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Photo of Tyler Barron. Photo credit: Detroit Rogers.

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Hand-carved chess set now owned by Evan Startup. It was handed down to him by his grandfather Herbert D. Wilkening. Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.

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From The Editor's Desk

Idaho Chess Association President Adam Porth teaches at Lakeland Senior High School in Rathdrum. He also has a successful chess program and has encouraged students to not only play chess in tournaments and clubs, but also to write articles and/or take photographs in an effort to grow future chess journalists!

The photo on this month's front cover was taken by Detroit Rogers of a fellow student named Tyler Barron in Mr. Porth's classroom. Detroit provided me with several photos of various students for consideration (nine to be exact), and each one over 6MB in size for high quality resolution!

Thank you Adam for encouraging your student to give the editor a choice—very important for future chess journalists to supply their editors with choice, quantity, and quality!

—Jeffrey Roland, Editor

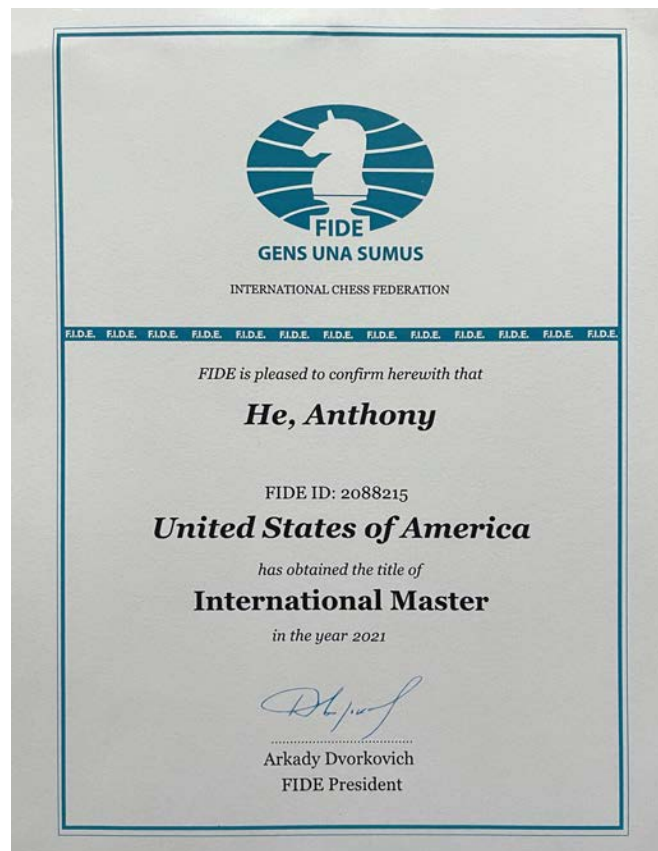
Youngest Ever Washington IM

By Josh Sinanan

Anthony He became Washington State's youngest ever FIDE International Master on September 6, 2021 by achieving his third IM norm in the PNWCC FIDE Masters-Artist Point tournament with 5.0/9.

His FIDE rating reached 2453 and is currently world number seven ranked in his age group. Anthony achieved the title at the age of 16 years and 28 weeks. Anthony He is also the current Washington State Chess Champion.

Congratulations, Anthony!



More on this coming in the February issue—Editor



Coaching Corner

Ralph Dubisch



The Zen of Chess

Last month Nobel Ang discussed the pain of losing (at chess? at anything?), drawing an analogy between being a chess player and belonging to a tribe—with winning and losing games leading to a change in pecking order, status, and general mental well-being.

I'm opposed to that model. Frankly, it's unhealthy.

As competitive people, we do tend to associate our emotions with winning and losing, and losing tends to hurt much more than what should be the comparable joy of winning. Our emotions need to be separated from the result of the game. When we care only about winning, we aren't really playing chess anymore—we're playing a game of dominance. This can lead to poor chess decisions, such as accepting a draw in a better position in order to avoid the chance of loss. When we fear a result, that fear interferes with our logical analytic judgment. When we play for the adrenaline rush of winning brilliantly, that too can block rational thought.

So, what do we do instead? We associate our emotions with playing the game of chess itself. Whether we are currently winning or losing, **we enjoy playing the game**. We make every decision to the best of our ability at the time, given the constraints placed on us, such as time limits, environmental factors, and what have you. We don't regret the past—that, by definition, is no longer under our control. We stay as objective as possible, waiting and plotting for opportunity. We solve the problem on the board in front of us, without feeling depressed that it is a worse position, or excited that it is a better one.

Disassociating emotions from results, and playing the Zen of chess, will actually lead to better results. Whom would you expect to fare better: a player gripped by positive and negative emotional waves during the game, or a player who makes the best decision possible at this move, then goes on to make the best choice

possible on each and every following play?

**Megan Lee (2211) –
Nazi Paikidze (2374) [B06]
ch-USA w 2021 Saint Louis USA
(R7), October 13, 2021**

1.e4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.Nf3 d6 4.Be3 Nd7
5.Nc3 a6 6.a4 b6 7.Bc4 e6 8.Qd2 Bb7
9.Bg5 Ndf6 10.Qe2 h6 11.Bh4 g5
12.Bg3 Nh5 13.0-0-0 Ne7 14.Ne1 Nxg3
15.hxg3 Qd7 16.d5 exd5 17.Nxd5 Bxd5
18.Bxd5 Nxd5 19.exd5+ Kf8 20.Qe4
Re8 21.Qc4 b5 22.axb5 axb5 23.Qb3
Ra8 24.Nd3 Bf6 25.f3 Kg7 26.g4 c5
27.dxc6 Qxc6 28.c3 Qb6 29.Kc2 Rac8
30.Nb4 Be5 31.Nd5 Qa7 32.Rd2 Rb8
33.Re1 Rhc8 34.Re4 Kh7 35.Nb4 Rc5
36.Nd3 Rc4 37.Rxc4 bxc4 38.Qxc4 Bf6
39.Nb4 Qa4+ 40.Qb3 Qe8 41.Rxd6 Be5
42.Rd1 Bf4 43.Kb1 Kg8 44.Qc2 Ra8
45.Nd5 Be5 46.Qe4 Rb8 47.Rd2 Kg7
48.Re2 f6 49.Nxf6 Qd8 50.Nh5+ Kg8
51.Qg6+ Kh8 52.Qxh6+ Kg8 53.Qe6+
Kh7 54.Kc2 Qa5 55.Qf5+?!

Fairly simple is 55.Rxe5 Qa4+ 56.Kd2 Rxb2+ (56...Rd8+ 57.Rd5) 57.Ke3 Qa7+ 58.Kd3, and all useful checks for Black are expended.

55...Kh6 56.Rxe5??

Here we must ask, why is Black playing on? If it's just to drag on in a losing position down four(!) pawns, then what is the point? If, however, it is to take advantage of opportunity, now is the time.



Position after 56.Rxe5

56...Qa4+??

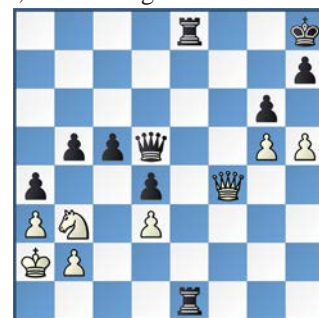
If you are enjoying playing the game, seeking to make the best choice in every position, this is not such a difficult

problem. 56...Rxb2+!! 57.Kxb2 Qxc3+!! 58.Kb1 Qb2+ 59.Kxb2 stalemate.

**57.Kc1 Qa1+ 58.Qb1 Qa6 59.Ng3 Rd8
60.Nf5+ Kh7 61.Nd6+ Kh8 62.Nf7+
Kg7 63.Nxd8 Qf1+ 64.Kc2 Qf2+ 65.Kd3
1-0**

**Bartolitch - Abkin
St. Petersburg, 1902**

This reminded me a bit of the famous ending blunder in Bartolitch - Abkin. Facing apparent mate in at most two moves, White resigned.



1.Qf6+! Kg8 2.Qg7+!! Kxg7 3.h6+ Kg8 stalemate. Honestly, if you're going to play on down a rook, exchange, and pawn, at least be alert when opportunity knocks.

0-1

For an example of a player who truly enjoys playing the game, regardless of the position, we need look no further than the cover of the November 2021 issue of *Northwest Chess*. Viktors Pupols loves the game. He plays as well when losing as when winning. Does he like to win? Of course! But his emotional well-being is not tied to this, and his longevity as a player is one piece of evidence. Several times in the 1980s I played Viktors. The worst thing you can do is give him a position which can be played on indefinitely... because that's exactly what he would do. Torture, I thought. But the truth is I should have been enjoying playing those positions as much as Viktors. My results would likely have been better.

There are many people who play the game of ratings. **Ratings are not chess.** If you want to be a chess player, don't play the game of ratings. Play the position in front of you, period. Ratings are a useful tool, a reflection of past results that can, in many cases, help predict future results. They are not an end unto themselves. Playing the game of ratings can cause people to stop playing for fear of losing points. That's a tragedy.

Here's another category of emotional mistake. We think we are worse, and to show the opponent our respect, or perhaps to impress the opponent or spectators (such as they are) with our perspicacity, we resign. Here's a trite but true statement: **you cannot win by resigning.** You feel foolish playing in a bad position? Chess doesn't care. Chess can be a cruel game; people with losing positions turn things around and win games all the time. But not if they first resign. Why not enjoy playing the losing position? Maybe you'll win or draw after all.

Does this mean never resign? Well, not necessarily. Resign when you judge there is literally no chance that you can save the game. If you see any chance, why not continue?

Some players are offended when their opponent doesn't resign. Tough. Again, chess does not care. An offended player is more likely to make a mistake. Take advantage; play on. You are given a certain amount of time to play your game. It's your time to use as you see fit. Don't give in to pressure. Resign only when utterly and completely lost.

Stay alert; stay objective; take advantage of opportunity; avoid giving your opponent an opportunity. This is how to succeed in chess.

Christopher Pentico (1488) – Chase Jablonski (1213) [B23]

2021 Norman Friedman Memorial Garden City, ID (R5), October 10, 2021
[Ralph Dubisch]

Here's an example of the power of not resigning. Being lost is not the end of the world. Losing the game isn't either. Both sides attack with gusto, and in the end, one must come out the winner. The key question is not who won, but did they have fun? I think that both players must have enjoyed this game.

I'm going to include some computer evaluation numbers in this game, something I normally avoid, just to show the size of the advantages each side had.

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Qxd4 Nc6 5.Qd2 Nf6 6.b3 e6 7.Bb2 Be7 8.0-0 0-0 9.Be2 Qb6 10.Rf1?!

10.Nh3 Rd8 is roughly equal.

10...Rd8 11.Na4?! Qc7 12.Bd3 d5 13.Qe3 a6

13...d4 14.Qg3 e5 looks great for Black.

14.e5 Ng4

14...d4! 15.Bxd4 (15.Qg3 Nd5) 15...Nxd4 16.exf6 Bxf6 and White has big problems.

15.Qh3 Bg5+?

A significant swing in evaluation: 15...Nh6. Stockfish says -3.0 here, or nearly winning for Black. ...d4 and ...b5 are coming, and White's pieces clog up while Black's queenside attack flows naturally—not to mention the hanging center pawn.

16.f4 Nxe5!?

Likely "best" is 16...Bh6 17.Qxg4 and White is up a piece. Black chooses a bigger disadvantage, but decidedly more murky waters.

17.Qxh7+ Kf8 18.Ba3+ Ke8 19.fxg5 b5 20.Nc5 Qa5 21.Bb2 Nf2 22.Bxe5

Stockfish says +11.5 here for White.

22...Qa3+ 23.Bb2 Qxc5 24.Nh3 Nxh1



Position after 24...Nxh1

25.Qh8+

Clean and devastating is 25.Rxf7!! Kxf7 (25...Qe3+ 26.Kd1) 26.Qxg7+ Ke8 27.Bg6#; 25.g6 and; 25.Qxg7 also score over +10.

25...Qf8 26.Qh7 d4 27.Qe4 Qe7 28.Kb1 Bb7

Black finally completes development.

29.Qe2 e5 30.Be4 Bxe4 31.Qxe4 Rac8 32.Rxh1 Qc7 33.Qh7 d3 34.Qg8+??

The last big swing; White's attack goes nowhere. Better, and possibly still winning for White, is 34.cxd3 Qc2+ 35.Ka1 Qxd3 36.Qxd3 Rxd3 37.Bxe5±. It's still exciting, with black rooks reaching the second rank and lots of pawns to gobble up for both sides.

34...Ke7 35.Ba3+ Ke6 36.Nf4+ exf4 37.Re1+ Kf5 38.Qh7+ g6 39.Qh3+ Kxg5 40.Be7+ Qxe7 41.Rxe7 dxc2+

0-1

H.G. Pitre (1844) –

Jeffrey T. Roland (1700) [C02]

2021 Norman Friedman Memorial Garden City, ID (R2), October 9, 2021
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.f4?!

4.c3 Nc6 5.Nf3 is mainline theory, and now 5...Bd7 (5...Qb6 6.a3 c4 is also interesting.) 6.Be2 (6.a3!?) 6...Nge7 7.Na3 cxd4 8.cxd4 (8.Nb5 Nf5) 8...Nf5 is roughly equal.

4...Bd7 5.Nf3 cxd4 6.Bd3 Bc5 7.a3 a5 8.Nbd2 Nc6 9.0-0 Nh6 10.Nb3 Be7?

Virtually all of the black pieces are focused on the d4-square, which incidentally is currently occupied by a black pawn. 10...Bb6 (or ...Ba7) makes much more logical sense. Black has some hopes of hanging onto the extra pawn. 11.a4 f6 (11...0-0 12.Ng5∞) 12.exf6 Qxf6±

11.Nbxd4 0-0 12.Kh1 Nxd4 13.Nxd4 f6 14.Nf3 f5?!

14...Be8±

15.Be3 Ng4?! 16.Bd4 b6 17.h3 Nh6 18.c4 Bc6 19.Qb3 Rb8 20.Rad1 Qd7 21.cxd5 Bxd5 22.Bc4 Rfc8?

22...a4 23.Qa2 Bxc4 24.Qxc4 Rfc8 25.Qa2 Qc6±

23.Bxd5 Qxd5 24.Qxd5 exd5 25.e6±



Position after 25.e6

Is White better? Yes, of course. Stockfish claims about +2.0 after 25.e6, but prefers 25.Bg1, claiming closer to +3.0.

So, why did Black resign? Respect. Too much respect, in fact. You can't win by resigning. Sure, you're worse, but play on! Find a plan, activate those passive pieces. Pressure the pawns on b2 and e6, perhaps. Probably you're right, you'll lose anyway. But maybe not. Maybe you'll have some fun!

1-0

Chess4Girls

An Ongoing Effort to Empower and Encourage More Girls in a Predominantly-Male Sport

Nesara Shree

(Jesuit High School, Tenth Grade. Images in this story courtesy of Nesara Shree.)

It all began in middle school when my chess career (of seven years preceding) was just beginning to blossom into a passion I was keen to pursue. In seventh grade, our humanities class was tasked to choose something we were enthusiastic about and develop our feelings around it through a written article/blog post. Of course, 13-year-old me decided to write about chess—not just the sport, though, as I had initially intended. Instead, I found myself narrating my experience of invariably being one of the alarmingly small handful of girls playing in tournaments.

At the time, I had joined my school's competitive chess team, where I felt constantly overshadowed by the much older and more experienced high-school boys there with me. I remember dreading every Wednesday evening when I would walk myself to the bus, a gnawing pit in my stomach, and be driven off with the rest of the team to play the Scholastic League games against other school teams.

My nervousness was so much that I was hesitant to analyze my lost games with the stronger players or even to play games. As the year went on my interest in chess deteriorated, and playing competitively soon became an onus. The point of this anecdote is that even as a young teenager, my overwhelming feeling of alienation clouded my enjoyment, and it eventually halted my pursuit of the sport.

Though my engagement in chess took a hit towards the end of my middle-school years, it was brought to life again in my freshman year of high school, where the chess club fielded a highly-competitive

varsity team. I was, again, the only female player on the team, but I was eager to join and start back up anew. I played board number five for my team, placed first for my board overall, and the team claimed the title of Oregon State Champions.

It was then I began pondering why there are so few female players. It was certainly not just because of the lack of initial interest; as part of an after-school program at my Montessori elementary school, we would have group chess lessons where there were often an equal number of girls and boys involved. So, after doing a bit of research, I began to understand more clearly why the gender gap in chess was present even today.

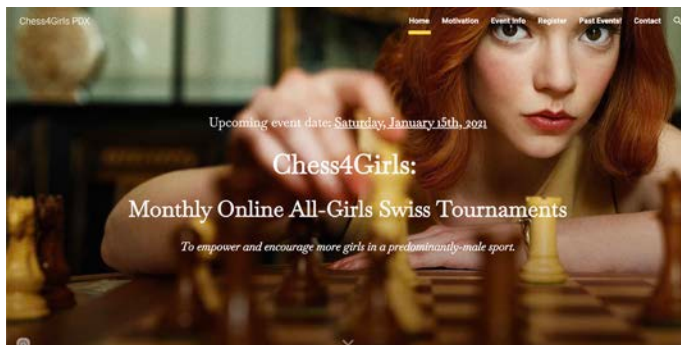
The July 2019 report of the World Chess Federation lists 1,643 male grandmasters against only 37 females (FIDE 2019)—approximately 44 men for every woman. This gender gap is one of the largest observed amongst other male-dominated domains in STEM. It shows, too, that the lack of female representation in chess fails to provide aspiring girls with role models whom they can emulate. Even the highest-rated female chess player is ranked #83 in the world. A former World Champion, Garry Kasparov, stated in 1989 that “There is real chess and women’s chess... Women are weaker fighters.” These beliefs induce what is known as a stereotype threat, playing into the performance gap. The underlying idea is that minorities underperform solely because they are aware of a convention that people of their

kind are anticipated to do worse.

