trading it which is what I wanted). My move lets me trade the bishops which is what I preferred.

29.Qxd8+

29.h4± Nxf3+ 30.Qxf3 Qxh4 31.Qf4 Qxf4 32.exf4

**29...Qxd8 30.Bxa8 Qxa8 31.Rxe1 Qe4
32.Bc5 Qxa4 33.Nd4 Qc4 34.Bd6 a4
35.g3 a3!**

Tactics like this come up a lot this game, as White's pieces are very loose, so double-attacks are easy to come by.

36.Bxa3 Qc3 37.Nc2 Qxc2 38.Rf1 Qe4

White must now prevent ...h4.—Fritz

**39.h4 Qf3 40.Bd6 Bc3 41.Bf4 Kg7
42.Rc1 Qe2**

Strongly threatening ...Be1.

43.Kg2

White needed to play 43.Rf1 and hope he can setup a fortress. After the text, Black's attack is decisive.

**43...Be1 44.e4 Qxf2+ 45.Kh1 Qf3+
46.Kh2 Qxe4 47.Rc7 Bf2 48.Rc8 Qe2**

(→...Bd4+)

49.Bb8 Bxg3+

The line that Fritz points out does lead to mate, but the text also makes White resign as he's had enough, so it's just as effective. 49...Bb6+ 50.Kh1 Qf1+ 51.Kh2 Qg1+ 52.Kh3 Qh1#

50.Kxg3 Qg4+

Precision: White = 28%, Black = 46%.

0-1

Steven Breckenridge (2304) – Pranav K. Anoop (1956) [B22]

71st Oregon Open
(R5), September 6, 2021
[Wilson Gibbins]

1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.d4 cxd4
5.Nf3 Nc6 6.Bc4 Nb6 7.Bb3 d5 8.exd6
Qxd6 9.Na3

9.0-0 Be6 is the main line, but Steve's choice is the second most popular and always looked more dangerous to me.

9...Be6

The right move after 9.0-0. But after 9.Na3, Black can try 9...dxc3 10.Qxd6 exd6 11.Nb5 Rb8 when Black has gained a pawn and some troubles.

10.0-0

10.Nb5 Qd7 11.Nbxd4 is the safe path to a small edge. Steve sticks with his gambit.

10...dxc3 11.Qe2 Bxb3 12.Nb5 Qb8
13.axb3 e6

Black correctly tries to catch up in development. The greedy 13...cxb2? 14.Bxb2 does not appear in my database, as sane players see that White's lead in development is too much for Black to handle.

14.g3 Qc8 15.Ng5

Black is playing steady defensive moves, and White is playing accurate moves to keep his pawn's worth of initiative alive. Stockfish confidently says 0.00, which seems strange with such unbalance, unless you see some of the move repetitions ahead.

15...Be7 16.Qh5 g6 17.Qh6 Bf8
18.Qh3?!

Steve declines the implicit draw offer. But now Black is better. Stockfish's 0.00 comes from 18.Qh4 Be7 19.Qh6 Bf8

18...a6?

Stockfish suggests the cold-blooded 18...c2?.

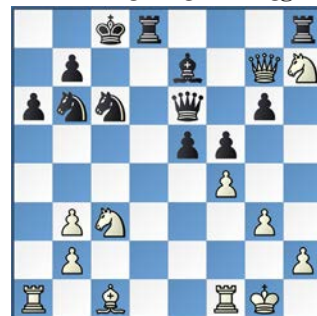
19.Nxc3 e5 20.Qh4 Be7 21.f4?!

Perhaps White can open the position with Black's king stuck in the center?

21...f6!

Pranav finds a defensive sequence which gives him an overwhelming advantage.

22.Nxh7 f5! 23.Qh6 Qe6 24.Qg7 0-0-0!



Position after 24.0-0-0

With Black's king safely castled, the game is effectively over. White's queen and knight are in grave danger.

25.Ng5 Bxg5 26.fxg5 Nd7!

Cuts off the white queen's escape square on f6.

27.Rd1 Rdg8 28.Qxd7+ Qxd7 29.Rxd7
Kxd7 30.Be3 Kc8 31.Bb6 Nd4 32.Nd5
Rg7 33.b4 Rd7 34.Nf6 Rd6 35.Bc5
Rc6 36.Rd1 Nf3+ 37.Kg2 Nxg5 38.Nd5



(L) Steven Breckenridge vs Pranav Anoop.
Photo credit: Lilly Tang.

Kb8 39.Ne7 Re6 40.b5 Ne4 41.Bb4 Re8
 42.Rd7 Nf6 43.Rd6 R8xe7 44.Rd8+ Kc7
 45.Bxe7 Rxe7 46.bxa6 bxa6 47.Rf8 Ne4
 48.Kf3 Rd7 49.g4 Rd3+ 50.Ke2 Rd2+
 51.Ke3 Rxh2 52.gxf5 gxf5 53.Rxf5
 Nd6 54.Rf1 Rxb2 55.Rc1+ Kb6 56.Rd1
 Nc4+ 57.Ke4 Kb5 58.Rh1 a5 59.Rh8
 Kb4 60.Rb8+ Kc3 61.Ra8 Re2+ 62.Kf3
 Ra2 63.Ke4 a4 64.Rc8 Rd2 65.Ra8 a3
 66.Ra7 Rd4+ 67.Kf3 Rd5 68.Ke2 Ra5
 69.Rf7 a2 70.Kf3 a1Q 71.Rf8 Qf1+
 72.Ke4 Qd3#

0-1

**Dave Murray (1854) –
 Colin Diamond (1790) [A91]**
 71st Oregon Open
 (R2), September 4, 2021
 [David Murray]

My loss in the U2000 section of the Oregon Open, which is notable for its direct punishment of a problem I sometimes have that I suspect is shared by others. I'm happy to share it as a cautionary example, and selfishly intend to internalize the lesson by writing this up.

1.d4 f5 2.g3 e6 3.Bg2 Nf6 4.c4 Be7 5.Nc3
 0-0 6.e3 d6 7.Nge2 c6 8.0-0 Qc7 9.b4 a5
 10.bxa5 Rxa5 11.Bd2 Ra8 12.Qb3 e5±

So far nothing exciting has happened. White has a slight edge due to an advantage in space and prospects to finish development sooner. It doesn't look like a critical position, but the key lesson that I take from this game is right here: White can react to Black's ideas, pursue forcing ideas of his own, or finish developing his pieces.



Position after 12...e5

13.d5?=
 13...Na6

This wasn't it. The ideas were to react to Black's threat of ...e4 by freeing d4 for the e2-knight and to prepare the forcing dxc6 and c5+. But neither of these ideas are good. What White should do is develop a piece: Either 13.Rfc1 or 13.Rfb1. The debacle to come will highlight why.

13...Na6

Exploiting the hole on c5 created by 13.d5.

14.dxc6? bxc6 15.c5+

With a tactical idea that is not sound.

15...d5!-+ 16.Nxd5?? cxd5 17.Bxd5+
 Nxd5 18.Qxd5+ Kh8 19.Qxa8 Bb7
 20.Qa7

This is where I had stopped calculating.

20...Bxc5

And while White has been lost for several moves, now it is obvious. But the reason that I am sharing this game is clear: What if White had a rook on c1 or on b1 here? If you can do something forcing or finish developing your pieces, your forcing thing had better be really good.

21.Rac1 Bxa7 22.Rxc7 Nxc7 23.Rc1
 Ne6 24.Bc3 Ba6 25.Re1 Ng5 26.Kg2
 Rc8

Everything wins, but 26...Nf3 was flashier.

27.Bxe5 Bb7+ 28.Kf1 Nf3 29.Rd1 Nxe5

My hat's off to Colin for both seeing that 16.Nxd5?? did not work and encouraging it to be played.

0-1



(L) Neha Narendran vs Michael Zhang.
 Photo credit: Lilly Tang.

**Corey Russell (2200) –
Sridhar Seshadri (1703) [A00]**
71st Oregon Open
(R6), September 6, 2021
[Corey Russell]

1.c3!

By this point, I had already lost with e4 and d4. So decided to play something that probably won't be going into my opponent's strength, since he probably isn't an expert on the Saragossa (1.c3). It is sort of like passing, so it puts me and my opponent on an equal playing field. Works for me.

1...d5 2.d3 e5 3.Nf3 Nd7 4.g3

We are basically going into a reverse Pirc with an extra move for me.

4...Ngf6 5.Bg2 Be7 6.0-0 0-0 7.b3 c6 8.Bb2 e4 9.Ne1

This is useful as it discourages 9...e3 10.fxe3 Ng4 11.Nc2 holds the pawn.

9...exd3 10.exd3 Ne5 11.d4 Ng6 12.Nd2 Bf5 13.Nc2 Re8 14.Ne3 Bc8 15.Qc2 Bf8

Both sides are being very careful to not over-commit.

16.Rfe1 Bd7 17.c4 Rc8 18.Rac1 Bb4 19.Bc3 Bxc3 20.Qxc3 Ng4

Black offered a draw here and several

more times. I usually don't like early draws, but am fine with it once there are no more winning chances. We aren't there yet.

21.Nxg4 Bxg4 22.h3 Be6 23.Nf3 f6 24.Re3 Bf7 25.h4 Rxe3 26.Qxe3 Qa5 27.cxd5 Re8 28.Qd2 Qxd2 29.Nxd2 Bxd5 30.Bxd5+ cxd5

Fritz thinks its equal—I agree. But I had one more idea to try to win, so decided to give it a try.

31.Kf1 Re7 32.Rc8+ Kf7?

I was expecting 32...Nf8 33.Rd8 Rd7 34.Rxd7 Nxd7 and I saw little better than playing 35.Ke2 and then offer a draw.

33.Rd8 Ke6?

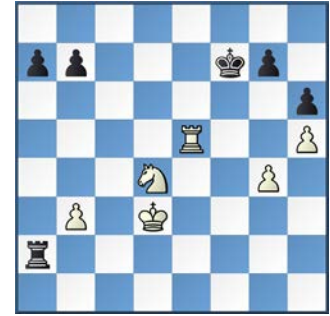
My opponent played this rather fast. I believe he thought equal position = no danger. He couldn't be more wrong. One of the risks of offering a draw and getting it declined, is you might over-estimate your position.

34.h5 Ne5

It's clear my opponent is going to make me prove I'm winning. Fair enough, as I made him prove to me it was a draw. I've drawn and lost a number of endgames a knight up, so I know I need to be very careful and make sure I am playing with

purpose.

35.dxe5 fxe5 36.Nf3 h6 37.Ke2 d4 38.g4 Rc7 39.Re8+ Kf7 40.Rxe5 Rc2+ 41.Kd3 Rxf2 42.Nxd4 Rxa2



Position after 42...Rxa2

I felt this was a the key moment—here I would win or draw/lose. I need a plan, in particular where to put my rook and knight. One issue is no matter what I do, I need to hang onto my king-side pawns. Eventually I saw I needed to put my knight at f5 and rook on g6, which holds onto my king-side pawns and also causes Black's kingside to collapse, which in turn can let my kingside pawns win the game. It does mean my king needs to defend my pawn, but I thought I could manage.

43.Rd5 b6 44.Rd7+ Kf6 45.Rd6+ Kf7 46.Rg6 Rg2 47.Nf5 a5 48.Rxg7+ Kf8



Viktors Pupols.
Photo credit: Lilly Tang.

49.Rg6 b5 50.Nxh6 Rg3+ 51.Kc2 Rg2+ 52.Kb1 Rg1+ 53.Ka2 b4 54.Rg8+ Ke7 55.Nf5+ Kf7 56.Rg7+ Kf6 57.h6 Rg2+ 58.Kb1 Rh2 59.h7 Ke5 60.g5! Ke4

Black probably saw that 60...Kxf5 61.g6 Ke4 62.Rg8 Kd3 63.h8(Q) is decisive for White.

61.Nh6 Kd3 62.Rd7+ Kc3 63.h8Q+ Kxb3 64.Rd3+

Black probably saw 64...Kc4 65. Qd4+ Kb5 66. Qe5+ picks up Black's loose rook, and with it, any hope of resistance. Thus, he finally conceded the game.

1-0

Austin Tang (1939) –
Viktors Pupols (2200) [B15]
71st Oregon Open
(R2), September 4, 2021
[Wilson Gibbins]

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3

Some players, including GM Sergei Tiviakov, prefer the subtle 3.Nd2. If Black plays 3...dxe4, there is no difference between this move and 3.Nc3. But if Black plays 3...g6 White has additional options, like 4.c3 to clog the diagonal of Black's bishop on g7. I wonder if Black has any other moves that might show a difference between 3.Nd2 and 3.Nc3.

3...b5

Don't laugh, this move scores well.