This mindset leads to significant confidence decline, waning of interest, and a cycle of self-deprecation—notably in young girls. Bolstered by the stereotype threats surrounding women in chess, female participation drops-off due to deterioration of support and motivation. I personally have noticed many young players drop out of the chess-circuit through upper-elementary and middle-school years.

So, as a girl with a thriving passion for chess, and as a highly-ranked female scholastic chess player in my grade in the state of Oregon, I felt a sense of responsibility to help support other girls who are passionate about playing chess. I believe that all members of our chess community possess a responsibility to bridge this gap and motivate girls in the sport to pursue their interests.

As a first step, I started chess tutoring sessions over the summer, and now through the school year, for elementary and middle-school girls. Once the academic year started, I began formalizing my initiative—now designated [Chess4Girls \(PDX\)](#). There was a need for a nurturing space where girls felt at home and were playing only to learn and get better. I pitched my idea of hosting accessible, free, monthly all-girls chess tournaments, and with the great support and enthusiastic response



Tuesday, February 26, 2019

The Only Girl

I am going to ask you to do something in just a moment here. Imagine you sitting in a room, playing a somewhat stressful game which you have a time limit on that wrings your brain out, against a scary looking opponent on an early Saturday morning. Pretty bad, huh? Now imagine that you are feeling like your life depends on winning this game. While you sink this in, imagine you are the only one of your gender type in the entire room, playing that game.

Chess. An art, science, game, and sport. From what I described above, it may seem like there is an impression that I dislike chess. But that is simply untrue. Sure, sometimes I do feel about chess that way, but most of the times, I adore it. Playing chess is not a chore, or something I have to do, but I choose to anyway. However, there is no avoiding that dreaded feeling of when you think you will lose, or when you are scared to play against that big adult man whose rating is greater than yours. And those feelings are when I lose the game, before I even sit down at the board.

Over the years I have played chess, the one thing I have learned beside strategies, tactics, and different plays, is that you need to play the position. NOT the opponent. All those years of me being afraid to lose have mostly passed over. Losing and winning. There will always be one or the other. And when I win? Great! Moving on. When I lose? Not so great- but the amount I learn from analyzing my losses is tremendous, and it teaches me more than I can ever learn from another book. After all-

"If you are not strong enough to lose, you are not strong enough to win."



girls. This is what Zoey had to say about the initiative:

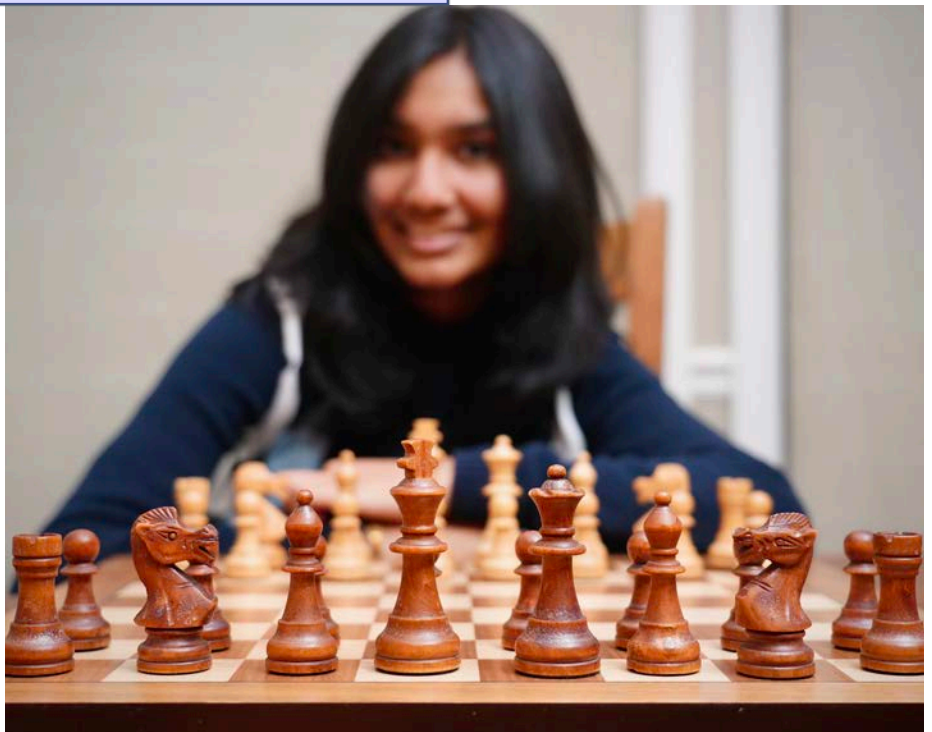
I started learning chess at around seven years old in the library, where I was taught how to move the pieces. When I started out at the school chess club, I had one to two female friends who were also playing chess. Over time, though, they dropped out, and I was the only one. I remember recently, in the fourth round of the Reno Western States Open, I joked with my friend that our pairing was the only possible all-female game in the whole section. While it was lighthearted at the time, this actually happens in almost all the tournaments I play in. I am often one of the few (or sometimes the only) female chess players in my section. I hope that efforts like Chess4Girls PDX can help close the gender gap. I am thankful for the opportunity to work with the latest generation of Oregonian female chess players, and I look forward to analyzing your games with you!

Overall, the hope is that these ongoing Chess4Girls tournaments will help encourage, bring together, recognize, and create the much-needed space for female chess players—while keeping participation accessible, fun, and with a focus on learning—because chess has a lot to offer everyone, and one's gender should no longer be a barrier.

Here's to the future of more girls in chess.

from OSCE, this vision soon became a reality. The games are held online through Lichess, are official Oregon State Chess Championship qualifiers, NWSRS-rated incentivizing participation, and are ongoing to steadily foster girls' chess careers. I was able to bring in interested players by reaching out to local chess organizations and mentors. They have all been very supportive of it, encouraging players to participate.

The first of these tournaments held on November 13, 2021, was a great success, with 19 girls registered, out of which seven were first- or second-time tournament players. Two sections were formed: U1300 (six players) and U800 (ten players). To further motivate the girls by offering them role models and helping them improve their game, NM Zoey Tang, a 13-year-old chess player from Oregon, offered her expertise to analyze games and provide feedback after the events. Zoey was incredibly supportive, and after the first of these tournaments, lots of amazing feedback streamed in regarding her game reviewing sessions to help the



2021 Oregon Class Championships

Wilson Gibbins

You may recall from page four of your November issue that Washington players turned out in numbers to claim many of the top prizes in the 2021 Oregon Open. In the Oregon Class Championships, Washington players were reasonably well represented in total players (25 out of 75) and top prizes, with two Washingtonians claiming ties for first in their sections. But this time Oregon players did a better job of defending the honor of their state as 44 Oregonians conspired to either tie for first or win outright all six sections of the tournament.

Zoey Tang of Oregon won her second Masters/Experts section with an undefeated record of three wins and two draws. She was the defending champion, as she won the online version in 2020, with a perfect score of 4-0.

Jerry Sherrard of Oregon and Ryan Min of Washington tied for first in the Class A section with 4-1 scores. Ryan beat Jerry in their round four game, but his loss to Dave Murray in round one meant Ryan had to share first prize.

Conner Jensen of Oregon took clear first in the Class B section. Conner gave up draws in the first and last rounds to Sean Zlatnik and Aidan Kolar respectively and won the three games in between.

Tayseer Khalil of Washington and Jaden Marx of Oregon tied for first in the Class C section with three and a half points each, with Jaden winning the head-to-head matchup in round three.

Anisha Sripada of Oregon won clear first in the Class D section, finishing with four wins in a row after dropping her first-round game. This is a good example of the rewards for persevering after a disappointing start to a tournament.

Finally, Phil Stephenson of Oregon won the Class E section, by far the largest section of the tournament with 29 players. Phil was undefeated with four wins and one draw.

The tournament was played at the DoubleTree by Hilton in the Lloyd District. This was also the site of the 2021 Oregon Open and will probably continue to be the site of Oregon's larger

tournaments.

Thanks to Chief TD Micah Smith, both for directing this tournament and creating an overall vision of this tournament to make it run smoothly, including online registration and providing sets. Thanks also to Lilly Tang, Sanjay Nair and Wilson Gibbins for providing extra administrative assistance.

Austin Tang (2018) – Isaac Vega (1985) [B42]
Oregon Class Championship
(R5), November 7, 2021
[Wilson Gibbins]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 a6 5.Bd3



Position after 5.Bd3

Isaac's Kan Sicilian may look innocuous. But for the unsuspecting it can be quite dangerous, as evidenced by this game from the States Cup last summer. 5.Nc3 Qc7 6.Be3 Bb4 7.a3 Bxc3+ 0-1 (7) Mexia,V-Vega,I. Perhaps White should have played on for the sake of the team, but 8.bxc3 Qxc3+ 9.Ke2 (best) doesn't look like much fun.

5...Bc5 6.Nb3 Ba7 7.0-0 Nc6 8.Qe2 d6 9.Be3 Nge7 10.Bxa7 Rxa7 11.c4 0-0 12.Nc3 b6 13.f4 f5 14.Rad1 Rd7

Austin has been playing sensible chess aimed at the center. Isaac has been playing mad scientist moves (10...Rxa7, 13...f5). For all you true believers in classical chess out there, Stockfish claims a big advantage for White, over +2. But there is still a lot of chess to play, and Isaac's position has what Tartakower called "malignant" energy.

15.exf5 exf5 16.Nd5



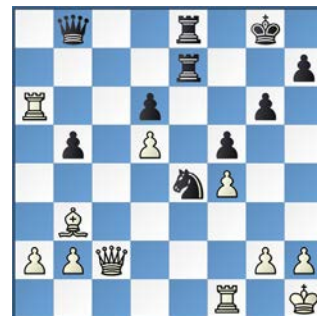
Position after 16.Nd5

White is still better, but this move solves some of Black's problems, as it allows him to trade pieces in a cramped position, and it eliminates one of Black's weaknesses, the pawn on d6 that was backward on an open file.

16...Nxd5 17.cxd5 Re7 18.Qd2 Nb8 19.Nd4 g6 20.Bc4 b5 21.Bb3 Qb6 22.Kh1 Nd7 23.Ne6 Rfe8 24.Rc1 Nf6 25.Rc6 Ne4 26.Qc2 Qb8 27.Nc7 Rf8 28.Nxa6?

This reasonable looking pawn grab backfires. White's safest approach is to aim for a draw by repetition with 28.Ne6 Rfe8 29.Nc7.

28...Bxa6 29.Rxa6 Rfe8!



Position after 29...Rfe8

After playing in a cramped hypermodern style for most of the game, Black suddenly discovers the virtues of open files and well-placed knights.

30.g3 Nc5 31.Rc6 Re2 32.Qc3 Ne4 33.Qd4 Nd2 34.Rf2 R8e4 35.Qc3 Rxf2 36.Rc8+ Kf7 37.Rc7+ Qxc7 38.Qxc7+ Re7

0-1

**Mike Morris (2022) –
Zoey Tang (2015) [B56]**
Oregon Class Championships
(R5), November 7, 2021
[Wilson Gibbins]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6
5.Nc3 Nc6 6.g3!?



Position after 6.g3

This tricky little move tests both White's and Black's knowledge of multiple Sicilian variations.

6...Bg4!?

This looks artificial, but it may be the best alternative, especially if Black is willing to transpose to a Dragon Yugoslav attack. 6...e5 helps justify White's fianchetto, as White was trying to gain control over the d5 square and 6...e5 makes it harder for Black to contest it. 6...g6 switches to a Dragon variation, where White can try to turn the game into a positional squeeze with 7.Nde2 Black better know some theory to avoid getting outplayed.; 6...e6 enters a Scheveningen line that might look innocuous for Black, but Mike has used this line to create some vicious Kingside attacks against me in the G15 tournament that Dave Murray runs every Thursday night for the Portland Chess Club.

7.f3 Bd7

You might be tempted to win a pawn with 7...Nxd4? 8.Qxd4 Bxf3 but after 9.Bb5+ Nd7 10.Rf1 Bg4 (10...Bg2 11.Rf2 Bh3 12.Qd5 Be6 (12...e6? 13.Qh5) 13.Qxb7 Stockfish likes White to the tune of +2 in this unbalanced position.) 11.e5

8.Be3 g6!?

Now Zoey tests Mike—how comfortable are you in a Dragon Yugoslav attack? Or as Dirty Harry might say, “Do you feel lucky?”

9.Bg2

9.Qd2 Bg7 10.0–0–0 0–0 11.Bc4 leads us to that Yugoslav attack that I mentioned earlier, with the small exception that White's pawn is on g3, not g2. But both sides had alternatives along the way. Black didn't have to castle into the attack on move 10, and White didn't need to play 11.Bc4 to stop Black's d6–d5 pawn break. (So perhaps 11.g4 is a better try for an advantage.)

9...Bg7 10.0–0



Position after 10.0-0

10...h5!?

10...0–0 If Black castles short, the

king doesn't face the usual troubles encountered in the Yugoslav attack or the 6.g3 Scheveningen for that matter. But Zoey's move is fine too, as the king is fairly safe in the center, and it's more interesting than the more conventional approach of castling.

11.Qd2

11.h3! h4? (11...Na5) 12.g4±

11...h4 12.Rfe1

12.g4? h3!±

12...Ne5 13.b3 Kf8 14.Rad1

Black has made some provocative moves, but White has no easy way to open the position to get at Black's king. 14.f4? Neg4±

14...Qa5 15.Nde2 Nc6 16.g4 h3 17.Bf1?

This is a more natural square for the Bishop than h1, but White needs to keep the pawn on f3 protected as we shall soon see.

17...Rc8!± 18.a4?

Discouraging Black rushing the b-pawn to b4 to drive the knight away from c3. White's position looks fairly compact, and seems safe enough, but...

18...Ne5!+ 19.Kf2 Nfxg4+ 20.fxg4 Nxc3 21.Kg3 Nxe3

To demonstrate how overwhelming Black's position is, this move is clearly winning, yet only Stockfish's 7th(!) choice.

22.Qxe3 Bxc3 23.Nxc3 Rxc3 24.Bd3 Qe5+ 25.Kf3 Rh4 26.Rg1 Bc6

0–1

Playing area. Photo credit: Sean O'Connell.



**David Murray (1878) –
Jerry Sherrard (1981) [D00]**
Oregon Class Championship
(R3), November 6, 2021
[Jerry Sherrard]

**1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.Bf4 c5
5.dxc5 Qa5 6.e3 Nc6N**

6...Qxc5

**7.Bb5 Bg7 8.Be5 0-0 9.Bxc6 bxc6
10.Qd4 Ne8 11.Bxg7 Nxg7 12.b4 Qa3
13.Rb1 a5 14.Rb3 Qc1+ 15.Qd1 Qxd1+
16.Kxd1 axb4**

16...Bg4 17.a3±

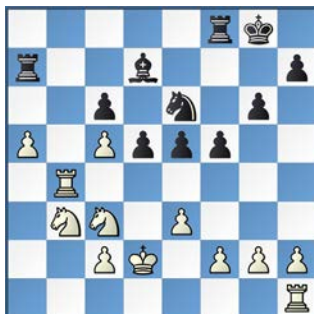
17.Rxb4 Ra5

17...Ne6!? 18.Ne5 Nxc5 19.Nxc6 e6±

18.Nd4+- Bd7 19.Nb3 Ra7

19...Ra3 20.Ra4 Ra8 21.Rxa8+ Rxa8
22.a4+-

20.Kd2 e5 21.a4 Ne6 22.a5 f5



Position after 22...f5

22...Kg7 23.Na4+-

23.Na4

23.f4! d4 24.exd4 Nxf4 25.dxe5 g5+-

23...f4 24.e4

24.Nb6! fxe3+ 25.fxe3 Rf2+ 26.Kc1
Be8+-

24...Ng5 25.exd5 cxd5 26.f3??

△26.Ra1! f3 27.g3+-

26...e4± 27.h4?!

△27.Ke2!? Bc8 28.c6 exf3+ 29.gxf3
Re7+ 30.Kd1 Nxf3 31.Nb6=

**27...exf3!± 28.gxf3 Nxf3+ 29.Ke2 Ne5
30.Rd4??**

△30.Nb6!? Bg4+ 31.Kf2±

30...f3+

△30...Bb5+ and Black has it in the bag
31.Kf2 Ng4+ 32.Kg2 Ne3+ 33.Kf3
Nxc2+-

31.Kf2 Ng4+

31...h5+-

32.Rxg4± Bxg4 33.Re1?

33.Nc3 Bf5 34.Rc1 Be4±

33...Bf5

33...Rf4 34.Nb6 Bh5 35.Nxd5 Rxh4
36.Nf6+ Kg7 37.Nxh5+ Rxh5 38.Kxf3
Rf7+ 39.Kg4+-

34.Rc1?

△34.Nb6!? Be4 35.c6±

34...Be4 35.Nc3 Rf4

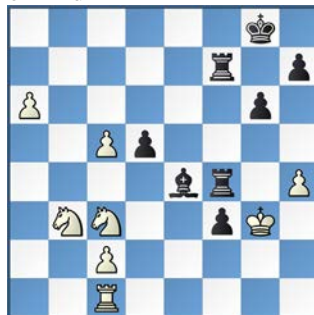
△35...Rb8 36.Ra1 Rb4+-

36.Kg3??

△36.Nb5 Ra6 37.N3d4 Rxh4 38.Kg3+-

36...Raf7 37.a6

37.Kf2 Rxh4 38.Nd2 Rh2+ 39.Ke3 d4+
40.Kxe4 Rxd2+-



Position after 37.a6

37...h5

△37...f2 38.Nd2 f1N+ 39.Rxf1 Rxf1
40.Ncxe4 Rg1+ 41.Kh2 Ra1+-

38.Ra1

38.Kf2 Rxh4 39.Nd2+-

38...f2 39.Nxe4

39.Nd2 Rg4+ 40.Kh2 Rxh4+ 41.Kg3
Rg4+ 42.Kh2 Rg2+ 43.Kh3 Rg1+-

39...Rg4+ 40.Kh2 Rxe4

40...dxe4 41.c6 Rxh4+ 42.Kg2 Rg4+
43.Kh2+-

41.Nd2

41.Rf1 Rxh4+ 42.Kg3 Rg4+ 43.Kh2
Ra4+-

41...Rxh4+

41...Re1 42.Ra2 Rd1+-

**42.Kg2 Rg4+ 43.Kh2 Rd4 44.Nf1 Ra7
45.Kg2 Rc4 46.Kxf2**

46.Ra5 Rf4+-

**46...Rxc2+ 47.Ke3 Rxc5 48.Kd4 Rb5
49.Ne3 Rb6 50.Nxd5**

50.Kxd5 Rbxa6 51.Rc1 Kg7+-

50...Rbxa6 51.Rf1

51.Rg1 Re6+-

51...Re6

△51...Rd7 52.Kc4+-

52.Rb1

52.Rg1+-

52...Rd7 53.Kc4 Rc6+

53...Rc6+ 54.Kd4 Rcd6+-

0-1

**Nikash Vemparala (1780) –
Jerry Sherrard (1981) [B51]**
Oregon Class Championship
(R5), November 7, 2021
[Jerry Sherrard]

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bb5+ Nd7 4.0-0
a6 5.Be2 Ngf6 6.d3 g6 7.Re1 Bg7 8.c3
b5 9.Bf1 Bb7 10.Nbd2 0-0 11.d4 cxd4
12.cxd4 Qb6 13.b3N**

13.a4 e6=

13...Rac8

13...d5 14.e5 Ne4 15.Qe2=

14.Bb2

14.a4 e6 (14...bxa4 15.Rxa4±) 15.Bb2

14...e6 15.h3 Nh5

15...Rfd8 16.Rb1

16.g3?

△16.a4!?± Rfd8 17.axb5 axb5 18.b4

16...e5!± 17.dxe5?

△17.a4

17...dxe5+- 18.Kg2



Position after 18.Kg2

18...Rfd8±

18...f5! 19.b4 Bh6 20.Qb3+ Rf7
21.Rad1+-

19.b4 Qd6?!

19...Qe6!? 20.Kg1 Bf8±

20.Qb3= Nb6 21.Rad1 Qe7 22.a3 Rc7?!

22...Bh6!? 23.Kg1 Ng7

23.Qe3! Na4 24.Ba1 Rdc8 25.Kh2

25.Nb3 Qe6 26.Ng5 Qe7=

25...Re8?!

25...Rc2!? 26.Qb3 Bh6=

26.Bd3

26.Rc1 Rxc1 27.Rxc1 Rc8±

26...Qe6 27.Rc1 Rec8 28.Rxc7 Rxc7
29.Ng5

29.Bb1

29...Qa2?!

29...Qb6 30.Qxb6 Nxb6 31.Nb3=

30.Be2! h6 31.Ngf3 Qe6 32.Bf1

32.Bd1 Bc8=

32...Qe7

32...Rc2 33.Kg1=

33.Kg1 Kh7 34.Nb3 Qd6 35.Rc1 Rxc1
36.Nxc1 Qc6

36...Nb6=

37.Bxe5

37.Nxe5±

37...Qxe4 38.Qxe4 Bxe4 39.Bxg7 Nxg7

39...Kxg7

40.Ne5 Nc3?!

40...Kg8! 41.f3 Bb7 42.Kf2=

41.Nb3

41.Nxf7!? Nb1 42.Nd6±; 41.Ncd3!

41...Ne6= 42.Nd2 f5 43.Nxe4 Nxe4
44.Nd7 Nd6 45.Nc5 Nc7

45...Nxc5 46.bxc5 Ne8 47.f4=

46.Bg2

46.f4 g5±

46...Kg7=



Position after 46...Kg7

47.Kf1 Kf6 48.Ke2 Ke5 49.Kd3 Nc4
50.Bb7 a5 51.bxa5 Nxa5 52.Bg2 Nc4
53.a4?

△53.Kc3! Nd5+ 54.Kb3=

53...Nb2+? 54.Kc3 Nxa4+ 55.Nxa4??

△55.Kb4 Nb2 56.Bf3-+

55...bxa4-+ 56.Kb4

56.Bc6 Nd5+ 57.Kb2-+

56...Nd5+ 57.Kxa4

57.Kc4 Nf6 58.h4 Ne4 59.f4+ Ke6-+

57...Nc3+ 58.Kb3

58.Kb4 Ne4 59.Kc4 Nxf2-+

58...Ne4 59.f4+

59.Kc2 Nxf2 60.Kd2 Ne4+ 61.Ke2
Nxg3+ 62.Kf3 Ne4-+

59...Kd4 60.g4 Ke3 61.gxf5

61.Kc4 fxg4 62.hxg4 Kxf4-+

61...gxf5 62.Kc2

62.Kc4 Kxf4 63.Kd5-+

62...Kxf4 63.Kd3 Nf2+ 64.Ke2 Kg3
65.Bb7 Nxb3 66.Bc8 Kg4 67.Kf1

67.Bb7 h5 68.Bc8-+

67...Ng5

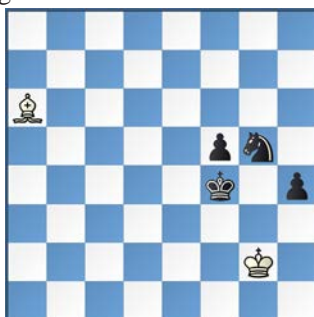
67...h5 68.Bb7 Kg3 69.Ke2-+

68.Kg2 h5 69.Bd7 h4 70.Bc8 Kf4

70...h3+ 71.Kh2 Nf3+ 72.Kh1 Nd2-+

71.Ba6

71.Kg1-+



Position after 71.Ba6

71...Ke3 72.Bb7 f4 73.Bc8 f3+ 74.Kf1
h3 75.Kg1 f2+ 76.Kf1 Ne4 77.Bxh3
Nd2+ 78.Kg2 f1Q+

0-1

**Conner Jensen (1456) –
Jose Smokowski (1650) [C02]**
Oregon Class Championships
(R2), November 6, 2021
[Wilson Gibbins]

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.c3 Nc6 5.Nf3
Qb6 6.a3 a5 7.a4

This move is rarely played, but it seems
logical. It secures the b5 square for
White's knight.

7...Bd7 8.Be2 Nge7

Black should consider playing 8...cxd4 to
secure the b4 square for his knight.

9.0-0 Nf5 10.g4 Nfe7 11.Na3

Stockfish likes 11.dxc5 Qc7 (11...Qxc5
12.Be3) 12.Na3 Nxe5 13.Nxe5 Qxe5
14.f4 Stockfish is probably right, but
Black's center pawns and White's open

kingside and would make me worry about
entering this line as White.

11...h5 12.Nb5 Ng6 13.g5



Position after 13.g5

Seems best to keep the kingside closed.
Naturally Stockfish prefers the seemingly
anti-positional 13.gxh5 Rxh5.

13...Na7

Stockfish says it is time to get Black's
King into safety with 13...cxd4 14.cxd4
Bb4 15.Bd2 0-0 but if that were the case,
then why did Black advance the h-pawn?
Oh, I forgot engines now love advancing
rook pawns, and if they lose them, so
much the better :-)

14.Nxa7± Qxa7 15.Be3 h4 16.h3 Ne7?

16...cxd4 17.Nxd4 Qb8 18.f4±

17.dxc5 Nf5 18.c6! Nxe3 19.cxd7+ Kxd7
20.fxe3 Qxe3+ 21.Kg2 Qf4 22.Qe1 Bc5
23.Bb5+ Ke7 24.Kh1 Rac8 25.Bd3 Rh5
26.Qe2 g6 27.Qd2 Qg3 28.Qh2

1-0

**Francisco Lopez (1769) –
Conner Jensen (1456) [A46]**
Oregon Class Championships
(R4), November 7, 2021
[Wilson Gibbins]

Conner secures a key fourth round win
with steady defense.

1.d4 Nf6 2.Bg5

The influence of Zoey Tang on the Oregon
School of Chess :-)

2...e6 3.Nf3

Francisco switches from a Trompowski
Attack to a Torre Attack. Zoey took
a more aggressive approach to crush
me in the Portland Chess Club Blitz
Championship last year 3.e4 h6 4.Bxf6
Qxf6 5.c3 d5 6.Bd3 c5 7.Nf3 Nc6 8.0-0
Qd8 9.Nbd2 Be7 10.Re1 0-0 11.Nf1 cxd4
12.cxd4 dxe4 13.Bxe4 Bd7 14.Rc1 Rc8
15.Bb1 Nb4 16.a3 Nd5 17.Qd3 g6 18.Ne5
Bf6? (18...Rxc1 19.Rxc1 Be8 holds on)
19.Nxg6 fxg6 20.Qxg6+ Bg7 21.Qh7+
Kf7 22.Bg6+ Kf6 23.Ng3 Qe7 24.Ne4#

1-0 (24) Tang,Z (2000)-Gibbins,W (2124) Chess.com 2020

3...d5 4.e3 Be7 5.Nbd2 a6 6.Bd3 0-0 7.Ne5 c5 8.c3 cxd4 9.exd4 Nc6 10.Ndf3 Qc7 11.Qe2



Position after 11.Qe2

Perhaps I was too quick to pass judgment Francisco's aggression level. He has arranged his pieces in a nice attacking formation, and has not castled yet, keeping the option of rushing his kingside pawns forward. It will be too dangerous for White to castle queenside, but the center is stable so the King will be safe enough for the time being.

11...b5 12.a3 Na5 13.Bxf6 Bxf6

Stockfish recommends the unintuitive 13...gxf6 with equality. The equality is based on White sacrificing material for a perpetual: 14.Nd2 (14.Ng4 f5 is also roughly equal) 14...fxe5 15.Bxh7+ Kxh7 16.Qh5+.

14.h4!?

Threatening 15.Ng5 and the sacrifice 15.Bxh7+.

14...h6

Stops the threats, but the pawn on h6 gives White a new plan to crack open the kingside. 14...Bb7? 15.Bxh7+ Kxh7 16.Ng5+ Kg8 (16...Kh6 17.Ng4+ Kg6 18.Qd3+ Kh5 19.Nxf6+ gxf6 20.g4+ Kxg4 (20...Kh6 21.Qh7#) 21.Qf3#) 17.Qh5 Rfc8 18.Nexf7 with a winning attack.

15.g4! Bxe5 16.dxe5±

16.Nxe5+- g6 17.Qe3 Kg7 18.f4 Nc4 19.Bxc4 dxc4 20.h5, and the Black King is losing its pawn cover

16...Nb3 17.Rd1 g6

17...Nc5 18.Bb1 Ne4±

18.Qe3!

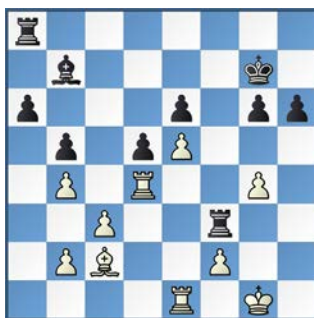
White has regained his winning attack.

18...Kg7 19.h5 Bb7 20.hxg6 Rh8 21.Qf4 Qe7 22.Bc2 Na5 23.0-0?!

White is still better, but the worst is over for Black. 23.Rg1 fxg6 24.g5; 23.gxf7

Qxf7 24.Qxf7+ Kxf7 25.Ke2

23...fxg6 24.Qb4 Qxb4 25.axb4 Nc6 26.Rfe1 Rhf8 27.Nd4 Nxd4 28.Rxd4 Rf3



Position after 28...Rf3

29.Rf1?=-

29.Kg2± Raf8 30.Bf5± wins the exchange for a pawn. 29.Bd1 Rf7± drives the barbarian rook from the gates.

29...Raf8 30.Kg2 g5 31.Bb1 Bc6 32.Bc2 Be8?!

32...R3f4 33.f3 Rxd4 34.cxd4 Rf4=

33.Bb1

33.Bf5!±

33...Bg6 34.Bxg6

34.Bf5 Bxf5 35.Kxf3 Bd3+ 36.Kg2 Bxf1+ 37.Kxf1=

34...Kxg6



Position after 34...Kxg6

35.Kg1?

White should arrange his rooks so that he can (1) protect his f2 square from Black's doubled rooks and (2) counter-attack Black's pawn on a6. 35.Rd2 R3f4 36.f3 h5 37.gxh5+ Kxh5 38.Ra1 Rxf3 39.Rxa6=; 35.Rdd1 R3f4 36.f3 h5 37.gxh5+ Kxh5 38.Ra1=

35...h5!± 36.gxh5+ Kxh5 37.Kg2 Kg6 38.Rd2 R3f5 39.Re2 Rh8

39...Rf4! 40.Ra1? Rg4+ 41.Kf1 (41.Kh3 Kf5 42.—Rh8#) 41...Rh8±

40.Ra1± Ra8 41.b3?!

A clever way to enable White to double rooks on the a-file and tie Black down

41.Kg3 Rf4 42.f3±

41...Rf7

But Black doesn't have to defend. 41...Rf4! 42.Rea2 Rc8 43.Rxa6 Kf5 44.Rc1 Rxb4±

42.Rea2

Stockfish suggests that sacrificing a pawn might lead to a simplified ending that is close to a draw. 42.c4 dxc4 43.bxc4 bxc4 44.Rc2 Rc7 45.Ra5 Note that White's rook is both attacking Black's a-pawn and defending his e-pawn, enabled by the pawn sacrifice. 45...Raa7

42...Rfa7

42...Rc7 43.Rxa6 Rxa6 44.Rxa6 Kf5

43.Kf3

43.c4 bxc4 44.bxc4 dxc4 45.Ra5—Δ46. b5=

43...Kf5 44.Re1

44.c4±

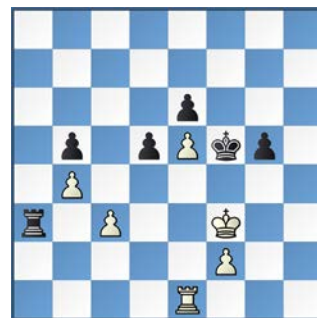
44...a5

Ending White's attack on Black's backward a6 pawn. White will also lose the opportunity break with c3-c4 that Stockfish has been suggesting for the last few moves.

45.Rea1 a4 46.bxa4 Rxa4 47.Rxa4 Rxa4 48.Re1

48.Rxa4 bxa4 49.b5 Kxe5! Black can prevent White's b-pawn from promoting, but White can't stop Black's a-pawn.

48...Ra3±



Position after 48...Ra3

Material is even, but Black's active rook and king means that White's weak pawns on e5 and c3 count for more than Black's weak pawns on b5, e6, and g5. A weakness is no problem if it can't be attacked.

49.Re3 Ra1 50.Ke2 g4 51.Kd3 Rd1+ 52.Ke2 Rh1 53.Kd3 Rh3 54.Rg3 Kf4 55.Re3 Rxe3+ 56.fxe3+ Kxe5 57.Ke2 Ke4 58.Kf2 Kd3 59.Kg3 Kxe3 60.Kxg4 Kd3 61.Kf4 Kxc3 62.Ke5 d4

0-1

WA JUNIOR OPEN AND RESERVE CHESS TOURNAMENT

MLK Monday, January 17, 2022

Redmond Marriott

7401 164th Ave NE, Redmond, WA 98052

DUAL RATED SECTIONS:

A choice of longer or shorter time controls for players of different skill levels. Dual Northwest and US Chess Rated. US Chess membership required. **Clocks and notation required – Please bring a digital clock if you have one, a limited number will be available to borrow.**

Open & U1600: A 4-round G/50; d5 Swiss. For intermediate to advanced players or anyone looking for a challenge. Rounds: 9:15am, 11:30am, lunch, 2:00pm, 4:15pm. Awards presentation at 6:15pm. Playoff rounds if needed to break ties for 1st place in the Open section immediately following the last round: G/10 white, G/8 black with draw odds.

K-3 U1400 & 4-12 U1400: A 5-round G/25; d5 Swiss. For advanced beginner to intermediate players. Rounds: 9:15am, 10:45am, lunch, 12:45pm, 2:15pm, 3:45pm. Trophy presentation at 5:15pm.

RESERVE SECTIONS:

K-1 U800, 2-3 U800, 4-12 U900: A 5-round G/30 Swiss. For novice to intermediate players. Northwest rated only. US Chess membership *not* required. No clocks used from the start, but a 10-minute clock will be placed into the game after 40 minutes. Rounds: 9:15am, 10:45am, lunch, 12:45pm, 2:15pm, 3:45pm. Trophy presentation at 5:15pm.

ELIGIBILITY:

Open to all WA Junior players under age 21 as of tournament date.

ENTRY FEE:

\$45 by Jan. 10th, \$55 after. Room for 300 players.

AWARDS:

Dual Rated Sections: Amazon Gift Cards awarded in each section.

1st \$75, 2nd \$60, 3rd \$45, 4th \$35, 5th \$25.

Reserve Sections: Trophies awarded to the top-finishing players in each section.