4.e5

When Gurgendize played this line against Tal in 1969, Tal played 4.a3 dxe4 5.Nxe4 Bf5 6.Bd3 Bxe4 7.Bxe4 Nf6 8.Bd3 e6 9.Nf3 Be7 10.Qe2 Nbd7 11.0-0 12.Re1 Re8 13.Ne5 Nxe5 14.dxe5 Nd5 15.Qg4 a5 16.h4 Bxh4 17.g3 Be7 18.Kg2 g6 19.Rh1 Bf8 20.Bg5 Qc7 21.Rxh7 Qxc5 22.Rxf7 Kxf7 23.Bxg6+ Kg8 24.Bxe8 Bg7 25.Bd7 Nc7 26.Bxc6 Rf8 27.Rd1 Qc5 28.Bf3 Qxc2 29.Rd7 Rf7 30.Rd8+ Rf8 31.Bf6 Qh7 32.Be4 Qh6 33.Bg5 Qh8 34.Rd7 1-0 (34) Tal,M-Gurgendize,B Almaty 1969.

4...Bf5 5.Nf3 e6 6.Ne2N

And not just a novelty because it is not in my database, but also one of the better moves in this position.

6...Nd7 7.Ng3 Bg6 8.Bd3 c5 9.c3 c4 10.Bxg6 hxg6

If I were Black, I would hope that my white-squared pawn defenses would be sufficient to compensate for White's superior space and development. But I might be wrong.

11.0-0

Stockfish suggests 11.Kf1 perhaps influenced by Pranav and Shunkai :-)

11...a5 12.Qc2 Be7 13.Be3 Nh6 14.Bxh6

I like this move, as it avoids drifting into a Bad Bishop ending.

14...Rxb6

This looks right to me, keeping the h-file open for an attack. Stockfish slightly prefers 14...g6 undoubling the pawns and retaining castling rights. This surprises me, as I thought engines are unimpressed with rook pawns these days.

15.Nd2

Now we begin the maneuvering phase.

15...Nb6 16.f4 Qd7 17.Nf3 Kf8 18.Ne2 Kg8 19.g3 f5 20.Kg2

Austin is preparing to maneuver his Knight from e2 to g5. In a closed position he can take such liberties. Stockfish likes 20.exf6 gxf6 21.g4, but I'd be reluctant to open up the position in front of my king while Black's rook patrolling the neighborhood.

20...Kf7

Viktors sees it coming, and prepares to connect his Rooks before a knight reaches g5.

21.Neg1 Rhh8 22.Nh3 Rhb8 23.Nhg5+ Ke8 24.h4 Bxg5

This makes White's position easier to play, as it removes a redundant knight.

White had two knights but only the one g5-square to post them on—now his number of knights match the number of posting squares. It also clears the knight from f3 so when the queen moves to e2 she can support pawn pushes to g4 and h5. Watch how Austin breaks through on h5. 24...b4=

25.Nxg5 Ke7 26.Rh1 Rh8 27.Qe2 Kd8?

Trying to remove Black's king from the battle zone, but it disconnects Black's rooks for a move, making White's breakthrough stronger. 27...b4 28.h5 gxh5 29.Rxh5 g6=

28.h5 gxh5 29.Rxh5 Rxh5

29...Kc7 30.Rah1±

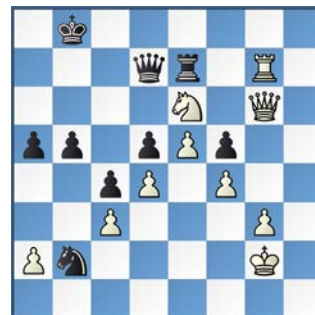
30.Qxh5± Kc7 31.Qg6 Re8 32.Rh1 Na4?

32...Re7 33.Rh8±

33.Rh7 Re7 34.Rxg7! Nxb2

34...Rxg7 35.Nxe6+ Kb7 36.Nxg7 Nxb2 37.e6 and the passed pawn is unstoppable.

35.Nxe6+ Kb8



Position after 35...Kb8

A possible continuation is 35...Kb8 36.Rg8+ Ka7 37.Nc5 and Black will have to give up his queen to stop 38.Qa6#.

1-0



<https://www.oregonchessfed.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/2021-Oregon-Class-Championships-Flyer.pdf>

Oregon Class Championships

November 6-7

Portland, Oregon

WA Fall Mini-Teams Championship



November 13, 2021

Online via  Chess.com



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

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

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

Entry fee: \$30 (per player)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

A Northwest Chess Grand Prix Event



Washington Class Championships Fri-Sun, November 26-28, 2021

\$10,000 Prize Fund
(based on 150 paid entries)

Format: A 6-round Swiss event across 7 class sections. Sections may be combined if less than 12 players in a section.

Per-Section Entry Fees (by Oct 29 / Nov 12 / on-site) and Prizes:

- **Master (2200+)** EF \$150 / \$160 / \$170
Prizes: \$700, \$450, \$350; U2300 \$250, \$200
- **Expert (2000-2199)** EF \$140 / \$150 / \$160
Prizes: \$600, \$350, \$250; U2100 \$200, \$150
- **Class A (1800-1999)** EF \$130 / \$140 / \$150
Prizes: \$500, \$300, \$200; U1900 \$150, \$100
- **Class B (1600-1799)** EF \$130 / \$140 / \$150
Prizes: \$500, \$300, \$200; U1700 \$150, \$100
- **Class C (1400-1599)** EF \$130 / \$140 / \$150
Prizes: \$500, \$300, \$200; U1500 \$150, \$100
- **Class D (1200-1399)** EF \$130 / \$140 / \$150
Prizes: \$500, \$300, \$200; U1300 \$150, \$100
- **Class E (1199 & Under)** EF \$130 / \$140 / \$150
Prizes: \$500, \$300, \$200; U1000 \$150, \$100; U800 \$100, \$50; Unrated \$100

Special Female Prize:

Top female (in each class) \$50

Awarded to the highest finishing female per class who does not win any other cash prize. Requires min 3 qualifying players per class for the prize to be awarded.

Medal-Only Entry Fees and Prizes: EF \$80 / \$90 / \$100 (for Juniors under age 21 or Seniors age 50+)
Prizes: Medals awarded to top-2 finishers in each class.

Rated players add \$85 if wanting to play up one class only. (Playing up two classes is not permitted.)

Free entry to GMs, IMs, and WGMs.
Reentry for ½ of original entry fee.
Canadians may pay C\$ at par for entry fee.

Health/Safety Protocols: Face masks required for all participants and supporters. 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.

Hilton Bellevue

300 112th Ave SE, Bellevue, WA 98004

Phone: (425) 455-1300

Information/Entries:

Info - Josh Sinanan, WCF President, (206) 769-3757, WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com

Entries - Valentin Razmov, WCF Tournament Coordinator, (206) 985-2277, VRazmov@gmail.com

Main Event:

Note: You can play in the main event *and* take part in several side events with minimum half-point byes!

Registration & Payment:

* **Before event:** nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration/ (pay by credit/debit/PayPal) or make checks payable to Washington Chess Federation.

* **On-site:** Fri 9-10 AM for 3-day schedule, or 4-5 PM if entering with 1 half-point bye. Sat 8-8:30 AM for 2-day schedule, or 9-10 AM if entering 3-day schedule with 2 half-point byes. *Late registrations may receive a half-point bye for first round.* Two half-point byes available; request before end of round 2. Play any two days, if taking 2 half-point byes.

Rating: Dual rated US Chess and NWSRS. Master/Expert/Class A/Class B sections also FIDE rated (except G/60 games). Higher of US Chess, FIDE, and NWSRS ratings used to determine class sections, pairings, and prizes. Higher of US Chess and foreign ratings used at TD discretion; foreign ratings used for players with no US Chess rating. Unrated players may only win 1st / 2nd / 3rd prizes in Master section or unrated prize in Class E section. Medal-only registered players may not win cash prizes, including the special female prize.

Rounds: 3-day schedule: Fri 11 AM & 6 PM, Sat 11 AM & 6 PM, Sun 9 AM & 3:30 PM.

2-day schedule: Sat 9 AM, 11:45 AM, 2:30 PM, then join 3-day schedule from round 4 at 6 PM.

Time Controls: 3-day schedule: 40/120 and SD/30 with a 10-second delay.

2-day schedule: G/60 with 10-second delay (rounds 1-3), rounds 4-6 same as 3-day schedule.

Please bring tournament chess set, board, and digital clock.

Miscellaneous: Current US Chess membership and WCF/OCF/ICA membership required in all sections. Other states accepted. Memberships may be paid at time of registration. US Chess Grand Prix Points: 40. US Chess Junior Grand Prix. No Smoking. No Computers. Wheelchair accessible.

Hotel Info/Rates: Hilton Bellevue, \$89 one King or two Queen Beds, single or double occupancy. Call (425) 455-1300 to request the Washington Chess Federation block. Group Code: WACFCI. Cut-off date for [discounted reservations](#) is Nov 8, 2021 at 5 PM PST.

Fun Side Events:

Washington Class Puzzle Solving Championship: Fri, 11/26 at 5 PM. Format: Solve 15 chess puzzles in 45 minutes. Solutions to be written on paper. Evaluation based on both accuracy and completeness. Registration: 4-4:45 PM. EF: \$10. Medals awarded to top-3 finishers overall and to the best puzzle solver in each class: U2000, U1700, U1400, and Unrated. No memberships required.

Washington Class 2nd Chess Workshop for Girls & Women: Fri, 11/26 at 6 PM. Details in [this flyer](#).

Washington Class Chess960 (Fischer Random) Championship: Sat, 11/27 at 5 PM. Format: 4-round Swiss in one section. Registration: 4:30-4:45 PM. Rounds: 5 PM, 6:30 PM, 8 PM, 9:30 PM. TC: G/30; d5. 1 half-point bye available; request by end of round 2. EF: \$25 online by 11/26 (or \$30 on-site). Prize Fund: \$400/b20. 1st \$110, 2nd \$80, 3rd \$60, 1st U2000 \$50, 1st U1700 \$50, 1st U1400/Unrated \$50. Unrated. No memberships required.

Washington Class G/45 Championship: Sun, 11/28 at 2 PM. Format: 4-round Swiss in one section. Registration: 1-1:45 PM. Rounds: 2 PM, 3:45 PM, 5:30 PM, 7:15 PM. TC: G/45; d5. 1 half-point bye available; request by end of round 2. EF: \$25 online by 11/27 (or \$30 on-site). Prize Fund: \$400/b20. 1st \$110, 2nd \$80, 3rd \$60, 1st U2000 \$50, 1st U1700 \$50, 1st U1400/Unrated \$50. Dual rated US Chess and NWSRS. Current US Chess and WCF/OCF/ICA memberships required.

Washington Class "Knight Time" Blitz: Sun, 11/28 at 8:45 PM. Format: 7-round Swiss in one section. Registration: 8-8:30 PM. Rounds: 8:45 PM, 9 PM, 9:15 PM, 9:30 PM, 9:45 PM, 10 PM, 10:15 PM. TC: G/5; d0. 2 half-point byes available; request by end of round 2. EF: \$25 online by 11/27 (or \$30 on-site). Prize Fund: \$400/b20. 1st \$110, 2nd \$80, 3rd \$60, 1st U2000 \$50, 1st U1700 \$50, 1st U1400/Unrated \$50. US Chess Blitz rated. Current US Chess and WCF/OCF/ICA memberships required.

Coaching Corner

Ralph Dubisch



Wasn't it Pat Benatar who sang "Chess Is a Battlefield?" No? Well, she should have.

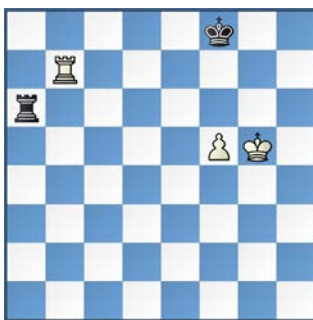
Watching Grandmaster tournaments online has given me further insight into a chess truth that really should guide all of us. A game of chess is won by the player whose opponent makes the last significant blunder. Sure, we can make brilliant scientific plans and strategies; we can produce moves and sequences that soar to the heights of art. But ultimately chess is sport: a battle between human combatants that is ultimately decided by human error.

When I've gone back into my own games archive, I'm always amazed by how lucky I was. I would turn around losing positions, almost blunder away the win, and usually fail to understand the core of the position. Yet somehow, I usually did win. Sometimes it even seemed brilliant, or at least clever, though I was often most critical of my own imperfections. Hindsight, being even better than 20/20 with the aid of modern chess engines, had no trouble spotting those imperfections.

But let's be clear: in order for me to win, my own imperfections must have been generally less than those of my opposition. Assuming good sportsmanship, at the end of each game scoring the point is the part that is remembered. The fact that I might have been lost until the final blunder is not particularly relevant; it's surviving to take advantage of the opportunity that matters.

Which brings us to today's lesson: practical rook endings. These games were played online in the first few rounds of the Meltwater Champions Chess Tour (MCCT) US Rapid event at game in 15 minutes with an added increment of ten seconds per move played. But first, a very brief primer on basic rook and pawn endings.

Philidor Draw

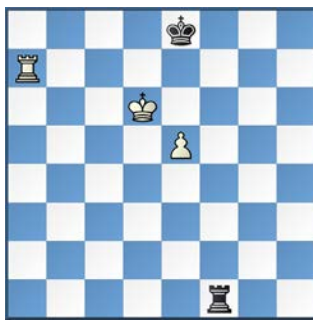


Defending with rook against rook and pawn, the simplest drawing method was shown by Philidor in the late 18th century. Black keeps the rook on the sixth rank until the white pawn advances to the sixth, then the rook goes up the board to harass the white king.

1.f6 Ra1 2.Kg6 Rg1+ 3.Kf5 Rf1+ 4.Ke6 Re1+ 5.Kd6 Rf1

The white king has no cover against the checks.

Extended Philidor

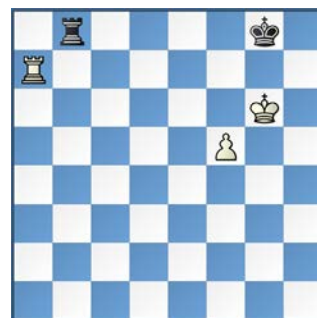


Sometimes the black rook is not well placed to defend along the sixth rank. Another drawing idea is to place the rook behind the pawn and run the king to the short side when threatened with mate or

otherwise forced out of the pawns path.

1...Re1 2.Ke6 Kf8 3.Ra8+ Kg7 4.Kd6 4.Ra2 Kf8; 4.Re8 Ra1 5.Rd8 Re1 6.Rd7+ (6.Rd5 Kf8 7.Kd7 Kf7 8.e6+ Rxe6 9.Rf5+ Rf6) 6...Kf8 7.Kf6 Rf1+ 8.Ke6 Re1 4...Kf7 5.Ra7+ Ke8

Passive Defense



Against c-, d-, e-, and f-pawns, passive defense on the eighth rank fails:

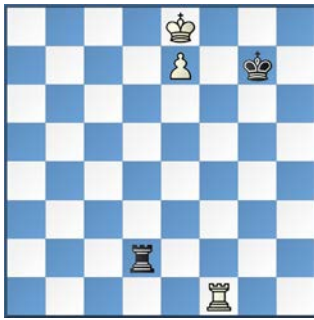
1.f6 Rd8 2.Rg7+ Kf8 3.Rh7 Kg8 4.f7+ Kf8 5.Rh8+ Ke7 6.Rxd8 Kxd8 7.f8Q+

With a-, b-, g-, and h-pawns, however, even passive back rank defense holds, because White does not have the flanking maneuver and pawn check shown above.

Lucena's Win

With the attacking king in front of the pawn and the defender driven off, White often has a choice of winning methods. The classical example is sometimes called "building a bridge," as analyzed by Lucena in the late 15th century.

[See Diagram top of next page]



1.Rf4

Black to move changes nothing: 1.— Ra2 2.Rg1+ Kf6 (2...Kh7 3.Rd1 Kg6 4.Kf8 Rf2+ 5.Kg8 Re2 6.Rd6+ Kf5 7.Kf7) 3.Kf8; Equally good is 1.Rg1+ Kh7 and now 2.Rg4 is the winning idea. (White isn't ready to bring the king out yet: 2.Kf7 Rf2+ 3.Ke6 Re2+ 4.Kf6 Rf2+)

1...Rd1 2.Rg4+ Kh6

2...Kh7 3.Kf7 Rf1+ 4.Ke6 Re1+ 5.Kf6 Rf1+ 6.Ke5 Re1+ 7.Re4

3.Kf7 Rf1+ 4.Ke6 Re1+ 5.Kf6 Kh5

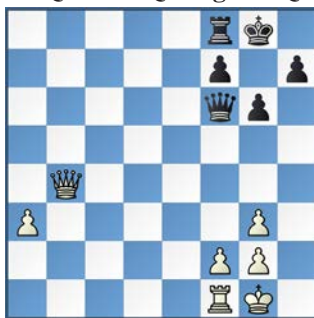
5...Rf1+ 6.Ke5

6.Rg5+ Kh4 7.Re5

Magnus Carlsen (2847) – Wesley So (2772) [A50]

Aimchess US Rapid Prelim chess24.com INT (R1), August 28, 2021

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Bf4 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.Bg3 c5 6.e4 Nf6 7.Nd2 Nc6 8.e5 Nd7 9.Ngf3 cxd4 10.Bc4 Be7 11.0-0 0-0 12. Rc1 Nc5 13.a3 a5 14.Nb3 b6 15.Nbxd4 Nxd4 16.Nxd4 Bb7 17.Nb5 Ne4 18.Nd6 Qb8 19.Qd4 b5 20.Bxb5 Nxf3 21.hxg3 Bd5 22.Bc6 Bxd6 23.exd6 Ra6 24.Bxd5 Rxd6 25.Rc5 Rxd5 26.Rxd5 exd5 27.Qxd5 Qxb2 28.Qxa5 g6 29.Qb4 Qf6



Position after 29...Qf6

Despite the very unusual third move by White, the game's continuation is quite typical of queen-pawn openings between Grandmasters. One side has just enough initiative to win a pawn, leading to essentially equal kingside pawns and one

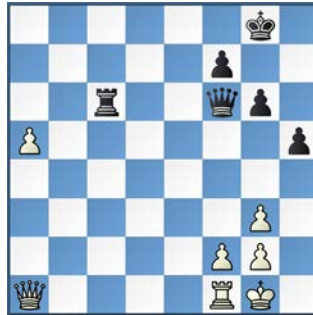
extra queenside pawn. Then the battle is to win with the extra bean or to hold the draw.

Here the position is particularly favorable for White, because he can get his rook behind his passed pawn. In general, attacking rook behind the passed pawn is very close to winning; rook stuck in front of the pawn makes a draw far more likely. Defense from the side is somewhere in between. 29...Qa2 30.Rc1 Ra8 31.a4! h6 (31...Qxa4?? 32.Rc8+ Kg7? (32...Rxc8 33.Qxa4 h5) should be winning for White, but will require some technical work.) 33.Qf8+ Kf6 34.Qd8+ Kg7 35.Rxa8, and White covers the perpetual check ...Qd1-h5.) 32.Qd4 Kh7 33.Ra1 The rook gets behind the pawn. There's still work to be done here, as the queens remain on the board, significantly complicating White's task.

30.a4 Rc8 31.a5 h5 32.Qa4 Rc6

32...Ra8 may be a better try.

33.Qa1!



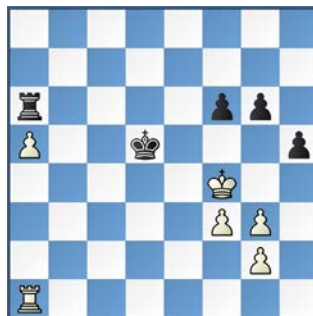
Position after 33.Qa1

Aiming for the pure rook ending with rook behind the pawn. Black's choice is either defend that ending or give up the long diagonal—neither option is appealing.

33...Kg7 34.Rb1

A subtle finesse, but not a necessary one. 34.Qxf6+ is essentially the same, since the king on f6 doesn't represent a real improvement.

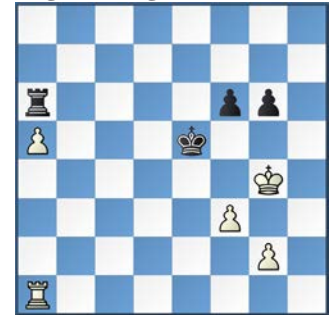
34...Qxa1 35.Rxa1 Ra6 36.f3 Kf6 37. Kf2 Ke5 38.Ke3 Kd5 39.Kf4 f6



Position after 39...f6

This kind of position is basically winning for White. The most obvious difference, aside from the pawn count, is that the a1-rook can make tempo moves, while any back-pedaling by the a6-rook allows the white pawn to continue up the board. Eventually zugzwang allows the white king to penetrate.

40.g4 hxg4 41.Kxg4 Ke5



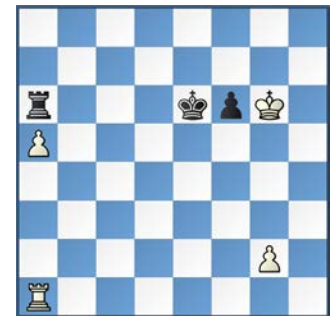
Position after 41...Ke5

Black simply doesn't have time to run to the queenside and capture the a-pawn. 41...Kc5 42.f4 Kb5 43.f5 gxf5+ 44.Kxf5, and not only are the king and pawn endings completely hopeless, the king is now very far away from the action if the white rook swings around to pick up the f6-pawn.

42.f4+ Ke6 43.Ra2 Ke7 44.Kf3 Kd6 45.Ke4 Ke6 46.Ra1

46.g4 Kd6 47.Kd4 Kc6 48.Kc4

46...Kd6 47.f5 gxf5+ 48.Kxf5 Ke7 49. Kg6 Ke6



Position after 49...Ke6

Black kind of just rolls over here. At least set a trap—one possibility is 49...Kf8 50.g4 Kg8 51.Rb1! (51.Rd1?? f5+ 52.Kxf5 Rxa5+ draws, and especially easily since even back-rank passive defense works against a g-pawn.) 51...f5+ (51...Kf8 52.Rb8+ Ke7 53.Rb6 Rxa5 54.Rxf6 and the black king is cut off. See Lucena position.) 52.Rb6! wins.

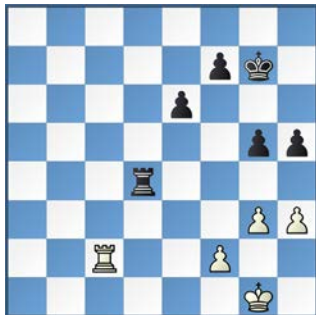
50.Re1+ Kd7 51.g4 Kd8 52.Kf7 Rd6 53.Re4 Rc6 54.Rd4+ Kc8 55.Rf4

1-0

Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (2751) –
Vladislav Artemiev (2704) [B12]

Aimchess US Rapid Prelim
chess24.com INT (R2), August 28, 2021

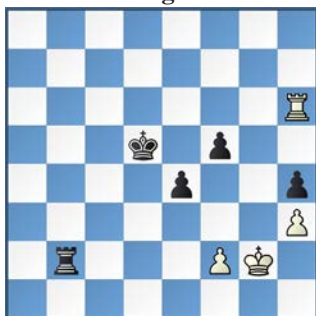
1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 Bf5 4.Nf3 e6 5.Be2
c5 6.Be3 cxd4 7.Nxd4 Ne7 8.Nd2 Nbc6
9.N2f3 Bg4 10.0-0 g6 11.Nxc6 Nxc6
12.c4 dxc4 13.Qa4 Qa5 14.Qxc4 Bxf3
15.Bxf3 Nxe5 16.Qe4 Bg7 17.Qxb7
Nxf3+ 18.Qxf3 0-0 19.Rad1 Rad8 20.
Qb7 Rb8 21.Qxa7 Qxa7 22.Bxa7 Rxb2
23.Bd4 Rxa2 24.Bxg7 Kxg7 25.Ra1
Rd2 26.Rfd1 Rd5 27.g3 Rfd8 28.Rdc1
Rd2 29.Rc3 g5! 30.h3 h5 31.Rac1 R8d4
32.R3c2 Rxc2 33.Rxc2



Position after 33.Rxc2

So we reach the single rook ending with pawns all on one side of the board. Generally speaking, four versus three can be held for a draw, but it gets more difficult if the defender can't reach the structure f2/g3/h4, thus explaining the importance of Black's move 29.

33...f5 34.Kg2 Kf6 35.Rc8 h4 36.gxh4
gxh4 37.Rf8+ Kg7 38.Re8 Kf7 39.Ra8
Ke7 40.Rh8 Kd6 41.Ra8 Rb4 42.Ra6+
Kd5 43.Kf3 Rb3+ 44.Kg2 Rb4 45.Kf3
e5 46.Rh6 e4+ 47.Kg2 Rb2



Position after 47...Rb2

48.Rh5

48.Kf1 f4 49.Rxh4 f3 50.Ke1; 48.Rxh4??
e3+ The connected passed pawns are
very strong.

48...Ke5 49.Rh8

49.Kg1 Kf4 50.Kf1 Ra2 51.Kg1 Ra1+
52.Kg2 Ke5 53.Rxh4

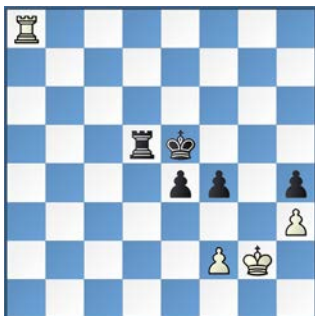
49...Ra2 50.Rb8 Kf4 51.Rb3?!