Team Prizes: Trophies awarded to the top 5 finishing teams (top 4 scores from same school comprise team score) across all sections.

Special Prizes (per section): Medals for first-timers, best female player, and biggest upset.

RATING:

Highest of January supplement US Chess Regular/US Chess Online, or current NWSRS rating used to determine section and pairings.



THE DETAILS

Health/Safety Protocols: Face masks required for all players and spectators. Please bring your own mask; a limited number is available. All players and spectators are required to sign the [WCF Health/Safety Protocols & Waiver of Liability](#) form prior to the start of the tournament.

100% pre-registered, no on-site entries or payments. Entry + payment deadline Jan 14th @ 5:00pm. Unpaid players will be immediately withdrawn from the tournament.

This event is a **qualifier for the WA State Elementary Championship** on April 30 in Tacoma. Players scoring 2.5+ points in the 4-round sections or 3.0+ points in the 5-round sections qualify for State.

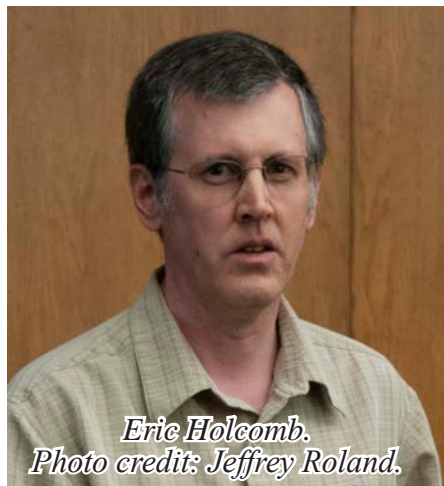
Highest finishing WA resident in the Open seeds into the 2022 WA State Premier in Feb 2022, and the 2023 WA Junior Closed.

Register Online at:
nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration

Questions? Contact Rekha Sagar, WCF Scholastic Director at 425.496.9160 or rekha4chess@gmail.com

A Brief Commentary On The World Championship Match

Eric Holcomb



Eric Holcomb.

Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.

When I first wrote this article on Nov. 30, the Magnus Carlsen title defense against Ian Nepomniachtchi was tied 2-2, with four draws, the first two rather interesting and the last two not so much.

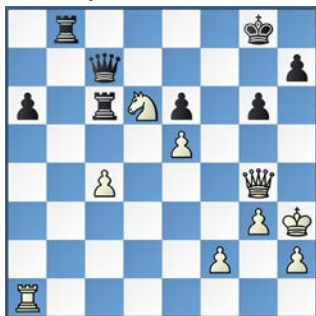
Let's look at game two, and the two critical positions where Magnus sacrificed the exchange, and then Ian gave it back. Magnus was White, and the opening was a Catalan.



Position after 18...Nac5

By move 18, Ian's knights were threatening, and Magnus could have selected either 19.Nxc5 (maintaining material equality) or 19.Nd6, sacrificing the exchange to a basic combination, but getting rid of both of Black's knights while establishing his own knight, defended by the e5-pawn, on the strong d6 outpost. The ChessBase engine shows both options as essentially equal, with a small advantage of about 0.4 pawns to Black. As a timid amateur, I would have quickly gone with Nxc5. But this

completely gives up any initiative associated with playing White ... not what a world champion wants after months of opening preparation. So, Magnus boldly chose Nd6.



Position after 37.Qg4

Fast forward to move 37, after some intense play with Magnus still retaining the knight on d6 and the pawn on e5. Ian was likely feeling some pressure and frustration from not being able to press the "advantage" of the exchange and chose to give it back with 37...Rxd6 for the easy draw, instead of defending the e6-pawn attacked by White's queen. I suspect just about all of us amateurs have made similar decisions at least several times in our careers. Of course, an amateur might settle for the easy endgame draw even when it's totally unnecessary to do so, whereas Ian recognized (as did the ChessBase engine), that White had a small advantage, and it was best to simply accept the drawn outcome (especially as Black) and get ready for game three before the first rest day in the match.

So, we have a good example of how elite grandmasters are different from average players, and yet feel some of the same pressures in difficult positions.

I originally called the match a "toss-up," but the wins by Magnus in games six and eight have swung the match heavily in his favor. (Commentary below added on Dec. 6.)

Game six was a decisive and record-breaking 136-move marathon, in which Magnus created the imbalance of two rooks (for Magnus) versus queen, improved it to R+N+2P vs. Q, and went on to win after Ian made an imprecise queen move under the time pressure of

the 30-second increment.

But game eight is where Ian suffered "the killer blow," completing his "lost weekend," according to John Henderson. (See <https://firstmovechess.org/2021/12/the-lost-weekend/>.)

Magnus had White, and the opening was a Petroff, for the second time in the match. Here's the position after 21.Bxc4, threatening Qa3+.



Position after 21.Bxc4

The best defense is either the simple 21...Kg8, or 21...Qd6, with White only slightly better. But there's a chess maxim that you can neglect your opponent's threat if you have a stronger threat! Washington State Chess Champion James Hurt wrote about this way back in 1938, in his series of articles entitled "The Martian System in Chess." (See <http://www.nwchess.com/articles/index.htm>.) Ian's move of 21...b5 seems to follow this maxim. If White proceeds with 22.Qa3+, it seems at first glance that 22...Qd6 blocks the check and defends the d7-bishop, while maintaining the attack on the c4 bishop. But a closer look reveals that Magnus has the stronger threat ... a back-rank mate after 23.Qxa7 bxc4, 24.Qa8+, thanks to the help of the e1 rook. So, Ian was forced to play 22...Kg8 instead (a move too late!), giving Magnus the pawn and the game on move 46.

It's unfortunate to witness such a blunder in a world championship match, but "*C'est la vie!*" The French seems appropriate, given that French GM Maxime Vachier-Lagrave, who played well in the FIDE Candidate's Tournament and won the recent Sinquefeld Cup (see Dec. 2021 *Chess Life*), could well become the next challenger!

2021 World Chess Championship Games

**Ian Nepomniachtchi (2782) –
Magnus Carlsen (2855) [C88]**

FIDE World Championship 2021 Dubai,
United Arab Emirates (R1), 26.11.2021

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6
5.0-0 Be7 6.Re1 b5 7.Bb3 0-0 8.h3
Na5 9.Nxe5 Nxb3 10.axb3 Bb7 11.d3
d5 12.exd5 Qxd5 13.Qf3 Bd6 14.Kf1
Rfb8 15.Qxd5 Nxd5 16.Bd2 c5 17.Nf3
Rd8 18.Nc3 Nb4 19.Re1 Rac8 20.Ne2
Nc6 21.Be3 Ne7 22.Bf4 Bxf3 23.gxf3
Bxf4 24.Nxf4 Rc6 25.Re1 Nf5 26.c3
Nh4 27.Re3 Kf8 28.Ng2 Nf5 29.Re5
g6 30.Ne1 Ng7 31.Re4 f5 32.Re3 Ne6
33.Ng2 b4 34.Ke2 Rb8 35.Kd2 bxc3+
36.bxc3 Rxb3 37.Kc2 Rb7 38.h4 Kf7
39.Ree1 Kf6 40.Ne3 Rd7 41.Nc4 Re7
42.Ne5 Rd6 43.Nc4 Rc6 44.Ne5 Rd6
45.Nc4

1/2-1/2

Magnus Carlsen (2855) –

Ian Nepomniachtchi (2782) [E05]

FIDE World Championship 2021 Dubai,
United Arab Emirates (R2), 27.11.2021

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.g3 Be7 5.Bg2
0-0 6.0-0 dxc4 7.Qc2 b5 8.Ne5 c6 9.a4
Nd5 10.Nc3 f6 11.Nf3 Qd7 12.e4 Nb4
13.Qe2 Nd3 14.e5 Bb7 15.exf6 Bxf6
16.Ne4 Na6 17.Ne5 Bxe5 18.dxe5 Nac5
19.Nd6 Nb3 20.Rb1 Nbx1 21.Rbxc1
Nxc1 22.Rxc1 Rab8 23.Rd1 Ba8 24.Be4
c3 25.Qc2 g6 26.bxc3 bxa4 27.Qxa4
Rfd8 28.Ra1 c5 29.Qc4 Bxe4 30.Nxc4
Kh8 31.Nd6 Rb6 32.Qxc5 Rdb8 33.Kg2
a6 34.Kh3 Rc6 35.Qd4 Kg8 36.c4 Qc7
37.Qg4 Rxd6 38.exd6 Qxd6 39.c5 Qxc5

40.Qxe6+ Kg7 41.Rxa6 Rf8 42.f4 Qf5+
43.Qxf5 Rxf5 44.Ra7+ Kg8 45.Kg4
Rb5 46.Re7 Ra5 47.Re5 Ra7 48.h4 Kg7
49.h5 Kh6 50.Kh4 Ra1 51.g4 Rh1+
52.Kg3 gxh5 53.Re6+ Kg7 54.g5 Rg1+
55.Kf2 Ra1 56.Rh6 Ra4 57.Kf3 Ra3+
58.Kf2 Ra4

1/2-1/2

Ian Nepomniachtchi (2782) –

Magnus Carlsen (2855) [C88]

FIDE World Championship 2021 Dubai,
United Arab Emirates (R3), 28.11.2021

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6
5.0-0 Be7 6.Re1 b5 7.Bb3 0-0 8.a4 Bb7
9.d3 d6 10.Nbd2 Re8 11.Nf1 h6 12.Bd2
Bf8 13.Ne3 Ne7 14.c4 bxc4 15.Nxc4
Nc6 16.Rc1 a5 17.Bc3 Bc8 18.d4 exd4
19.Nxd4 Nxd4 20.Qxd4 Be6 21.h3 c6
22.Bc2 d5 23.e5 dxc4 24.Qxd8 Rxd8
25.exf6 Bb4 26.fgx7 Bxc3 27.bxc3 Kxg7
28.Kf1 Rab8 29.Rb1 Kf6 30.Rxb8 Rxb8
31.Rb1 Rxb1+ 32.Bxb1 Ke5 33.Ke2 f5
34.Bc2 f4 35.Bb1 c5 36.Bc2 Bd7 37.f3
Kf6 38.h4 Ke5 39.Kf2 Kf6 40.Ke2 Ke5
41.Kf2

1/2-1/2

Magnus Carlsen (2855) –

Ian Nepomniachtchi (2782) [C42]

FIDE World Championship 2021 Dubai,
United Arab Emirates (R4), 30.11.2021

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 d6 4.Nf3
Nxe4 5.d4 d5 6.Bd3 Bd6 7.0-0 0-0
8.c4 c6 9.Re1 Bf5 10.Qb3 Qd7 11.Nc3
Nxc3 12.Bxf5 Qxf5 13.bxc3 b6 14.cxd5

cx d5 15.Qb5 Qd7 16.a4 Qxb5 17.axb5
a5 18.Nh4 g6 19.g4 Nd7 20.Ng2 Rfc8
21.Bf4 Bxf4 22.Nxf4 Rxc3 23.Nxd5 Rd3
24.Re7 Nf8 25.Nf6+ Kg7 26.Ne8+ Kg8
27.d5 a4 28.Nf6+ Kg7 29.g5 a3 30.Ne8+
Kg8 31.Nf6+ Kg7 32.Ne8+ Kg8 33.Nf6+

1/2-1/2

Ian Nepomniachtchi (2782) –

Magnus Carlsen (2855) [C88]

FIDE World Championship 2021 Dubai,
United Arab Emirates (R5), 01.12.2021

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6
5.0-0 Be7 6.Re1 b5 7.Bb3 0-0 8.a4 Rb8
9.axb5 axb5 10.h3 d6 11.c3 b4 12.d3
bxc3 13.bxc3 d5 14.Nbd2 dxe4 15.dxe4
Bd6 16.Qc2 h6 17.Nf1 Ne7 18.Ng3 Ng6
19.Be3 Qe8 20.Red1 Be6 21.Ba4 Bd7
22.Nd2 Bxa4 23.Qxa4 Qxa4 24.Rxa4
Ra8 25.Rda1 Rxa4 26.Rxa4 Rb8 27.Ra6
Ne8 28.Kf1 Nf8 29.Nf5 Ne6 30.Nc4 Rd8
31.f3 f6 32.g4 Kf7 33.h4 Bf8 34.Ke2
Nd6 35.Ncxd6+ Bxd6 36.h5 Bf8 37.Ra5
Ke8 38.Rd5 Ra8 39.Rd1 Ra2+ 40.Rd2
Ra1 41.Rd1 Ra2+ 42.Rd2 Ra1 43.Rd1

1/2-1/2

Magnus Carlsen (2855) –

Ian Nepomniachtchi (2782) [D02]

FIDE World Championship 2021 Dubai,
United Arab Emirates (R6), 03.12.2021

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 d5 3.g3 e6 4.Bg2 Be7
5.0-0 0-0 6.b3 c5 7.dxc5 Bxc5 8.c4
dxc4 9.Qc2 Qe7 10.Nbd2 Nc6 11.Nxc4
b5 12.Nce5 Nb4 13.Qb2 Bb7 14.a3 Nc6
15.Nd3 Bb6 16.Bg5 Rfd8 17.Bxf6 gxf6



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18.Rac1 Nd4 19.Nxd4 Bxd4 20.Qa2 Bxg2 21.Kxg2 Qb7+ 22.Kg1 Qe4 23.Qc2 a5 24.Rfd1 Kg7 25.Rd2 Rac8 26.Qxc8 Rxc8 27.Rxc8 Qd5 28.b4 a4 29.e3 Be5 30.h4 h5 31.Kh2 Bb2 32.Rc5 Qd6 33.Rd1 Bxa3 34.Rxb5 Qd7 35.Rc5 e5 36.Rc2 Qd5 37.Rdd2 Qb3 38.Ra2 e4 39.Nc5 Qxb4 40.Nxe4 Qb3 41.Rac2 Bf8 42.Nc5 Qb5 43.Nd3 a3 44.Nf4 Qa5 45.Ra2 Bb4 46.Rd3 Kh6 47.Rd1 Qa4 48.Rda1 Bd6 49.Kg1 Qb3 50.Ne2 Qd3 51.Nd4 Kh7 52.Kh2 Qe4 53.Rxa3 Qxh4+ 54.Kg1 Qe4 55.Ra4 Be5 56.Ne2 Qc2 57.R1a2 Qb3 58.Kg2 Qd5+ 59.f3 Qd1 60.f4 Bc7 61.Kf2 Bb6 62.Ra1 Qb3 63.Re4 Kg7 64.Re8 f5 65.Raa8 Qb4 66.Rac8 Ba5 67.Rc1 Bb6 68.Re5 Qb3 69.Rc8 Qd5 70.Rcc8 Qh1 71.Rc1 Qd5 72.Rb1 Ba7 73.Re7 Be5 74.Re5 Qd3 75.Rb7 Qc2 76.Rb5 Ba7 77.Ra5 Bb6 78.Rab5 Ba7 79.Rxf5 Qd3 80.Rxf7+ Kxf7 81.Rb7+ Kg6 82.Rxa7 Qd5 83.Ra6+ Kh7 84.Ra1 Kg6 85.Nd4 Qb7 86.Ra2 Qh1 87.Ra6+ Kf7 88.Nf3 Qb1 89.Rd6 Kg7 90.Rd5 Qa2+ 91.Rd2 Qb1 92.Re2 Qb6 93.Rc2 Qb1 94.Nd4 Qh1 95.Rc7+ Kf6 96.Rc6+ Kf7 97.Nf3 Qb1 98.Ng5+ Kg7 99.Ne6+ Kf7 100.Nd4 Qh1 101.Rc7+ Kf6 102.Nf3 Qb1 103.Rd7 Qb2+ 104.Rd2 Qb1 105.Ng1 Qb4 106.Rd1 Qb3 107.Rd6+ Kg7 108.Rd4 Qb2+ 109.Ne2 Qb1 110.e4 Qh1 111.Rd7+ Kg8 112.Rd4 Qh2+ 113.Ke3 h4 114.gxh4 Qh3+ 115.Kd2 Qxh4 116.Rd3 Kf8 117.Rf3 Qd8+ 118.Ke3 Qa5 119.Kf2 Qa7+ 120.Re3 Qd7 121.Ng3 Qd2+ 122.Kf3 Qd1+ 123.Re2 Qb3+ 124.Kg2 Qb7 125.Rd2 Qb3 126.Rd5 Ke7 127.Re5+ Kf7 128.Rf5+ Ke8 129.e5 Qa2+ 130.Kh3 Qe6 131.Kh4 Qh6+ 132.Nh5 Qh7 133.e6 Qg6 134.Rf7 Kd8 135.f5 Qg1 136.Ng7

1-0

Ian Nepomniachtchi (2782) – Magnus Carlsen (2855) [C88]

FIDE World Championship 2021 Dubai, United Arab Emirates (R7), 04.12.2021

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6

5.0-0 Be7 6.Re1 b5 7.Bb3 0-0 8.a4 Rb8 9.axb5 axb5 10.h3 d6 11.d3 h6 12.Nc3 Re8 13.Nd5 Bf8 14.Nxf6+ Qxf6 15.c3 Ne7 16.Be3 Be6 17.d4 exd4 18.cxd4 Bxb3 19.Qxb3 Ng6 20.Re1 c5 21.e5 Qf5 22.dxc5 dxc5 23.Bxc5 Bxc5 24.Rxc5 Nxe5 25.Nxe5 Rxe5 26.Rxe5 Qxe5 27.Qc3 Qxc3 28.bxc3 Rc8 29.Ra5 Rxc3 30.Rxb5 Rcl+ 31.Kh2 Rc3 32.h4 g6 33.g3 h5 34.Kg2 Kg7 35.Ra5 Kf6 36.Rb5 Kg7 37.Ra5 Kf6 38.Rb5 Kg7 39.Ra5 Kf6 40.Ra6+ Kg7 41.Ra7

1/2-1/2

Magnus Carlsen (2855) – Ian Nepomniachtchi (2782) [C43]
FIDE World Championship 2021 Dubai, United Arab Emirates (R8), 05.12.2021

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.d4 Nxe4 4.Bd3 d5 5.Nxe5 Nd7 6.Nxd7 Bxd7 7.Nd2 Nxd2 8.Bxd2 Bd6 9.0-0 h5 10.Qe1+ Kf8 11.Bb4 Qe7 12.Bxd6 Qxd6 13.Qd2 Re8 14.Rae1 Rh6 15.Qg5 c6 16.Rxe8+ Bxe8 17.Re1 Qf6 18.Qe3 Bd7 19.h3 h4 20.c4 dxc4 21.Bxc4 b5 22.Qa3+ Kg8 23.Qxa7 Qd8 24.Bb3 Rd6 25.Re4 Be6 26.Bxe6 Rxe6 27.Rxe6 fxe6 28.Qc5 Qa5 29.Qxc6 Qe1+ 30.Kh2 Qxf2 31.Qxe6+ Kh7 32.Qe4+ Kg8 33.b3 Qxa2 34.Qe8+ Kh7 35.Qxb5 Qf2 36.Qe5 Qb2 37.Qe4+ Kg8 38.Qd3 Qf2 39.Qc3 Qf4+ 40.Kg1 Kh7 41.Qd3+ g6 42.Qd1 Qe3+ 43.Kh1 g5 44.d5 g4 45.hxg4 h3 46.Qf3

1-0

Ian Nepomniachtchi (2782) – Magnus Carlsen (2855) [A13]
FIDE World Championship 2021 Dubai, United Arab Emirates (R9), 07.12.2021

1.c4 e6 2.g3 d5 3.Bg2 d4 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.0-0 Bc5 6.d3 Nf6 7.Nbd2 a5 8.Nb3 Be7 9.e3 dxe3 10.Bxe3 Ng4 11.Bc5 0-0 12.d4 a4 13.Bxe7 Qxe7 14.Nc5 a3 15.bxa3 Rd8 16.Nb3 Nf6 17.Re1 Qxa3 18.Qe2 h6 19.h4 Bd7 20.Ne5 Be8 21.Qe3 Qb4 22.Reb1 Nxe5 23.dxe5 Ng4 24.Qe1 Qxe1+ 25.Rxe1 h5 26.Bxb7 Ra4

27.c5 c6 28.f3 Nh6 29.Re4 Ra7 30.Rb4 Rb8 31.a4 Raxb7 32.Rb6 Rxb6 33.cxb6 Rxb6 34.Nc5 Nf5 35.a5 Rb8 36.a6 Nxg3 37.Na4 c5 38.a7 Rd8 39.Nxc5 Ra8

0-1

Magnus Carlsen (2855) – Ian Nepomniachtchi (2782) [C42]
FIDE World Championship 2021 Dubai, United Arab Emirates (R10), 08.12.2021

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 d6 4.Nd3 Nxe4 5.Qe2 Qe7 6.Nf4 Nf6 7.d4 Nc6 8.c3 d5 9.Nd2 Nd8 10.Nf3 Qxe2+ 11.Bxe2 Bd6 12.0-0 0-0 13.Bd3 Re8 14.Re1 Rxe1+ 15.Nxe1 Ne6 16.Nxe6 Bxe6 17.g3 g6 18.Ng2 Re8 19.f3 Nh5 20.Kf2 c6 21.g4 Ng7 22.Bf4 Bxf4 23.Nxf4 g5 24.Ne2 f5 25.h3 Kf7 26.Rh1 h6 27.f4 fxg4 28.hxg4 Bxg4 29.Rxh6 Bf5 30.Bxf5 Nxf5 31.Rh7+ Ng7 32.fxg5 Kg6 33.Rh3 Kxg5 34.Rg3+ Kf6 35.Rf3+ Ke7 36.Nf4 Kd6 37.Ng6 Re6 38.Ne5 Ne8 39.Rf7 Rf6+ 40.Rxf6+ Nxf6 41.Ke3

1/2-1/2

Ian Nepomniachtchi (2782) – Magnus Carlsen (2855) [C54]
FIDE World Championship 2021 Dubai, United Arab Emirates (R11), 10.12.2021

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.d3 Bc5 5.c3 d6 6.0-0 a5 7.Re1 Ba7 8.Na3 h6 9.Nc2 0-0 10.Be3 Bxe3 11.Nxe3 Re8 12.a4 Be6 13.Bxe6 Rxe6 14.Qb3 b6 15.Rad1 Ne7 16.h3 Qd7 17.Nh2 Rd8 18.Nhg4 Nxg4 19.hxg4 d5 20.d4 exd4 21.exd5 Re4 22.Qc2 Rf4 23.g3 dxe3 24.gxf4 Qxg4+ 25.Kf1 Qh3+ 26.Kg1 Nf5 27.d6 Nh4 28.fxe3 Qg3+ 29.Kf1 Nf3 30.Qf2 Qh3+ 31.Qg2 Qxg2+ 32.Kxg2 Nxe1+ 33.Rxe1 Rxd6 34.Kf3 Rd2 35.Rb1 g6 36.b4 axb4 37.Rxb4 Ra2 38.Ke4 h5 39.Kd5 Rc2 40.Rb3 h4 41.Kc6 h3 42.Kxc7 h2 43.Rb1 Rxc3+ 44.Kxb6 Rb3+ 45.Rxb3 h1Q 46.a5 Qe4 47.Ka7 Qe7+ 48.Ka8 Kg7 49.Rb6 Qc5

0-1



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Format: Four invitation-only 10-player Round Robins by rating: Championship, Premier, Invitational, and Challengers. The field of each section will be determined by seeding and by the highest rated players to register based on the highest of the January 2022 US Chess Regular or Online Rating supplement or current Northwest rating. All sections will be Northwest, US Chess, and FIDE rated.

Time Control: 40/120, SD/30; d10. Late default: 30 minutes.

Entry Fee: Championship/Premier: Free
Invitational: \$150, Challengers: \$125.

Schedule/Location:

Championship/Premier in Seattle.

Invitational/Challengers in Redmond.

Rounds 1-8: Feb. 12, 13, 19, 20 at 10 AM and 5 PM.
Round 9: Feb. 21 (President's Day) at 5 PM.
Drawing of lots: Feb. 5 at 10 PM at the Orlov Academy in Greenlake. Attendance is optional, though encouraged.

Prizes: The initial prize fund for each section is guaranteed by the WCF and will be increased based on donations.

Championship: \$1500, Premier: \$1000, Invitational: \$750, Challengers: \$500.

Prize distribution (each section): 1st 45%, 2nd 25%, 3rd 15%, 4th 10%, 5th 5%
Brilliance Prizes: \$400 (\$100 for best game in each section)

The winner of the Championship section receives the title of Washington State Champion.

Seeds:

Championship: IM Anthony He (State Champion), FM Ryan Porter (Open Champion), FM Tian Sang (Championship Runner-up), Eddie Chang (Challenger's Cup Champion), NM Kyle Haining (Premier Champion), TBD (Junior Closed Champion)

Premier: FM Ryan Porter (Championship 3rd Place), Thanh Nguyen (Premier Runner-up), Pranav K. Anoop (Invitational Champion), TBD (Junior Open Champion), WCM Mary Kuhner (Women's Champion)

Invitational: FM Ignacio Perez (Premier 3rd Place), Erin Bian (Invitational Runner-up), [Vacant] (Challengers Champion), FM Ignacio Perez (Senior Champion), Valentin Razmov (President's Cup Champion).

Challengers: Teddy Roberts (Invitational 3rd Place), [Vacant] (Challengers Runner-up), TBD (WCF Nominee).

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

Byes: Since this is a prestigious round robin, there will be no byes or rescheduling of games allowed in any of the sections. All games must be played on site under TD supervision at the scheduled round times.

Registration: Online via [online registration](#). Please confirm your ability to play on the website. We typically have several high rated players decline, and many times we reach down into the 1700s. We will take the top 40 players who have met the 2-event activity requirement and **confirm by the deadline of February 5th.**

Info: Josh Sinanan, WCF President, 206.769.3757,
WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com

Health/Safety Protocols: Face masks required for all players and spectators. Please bring your own mask; a limited number is available. 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.

Southern Idaho Open (Veteran's Tournament)

Barry Eacker

Twenty-five players dropped in at the Holiday Inn Express in Twin Falls, Idaho on November 13, 2021 to honor America's Veterans and play a little chess. After the dust cleared, Veteran Zachary Fritchen captured the flag with a perfect 4.0/4 score, defeating Josh Price on board one in the final round, taking undisputed first prize. Second and third prizes were shared by number one seed Kaustubh Kodihalli and "The Professor" Dewayne Derryberry with 3.5/4 tallies. The above-mentioned Josh Price and Finn Belew churned out 3.0/4 scores to share the Scholastic prize.

Fritchen methodically disposed of his opponents, stamping his final game with an exclamation point: his white queen surveying the black territory from the invasive d6. Kodihalli and Derryberry knocked out three wins apiece, their results tarnished only by their draw with each other in round three. The biggest upset of the event occurred in round one when 1800 player John Glenn succumbed to Peter Clark (1396) who finished 2.0/4. Six scholastic players were scattering pieces during the action, in many cases fighting toe to toe with established players. Good sign.

We want to thank all the Veterans who participated in this event and take a moment to recognize their service to this great nation. Please tell them "Thanks" next time you see them.

Their names are listed below:

Zachary Fritchen
Darren Furman
Michael Barros
Fred Bartell
Hank Harris
Jay Simonson
Dennis Stutz
Joshua Southwick

Many thanks to the Holiday Inn Express for allowing us to invade their meeting room and carry out operations.

Zachary Fritchen. Photo credit: Barry Eacker.



**Zachary Fritchen (1727) –
Josh Price (1556) [E09]**

Southern Idaho Open

Twin Falls, ID (R4), November 13, 2021
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 e6 3.g3 Nf6 4.Bg2 Be7
5.0-0 0-0 6.c4 Nbd7 7.Qc2 c6 8.Nbd2
b6 9.e4 dxe4 10.Nxe4 Bb7 11.Rd1 Nxe4
12.Qxe4 Nf6

12...Qc8 13.Bf4 Re8 14.Qc2 c5 15.d5±

13.Qc2 Bd6 14.c5!

White plays to limit the activity of the black bishops, especially the “bad” bishop on b7.

Yes, this weakens the d5-square, but that’s just one square, and White can play around a knight posted there.

14...Bc7 15.Bg5

Or White might choose to eliminate the knight before it reaches the outpost...

15...h6 16.Bxf6 Qxf6 17.b4 Rad8 18.Qe4 Rd5 19.Bf1 Rfd8 20.Bc4 R5d7

20...Rf5!? 21.Ne5!? (21.Kg2±)



Diagram-analysis after 21.Ne5

a) 21...Rxf2?? 22.Ng4 Qf3 23.Nxf2+-;

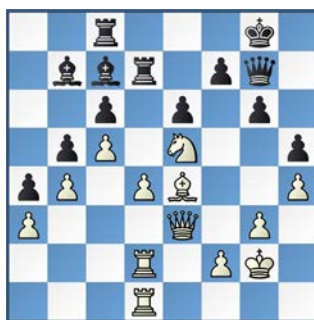
b) 21...Bxe5?! 22.dxe5 Rxd1+ 23.Rxd1 Rxe5 24.Qf4! White plans to win that b7-bishop: 24...Qxf4 (24...b5 25.Qxf6 gxf6 26.Bb3+-) 25.gxf4 Rf5 (25...Rh5 26.Rd8+ Kh7 27.cxb6 axb6 28.Rb8 b5 29.Bd3+; 25...Rd5 is probably best, but still losing. 26.Bxd5 exd5 27.cxb6 axb6 28.a4+-) 26.Rd8+ Kh7 27.Bd3;

c) 21...Kf8 22.Ng4 Qe7 23.Ne3 Rg5 24.Rac1±.

21.Re1 g6 22.h4 h5 23.Rac1 Kg7 24.a3 b5

Black might consider an exchange sacrifice to change the basic character of the position. Here: 24...Rxd4!? 25.Nxd4 Rxd4 26.Qe3 bxc5 27.bxc5 Bc8±. Black has improved his position, though there are still problems to solve.

25.Bb3 a5 26.Qe3 a4 27.Bc2 Rd5 28.Be4 R5d7 29.Re2 Bb8 30.Rce1 Bc7 31.Kg2 Bb8 32.Rd2 Kg8 33.Red1 Qg7 34.Qg5 Rc8 35.Qe3 Bc7 36.Ne5!



Position after 36.Ne5

The “bang” is not necessarily saying this is the best move, but it’s for recognizing that the pawn-down position favors White, and that White must do something more radical than the maneuvers tried so far to make progress.

36...Bxe5 37.dxe5 Rxd2 38.Rxd2 Qxe5 39.Rd7 Rc7 40.Rd8+ Kg7 41.f4

41.Qd3± e.g.: 41...Re7 42.Bf3 Qc7 43.Rd6 Qc8 44.Be4 f5 45.Bf3 Qe8 46.Qd4+ e5 (46...Kf7 47.Rd8+-) 47.Qd2 and the threat of Bxh5 looms.

41...Qb2+ 42.Kh3

42.Kg1 Re7 43.Bg2±

42...Qf6

Black’s best chance is to break in the center at an appropriate time. Like, now. 42...e5! 43.Bg2 Bc8+ 44.Kh2 Bf5 45.Qxe5+ Qxe5 46.fxe5 Rd7 47.Rxd7 Bxd7±

43.Qd3 Bc8

43...Qe7 44.Qd6 (44.Kh2) 44...f6 (44...Qxd6 45.cxd6 Rc8 46.Rxc8 Bxc8 47.Bxc6+-) 45.Kg2 (45.Qd3 Bc8 46.Bxg6 e5+ 47.f5±) 45...Qf7 46.Qd3 e5 47.Bxg6+-

44.Qd6 e5+ 45.Kg2 exf4 46.Rg8+ Kxg8 47.Qxf6

1-0

**Kaustubh Kodihalli (1803) –
Finn Belew (1552) [B07]**

Southern Idaho Open

Twin Falls, ID (R2), November 13, 2021
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.c3 d6 4.Bd3 Nd7

4...e5 5.Ne2

5.Nf3

5.f4!?

5...Ngf6

5...e5 6.0-0 Ngf6

6.e5!?

6.0-0 e5 7.Re1 0-0 8.Nbd2±

6...dxe5 7.dxe5 Ng4

7...Nc5! 8.Bb5+ Nfd7 9.Be3 0-0±

8.e6! Nde5 9.exf7+

9.Bb5+!? c6 10.exf7+ Kxf7 11.Ng5+ Ke8 (11...Kf6? 12.Nxh7+!) 12.Qxd8+ Kxd8 13.Be2±

9...Kf8

9...Kxf7!?

10.Nxe5 Nxe5 11.Be2

11.Be4!?

11...Qxd1+ 12.Kxd1 Kxf7 13.Bf4 Be6

13...Bf5±

14.Re1 Rhd8+ 15.Kc1 c5 16.Nd2 Nd3+ 17.Bxd3 Rxd3 18.Ne4 Bf5 19.Nxc5 Rxc3+! 20.bxc3 Bxc3 21.g4!



Position after 21.g4

21...Bxe1

The accurate tactic here is 21...Rc8! 22.gxf5 Rxc5 23.Be3 Rc6 24.fxg6+ hxd6 25.Rb1 (25.Bxa7 Bxa1+ 26.Kb1 Bf6) 25...Bxe1+ 26.Kd1 Ba5 27.Rxb7.

22.gxf5 Rc8 23.fxd6+ hxd6 24.Kb2 Bxf2 25.Nb3± Rc4 26.Be5 Re4 27.Rf1 Rxe5 28.Rxf2+ Kg7 29.Kc2 Rh5 30.Nd4 Re5 31.Kd3 a6 32.Re2 Kf6 33.Rb2 b5 34.Rc2 e6 35.Rc6 a5 36.Rb6 b4 37.Kc4 g5 38.Kd3

38.Rb5!?

38...g4 39.Rc6 Kf7

39...Re1 40.Ra6 Re5 41.Rc6 Re1 42.Rc2 a4±. Black has real drawing chances here.

A sample line (likely not representing perfect play) goes 43.Re2?! Rxe2 44.Nxe2 (44.Kxe2 e5 45.Nc6 b3 46.axb3 axb3 47.Kd3 e4+ 48.Kc3 e3 49.Nd4 Kg5 50.Kxb3 g3 51.hxg3 Kg4) 44...Kg5 45.Kc4 b3 46.axb3 axb3 47.Kxb3 Kh4 48.Nf4 g3 49.h3 g2 50.Nxg2+ Kxh3.

40.Rc2 Kg6 41.Kc4 Re4 42.Re2 Rxe2 43.Nxe2 Kf5 44.Kb5 Ke4 45.Kxa5 e5 46.Kxb4 Kf3 47.Ng3 Kg2 48.a4 Kxh2 49.a5 Kxg3 50.a6

1-0

2021 Washington Fall Mini-Teams Championship

Josh Sinanan

On Saturday, November 13, Washington Chess Federation (WCF) and the Washington High School Chess Association (WHSCA) teamed up to host the Washington Fall Mini-Teams Championship online via chess.com. We had a splendid turnout of 91 chess players and 30 teams competing across four sections: K-3, 4-6, 7-12, and Parents & Friends. The virtual format made the tournament readily accessible to players from throughout the great Pacific Northwest, including the cities of Seattle, Issaquah, Redmond, Bellingham, Poulsbo, Sammamish, Bellevue, Kirkland, Richland, Medina, Olympia, Lynden, Woodinville, Vancouver, Duvall, Portland, Bothell, Blaine, Lake Forest Park, and Mercer Island.