So far White has been defending easily, though he seems unaware of the possibility of retreating the king to the first rank to unpin the f-pawn. Here better ways to prevent e3 are 51.Re8; or 51.Rb4.

51...Rd2

51...Kg5.

52.Ra3 Ke5 53.Ra5+ Rd5 54.Ra8 f4

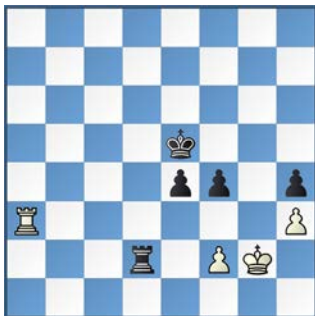


Position after 54...f4

55.Ra3?

White was apparently unwilling to step into possible mate threats with Kf1 and ...f3, but there are clear paths: 55.Kf1! Rb5 56.Ke1 Rb3 57.Ke2 f3+ 58.Ke1; 55.Re8+ Kd4 56.Rf8 f3+ 57.Kf1 Rb5 58.Rd8+ (Also drawing is 58.Ke1 Rb1+ 59.Kd2 Rf1 60.Rd8+ Ke5 61.Re8+ Kd5 62.Rd8+ Kc6 63.Ke3 Re1+ 64.Kf4 Re2 65.Rd4 Kc5 66.Rxe4 Rxf2 67.Re3)

55...Rd2?



Position after 55...Rd2

55...f3+ 56.Kg1 Rd1+ 57.Kh2 Rd2 58.Kg1
Kd4+. The black king penetrates to e1/
e2, and White has no defense. 59.Rb3
Rc2 60.Ra3 Rc3 61.Ra2 Kd3 62.Rb2
Rc2 63.Rb4 Rc1+ 64.Kh2 e3 65.Rb3+
Rc3 66.Rxc3+ Kxc3 67.fxe3 (67.Kg1 e2
68.Kh2 Kd2 69.Kg1 e1Q+ 70.Kh2 Qxf2+
71.Kh1 Qg2#) 67...Kd3 68.e4 f2

56.Kf1 Rd3?!

56...f3. Unlike facing checks from the rear, here the black king has cover against checks from the side—which is why White's choices on moves 51 and 55 are suspect.

57.Ra5+ Rd5 58.Ra8 Rb5 59.Re8+

Back on track to draw...

59...Kd4 60.Rd8+ Rd5 61.Ra8

61.Rf8

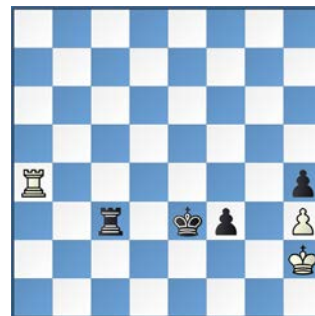
61...f3 62.Ra3?

62.Ke1

62...Rb5 63.Kg1??

63.Ra1.

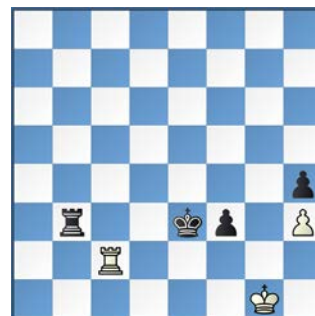
63...Re5 64.Ra1 Kd3 65.Ra3+ Rc3 66.
Ra1 Kd2 67.Ra2+ Rc2 68.Ra3 Rc1+
69.Kh2 Rc3 70.Ra4 Kd3 71.Ra1 Kd2
72.Ra4 e3 73.fxe3 Kxe3?!



Position after 73...Kxe3

73...Rc1! 74.Ra2+ Kd3! 75.Rf2 Rc2
76.Kg1 Rxf2 77.Kxf2 Ke4 78.Kf1 Kxe3
79.Ke1 Ke4 80.Kf1 Kf5 81.Ke1 Ke5
82.Kf1 Ke4 83.Kf2 Kf4 84.Kf1 Kg3+

74.Ra1 Rd3 75.Kg1 Rd2 76.Ra3+ Ke2
77.Ra1 Rb2 78.Rc1 Rb3 79.Rc2+ Ke3



Position after 79...Ke3

80.Ra2??

80.Rc1 Kf4 (80...Rb2 81.Re1+ Re2
82.Ra1) 81.Rc4+ Kg3 82.Rg4+ Kxh3
83.Rg8 The weird rook versus rook and
two pawns draw—if the pawns are f- and
h-pawns.

80...Rb1+ 81.Kh2 Rd1 82.Ra3+ Rd3
83.Ra1 Ke2 84.Kg1 f2+ 85.Kg2 Rg3+

So in a battle between super Grandmasters, just as in games between any two club players, the result is determined by who made the last significant blunder.

0-1



Washington Chess960 Fall Open

Josh Sinanan

The Washington Chess960 Fall Open was held online via Chess.com on Sunday, October 10, 2021. Chess players from throughout the great Pacific Northwest were represented in the nine-player field from cities including Seattle, Bellevue, Auburn, Yakima, Camas, Federal Way, and Portland. In Chess960, also known as Fischer Random Chess, the starting position of the pieces on each player's home rank is randomized. Players must adapt to a new starting position each round and rely on their own talent, creativity, and inspiration over the board, rather than any memorization of opening lines.

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 President Josh Sinanan coordinated with Rekha to organize the tournament. Originally set up as a five-round Swiss in three sections—Open, U2000, and U1400—the tournament was merged

into a single U2000 section due to lower attendance. Each round featured a unique Chess960 starting position, which the players had a chance to ponder for five minutes before clocks were started.

Edward Cheng, a freshman at Garfield High School in Seattle and the reigning Washington State Chess960 Champion, emerged victorious with a phenomenal 4.0/5, conceding only two draws against Team Razmov (Valentin and Gabriel) along the way! Yakima's Michael Rabadan and Seattle's Gabriel Razmov (undefeated throughout) shared second/third place U2000 honors half-a-point back with 3.5/5 points apiece.

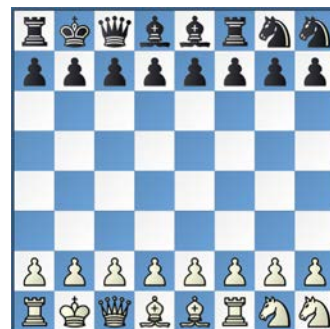
A trio of up-and-coming Washington juniors—Evan Cen from Bellevue, Selina Cheng from Seattle, and Joshua Ehrenberg from Auburn—tied for first-third place U1400 with 3.0/5 points each.

The Best NW Region Player prize was awarded to Seattle Chess King Valentin Razmov, despite a dethroning at

the hands of Princess Selina Cheng in the final round! Ira Reddy, a third grader from Camas, was never caught unprepared for her games and won the Best Female Player prize with two points. Jude Calo, a sixth grader from Robert Eagle Staff Middle School in Seattle, was awarded the Best Sportsmanship prize for his efforts.

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

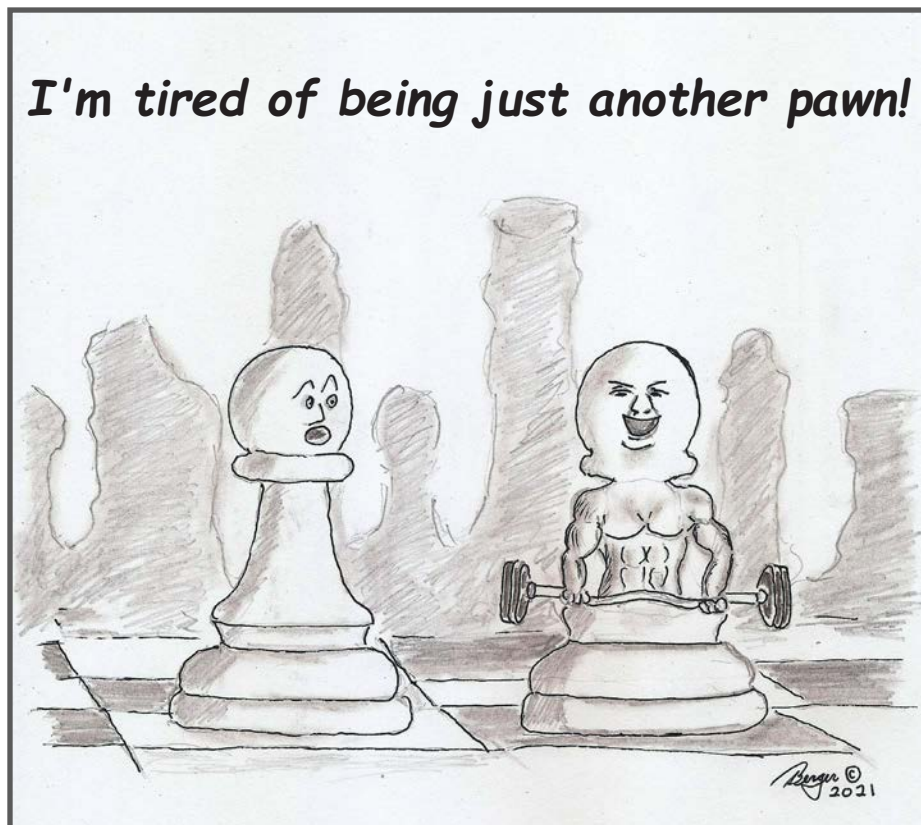
Valentin Razmov (1986) – Gabriel Razmov (1516)
WA Chess960 Fall Open
Chess.com, October 10, 2021
[Ralph Dubisch]



Chess960 Starting Position

- 1.e4 e5 2.Ng3 Ng6 3.Nh3**
3.Nh5 d5 4.exd5 Nf6 5.Nxg7 Bd7^o
3...Nh6
3...Nh4!? Pawn hunting in the opening—with Black—may be a little rambunctious here. 4.d4 (4.Rg1?! d5 5.exd5?! Nxg2 6.Rxg2 Qxh3.) 4...exd4 5.Qd2 Nxg2 6.Qxd4 Nf6 doesn't look too bad.
4.f4 exf4 5.Nh5
5.Nxf4 Nxf4 6.Rxf4[±]
5...Rg8
5...f5 6.Nxg7 fxe4 7.Nxe8 Rxe8 8.Nxf4^o
6.d4 f5 7.Bf3
7.e5!?![±]
7...Bf7 8.Bc3 Nh4 9.N5xf4 g5 10.Nd3 g4?!

Black may have just missed that h6



was hanging. Alternatives: 10...fxe4!
 11.Bxe4 d5 12.Bxh7 Rg7 13.Ne5 Rxh7
 14.Nxg5 Bxg5 15.Qxg5 N4f5 16.0-0-0;
 10...d5!? 11.exf5 Nxf3 12.gxf3
 (12.Rxf3!? Bh5. (12...g4 13.Qxh6 gxf3
 14.Qxh7 fxg2 15.Qxf7 g1Q+ 16.Nxg1
 Rxg1+ 17.Be1)) 12...Nxf5.

11.Qxh6 gxh3



Position after 11...gxh3

12.Qe3?

12.Qxh7 hxg2 13.Bxg2 Rxg2 14.Qxf7
 fxe4 15.Ne5± with a serious initiative.
 16.Nxd7+ is unstoppable.

12...hxg2 13.Rg1 c6

13...fxe4! 14.Bxe4 (14.Qxe4 d5 15.Qxh7
 Qe6 16.Bd1 Qf6+) 14...d5 15.Qf2 (15.
 Bxh7 Rg7 16.Qh6 Qg4+) 15...dxe4
 16.Qxf7 Bg5 17.Ne5 a6 and Black is
 close to winning.

14.Qf2 fxe4

14...Nxf3 15.Qxf3 Bc7 16.Rxg2 fxe4
 17.Qxe4 Bd5 18.Rxg8 Qxg8

15.Bxe4 Rf8

15...Bd5!? 16.Bxd5 cxd5.

16.0-0-0 Bg5+

16...Bh5 17.Qg3+ Qc7∞

17.Bd2

Not 17.Kb1?? Bxa2+ 18.Kxa2 Rxf2-+

17...Bh5?