The team format fostered a friendly and fun playing atmosphere with many entertaining games! While some players showed off the chess skills that they have fine-tuned during the pandemic, others were definitely wearing off the rust! All players were respectful and demonstrated genuine sportsmanship and integrity throughout the afternoon, which resulted in Chief TD Derek Zhang declaring this a clean event with all games played fairly!

The event was a truly collaborative team effort facilitated by several key individuals and organizations; it was co-hosted by WHSCA + WCF, organized by chess dad Siva Sankrithi, paired by

online-chess extraordinaire Judit Sztaray, and directed by NM Derek Zhang with assistance from Melina Li and Advaita Vijayakumar.

As has become customary for many online chess events, Amazon gift-card prizes were awarded to players from the top-finishing teams in each section. In the K-3 section, The Wimpy Kids team of Dann Merriman, Michael Lin, and Yuchen Zhou emerged victorious with an amazing score of 4.5/5 match points, allowing only a single draw against Team SKD in round four. The Indefeasible Chess Team of Michael Xiong, Yohan Ghosh, and Derek Wang finished in second place with three match points and 9.5 game points, which were used as tiebreaks. The Bobcats Gambit team from Open Window School, consisting of Edgar Li, Sam Schoenfeld, and Tara Mehran, won the U900 prize!

In the 4-6 section, Team ESJ comprised of Ethan Chung, Samuel Cha, and Jingran Yang captured first place honors with a perfect five match points and 13 games points, dropping only two games along the way! The Cheesy Checkmate team of Ayush Khandelwal, Neel Borate, and Vihan Dudala finished in second place with four match points. The Heritage Co-Op team of Benjamin Olson, Timothy Liu, and Isaiah Robarge won the U900 prize.

In the 7-12 section, the tournament's largest, three teams shared first place

honors with four match points apiece and were all declared co-Champions: Better Call Tal from Lakeside (Rishi Lakshminarayanan, Aditya Singh, and Michael Nelson), Garfield (Edward Cheng, George King, and Henry Adams), and Whatcom (Carson Roesch, Owen Scollon, and Noah Bandstra).

In the Friends and Family section, the Bandar Dads team of Satyajit Malugu, Siva Sankrithi, and Ravi Kakkad emerged victorious with nine game points. The Friends & Family Combo prize was awarded to the Bandar Bhais + Bandar Dads combined team of Sarang + Siva Sankrithi, Sankalp + Satyajit Malugu, and Vayu + Ravi Kakkad with 16.5 game points.

Congratulations to the winners, and thanks to all who contributed to this amazing event! Our vibrant scholastic chess community continues to thrive despite these uncertain times.

Andy May (1816) –
Satyajit Malugu (2042) [B23]
WA Fall Mini-Teams Championship
Chess.com (R3), November 13, 2021
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 e6 3.f4 Nc6 4.Nf3 d5 5.Bb5 Nf6 6.Qe2 Be7 7.0-0 0-0 8.d3?

Could lead to trouble. 8.e5 Nd7 9.Bxc6 bxc6 10.Kh1?

SwissSys Standings. WA Fall Mini-Teams Championship: Kindergarten - Grade 3

#	Name	Rating	Team	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total	T-Game pnts
1	WIMPY KIDS	1499	WIMPY	W4	W3	W2	D5	W6	4.5	11.5
2	THE INDEFEASIBLE CHESS TEAM	1392	TICT	W6	L4	L1	W3	W5	3	9.5
3	TEAM OME	1448	OME	W5	L1	W6	L2	W4	3	6.5
4	BANDAR BHAI	1311	BB	L1	W2	D5	W6	L3	2.5	7.5
5	TEAM SKD	1173	SKD	L3	W6	D4	D1	L2	2	8
6	BOBCATS GAMBIT	705	BOBCATSG	L2	L5	L3	L4	L1	0	2

SwissSys Standings. WA Fall Mini-Teams Championship: Grade 4-6

#	Name	Rating	Team	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total	T-Game pnts
1	TEAM ESJ	1598	ESJ	W5	W3	W2	W4	W6	5	13
2	CHEESY CHECKMATE	1437	CHEESYCM	W7	W4	L1	W5	W8	4	12
3	AACGROUP	1096	AACG	W8	L1	L4	W6	W7	3	9
4	TEAM AIM	1098	AIM	W6	L2	W3	L1	W5	3	8
5	TEAM NMK	1019	NMK	L1	W8	W7	L2	L4	2	7.5
6	TEAM EA	957	EA	L4	D7	W8	L3	L1	1.5	4
7	TEAM VM	960	VM	L2	D6	L5	W8	L3	1.5	3.5
8	HERITAGE CO-OP	736	HERITAGE	L3	L5	L6	L7	L2	0	2

8...Nd4 9.Nxd4 cxd4 10.Nd1



Position after 10.Nd1

10...Bd7?!

10...Qb6! 11.e5 (11.Ba4?? dxe4 12.dxe4? d3+ 13.Qf2 d2!! 14.Bxd2 Nxe4 15.Qxb6 axb6 and too many white pieces are hanging.) 11...Qxb5 12.exf6 Bxf6 White is down material and virtually unable to activate any pieces.

11.Bxd7 Nxd7 12.e5 Rc8 13.c3 Bc5 14.Kh1 f5 15.exf6?!

15.b4 gives rise to some interesting speculation: 15...dxc3!? (15...Be7 16.cxd4 Bxb4 17.Rb1∞) 16.bxc5 d4 with very distinct positional compensation for the piece. In fact, Stockfish here gives 17.Nxc3 dxc3 18.d4 as one of the top choices, with 18...b6 19.Qc4 reaching a very murky sort of equality.

15...Rxf6

15...Qxf6 may even be slightly in Black's favor.

16.Nf2 dxc3 17.Ng4 Rg6 18.bxc3



Position after 18.bxc3

18...Qh4?!

Black commits to a kingside attack, but things start to go slightly wrong here. Safer and roughly level is 18...Qc7 19.Bd2 Rf8.

19.h3 h5 20.Ne5 Nxe5 21.fxe5 Bb6 22.Bd2 Rg3?!

22...Ba5!?

23.Kh2 Rg6 24.Qf3 Qa4?

24...Bc7 looks like a better try. To gain a real advantage, White likely needs to find 25.Bf4! (since 25.d4 Rf6 26.Qe2 Rcf8

looks about equal, and; 25.Qe3 Rd8 is at best a small edge for White in a still complex situation.)

25.Qxh5 Qe8



Position after 25...Qe8

Aiming for the cheapo ...Rxd2+.

26.Qf3

White could try the faster 26.g3, intending Rf4 and Raf1, threatening Rf8+ or Rh4. That g6-rook is a major problem for Black. 26...Ba5 27.Rf4 Bxc3 28.Bxc3 Rxc3 29.Raf1

26...Qa4?

Apparently hoping for a repetition, but of course White now has much better. 26...Bc7 intending 27.d4 Rf6!? still leaves White on the verge of winning, but at least it solves one problem.

27.Qf7+ Kh7 28.Rf4

1-0

SwissSys Standings. WA Fall Mini-Teams Championship: Grade 7-12

#	Name	Rating	Team	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total	T-Game pnts
1	BETTER CALL TAL	1635	BETTERCALLTAL	W4	W11	W2	L3	W6	4	11
2	Garfield	1580	GARFIELD	W9	W8	L1	W5	W3	4	10.5
3	Whatcom	1550	WHATCOM	W14	W7	W10	W1	L2	4	10.5
4	GarfieldB	1223	GARFIELDB	L1	W6	W13	W8	D7	3.5	8.5
5	Woodinville	unr.	WOODINVILLE	L8	W9	W7	L2	W10	3	8.5
6	Overlake	1548	OVERLAKE	D10	L4	W12	W11	L1	2.5	8.5
7	SEATTLE PREP	1348	SEATTLEPREP	W12	L3	L5	W13	D4	2.5	7.5
8	Mustangs	1294	MUSTANGS	W5	L2	W11	L4	D9	2.5	7.5
9	Lions	1209	LIONS	L2	L5	W14	D10	D8	2	7.5
10	Fighters	1010	FIGHTERS	D6	W14	L3	D9	L5	2	6
11	TEAM HK	1455	HK	W13	L1	L8	L6	W12	2	5
12	NORTH KITSAP HIGH SCHOOL	unr.	NKHS	L7	D13	L6	W14	L11	1.5	6.5
13	MATE IN 3	996	MIN3	L11	D12	L4	L7	W14	1.5	5.5
14	TEAM OJV	1206	OJV	L3	L10	L9	L12	L13	0	2

Team Roster and Standings. WA Fall Mini-Teams Championship: Friends and Family

	Code	Name	Score
1	BANDARD	Bandar Dads (0.0)	9
		Satyajit Malugu (2158) 4.0	
		Siva Sankrithi (1501) 3.0	
		Ravi Kakkad (1122) 2.0	
2	JCR	Team JCR (0.0)	8.5
		Justin Yu (1952) 3.5	
		Chad Fondren (1521) 3.0	
		Riley McGinnis (unr.) 2.0	
3	HERITAGEP	Heritage Parents (0.0)	3
		Daniel Wilke (1725) 2.0	
		Marilyn Wilke (983) 1.0	
		Marc Olson (1028) 0.0	

Team Roster and Standings. WA Fall Mini-Teams Championship: Friends and Family Combined

	Code	Name	Score
1	BANDARD	Bandar Dads (0.0)	9+7.5=16.5
		Satyajit Malugu (2158) 4.0	
		Siva Sankrithi (1501) 3.0	
		Ravi Kakkad (1122) 2.0	
	BB	Bandar Bhais (1311.3) L1 W2 D5 W6 L3	
		Sarang Sankrithi (1420) 0.5 Bd: 1	
		Sankalp Malugu (1281) 2.0 Bd: 2	
		Vayu Kakkad (1233) 5.0 Bd: 3	
2	HERITAGEP	Heritage Parents (0.0)	3+2=5
		Daniel Wilke (1725) 2.0	
		Marilyn Wilke (983) 1.0	
		Marc Olson (1028) 0.0	
	HERITAGE	Heritage Co-Op (736.0) L3 L5 L6 L7 L2	
		Benjamin Olson (915) 0.0 Bd: 1	
		Timothy Liu (unr.) 0.0 Bd: 2	
		Isaiah Robarge (557) 2.0 Bd: 3	

2021 Northwest Chess Winter Open

Josh Sinanan

The 2021 Northwest Chess Winter Open was held online via Chess.com on December 11 under the direction of WCF Scholastic Director Rekha Sagar. The event was a fundraiser for *Northwest Chess* magazine and attracted 29 players from throughout the Pacific Northwest in a single Open section. Players from cities including Seattle, Redmond, Bellevue, Mukilteo, Bothell, Shoreline, Issaquah, Sammamish, Medina, Pullman, West Richland, Spokane, Portland, Beaverton, Vancouver (B.C.), Surrey (B.C.), and San Diego were represented in the five-round Swiss tournament. The event raised over \$500 for *Northwest Chess* magazine, the longest-running monthly printed State chess publication in the United States!

Top seed and heavy rating favorite Tian Sang was crowned the champion with a perfect 5 points from 5 games and

won a three-year subscription extension to *Northwest Chess* Magazine! Four players tied for second/third/U1900 with four points apiece, each winning a one-year subscription extension: Stephen Willy from Sammamish, Isaac (The Penguin) Vega from Beaverton, Ryan Ackerman from Spokane, and Ali Shakeri Kahmamouei from Pullman. With the shorter time control (Game in 25 minutes with a five-second increment), there were numerous upsets abound, most notably achieved by Abhinav Mishra (608 points) and Bohan Zhang (484 points). Seattleites Gabriel Razmov and Christopher Mayer shared U1700/U1500 honors with 3.5 points each. Derek Wang, a third grader from Medina Elementary School, scored three points and was awarded the U1300 prize for his efforts. Deeksha Shankaranand from Redmond won the U1100 prize with 1.5

points after scoring a 369-point upset-win in the third round. Youngster Aakash Mishra, a second grader from Ella Baker Elementary School in Redmond, won the U900 prize with one point. Newcomers Avishek Ghosh from San Diego and Wayne Xiong from Medina shared the first U700/unrated prize with two points each. Congratulations to the winners and a huge "thank you" to all our participants and supporters! We encourage you to read and submit games to *Northwest Chess*, and to be as much of an active part of this wonderful chess community as you are able!

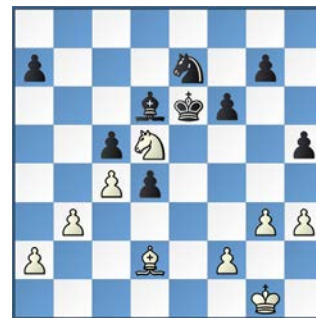
Stephen Willy (1802) –
Ryan Ackerman (1888) [C01]

Northwest Chess Winter Open
Chess.com (R4), December 11, 2021
[Stephen Willy and Ralph Dubisch]

Standings. Northwest Chess Winter Open

#	Name	Rtng	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Tot	Prize
1	Tian Sang	2344	W10	B---	W6	W9	W2	5	1st
2	Stephen Willy	1802	W12	W23	W5	W4	L1	4	Tied 2nd/3rd/U1900
3	Isaac Vega	1993	W13	L9	W7	W10	W11	4	Tied 2nd/3rd/U1900
4	Ryan Ackerman	1888	W14	W16	W29	L2	W9	4	Tied 2nd/3rd/U1900
5	Ali Shakeri Kahmamouei	2056	W27	W19	L2	B---	W16	4	Tied 2nd/3rd/U1900
6	Harry E Bell	2017	W20	D7	L1	W14	W29	3.5	
7	Gabriel Razmov	1605	W24	D6	L3	W25	W15	3.5	Tied 1st U1700/U1500
8	Christopher Mayer	1124	B---	W27	L10	W20	D14	3.5	Tied 1st U1700/U1500
9	Bohan Zhang	1509	W18	W3	W15	L1	L4	3	
10	Shuyi Han	1413	L1	W22	W8	L3	W17	3	
11	Valentin Razmov	1840	L23	W12	W13	W17	L3	3	
12	Derek Wang	1188	L2	L11	W26	W19	W21	3	1st U1300
13	Michael Xiong	1358	L3	W26	L11	W28	W18	3	
14	Eduard Edson	1304	L4	W18	W19	L6	D8	2.5	
15	Edward Cheng	1738	W22	W17	L9	D16	L7	2.5	
16	James Hamlett	1533	W28	L4	W23	D15	L5	2.5	
17	Wayne Xiong	unr.	W21	L15	W20	L11	L10	2	Tied 1st U700/unrated
18	Avishek Ghosh	unr.	L9	L14	W22	W23	L13	2	Tied 1st U700/unrated
19	Rick Matusiewicz	1540	W26	L5	L14	L12	W25	2	
20	Don Hack	1380	L6	W24	L17	L8	W26	2	
21	Yaseen Kamel	1494	L17	L25	W28	W24	L12	2	
22	Rhadean Rubaiyat	1135	L15	L10	L18	W27	W28	2	
23	Abhinav Mishra	1253	W11	L2	L16	L18	D24	1.5	Upset
24	Deeksha Shankaranand	1027	L7	L20	W27	L21	D23	1.5	1st U1100
25	Yi-Kuang Chang	1154	U---	W21	H---	L7	L19	1.5	
26	Samuel Xu	949	L19	L13	L12	B---	L20	1	
27	Sid Siddem	1396	L5	L8	L24	L22	B---	1	
28	Aakash Mishra	659	L16	B---	L21	L13	L22	1	1st U900
29	Removed	1680	U---	U---	L4	U---	L6	0	

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 exd5 4.Nf3 Bd6
5.Bd3 Ne7 6.0-0 Nbc6 7.h3 0-0 8.c3 Bf5
9.Bg5 Qd7 10.Re1 Bxd3 11.Qxd3 f6
12.Be3 Qf5 13.Qxf5 Nxf5 14.Nbd2 Rfe8
15.Nf1 Kf7 16.Bd2 h5 17.Rxe8 Rxe8
18.Re1 Rxe1 19.Nxe1 b6 20.g3 Na5 21.
Ng2 c5 22.Nfe3 Ke6 23.dxc5 bxc5 24.b3
Nc6 25.c4 Nxe3 26.Nxe3 d4 27.Nd5
Ne7?



Position after 27...Ne7

27...Kf5! 28.Kf1 Ke4 29.Ke2 d3+ 30.Kd1 Nd4

28.Nxe7 Bxe7 29.Kf1 Kf5 30.Ke2 Ke4
31.f3+ Kf5 32.g4+ hxg4 33.hxg4+ Ke5
34.Kd3 g6 35.f4+ Ke6 36.Ke4 f5+
37.gxf5+ gxf5+ 38.Kd3 Bh4 39.Ke2 Kf6
40.Ba5 Kg6 41.Kf3 Kh5 42.Bd2 Bf6
43.a3 Kh4?

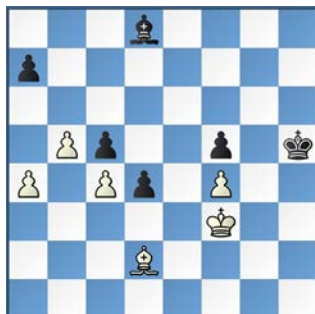
43...Kg6 44.b4 Kf7 45.Ke2 Ke6 46.Kd3

Kd6 repositions the black king to aid in defense.

44.b4! Be7

44...cxb4 45.axb4 a6 46.Bc1! Planning Bb2 and a c-pawn advance. 46...d3 (46...Be7 47.c5) 47.Ke3+-

45.b5 Kh5 46.a4 Bd8



Position after 46...Bd8

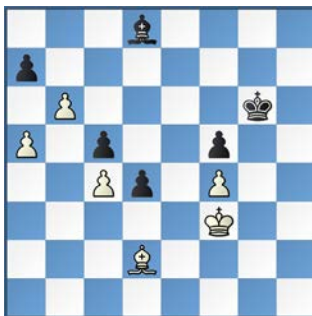
47.a5?

47.Bc1! Bb6 (47...Ba5 48.Ba3 Bb4 49.a5!! Bxa3 (49...Bxa5 50.Bxc5+-) 50.b6+-) 48.Ba3 a5! (48...Kg6 49.a5 Bxa5 50.Bxc5+-) 49.bxa6 Ba7± requires White to work out a win, likely involving zugzwang, bringing the bishop to b6 with pawn on a5, and/or king penetration.

47...Kg6?

47...Bc7 48.a6 (48.b6 axb6 49.a6 Bb8) 48...Bb6

48.b6!



Position after 48.b6

48...a6

48...Bxb6 49.axb6 axb6 50.Be1 Kf7 51.Bh4 Ke8± again leaves White working to discover a winning plan.

49.Bc1 Kf7

49...Be7 50.b7 Bd6 51.Ba3 d3 52.Bxc5 (52.Ke3 Kf7 53.Kxd3 Bxf4 54.Bxc5 Bb8∞) 52...d2 53.Ke2 Bxf4 54.Ba7+-

50.Ba3 Be7

50...Ke6 51.b7 Bc7 52.Bxc5 d3 53.Ke3+-

51.b7 Bd6 52.Bxc5 Bb8 53.Bxd4 Ke6 54.Be5

54.Be5 Ba7 55.b8Q Bxb8 56.Bxb8+- 1-0

Stephen Willy (1802) – Ali Shakeri Kahnemouei (2056) [C00]
Northwest Chess Winter Open
Chess.com (R3), December 11, 2021
[Stephen Willy and Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 e6 2.c4 Nc6 3.d4 Bb4+ 4.Bd2 Qh4!? 5.Bd3?!

5.Nf3 Qxe4+ 6.Be2 Bxd2+ 7.Qxd2∞, and White develops compensation for the pawn playing Nc3 with tempo on the queen.

5...Bxd2+ 6.Qxd2 Nxd4 7.Nc3



Position after 7.Nc3

7...Nf6?!

2ND ANNUAL WASHINGTON CHESS960 (FISCHER RANDOM) CHAMPIONSHIP



Info: Josh Sinanan, WCF President

Phone: 206-769-3757

Email:

WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com

Registration: Online at nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration
Registration deadline Sat, Jan 29 @ 5 PM.

SUN, JANUARY 30, 2022

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

Format: A 5-Round Swiss in two sections: Championship and Premier (U1600). Sections may be combined depending on the number of registered players.

Entry Fee: \$35 by Jan 26, \$40 after. \$20 play-up fee for players rated below 1600 and playing in the Championship section.

Time Control: G/30; +10

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

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

Prize Fund: \$725 (based on 30 paid entries)

Per section prizes: 1st: \$125, 2nd: \$100, 3rd: \$75

Overall prizes: Best NW-region player (by TPR): \$50; Best Female player (by TPR): \$50; Best upset: \$25

Rating: Unrated. Section eligibility and pairings based on the highest of current NWSRS, US Chess Online, or US Chess Regular rating (Jan 2022 supplement).

Highest finishing Washington resident in Open Section will be awarded the title "WA State Chess960 Champion."

Memberships: Players must be current WCF members / Northwest Chess subscribers and have an active Chess.com account. No US Chess membership necessary. Zoom monitoring with webcam required.

Procedure: Pairings released before the start of each round. Each round features a different, randomized starting position of the back-rank pieces! Players have 3 minutes to examine the starting position before clocks start. Games are started automatically by the TD in the [Live Chess](#) area. Players must report their result to the TD after their game.

Fair Play Policy: All players must sign the [WCF Fair Play Agreement](#) prior to the start of the tournament. All players will be monitored by Zoom during their games. WCF's Fair Play Committee will review any suspicious games on a case-by-case basis. Fair play violators will be haunted for life by the ghost of Bobby Fischer!

Useful Chess960 links:

■ <https://chess960.net/how-to-play/>

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

■ <https://www.chess.com/terms/chess960>

7...d6
 8.g3?
 8.e5 Ng4 9.g3 Qh6 10.f4 d6
 8...Qh5 9.Qe3 e5
 9...Qc5!? 10.Nge2 e5 11.0-0 d6
 10.f3 d6 11.h4



Position after 11.h4

11...0-0?!

11...Nd7 gives the queen some paths back home. 12.Nd5 Kd8 13.0-0-0 (13.g4 Qh6 14.g5 Qh5 15.0-0-0) 13...f6 14.g4 Qf7 (14...Qh6 15.f4) 15.Ne2 Ne6 is quite unclear, but Black does have an extra pawn.

12.g4 Nxf6 13.fxf6 Qxf6 14.Qg5 Qf3?
 14...f5! with good compensation, for

example 15.Qxg4 fxf6 16.0-0-0 Bd7 17.Nge2 Ne6 18.Rhf1 g6.

15.Nxf3 Nxf3+ 16.Ke2 Nxf5 17.hxg5 f6 18.gxf6

Or 18.Rag1±

18...Rxf6 19.Nd5 Bg4+ 20.Kd2 Rf2+ 21.Kc3 Rf7 22.Rag1 Bf3 23.Rh3 c6

23...Raf8 24.c5±

24.Ne3 b5?

24...Rf4 25.Nf5 g6 26.Nxd6± White is

very close to winning in all these lines.

25.Nf5+- Rxf5 26.exf5 e4 27.cxb5 cxb5 28.Bxb5 Rc8+ 29.Kd4 Kh8 30.Bc4 Rf8 31.Be6 a6 32.Rc1 a5 33.Rg1 a4 34.Rhg3 h6 35.Rxg7 h5 36.Ra7

36.R1g6 intending Re7 and Rh6# seems the quickest win.

36...Bg4 37.Kxe4 Rb8 38.Kf4 Rb4+ 39.Kg5 Rb7 40.Rxb7 Be2 41.Kh6

1-0



WASHINGTON PRESIDENT'S CUP A NORTHWEST CHESS GRAND PRIX EVENT

FEBRUARY 05-06, 2022

Sites:

Open section: Orlov Chess Academy – Greenlake, 7212 Woodlawn Ave NE, Seattle, WA 98115

Reserve section: Orlov Chess Academy – Redmond, 4174 148th Ave NE, Building I, Ste. M, Redmond, WA 98052

Format: A 5-Round Swiss event in two sections: Open and Reserve (U1600). Max 25 players in Open section, max 20 players in Reserve (U1600) – please register early!

Entry Fee: Must be paid by Feb 02: no late or on-site registrations or payments. \$65 by Jan 29, \$75 after. Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs, or US Chess 2400+. \$40 play-up fee if rated under 1600 and playing in Open section.

Time Control: Rd. 1: G/60+10; Rd. 2-5: 40/120, SD/30; +10

Rounds: Sat @ 9:30 AM, 12 PM, 6 PM; Sun @ 10 AM, 4 PM

Prize Fund: \$1,500 (based on 45 paid entries)

Open: 1st \$250, 2nd \$150, 3rd \$125

1st U2000/U1800: \$100, Biggest Upset: \$25

Reserve: 1st \$200, 2nd \$125, 3rd \$100

1st U1400/U1200/U1000/Unrated: \$75, Biggest Upset: \$25

Highest finishing WA resident in the Open Section seeded into the 2023 WA State Championship – Invitational section.

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

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

Rating: Dual rated - US Chess and NWSRS. Rounds 2-5 also FIDE rated for Open section. Highest of US Chess Regular (Feb 2022 rating supplement), US Chess Online, and NWSRS used to determine pairings and prizes. Higher of US Chess and foreign ratings used at TD discretion.

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



Info / Entries:

Contact: Josh Sinanan, WCF

President

Phone: 206-769-3757

Email:

WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com

Registration: Online at

nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration

Registration and payment

deadline: Wed, Feb 02 @ 5pm.

Unpaid players will be removed from the roster after the deadline, and players from a Waitlist will be offered a spot.

Miscellaneous Game

This interesting game was played at the weekly Chess Meetup at the Handlebar in Boise. Alex and I, while we have plenty of opportunities, just don't play each other very often. So this was nice that we were able to play here.

Alex James Machin (1782) –
Jeffrey T. Roland (1700) [D35]

Casual Game Boise, ID,
December 11, 2021
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Be7 4.Nf3 Nf6
5.Bg5 h6 6.Bh4 Nbd7 7.cxd5 exd5 8.e3
0-0 9.Bd3 c5

9...c6 is, of course, the normal, slightly passive, continuation. After 10.Qc2 Re8 11.0-0 Ne4 it's about even.

10.dxc5

10.0-0!?

10...Nxc5 11.Nd4 Nxd3+

11...Nce4!? 12.Bxe4 Nxe4 (Or 12... dxe4 13.0-0± (but not 13.Bxf6?! Bxf6 14.Nxe4?? Bxd4 15.exd4 Re8+)) 13.Bxe7 Qxe7 14.Nxd5 Qg5 15.Nf4 Qa5+ gives Black at least some compensation for the pawn.

12.Qxd3 Be6 13.0-0 Nh5?!

Although it's standard in Queen's Gambit Declined positions for Black to be

cramped and in need of piece exchanges, here the more important positional element is the IQP—the isolani on d5. When playing with an isolated pawn like this one, exchanges just tend to accentuate the weakness and bring the game closer to a slightly disadvantageous endgame. Also the knight on the rim will need time to return to the action. 13...Rc8± seems a better choice.

14.Bxe7 Qxe7 15.Nf5!?



Position after 15.Nf5

White embarks on a tactical mission to win the d-pawn. Another attempt, 15.Nxd5? Bxd5 16.Nf5 runs into the pin 16...Qg5! 17.Qxd5 g6 18.Nxh6+ Qxh6 19.Qxb7±, when White's three pawns for the knight aren't very threatening.; 15.Rfd1± is the natural, conservative continuation.

15...Qd7 16.Nxd5!?

16.Nd4± returns to the recognizable tableau, with Black having the isolated

queen pawn.

16...Rad8

16...Rae8!? takes away the e7-forks, and starts a relatively forced sequence to an equal ending. 17.e4 Bxf5 18.exf5 Re5 19.Rad1 Rd8 20.Ne7+ Rxe7 21.Qf3 Qe8 22.Qxh5 Rxd1 23.Qxd1 Re2

17.Nde7+?

Wrong knight! 17.Nfe7+ Kh8 18.Rfd1 Rfe8 19.Qe2 g6 20.Nxg6+! fxg6 21.Nf6!, and now Black must choose between playing two minors vs rook and two pawns, or giving up the queen and pawns for rook and two minors. All very unclear, but the engine claims it favors White by a small margin. 21...Nxf6 22.Rxd7 Rxd7±

17...Kh8?

The Stockfish engine finds the truly non-intuitive 17...Kh7!, walking into a discovered check! But there's no danger, and the improved king position leads to a Black advantage: 18.Nd4+ g6 19.Qa3 Rfe8 20.Nxg6 fxg6±



Position after 17...Kh8

18.Qxd7?

18.Qc2! g6 (18...Qd2 19.Qc5 Qxb2 20.Nd4 Nf4 21.Rab1∞ Very messy.) 19.Rfd1! Qe8 20.Rxd8 Qxd8 21.Rd1 Qe8 22.Nxg6+ fxg6 23.Nd6∞ With g6 falling, White will end up with three pawns for the piece.

18...Rxd7 19.Rfd1 Rfd8 20.Rxd7 Rxd7 21.Rc1

21.g4 Nf6± Knights that protect each other lose mobility and influence, and become vulnerable to undermining threats, such as ...g6 here.

21...g6 22.Rc8+

22.Nxg6+ fxg6 23.Nd4+ Black is technically winning, of course, but with two pawns for the piece and a super-solid knight in the center, White can put up stiff resistance.

22...Kh7 23.g4 Rd1+ 24.Kg2 Bxc8

0-1

Thank you, Ralph, for annotating this game for us!—Jeffrey Roland, editor



Alex Machin. Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.

Detective Cookie

Karen Schmidt

I had frequently been seeing Seattle Police Department's (SPD) Detective Denise Cookie Bouldin, known as Detective Cookie, on the evening news over the years, and had always hoped to meet her in person at some point. She has run an inner-city free chess program for kids for the last dozen years or so. In late September 2021, I heard about the October 2 and 3, 2021, Susan Polgar Foundation National Open (SPFNO) K-12 scholastic tournament to be held in Bellevue, Washington. I volunteered to help all weekend in any way needed—and was very excited at the prospect of meeting both Susan Polgar and Detective Cookie in person.

I did in fact meet Detective Cookie at 8:20 AM on the first day of the event, when I joined her in straightening up the 220 chess boards and chairs in three ballrooms at the Bellevue Hyatt Regency Hotel, in preparation for round one. We didn't have a lot of time to chit-chat, because part way through our task, we discovered that some boards had been set up backwards; and some had been set up with "only" the king and queen backwards. It was a very busy hour and forty minutes.

But I did have several opportunities over the weekend to speak with Detective Cookie, and we really hit it off well. There

were several of her "chess program kids" competing in the national tournament. In fact, one of her students won second place in the K-5 Open Section. The trophy was quite a bit taller than the nine-year-old girl! On Sunday, the second day, I was able to take a break in a quiet room with Larry Greenawalt, the head volunteer coach for Detective Cookie's program. I was surprised to learn that Larry, a senior like myself, is still working fulltime as a mainframe computer programmer for a large corporation; the chess volunteering is on top of his full-time job! We had a great chat for about an hour, and I learned quite a bit about Detective Cookie and her chess program.

After the Polgar event and recently, I attended a ceremony honoring Detective Cookie; it was held at the Detective Cookie Chess Park named for her. The park is on Rainier Avenue in the Rainier Beach area, and the Saturday event was well attended, in spite of the drizzly Seattle fall weather. The Superhero Chess Event included African drummers, a group of teenage girl tap dancers (amazing talent!), snacks and juice, a program honoring Detective Cookie, remarks by Detective Cookie herself, chess playing, and fried chicken. I attended with another chess friend of mine, and true to the superhero theme of the event, both he and his little Pomeranian dog were wearing Superman T-shirts. I was wearing a modest Batman lanyard and lapel button. During the presentation, in honor of her many years of community service, Detective Cookie was given a carved chess set from South Africa, and a black cape reading "Black Queen The Most Powerful Piece in The Game."

The cape came with a gold eye mask, both of which Detective Cookie wore with good humor, during her remarks about her own personal history and how she came to be running this Detective Cookie Chess Club program. Detective Cookie gave some interesting backstories about her youth growing up in Chicago, and how she eventually became a police officer. She came from a family of seven children (five boys and two girls). She mentioned that no one in her Chicago neighborhood really liked the police. She related how on several occasions some of

her five brothers would be "hanging out" playing in front of their own apartment building, and the Chicago police would come by and make them lie down on the sidewalk to be searched for drugs or weapons. It began to dawn on her why people didn't seem to like the police—although at a young age she already had a desire to become a police officer when she grew up. Detective Cookie became a dancer on the tv show "Soul Train," and later on, a professional model—with her pictures appearing in several magazines such as *Jet* and *Ebony*—as well as other magazines, designer ads and stores—including swimsuit model photos for *Jet* magazine! Eventually she came to Seattle, where she took and passed the required Police Academy training and courses to become a police officer.

One summer working as an officer for the Seattle Police Department, Detective Cookie organized a basketball game between inner city kids (sixth through 12th grades) and Seattle Police Officers—in order to try to improve community relations. Although the cops were ahead at half time, their energy gave out and the youth (who never got tired) won the game. They had a great time getting to know each other. When she tried to organize a second game the following year, several of the kids told her that not everybody plays basketball... and they would rather do something else. They suggested a chess tournament. Detective Cookie knew nothing about chess at the time, but she was determined to grant the youth their wish. At the appointed day and time, about 20 kids showed up for the tournament, but only two or three of them knew how to play chess! Detective Cookie did not know how to play chess either, so that is when her chess club began. Detective Cookie found some volunteers to teach the kids how to play chess. Their weekly chess club meetings grew quickly from about three participants, to 20, then 30, and then over 60 showing up to play chess. Detective Cookie took up learning chess in a big way too, when she was invited by Wendi Fisher of the American Foundation for Chess to attend one of her chess training workshops. In 30 minutes Detective Cookie was playing chess and loving it—in fact Detective Cookie and I recently compared notes about



how to solve several of the Chess.com Daily Puzzles. My “interviewee,” Larry Greenawalt, saw an internet news story about Detective Cookie’s program four or five years ago, and has been volunteering ever since. He works one-on-one with some of the higher-level students. He sits off to the side with one to three kids at a time during the two-hour meeting—spending half an hour with each small group.

Larry and I are in complete agreement that when working with young children, as a chess teacher you have to make the lesson *dramatic*, and *fun*. Detective Cookie, in her full SPD uniform, definitely keeps things dramatic and fun. The uniform helps ensure good “crowd control” also.