17...Bxd2+ 18.Qxd2 Bg6 19.Bxg2 Nxg2
 20.Rxg2 Qc7 (20...d6 21.Qh6 a6 22.Nf4±)
 21.Ne5± 0-0-0

18.Qg3+ Qc7 19.Bxg5

19.Qxg5! Bxd1 20.Rxd1 Rf1 21.Bf4
 Rxf4 22.Nxf4+-

19...Qxg3 20.hxg3 Bxd1 21.Rxd1

21.gxh4 Rf1 22.Bf4+ Kc8 23.Rxg2 Bf3+
 24.Kd2 Bxg2 25.Bxg2 Rg1 26.Ne1 d5
 27.Be3 Rxg2+ 28.Nxg2±

21...Rf1

21...Nf3 22.Be3 Kc7 23.Bf2 (23.Nf4?!
 Rae8 24.Bxf3 Rxe3 25.Bxg2 Rxg3
 26.Rf1 Kd6 27.Nh3 Rxf1+ 28.Bxf1 Kd5
 29.c3 (29.Nf4+ Ke4 30.Ne2 Rg7) 29...
 Ke4.) 23...Rae8 (23...h5 24.Nf4 g1Q
 25.Bxg1 Nxg1 26.Rxg1±) 24.Bxf3 Rxf3
 25.Rg1±

**22.Bxg2 Rxd1+ 23.Kxd1 Nxg2 24.Ke2
 Kc7 25.Kf2 Re8 26.Kxg2**

Save the pawn! 26.c3!± The knight's not
 going anywhere.

26...Re2+ 27.Kf3 Rxc2 28.a3 a5 29.Kg4

29.Ke4

29...b5

29...Kd6! 30.Kf4 Kd5 31.Ke3 Kc4.

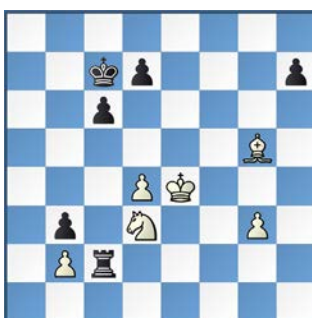
30.Kf5 b4

30...d6 31.Bf4 Kd7

31.axb4 axb4 32.Ke4

32.Nxb4 Rxb2 33.Nd3 Rb1 34.Bf4+

32...b3



Position after 32...b3

33.Be7??

33.Bf4+ d6

**33...Re2+ 34.Kf3 Rxe7 35.Nc1 Re8
 36.Nxb3 Rb8 37.Nd2 Rxb2 38.Ne4
 Rh2 39.g4 Rh6 40.g5 Rh4 41.Nf6 Rxd4
 42.Nxh7 Rd6**

42...Kd6

43.Kf4 Rg6

43...Kd8

44.Kf5 Rg7?!

44...Rg8! saves a critical tempo in the
 pawn races. 45.Nf6 Rd8 46.g6 d5 47.g7
 d4 48.g8Q Rxg8 49.Nxg8 d3-+

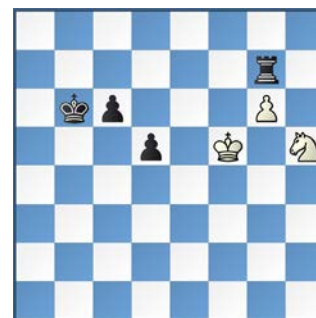
45.Nf6?!

45.g6 d5 46.Nf6 (46.Kf6 Rg8 47.Kf7 Ra8
 48.Ke6 d4 49.g7 d3 50.Nf8 d2 51.g8Q
 d1Q) 46...Kb6 47.Kg5 d4 48.Kh6 d3
 49.Kxg7 d2 50.Kf7 d1Q 51.g7 c5 52.g8Q
 Qb3+ 53.Ke7 Qxg8 54.Nxg8 c4 55.Nf6
 Kc5 56.Ke6 c3 57.Ne4+ Kd4 58.Nxc3

45...Kb6?!

Start by defending with both black pieces
 on the kingside: 45...Kd8! 46.g6 Ke7
 47.Nh5 Rg8 48.g7 (48.Nf6 Rf8 49.g7
 Rxf6+ 50.Kg5 Rf1 (50...Kf7 51.g8Q+
 Kxg8 52.Kxf6 d5-) 51.g8N+ Ke6-) 48...
 Kf7 49.Nf6 d5-+

46.g6 d5 47.Nh5



Position after 47.Nh5

47...Rg8

47...Rd7 48.g7 Rd8 49.Nf6 d4 50.Nd7+!!
 Rxd7 (50...Kb5 51.Nf8 d3 52.g8Q Rd5+
 53.Ke6 d2∞) 51.g8Q d3

48.g7??

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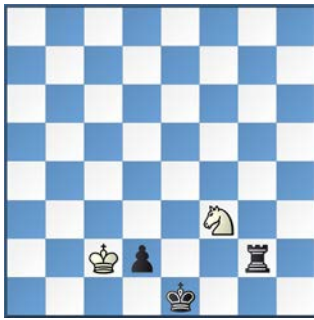
**ORLOV
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48.Nf6! Rg7 (48...d4 49.Nxg8 d3 50.g7 d2 51.Nf6 d1Q 52.g8Q) 49.Nh5 Rg8 50.Nf6 Rd8 51.g7 d4 52.Nd7+!! As in the last note. 52...Kb5 53.Nf8 d3 54.g8Q Rd5+ 55.Ke6 d2∞ Black is certainly not losing here, but White has good chances to find a perpetual against the exposed black king. To avoid endless checks Black will almost certainly need to part with the c6-pawn. Then the players can create new endgame theory playing out the Q+R vs Q+N pawnless endgame—not even covered in John Nunn's *Secrets of Pawnless Endings*. 56.Qg7 d1Q 57.Qb7+ Kc5 58.Qa7+ Kc4 59.Qa6+ Kd4 60.Qxc6 Good luck!

48...d4+ 49.Ke4 c5 50.Kd3 Kb5 51.Kd2 Kc4 52.Kc2 d3+ 53.Kd2 Kd4 54.Ng3 c4 55.Nf5+ Ke5 56.Ne3 Rxxg7 57.Nxc4+ Kd4 58.Nd6 Rg2+ 59.Kd1 d2

Rook and pawn vs minor piece is often a bit more complicated than it seems. Here more accurate is 59...Rg6 60.Nf5+ Kc3 61.Ke1 d2+ 62.Ke2 Re6+ 63.Ne3 d1Q+ 64.Kxd1 Rxe3 65.Kc1 Re1# One of the keys to winning these is not to be in too much of a hurry to advance the pawn.

60.Kc2 Ke3 61.Nf5+ Ke2 62.Nd4+ Ke1 63.Nf3+



Position after 63.Nf3+

63...Kf1??

Unfortunately, Black finds the only drawing move in the position. Instead, a little triangulation goes a long way. 63...Kf2 64.Nd4 (64.Nxd2 Ke3+) 64...Ke3 65.Nf5+ (65.Nb3 Rg1 66.Nxd2 Rg2+)

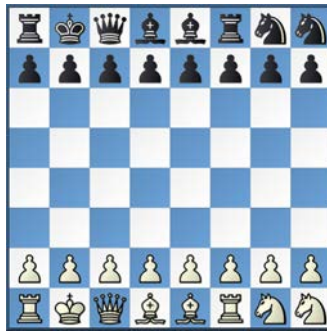
65...Kf3 66.Nd4+ Ke4 67.Nb3 (67.Nb5 Ke3 68.Nc3 d1Q+ 69.Kxd1 Kd3+) 67...Ke3 68.Na5 Ke2+

64.Kd1 Kf2 65.Nxd2 Ke3 66.Nf1+ Kd3 67.Ke1 Re2+ 68.Kd1 Ra2 69.Ke1

Quite a struggle! Both players acquitted themselves well, and as in all chess games, the result was determined by the last significant mistake.

1/2-1/2

Evan Cen (1336) – Edward Cheng (1741)
WA Chess960 Fall Open
Chess.com, October 10, 2021
[Ralph Dubisch]



Chess960 Starting Position

One of the fun things about chess960 is trying to determine from move zero how to best coordinate all of the pieces.

1.d4

Doesn't feel quite right to me. Although it's influencing the center, it's a little difficult to arrange the bishops and knights around this starting point.

1.e4 or 1.f4 feel more consistent with the arrangement of minor pieces on the back rank, though I doubt this starting position offers much hope of an opening advantage to White.

1...f5! 2.Bb4?!

The bishop doesn't do much on this square, and it could soon be a target for an

advancing a-pawn (...a5). After a natural ...d6, the bishop's only function appears to be temporarily preventing ...e5 due to the loose rook on f8—which can move.

2...Ng6 3.Ng3 Nh4?!

Pawn hunting; not recommended. Black already has at least a small advantage: 3...a5!? 4.Ba3 (4.Bd2 e5.) 4...d6.

4.Nh5??

White doesn't actually lose material here, but there is a cost in time, and the queen recaptures on an inferior square, as it is on the same line as the black bishop on d8. 4.Nf3

4...Bxh5 5.Qg5 Bg6 6.Qxh4 e6 7.Qg3 f4 8.Qh3 d6 9.e3 fxe3 10.Bg4?

10.Qxe3 Ne7+



Position after 10.Bg4

10...Rxf2!-+ 11.0-0-0? Rxc2+ 12.Kb1 e2 13.Bxe6

13.Nxe2 Rc3+ 14.Ka1 Rxxh3+

13...Rc3+

One win of many. Others: 13...exf1Q 14.Rxf1 Rf2+ 15.Kc1 Rxf1+ 16.Kd2 Bg5+ (or 16...Bf5) 17.Ke2 Qf8+; 13...exd1Q+ 14.Rxd1 Re2+ 15.Ka1 Rxe6+

14.Ka1 exd1R+ 15.Rxd1 Rxh3 16.Bxc8 Rd3 17.Rc1 Kxc8 18.Bxd6 Kd7 19.Be5 Bg5 20.Rxc7+ Ke6 21.a3 Rd1+ 22.Ka2 Rxxg1 23.g3 Ne7 24.Rxb7 Be4 25.Rc7 Bd5+ 26.b3 Rg2+ 27.Kb1 Rf8

0-1

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Washington State Women's Chess Championship

Josh Sinanan

The 2021 Washington Women's Championship was held in-person at the Orlov Chess Academy in Redmond September 10-12. Chess players were represented from cities throughout the greater Seattle area, including Seattle, Bellevue, Redmond, Sammamish, Mercer Island, Bothell, Kirkland, and Medina. A total of 18 chess ladies participated in the three-day, five-round chess championship. The event was hosted by the Washington Chess Federation and directed by WCF Adult Chess Director Rekha Sagar, who flew up from San Diego especially for this tournament!

WCM Mary Kuhner, Erin Bian, and Emma Li were crowned as the 2021 Washington State Women's Chess Co-Champions, each finishing with four points from five games. Bian, a sixth grader from Lakeside Middle School in Seattle, took the early lead with wins against fellow Lakesider Sophie Tien and former Washington Women's Champions Sangeeta Dhingra and WFM Chouchanik Airapetian. Heading into the final round, Bian faced Kuhner as Black on board one, while Li had White against Iris Zhang on board two. Kuhner prevailed in the must-win game to catch up with Bian and secured the seed into the 2022 Washington State Premier by virtue of having the highest tiebreaks of the Co-Champions. Emma Li, a seventh grader at Lakeside Middle School, won her final-round game

to join the co-champion's circle! Kylie Zhang, a fifth grader from West Mercer Elementary School on Mercer Island, won the U1800 prize with 3.5 points after a big last round upset win against her former coach, Chouchanik Airapetian. A trio of juniors tied for U1600 honors with three points apiece: Iris Zhang from Redmond, Haituka Anandkumar from Redmond, and Michelle Zhang from Medina. Mercer Island High School student Angela Agaian and rising Bothell chess star Varsha Shanmugam split the U1400/U1200 prize with two points each. Second grade student Deeksha Shankaranand from Ella Baker Elementary School in Redmond rounded out the prize winners and earned the U1000 prize. Congratulations to the winners!

Co-Champions Mary Kuhner and Erin Bian have each kindly annotated game for the *Northwest Chess* readers to enjoy.

**Mary Kuhner (1901) –
Erin Bian (1822) [C54]**
WA Women's Championship
Redmond, WA (R5), September 12, 2021
[Mary Kuhner]

**1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.c3 Nf6
5.d3 0-0 6.Bg5**

I don't usually get to play this, either because Black plays ...h6 or because they

haven't castled yet (and will respond with ...h6 and ...g5 to attack). But this time I can, so why not? (Stockfish disagrees, though.) There is so much I don't know about this opening that I've been playing for years!

6...h6 7.Bh4 d6 8.a4 a5 9.Nbd2 Ba7

In this position I had a sharp argument with the internalized archetype of the Coach, who was saying "Why haven't you castled yet? You're going to get in trouble!" But I really preferred the text move.

10.Nf1 Be6 11.b3

Solves the problem of protecting the bishop without dropping anything or making a trade that will open the f-file, but the bishop easily could get trapped out there. I figured I could always trade it later if it looked endangered.

11...Qe7

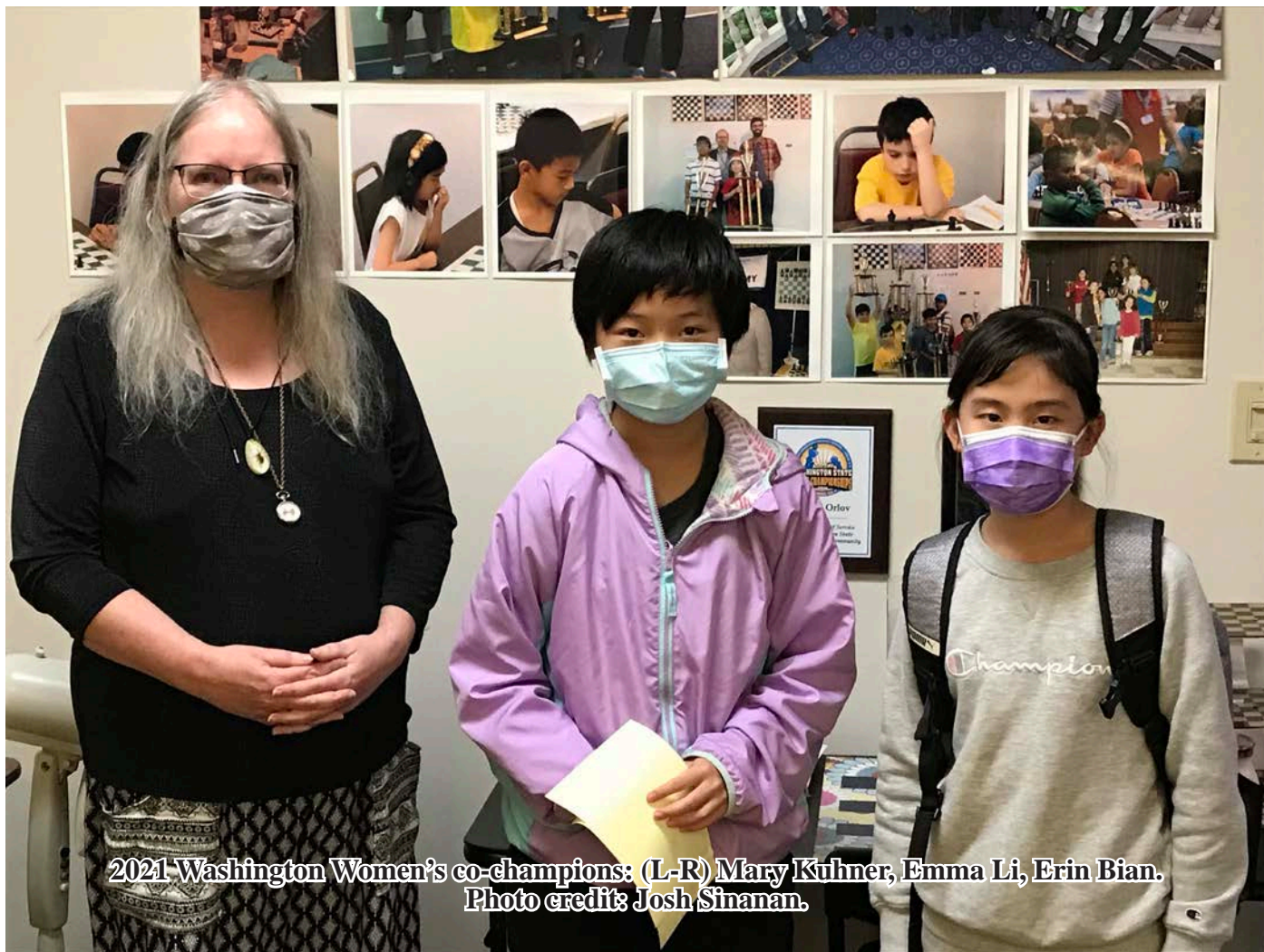
This move does not seem to do much, other than connecting the rooks.

12.Ne3 g5

Here I thought, I'll look at the sack for a bit—I doubt it's good—and then look at other lines. But the more I looked at it the more I liked it. After seven minutes I hadn't looked at anything else and decided I wasn't going to. Stockfish agrees, for once. It doesn't think the sack is winning but it does think it's the best move here.

Standings. Washington Women's Championship

#	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total	Prize
1	Mary Kuhner	1901	W8	W6	D9	D4	W2	4	Tied 1st - co-Champion!
2	Erin Bian	1822	W16	W4	W11	W9	L1	4	Tied 1st - co-Champion!
3	Emma Li	1638	W14	W13	L4	W11	W6	4	Tied 1st - co-Champion!
4	Sophie Tien	2027	W5	L2	W3	D1	W10	3.5	
5	Kylie Zhang	1512	L4	W16	D10	W12	W9	3.5	1st U1800
6	Iris Zhang	1586	W18	L1	W12	W7	L3	3	Tied 1st U1600
7	Haituka Anandkumar	1511	L11	W14	W13	L6	W18	3	Tied 1st U1600
8	Michelle Zhang	1501	L1	W18	W15	L10	W17	3	Tied 1st U1600
9	Chouchanik Airapetian	2050	W12	W10	D1	L2	L5	2.5	
10	Angela Chen	1646	W17	L9	D5	W8	L4	2.5	
11	Sangeeta Dhingra	1930	W7	W15	L2	L3	U---	2	
12	Sonia Devaraju	1567	L9	W17	L6	L5	W14	2	
13	Angela Agaian	1194	H---	L3	L7	W16	H---	2	Tied 1st U1400/U1200
14	Varsha Shanmugam	907	L3	L7	W16	W17	L12	2	Tied 1st U1400/U1200
15	Meera Shanmugam	1641	X19	L11	L8	U---	U---	1	
16	Selina Cheng	1335	L2	L5	L14	L13	B---	1	
17	Lois Ruff	1199	L10	L12	W18	L14	L8	1	
18	Deeksha Shankaranand	610	L6	L8	L17	B---	L7	1	1st U1000
19	Laasya Lanka	1141	F15	U---	U---	U---	U---	0	



2021 Washington Women's co-champions: (L-R) Mary Kuhner, Emma Li, Erin Bian.
Photo credit: Josh Sinanan.

13.Nxg5 hxg5 14.Bxg5 Bxe3?

Opening the f-file against the pinned knight just can't be right.

15.fxex3 Nb8 16.0-0 Nbd7 17.Rxf6?!



Position after 17.Rxf6

Attractive but apparently not necessary, and Black has a subtle response which maintains the balance. On the other hand, I felt it made my young opponent flinch (as the initial sack had not) and that's something in itself. 17.Qe1 Kg7 18.Qg3 Nh5 19.Bxe7+ Nxg3 20.Bxf8+ Rxf8 21.hxg3 is the engine recommendation,

and it does look like an improved version of the game (except for the doubled g-pawns).

17...Nxf6 18.Qf3?!

After this move Erin thought for a long time, and I had time to find her tricky reply. So at least it wasn't a surprise, though it took a bunch of time from my own clock as well to sort out all the variations. A strong and subtle move is 18.Ra2!

18...Bg4! 19.Bxf6

It does not work to play 19.Qg3 Nxe4; Also not convincing is 19.Qxg4 Nxg4 20.Bxe7 Rfe8 21.Bg5 Kg7.

19...Bxf3 20.Bxe7 Rfe8 21.Bf6

The computer would rather win a pawn here (Bxd6), but I value this bishop more highly than that. I am yearning to eventually play Rh8#.

21...Bh5?

The bishop should retreat to e6 and get

rid of White's bishop pair. It will turn out to be desperately unsafe on the kingside.

22.Rf1



Position after 22.Rf1

White has the bishop pair, two nice pawns, and a temporary initiative for the exchange. I felt this was enough to claim an advantage. Also, f7 is weak and the bishop on f6 is cramping Black's game; the rooks have no open lines and it's not easy to find anything for them to do. Finally, Black's king is not entirely safe even with queens gone.

22...Kh7 23.Rf5? Kh6?

23...Bg4! drives me back in confusion.

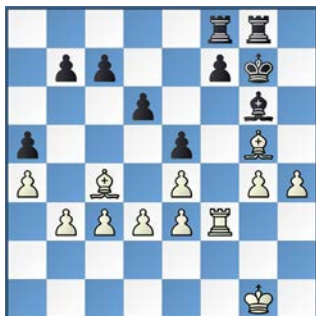
24.h4 Rg8

This move introduces pins and counter-threats against White's king, but doesn't change the evaluation, which is now a hefty +3. During the game I was cautiously optimistic.

25.Bg5+ Kg7 26.g4 Bg6

26...Bxg4 27.Rxf7+ Kg6 28.Rxc7 might have been better, but it's not good.

27.Rf3 Raf8?



Position after 27...Raf8

The rook simply can't protect the f-pawn due to Be7, and after this move Black is completely tied up and passive. Better to let the pawn go and try for counterplay elsewhere, though everything is a bit slow given how much trouble Black is now in—her bishop's life is in grave danger.

28.Kf2

Trying to avoid a pin on the g-file if Black sacrifices her bishop for the advancing pawns.

28...Kh7

Self-trapping the bishop, but Black has no good moves here.

29.Bf6 Kh6 30.h5

The pawns finally roll, and Black really can't do anything about it.

30...Bh7

Stockfish prefers to give up the bishop immediately, but young players tend to hang onto material when defending; in any case it's very bad for Black.

31.Be7 Re8 32.Rf6+ Kg7

32...Kg5 33.Rg6# is a very cute mate.

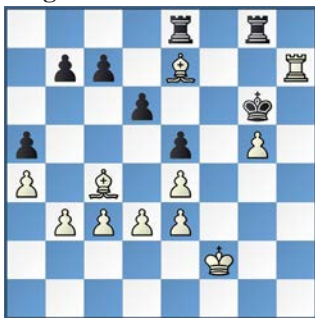
33.Rxf7+

With the fall of this pawn, the Bb4 gains lethal access to e6 and g8.

33...Kh6 34.Rf6+

A pointless move, but I wanted to gain a little time, look at the position some more, and incidentally give her a chance to walk into the mate again. She was, of course, not going to fall for that.

34...Kg7 35.Rf7+ Kh6 36.g5+ Kxh5 37.Rxh7+ Kg6



Position after 37...Kg6

38.Bxg8

Good enough, but I missed a mate here—did not see the final quiet move that seals the net. 38.Rh6+ Kg7 39.Bf6+

Kf8 40.Bxg8 Kxg8 41.g6! and mate is inevitable.

38...Rxg8 39.Rh6+ Kf7 40.Bf6

The rest of the game needs no comment. She looks for stalemate, but I don't let it happen; my winning plan is not very direct or fast but it's good enough for the job.

40...Ke8 41.Kf3 Kd7 42.Kg4 Ke6 43.Rh7 Re8 44.d4 c6 45.c4 d5 46.Bxe5 dxc4 47.bxc4 b5 48.cxb5 cxb5 49.axb5 a4 50.Ra7 a3 51.Rxa3 Rc8 52.Ra6+ Ke7 53.Bf6+ Kf7 54.Kf5 Rb8 55.g6+ Kg8 56.b6 Kf8 57.e5 Ke8 58.e6 Rd8 59.Bxd8 Kxd8 60.Ra7 Ke8 61.g7 Kd8 62.g8Q#

1-0

Erin Bian (1822) –
Sophie Tien (2027) [C72]

Washington Women's Championship
Redmond, WA (R2), September 11, 2021
[Erin Bian]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 d6

The Advanced Steinitz.

5.0-0 Bd7 6.c4

An interesting idea that is scoring quite well for White.

6...g6?!

Dubious, because it opens up the a1-h8 diagonal; White can now play d4.

7.d4 Bg7

7...exd4 8.Bxc6 Bxc6 9.Nxd4±; 7...Nxd4 8.Bxd7+ Qxd7 9.Nxd4 exd4 10.Qxd4 f6 11.Nc3±

8.Bxc6 Bxc6 9.Nc3 Ne7 10.dxe5 dxe5 11.Qc2

Clearing the d-file for the rook.

11...0-0 12.Rd1 Qe8 13.Nd5±

The opening has so far gone well for me; I have more space and my pieces are more active.

13...Rc8

Defends c7.

14.b3

Preparing to activate the bishop via a3 or b2.

14...f5!?

An interesting attempt for counterplay.

15.Ng5?!

Dubious, but I was trying to take advantage of the weakened e6-square. 15.Ba3! was better. 15...Bxd5 16.exd5 e4 17.Nd4±.



Two queens of Washington chess: (L) Lois Ruff and Rekha Sagar.
Photo credit: Josh Sinanan.

15...Nxd5

The only move.

16.cxd5 Bd7 17.Ba3 Rf6 18.Bb2

Trying to take advantage of the fact that the black rook is now blocking the bishop, perhaps f4 can be a possibility.