I was very touched during Detective Cookie’s remarks at the chess park ceremony to hear several of her former “chess kids” speak up about how the chess program had enriched and improved their lives—and kept them on a good path, rather than the path of gangs and drugs. One young man is a college graduate now; another college grad spoke about how he now works for a local bakery which, coincidentally, only makes cookies! These young men were not “on the program” as speakers that day; they just spoke up spontaneously to share their experiences. Another young man stated that he met Detective Cookie when he was in the third grade, when Detective Cookie would come to the Rainier Vista Boys and Girls Club to teach chess. He explained

that Detective Cookie taught him how to play chess, as well as other life lessons about how to avoid peer pressure, make good decisions, and stay away from drugs and gangs. He also emphasized that chess is like the real world: the wrong decisions you make on the chessboard can cause you to “lose” your King, with Checkmate. But in the real world, the wrong decisions can cause you to lose your life or your freedom. This “mantra” is from Detective Cookie’s chess lessons, and she still includes it in her teaching of chess and anti-violence weekly workshops.

Through private donations and the City of Seattle, Seattle Department of Transportation, Seattle Department of Neighborhoods, the Seattle Parks Foundation, the Friends of Detective Cookie Chess Park and many more contributors, the Detective Cookie Chess Park has managed to obtain grants and donations of over \$200,000 for the construction of the Detective Cookie Chess Park. So far at the future Detective Cookie Chess Park location (9201 Rainier Ave South, Seattle, Washington) there are two giant striking steel sculptures of a chess king and queen, highly visible from the nearby streets. Eventually there will be permanent chess tables and a giant concrete “chess board” with squares measuring two feet by two feet. The park is at a busy intersection and near multiple businesses, neighborhoods and low income housing. It will be a positive meeting spot for all ages and a great asset to the diverse community.



*Detective Cookie.
Photo credit: Karen Schmidt.*

The Saturday noon to 2 PM Detective Cookie Chess Club formerly met inside the Rainier Beach Community Center (8825 South Rainier Avenue), as well as at the Rainier Beach Library, the Rainier Vista Boys and Girls Club, the Southeast Senior Center, and also at several Seattle Public Schools in South Seattle. Due to COVID concerns, they have recently been playing chess outdoors under canopies at the future Detective Cookie Chess Park location, at community events and other pop-up chess locations during the fall. Now with the winter rains, and while they wait for the children’s forthcoming COVID vaccines, they are taking a break until springtime. The Detective Cookie Chess Club is still participating in online chess tournaments through National Chess Master Josh Sinanan, the current President of the Washington State Chess Federation. If you know children who would like to participate, or if you are interested in volunteering in the spring, please contact Detective Cookie at denise.bouldin@seattle.gov; or at gabrielle2004@aol.com.

Detective Denise Cookie Bouldin gives thanks to the Seattle Police Department, the Seattle Police Foundation, the Seattle Public Schools, and the Seattle Parks Department for giving her the opportunity to teach her chess/anti-violence program as part of the Community Outreach Unit. Detective Cookie also thanks all those who have in some way made this Detective Cookie Chess Club and Park a reality.

Many thanks, Detective Cookie, for creating and maintaining such a wonderful, successful, community outreach chess program!



Photo credit: Karen Schmidt.

ICA Chess News From The North

Adam Porth

North Idaho Open

The North Idaho Open finishes with Cambareri winning again!

Despite Delta-variant patients filling the Kootenai County hospitals in Idaho, schools are open, and folks in northern Idaho carry on with normal life—including the North Idaho Open held in Lakeland Senior High School Library on September 25 in Rathdrum! Seven individuals showed up with masks on to play the beloved game of chess...over-the-board!

With three players traveling from Moscow, Idaho, and four local players, it was decided just prior to starting to play a round-robin with G/30;d5 controls to increase the number of games. It really was all Kenneth Erickson's and Michael Cambareri's show, however, as they dominated the tournament with Ken (5.0/6) losing only to Michael (6.0/6).

2021 Rathdrum Rush

October 23 brought blitz chess to northern Idaho in the Rathdrum Rush, which was a free tournament offered by the Idaho Chess Association including six rounds of G/10;d5 games in Rathdrum, Idaho. This means games were approximately 20 minutes in length at most, but as many young and inexperienced players moved too fast, the rounds finished rapidly. Ten minutes can be a long time and it does allow for thinking and strategizing.

I feel that a variety of time controls should be offered by our organization to give everyone an opportunity to play games with time controls they are comfortable with and uncomfortable with to improve and to practice.

Ken Erickson was hoping his rival would show so he could earn some rating points; however, Michael Cambareri had other plans. Ken settled for educating the rest of us on playing faster chess. He won the tournament with a perfect score of 6.0/6. Second and third place were granted to Washingtonians Andrew Beeksma (5.0/6) and Jeremy Burnett (4.0/6). All-in-all the afternoon of chess proved an enjoyable rainy weekend.

Idaho Wins In Montana!

Four players from the Spokane Chess Club, and three from northern Idaho, traveled to Missoula over the weekend of November 6 to play in the Montana Chess Association's Turkey Open.

Michael Cambareri and Brad Brodie dominated, winning first and second place with 5.0/5 and 4.0/5 respectively.

The tournament attracted 43 players and boasted seven players rated over 1800, with players from all over

Montana! I was also impressed with the number of players rated over 1600 that were in attendance. The tournament ran smoothly; each round began on time with occasional announcements from tournament organizers.

I also connected with Montana President Kevin Kuehnel to coordinate future events and activities. As you will notice, we help Montana keep players informed of opportunities in that state, as well as other surrounding states, on our homepage calendars.

I hope that we will have some exchange tournaments in the near future!

Michael Cambareri. Photo credit: Adam Porth.

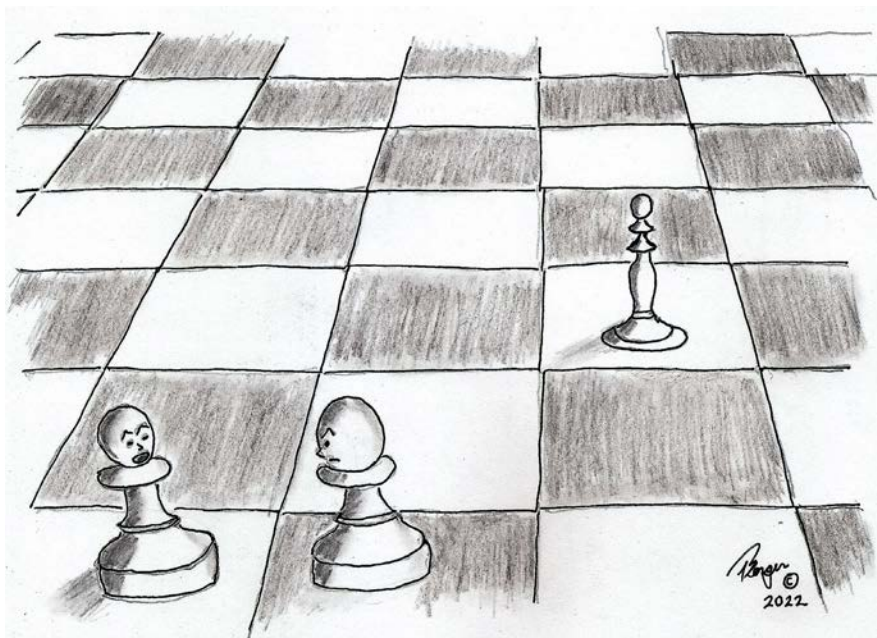


Upcoming Tournament Announcement!

♞ denotes 2022 Northwest Grand Prix event; for Seattle Chess Club events see page 30

♞ **Feb 26-27** The 29th Collyer Memorial, **Spokane, WA.** The Spokane Chess Club and the Gary Younker Foundation, in memory of Ellen Collyer and former club presidents Dave Collyer and Gary Younker, proudly present the Twenty-Ninth Collyer Memorial tournament. Location: Holiday Inn (Airport), 1616 South Windsor Dr, Spokane, WA. I-90 to Highway 2 (Airport); exit east (right) on Sunset Highway to Windsor Drive. Ask for chess rate (\$109 per night) by Feb 11; call (509) 838-1170. Format: A computer-paired, five-round Swiss System event. Registration: 9:00-9:45, Feb 26. Rounds: 10-2:30-7; 9-1:30 or ASAP. Time control: G/115;d5. Entry fee: \$30 if received by 2/25, \$35 at the door; under 19 \$10 less. Telephone entries accepted (pay at door). All registrants must check in by 9:40 unless a first-round bye was granted. Prizes: \$1,800 GUARANTEED prize fund. 1st \$350, 2nd \$225, 3rd \$125. Class prizes based on at least 5 per class; classes may be reconfigured if less than five class entries. Top Expert \$100; \$100 first, \$70 second in classes A, B, C, D, E/unrated. Jim Waugh Biggest Upset prizes: \$100 & \$50 (non-provisional ratings). Only one prize per player (excluding biggest upset). NS, NC, W. Misc.: One ½-point bye available if requested by end of round 3. Director reserves the right to use class pairings in final round. Entries: Spokane CC c/o Kevin Korsmo, N. 9923 Moore, Spokane, WA 99208-9339. For information or to enter please call (509) 270-1772. Check website for updates: www.spokanechessclub.org. Health/Safety: **MUST BE VACCINATED** (or have recent negative COVID test) to play.

I DON'T CARE
IF HE DOES
COME FROM
A LONG LINE
OF ENGLISH
ARISTOCRATS,
HE DOESN'T
FIT IN!



Chandra Alexis Chess Club

Upcoming *Northwest Chess* grand prix

chandraalexischessclub.org

US Chess and *FIDE* rated tournaments for January—February

Downstairs: Scott Hayhurst DMD building at 7337 W. Northview Street, Suite 4, Boise Idaho 83704.

5 SS; G/90, +30; EF: \$37.50; \$300 b/10; Sat: 9 am, 1:30 pm, 6 pm & Sun: 9 am, 1:30 pm

Once six players have registered and paid their entry fees two Mondays before round one, this tournament is *FIDE* rated.

Sponsored by MexInsurance.com: January 22-23, 2022: [Two Bishops Arena](#).

January 29-30, 2022: [欢迎来到虎年!](#) ([Welcome to the Year of the Tiger](#)),

February 5-6, 2022: [Tilted Towers](#).

February 12-13, 2022: [Lakeside Thinker's FIDE](#)



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 Fridays



One USCF-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!

January Thaw: 1/7, 14, 21, 28.
Cabin Fever: 2/4, 11, 18, 25.
March Winds (Close Ratings): 3/4, 11, 18, 25.
April Fools G/15 (4 or 5 rds.): 4/1.
April Showers: 4/8, 15, 22, 29.

 **January 8**  **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.

January 9  **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.

 **Jan. 15-16**  **Seattle City Championship**
Format: 5-rd. Swiss. **TC:** G/100;+30. **EF:** \$44 (\$33 for SCC mem.) by 1/10, \$56 (\$44) thereafter. **Unrateds** free w/purch. 1-yr US Chess & WCF. **Prize Fund:** \$585 (b/22, 3/prz gp). **Prizes:** \$150-100, X 65, A 60; B 55, C 50, D 45, E & under 40, Unr. 20. **Reg:** Sat. 9-9:45 a.m. **Rds:** Sat. 10-2:45-7:30, Sun. 11-4. **Byes:** 2 available. Rounds 4 or 5 must commit at registration. **Misc:** US Chess, WCF memb. req'd; OSA. NS, NC.

 **January 23**  **Sunday Tornado**
Format: 4-SS. **TC:** G/60; d5. **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 Board election,
January 7th at 7:30 p.m.**

RON KIRSCH MEMORIAL ADULT SWISS

January 29-30, 2022

A four-round Swiss open to those born before 1/30/2001 with a prize fund of \$350.

First	\$110	U1700	\$50
Second	\$70	U1400	\$40
U2000	\$60	U1100/Unr	\$20

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:** USCF req'd. NS. NC.

Sponsored by Henry Yan.

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

Murlin Varner, no longer pointless

Three events were held in November. These included the Seattle Chess Club Extravaganza!, the November SCC Quads, and the Washington Class Championships. The latter was the first large OTB open event held in Washington since the pandemic hit. Considering mask mandates, vaccination requirements and brand-new variants, the attendance was exceptional. Over the last five pre-covid years, this tournament has been very consistent, with attendance ranging between 167 and 179 players. This year, despite all our issues, we hit a very respectable 155 entrants. This is more than double our online version of the 2021 Washington Open last spring.

With a \$10,000 based-on 150 prize fund (which means \$5,000 was guaranteed), this event had a 5x multiplier. Every point earned was worth five points and completing your schedule was worth ten. A perfect score would have awarded a total of 40 Grand Prix points. This large multiplier had a major effect on the standings in Washington and shook up the “Others” category as well. Speaking of “Others,” the Class Championships had 12 players from Oregon, plus one each from California, Connecticut, the District of Columbia, New York, and Utah. Welcome. travelers!

The standings you see here are not quite done yet, as we still have five events scheduled for December. By the time you get this, of course most of those will be over, but you may still have time for the Washington Winter Classic, held online on December 26 and 27. Instead of returning gifts, you could play chess. (That event is a 2x event, too.)

So far this year, we have had 367 players in Grand Prix events who have entered into those events 723 times. This compares to 574/1388 in 2019 and 464/1150 in 2020. This year has been distinctly lower, in part because of waning interest in online events, and, of course, in 2019 both Idaho and Oregon were participating in the Grand Prix.

Perhaps in 2022 we can welcome one or both of those states back to the program. I’d enjoy seeing my final year at the helm be a very successful one. We have one organizer in Idaho planning on holding many Grand Prix events (which are going to be dual rated in the US Chess and FIDE systems). Now if the ICA should decide to join in, I could get rid of that “Others” category.

All data is current through November 30.

Washington			Other Places					
last	first	pts.	last	first	state	pts.		
Masters			Masters					
1	Perez	Ignacio	106.0	1	Guha	Mitrabha	IND	83.0
2	Haining	Kyle	35.0	2	Talukdar	Rohan	CAN	70.0
3	Levine	Joseph	31.0	3	Lenderman	Aleksandr	NY	51.0
4	Pupols	Viktors	30.0	4	Kulkarni	Ojas	CA	42.0
5	Porter	Ryan	28.0	5	Shahinyan	David	ARM	30.5
Experts			Experts					
1	Jiang	Brandon	63.0	1	Sripada	Havish	OR	25.0
2	Chang	Eddie	42.0	2	Jorajuria Mendoza	Algol	MEX	22.0
3	Vijayakumar	Advait	41.0	3	Thurlow	Ryan G	NY	12.5
4	Bell	Harry	31.0	4	Tang	Austin	OR	12.0
5	Liang	Yu-Cheng	30.0	5	Guha	Eshan	NJ	11.0
Class A			Class A					
1	Nicoski	Aaron M	111.5	1	Vega	Isaac	OR	41.0
2	Razmov	Valentin N	74.5	2	Kodarapu	Ishaan	OR	40.0
3	Vemparala	Nikash	74.0	3	Hosford	Michael J	OR	38.5
4	Lu	Yiding	61.0	4	Ingram	Richard	CAN	38.0
5	Ackerman	Ryan	54.5	5	Murray	David E	OR	18.0
Class B			Class B					
1	Zhou	Leonardo	49.0	1	Le	Hung	OR	10.0
2	Li	Edward S	45.5	2	Beauchet	Pierre-Hadrien	OR	9.0
3	Wang	Felicity	44.5	2	Korda	Christopher J	FL	9.0
4	Campbell	Tim	40.5	2	Walquist	Elaine	OR	9.0
5	Toppen-Ryan	Harrison	38.5	5	He	Justin S	TX	8.0
Class C			Class C					
1	Cheng	Edward	91.0	1	Sripada	Anisha	OR	40.5
2	Zhu	Jamie Z	70.5	2	Vasey	Daniel	OR	35.0
3	Hamlett	James M	69.0	3	Yang	Arnold T	OR	30.0
4	Karthikeyan	Harishkumar	64.0	4	Rodriguez-Melendez	Mauricio	OR	17.0
4	Zhang	Michelle	64.0	5	Wei	Brian	OR	13.0
Class D and below			Class D and below					
1	Razmov	Gabriel	88.5	1	Hack	Don	CAN	53.5
2	Cheng	Selina	81.5	2	Yang	Arthur T	OR	32.5
3	Devadithya	Hiruna	61.0	3	Lanka	Laasya S	OR	30.0
4	Ramkumar	Nikhil	60.0	3	Traynor	Zach	DC	30.0
5	Kamel	Yaseen	56.0	3	Zhu	Alexander	OR	30.0
Overall standings								
1	Nicoski	Aaron M	111.5	1	Guha	Mitrabha	IND	83.0
2	Perez	Ignacio	106.0	2	Talukdar	Rohan	CAN	70.0
3	Cheng	Edward	91.0	3	Hack	Don	CAN	53.5
4	Razmov	Gabriel	88.5	4	Lenderman	Aleksandr	NY	51.0
5	Cheng	Selina	81.5	5	Kulkarni	Ojas	CA	42.0
6	Razmov	Valentin N	74.5	6	Vega	Isaac	OR	41.0
7	Vemparala	Nikash	74.0	7	Sripada	Anisha	OR	40.5
8	Zhu	Jamie Z	70.5	8	Kodarapu	Ishaan	OR	40.0
9	Hamlett	James M	69.0	9	Hosford	Michael J	OR	38.5
10	Karthikeyan	Harishkumar	64.0	10	Ingram	Richard	CAN	38.0
10	Zhang	Michelle	64.0	11	Vasey	Daniel	OR	35.0
12	Jiang	Brandon	63.0	12	Yang	Arthur T	OR	32.5
13	Devadithya	Hiruna	61.0	13	Shahinyan	David	ARM	30.5
13	Lu	Yiding	61.0	14	Four Tied at			30.0
15	Ramkumar	Nikhil	60.0					

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