18...Rb6

Getting out of the way of the bishop.

19.exf5?!=

It was better to maintain the tension and play a developing move. 19.Rac1±

19...gxf5 20.Re1

Trying to target e5.

20...Qh5?! 21.Nf3

21.f4! a solid alternative: 21...exf4 22.Nh3± and now if 22...f3?? then 23.Bxg7 Kxg7 24.Re7+- wins!

21...e4!

It's a good idea to start attacking as we were both getting low on time and it will not be easy to defend.

22.Ne5 Be8?±

Too passive. 22...Rh6! would have been better. 23.h3± (23.Nxd7? It is easy to miscalculate this in time pressure. For example, this is the engine line: 23...Qxh2+ 24.Kf1 Qh1+ 25.Ke2 Qh5+! 26.g4! Qxg4+ 27.Kd2 Qf4+ 28.Kd1 Rd6! 29.Rg1! Rxd7 30.Qc3 Qf3+ 31.Qxf3 exf3± and when the dust settles, Black is up a few pawns and will probably win.)

23.Nc4?±

23.Re3! I missed the idea of a rook lift. White will be able to successfully defend.

23...Rh6 24.h3 Rg6 25.Kh1?

25.Bxg7! This is the top engine move and is completely inhuman. I stopped calculating on 25...Qxh3 but... 25...Qxh3

26.Ne3! Rxg7 27.Qb2!= with the idea of Qxg7+ and gxh3 somehow holds! (27.Qc3?? Rxg2+-)

25...Bd7

This bishop belongs here, eyeing h3.

26.Qe2

Trying to trade queens and fend off the attack.

26...Qh4

It's a good idea to avoid the trade and keep putting pressure. I think we were both under ten minutes by now.

27.Bxg7

I thought for about five minutes here, and I wasn't sure how to prevent ...f4 followed by a sac on h3. I didn't actually see what to do after ...f4 here, but Bxg7 was indeed the best move.

27...Rxg7

27...f4? 28.Qf1! (28.Qxe4? Bxh3! 29.g3! Qh5 30.Qxf4∞ Very dangerous, especially in time pressure. I was a bit worried Sophie was going to play this, but I didn't see the other defense I had!) 28...f3 29.g3 Qh5 30.Kh2±



Position after 27...Rxg7

28.Ne5!

I was not sure how to stop ...f4 and ...Bxh3, but I suddenly saw a motif here:

the fork on f6 with the knight if I deflected the black queen with Qh5. Qh5 would also temporarily defend h3, so problem solved! Of course, it wasn't this simple...

28...f4?±

The crucial mistake. 28...Bb5. would have maintained a small advantage. But I think both our attentions were focused on ...f4 and ...Bxh3. Sophie simply missed the Qh5.

29.Nxd7 Rxg2?!

A mistake but this may be the best try. White has to be precise. 29...Rxd7 Better than what was played, but White still has the advantage: 30.Qxe4±

30.Qh5!+-

I saw this move in advance. Unfortunately for her, Sophie missed this (completely reasonable, seeing we were both under five minutes!), and lost the game because of it. I would give it two exclams, but it's not actually that hard to find with the position in front of you. I was actually planning to play 30.Nf6+? in the beginning, but after 30...Qxf6 31.Qxe4 f3 32.Rg1∞ it's still unclear. 30.Qh5 is much more decisive.

30...Qxh5

30...Qxf2 may appear intimidating at first, but is not at all dangerous. I calculated both ways to defend: 31.Nf6+! (31.Rg1!+-) 31...Kg7 32.Ng4+-.

31.Nf6+ Kf7 32.Nxh5 Rxf2 33.Rxe4+-

When the dust settled, I was up a piece and clearly winning. So, Black resigned. This was a tough game and the last to finish in that round. It was definitely close, and just came down to tactics and quick calculation in the end. This was probably the most difficult (and most interesting!) game out of my four wins!

1-0



The playing hall at the Washington Women's Championship. Photo credit: Rekha Sagar.

Shunkai Peng

2021 Pan American Youth Champion
Wants to Elevate Scholastic Chess in Oregon

Chad Lykins

FM Shunkai Peng added another title to his chess portfolio with an impressive win at the [2021 Pan American Youth Championship Under 18 Open Division](#). Shunkai, a junior at Southridge High School in Beaverton, Oregon, scored 8.0/9 with seven wins and two draws. Previously this year, Shunkai won the 2021 OSCF State Championship, then placed second at the [Denker Tournament of High School Champions](#). At the Denker, Shunkai drew his game against first place finisher, GM Awonder Liang, currently rated among the top twenty players overall in the United States.

Shunkai is competing at levels few in Oregon have ever reached. He hopes

his victories pave the way for other Oregon scholastic chess players. Shunkai agreed to answer some questions about his training and what it takes to become such a strong player. At the bottom of the interview is an annotated game from the fifth round of the Pan American Youth Championship.

How many hours do you spend on chess every week?

Generally, I spend two to three hours on training every week. Before I entered high school, I trained for more than 20 hours a week. But now, since my school schedule is tight, my training time has been reduced a lot. But if there are

major competitions, I will still double the training time.

How do you allocate your training time between playing, tactics, openings, endgames, analyzing games, etc? Has this changed over time as you've gotten stronger?

Before I was 14 years old, I played a standard nine-round open once a month. Each event took me ten days because of the extra travel time.

You should do at least 50 tactical training questions every day.

The opening is a must. You should always pay attention to the latest games



Shunkai Peng.
Photo credit: Wenbin Peng.

globally, the openings of the strongest players, and daily endgame training, which can be carried out in stages, starting with the pawn endgame, then the knight endgame, and solving them one by one.

The analysis after the game is also critical. After each round, I suggest first a manual analysis without a computer, and then another analysis with a computer.

You can't expect this kind of training to make you very strong in a short period. If you have patience and perseverance, it will help. It took me two years to go from [FIDE 1900 to 2100](#). Sometimes simple games can quickly improve your rating, but this rating is not sound. It will help if you continue training to maintain this rating. Don't be fooled by the temporary rating.

Do you train with the coach? If so, how often and what will your coach do for you?

Yes, so far, at least once a week, to analyze my games and prepare the proper training plan. You should always find a coach that suits your level. This applies to all chess players worldwide, even the world chess king Carlsen needs an assistant.

Do you read chess books? If so,

what is your favorite?

I like reading chess books very much. I have read roughly 300 chess books. [The New in Chess Yearbook](#) is my favorite.

How does chess affect your studies? Do you have time for other hobbies or activities? If so, what are they?

Playing chess is of great significance to my study. This mental exercise requires calmness, earnestness, and persistence. It makes me more confident and assertive in learning. The overall mental exercise improves my problem-solving ability. You can say that chess and studying complement each other. I also like playing soccer, watching soccer games, listening to rap and pop music.

Do you have long term goals for your chess, such as achieving the Grandmaster title?

My long-term goal is to increase my FIDE Chess Rating to 2600 and enter the top 100 men in the world ranking. The title of Grand Master is just my short-term goal.

What are your other long-term goals in education and career?

I hope to get a Masters or Doctoral degree and work in the medical or

business administration field. Frankly, I have not fully thought through my future career. I will keep exploring during my last high school year.

What can chess organizers do to support our top scholastic players?

I think we can organize more large-scale competitions that attract outstanding players from other regions to participate in the contest, improve our players' level, find gaps, and learn from each other. Excellent chess players can also interact with our organizers and participate in charity activities or lectures to help lower-level chess players improve Oregon's chess level.

What advice would you give scholastic players at different stages of their development (U1000, U1500, U2000, and over 2000)?

For U1000 players, I suggest you master a small number of openings. You only need to master one or two variations. Later you can take more steps to fill vacancies in your opening knowledge. The first thing you have to do is not to give gifts to your opponents. Take care of your 16 chess pieces. If you cannot do this, it will be difficult for you to continue. You should also increase the number

A NORTHWEST CHESS GRAND PRIX EVENT

NORTHWEST CHESS WINTER OPEN

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

DECEMBER 11, 2021

Site: Online via 

Format: A 5-Round Swiss in one section. This is a fundraising tournament for Northwest Chess magazine.

Entry Fee: \$25 by 12/8, \$30 after. Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs, or US Chess 2400+.

Time Control: G/30;+5.

Rounds: Sat. 9 AM, 10:30 AM, 12 PM, 1:30 PM, 3 PM.

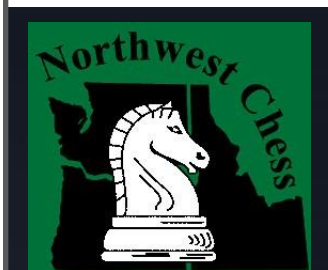
Prizes: Northwest Chess subscription extensions (includes WCF membership for WA residents):
1st: 3-yr ext., 2nd: 2-yr ext., 3rd 1-yr ext.,
1st: U1900/U1700/U1500/U1300/U1100/U900/U700: 1-yr ext. 1st Unrated: 1-yr ext. Biggest Upset: 1-yr ext.
Annotated Brilliance Prize Competition: Annotated your best game for Northwest Chess magazine. A panel of judges will select the winners. 1st: 2-yr ext., 2nd: 1-yr ext.

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

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

Procedure: Pairings will be released prior to the start of each round. Games will be started automatically by the TD in the [Live Chess](#) area.

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



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

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

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

Email:
WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com

Registration: Online at nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration.
Registration **deadline Fri. 12/10 @ 5pm.**
\$15 Late Fee for payments accepted after the deadline. Unpaid players will receive a zero-point bye for round 1.

of games you play. When you first start playing, play at least five games a week. You can play 90+30 or 60+5. If you do not have enough time, you can choose to play Blitz.

For U1500 players, you should focus on the endgame, not the opening, because at this time you should already have a standard opening library, although there are only a few simple openings.

For U2000 players, you must participate in more high-quality competitions to enrich your opening weapons. Whether you play White or Black, you should have your opening arsenal, and you should have at least two openings for each color

For players above U2000, I believe you have persisted for a long time, and I also think you want to continue. So your training should be more systematic and professional at this time. You can refer to what I said above about how I trained and then find the method that suits you.

No matter what level of chess player you are, if you want to improve, please remember that patience is essential, and persistence is more important because this sport is like long-distance running, not sprinting!

Shunkai Peng (2281) – Daniel Titichoca Daza (2051) [B81]
2021 Pan American Youth Chess Festival
lichess.org (R5), September 7, 2021
[Shunkai Peng]

In the fifth round of this tournament, I play against Bolivian player Daniel Titichoca Daza. This was a crucial game. He had a half-point more than me. I wanted to try to beat him to make the situation bright.

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 a6 3.Nge2 d6 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nxd4 Nf6 6.h3

Transposing to the Najdorf variation.

6...e6

6...e5!? another very popular line.

7.g4 Nfd7

A relatively unpopular variation. I did not expect him to play this line before the match. 7...d5 8.exd5 Nxd5 9.Nde2 Bb4 10.Bg2 Nc6 11.0-0 Nxc3 12.Nxc3 Bxc3 13.bxc3±. White has a slight advantage.

8.Bg2 Be7 9.g5!?

A little trap. If he plays 9...Bg5? 10. Ne6!

9...Nc6

9...Bxg5 10.Nxe6! fxe6 11.Qh5+±. White is very close to a winning position.

10.h4 Qc7 11.f4 b5



Position after 11...b5

12.Be3

12.Nxc6! Qxc6 13.Qd4 typical idea (13.Be3!? Bb7 14.Qd4 0-0 15.h5 Qc5 16.Qd2 Qc7 17.h6 g6 18.0-0-0±) 13...0-0 14.Be3 with a promising position for White (14.h5 Qb6 15.Qxb6 Nxb6 16.h6 g6 17.f5 Bb7 18.f6 Bd8 19.Bf4±)

12...Bb7 13.a3

Maybe not the best move, but I am afraid of b4 hitting my knight. 13.f5!? immediately pushing seems not very good, because it allows Black's knight dump into the e5 square 13...Nxd4 14.Qxd4 Ne5 15.0-0-0 Qc4! =

13...Na5

WASHINGTON WINTER CLASSIC

DECEMBER 26-27, 2021

A NORTHWEST CHESS GRAND PRIX EVENT

Site: Online via Chess.com

Format: An 8-Round Swiss in two sections: Open and Reserve (U1500).

Entry Fee: \$45 by 12/19, \$55 after. Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs, or US Chess 2400+. \$40 play-up fee if rated under 1500 playing in Open section.

Time Control: G/45;+5.

Rounds: Sun/Mon. 10 AM, 12:30 PM, 3 PM, 5:30 PM.

Prize Fund: \$1,500 (based on 60 paid entries).

Open: 1st \$240, 2nd \$180, 3rd \$140
1st U2000/U1800/U1600: \$75

Reserve: 1st \$125, 2nd \$100, 3rd \$75
1st U1400/U1200/U1000: \$65, 1st Unrated: \$65

Special Prizes: Best NW Player* (by TPR): \$65, Best Female Player* (by TPR): \$65, Biggest Upset: \$25.

*Maximum of 1 prize awarded per player; cannot win multiple prizes.

Byes: Three half-point byes available, request before end of round 3.

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

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

Procedure: Pairings will be released prior to the start of each round. Games will be started automatically by the TD in the [Live Chess](#) area.

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

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

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

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

Registration: Online at [nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration](#).
Registration **deadline Sat. 12/25 @ 5pm.** \$15 Late Fee for payments accepted after the deadline. Unpaid players will receive a zero-point bye for round 1.

Black has a threat to play Nc4, Bc1, Nxa3!

14.Rh3!



Position after 14.Rh3

I spend 20 minutes to find this move; I was anxious in the beginning. My idea is to move the rook to support the third rank.

14...Nc4 15.Bc1



Position after 15.Bc1

15...0-0?

A positional mistake. I can't say this is a question move, but obviously Black should keep his king in the center, because it looks safer there. 15...h6! 16.g6 0-0! 17.gxf7+ Rxf7 18.Nxe6 Qc8

16.b3!

Drive it back!

16...Ncb6 17.Bb2± d5!?



Position after 17...d5

Both sides have finished development, and a fierce game is inevitable. Black first launches a charge and tries to open the situation.

18.e5!±



Position after 18.e5

18.exd5? Qxf4 19.Nde2 Qg4 20.Rg3 Qxh4

18...b4 19.axb4 Bxb4 20.Kf1?!

The pin is annoying. The king retreats to a safe space. But now g6 attack is a good move! 20.g6! hxg6 21.Qg4± (21.h5? g5!)

20...Be7?

Too slow. 20...Nb8! 21.h5 Nc6 22.Nce2 a5 23.g6 h6 24.Kg1±

21.Qe2?!



Position after 21.Qe2

Better to keep the e2-square for the knight on c3. 21.h5 Nc5 (21...Bc5 22.Nce2±) 22.Qg4±

21...Nc5?

21...Bc5! 22.Rd1 Nb8±

22.h5± Bc8?

Black loses his direction at middle game; why to redeploy bishop to d7?

23.Kg1 Bd7 24.Kh1

Finally arriving!

24...a5 25.g6!+-



Position after 25.g6

White has a strong attack.

25...f5 26.h6



Position after 26.h6

26...hxg6 27.Rg1 g5



Position after 27...g5

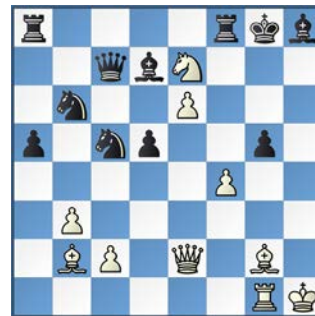
28.Nxd5?

The wrong move order. The exchange should come later. 28.hxg7 Kxg7 29.Nxd5! Nxd5 30.Bxd5 exd5 31.e6 easy win.

28...exd5??

The final mistake. 28...Nxd5! More tenacious. 29.Bxd5 (29.hxg7?? Nxf4+) 29...g6! 30.Bxa8 Rxa8± White is better, but the game is still on.

29.hxg7 Kxg7 30.e6 Bf6 31.Nxf5+ Kg8 32.Rh8+ Bxh8 33.Ne7+



Position after 33.Ne7+

1-0



Seattle Chess Club Tournaments

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

SCC Adult Swiss

November 20-21, 2021

A four-round Swiss open to those born before

11/21/2000 with a prize fund of \$350.

First	\$100
Second	\$60
U1900	\$55
U1700	\$50
U1500	\$45
U1300/Unr	\$40

Time Control: G/120; +30.

Entry Fees: Free to SCC members. \$12 for non-members.

Registration: Sat. 10-10:45 a.m.

Rounds: 11-4:30, 11-4:30.

Byes: 1 (Sunday rounds, commit at registration).

Miscellaneous: US Chess req'd. NS. NC.

Sponsored by Henry Yan.

☞ **November 6-7** **12th SCC Extravaganza**☞
Format: 7-SS. **TC:** G/75;+5. **EF:** \$48 by 11/3 (\$35 for SCC members, \$40 for members of other dues-required CCs), \$60 11/4 and after (\$45 SCC, \$50 other dues-required CCs). **Prize Fund:** \$500 b/20. **Prizes:** \$150-80, U2100 60, U1900 55, U1700 50, U1500 45, U1300 40, UNR 20. **Reg:** 9-9:45 a.m. **Rds:** 10-1-4-7, 11-2-5. **Byes:** 3 (1 on Sunday, must commit before Rd 3). **Misc:** US Chess, WCF; OSA. NS, NC.

☞ **November 13** **Saturday Quads**☞
Format: 3-RR, 4-plyr sec. by rtg. **TC:** G/120;d5. **EF:** \$9(+\$7 fee for non-SCC). **Prizes:** Free quad entry. **Reg:** 9-9:45 a.m. **Rds:** 10:00-2:15-6:30. **Misc:** US Chess, WCF; OSA. NS, NC.

December 4 **SCC Novice**
Format: 4-SS. Open to U1200 and UNR. **TC:** G/75; d5. **EF:** \$15 by 11/29, \$20 at site. (-\$2 SCC mem., -\$1 mem. other NW dues-req'd CCs). **Prizes:** SCC membership(s). **Reg:** 9-9:45a.m. **Rds:** 10-12:45-3:30-6. **Byes:** 1 (Rd 3/4—commit at reg.). **Misc:** US Chess memb. req'd. NS, NC.

☞ **December 5** **Holiday Tornado**☞
Format: 4-SS. **TC:** G/50; d10. **EF:** \$18 (+\$7 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 Fridays

One US Chess-rated round per night (free to SCC members, \$5 per night for others) normally played at a rate of 40/90 followed by 30/60. Drop in for any round!

Close Ratings II:	11/5, 12, 19.
Closed (Go to WA Class!):	11/26.
Package Express (G/50, inc. 10):	12/3, 10, 17.
Closed (Trim the tree!):	12/24.
Insanity?!:	12/31.
January Thaw:	1/7, 14, 21, 28.

The SCC is still subletting at the Orlov Chess Academy at Green Lake. **Thanks, Georgi!!!** Mondays (casual chess), Fridays (rated play), and weekend events have all been running at 70% of capacity or more. The site can comfortably accommodate about twenty, which is why advance sign-ups are required.

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!!

The 2021 Russell "Rusty" Miller Memorial Northwest Grand Prix

Murlin Varner, Actuarially Unqualified

Three events in September, all in person at the Orlov Chess Academy in Seattle. These caused a few changes in the Washington leadership lists, but had no impact on the "Others," in spite of six people visiting Seattle from places close, like California and Idaho, and far, like Illinois, Massachusetts and Vermont.

Other changes were brought about by more ratings increases. Most fun was one involving a pair of Oregon players. Zoey Tang moved up to the Master class and fell right out of the leadership as a result. However, second place in the Expert class is still held by a Tang, as Austin moved up a class as well and took over Zoey's old spot.

October was the most active month of the year, with five events held, all OTB. Unfortunately, all were in Seattle, as Spokane has not yet been able to use their site at Gonzaga. Perhaps in 2022 we can start getting over this pandemic and start seeing some more geographic variety. Maybe even more than one state participating??? I would like to see my last year as director go out with a bang.

Related to that, we will be looking for a volunteer to take over this exciting job (if you like playing with tables and numbers and monthly ratings checks.) Just do not expect to get rich, this is a labor of love with a small remuneration involved (maybe 20 cents an hour if you are efficient.)

November is probably going to have more events than it looks like here in early October. On the calendar for November 26-28 is the Washington Class Championships, held in person in Bellevue, with a \$10,000 based-on prize fund and a 5x multiplier. With the rather low point totals of this pandemic year, one 5x tournament can mean a lot in the standings. The Seattle Chess Club Extravaganza is being held November 6-7. While the ad does not currently mention the Grand Prix, this event has been so in years past, and I expect it will be this year, too. With seven rounds over two days, there is some nice point potential there. I wouldn't be surprised to see another Sunday Tornado and Saturday Quads on the SCC schedule for November, too. Then, in December, the WCF will be hosting two final online events for the year, so look for the "Others" leaders to add to their totals.

All data is current through September 30.



Washington			Other Places					
last	first	pts.	last	first	state	pts.		
Masters			Masters					
1	Perez	Ignacio	47.0	1	Guha	Mitrabha	IND	83.0
2	Levine	Joseph	31.0	2	Talukdar	Rohan	CAN	70.0
3	Porter	Ryan	26.0	3	Lenderman	Aleksandr	NY	51.0
4	Pupols	Viktors	10.0	4	Kulkarni	Ojas	CA	42.0
4	Shubin	Daniel	10.0	5	Shahinyan	David	ARM	30.5
Experts			Experts					
1	Vijayakumar	Advaith	32.0	1	Jorajuria Mendoza	Algol	MEX	22.0
2	Bell	Harry	31.0	2	Tang	Austin	OR	12.0
3	Chang	Eddie	27.0	3	Guha	Eshan	NJ	11.0
4	Whale	Nicholas	20.0	4	Andryscio	Marc	OR	10.0
5	Smith	Micah	12.0	5	Tripodi	Matthew	NJ	8.0
Class A			Class A					
1	Nicoski	Aaron M	79.0	1	Vega	Isaac	OR	41.0
2	Ackerman	Ryan	42.0	2	Ingram	Richard	CAN	38.0
3	Razmov	Valentin N	37.0	3	Murray	David E	OR	18.0
3	Vemparala	Nikash	37.0	4	Hosford	Michael J	OR	11.0
5	Lee	Brian	31.0	5	Kodarapu	Ishaan	OR	10.0
Class B			Class B					
1	Lopez	Francisco J	23.5	1	Le	Hung	OR	10.0
2	Szeto	Sophie	22.0	2	Beauchet	Pierre-Hadrien	OR	9.0
3	Zhou	Leonardo	21.5	2	Korda	Christopher J	FL	9.0
4	Lakshminarayanan	Rishi	20.0	2	Walquist	Elaine	OR	9.0
4	Xiao	David	20.0	5	Machakos	Seth D	ID	4.5
Class C			Class C					
1	Cheng	Edward	58.5	1	Vasey	Daniel	OR	35.0
2	Suess	Wade	42.0	2	Rodriguez-Melendez	Mauricio	OR	17.0
3	Karthikeyan	Harishkumar	39.0	3	Wei	Brian	OR	13.0
4	Liotta	Nicholas J	28.0	4	Kypriotakis	Kyriakos	OR	11.0
4	Zhu	Jamie Z	28.0	5	Two Tied at		10.0	
Class D and below			Class D and below					
1	Cheng	Selina	59.0	1	Hack	Don	CAN	53.5
2	Ruff	Lois A	53.5	2	Krzykawski	Tomasz	OR	20.0
3	Razmov	Gabriel	52.5	3	Priest	Liam H	OR	14.0
4	Devadithya	Hiruna	46.0	4	Winter	Gordon	CA	4.0
5	Kamel	Yaseen	36.0	4	Chang	Adelbert	CA	4.0

Overall standings								
1	Nicoski	Aaron M	79.0	1	Guha	Mitrabha	IND	83.0
2	Cheng	Selina	59.0	2	Talukdar	Rohan	CAN	70.0
3	Cheng	Edward	58.5	3	Hack	Don	CAN	53.5
4	Ruff	Lois A	53.5	4	Lenderman	Aleksandr	NY	51.0
5	Razmov	Gabriel	52.5	5	Kulkarni	Ojas	CA	42.0
6	Perez	Ignacio	47.0	6	Vega	Isaac	OR	41.0
7	Devadithya	Hiruna	46.0	7	Ingram	Richard	CAN	38.0
8	Ackerman	Ryan	42.0	8	Vasey	Daniel	OR	35.0
8	Suess	Wade	42.0	9	Shahinyan	David	ARM	30.5
10	Karthikeyan	Harishkumar	39.0	10	Bernadskiy	Vitaliy	UKR	23.0
11	Razmov	Valentin N	37.0	10	Dhulipalla	Bala C P	IND	23.0
11	Vemparala	Nikash	37.0	12	Jorajuria Mendoza	Algol	MEX	22.0
13	Kamel	Yaseen	36.0	12	Sharikov	Alexander	RUS	22.0
14	Vijayakumar	Advaith	32.0	14	Aleksandrov	Aleksej	BLR	21.5
15	Bell	Harry	31.0	15	Krzykawski	Tomasz	OR	20.0

Northwest Chess
c/o Orlov Chess Academy
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Redmond, WA 98052-5164

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