



\$3.95

February 2022

Anthony He
FIDE International Master



Northwest Chess

February 2022, Volume 76-02 Issue 889

ISSN Publication 0146-6941

Published monthly by the Northwest Chess Board.

To see the games from this issue online click:

https://www.nwchess.com/articles/games/published/NWC_2022_Published_Games_cb.htm#202202

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

Periodicals postage paid at Seattle, Washington
USPS periodicals postage permit number (0422-390)

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Ignacio Perez 1967-2022

Dear Chess Friends,

It is with great sadness that I'm writing to inform you about the passing of Ignacio Perez after a long battle with throat cancer. He was 54.

FM Ignacio Perez was a two-time Washington State Champion (2007, 2013) and the reigning Washington Senior Champion. He was an avid speed chess player, a legendary attacker, and always a true gentleman at the chess board. He will be greatly missed.

Best Regards,

Josh Sinanan



*Ignacio Perez with the Washington State Championship trophy during the 2021 Washington State Championship.
Photo credit: Josh Sinanan.*

He Is An IM!

Anthony He

Four years ago I achieved my FIDE Master title seemingly effortlessly, thanks to the magical K-value of 40 and a good tournament at the 2017 Washington Championship. I was only 12 back then; I thought I would just keep on climbing up the rating ladder, and my “talents” would bring home the reputable IM or even GM title soon.

Well, not that soon. What happened later was that I realized the challenges I had to face were much stronger than I expected, and counting on “raw talents” would bring only disappointments. Who isn’t talented at the FM+ level anyway? The high K-value was a double-edged sword: my rating may go up a lot when I win, but it also could drop sharply when I lose. Therefore serious training and strong tournaments one after another are the only way to keep improving. Luckily I live in a vibrant and nurturing Pacific Northwest chess community. I got the chance to play a lot of strong tournaments at home, in addition to traveling to national tournaments such as the Chicago Open and World Open.

In November 2018 I won the bronze medal at the North America Junior Championship in Mexico, and I scored my first IM norm. I felt I was getting better and started beating GMs and IMs in tournaments. Many chess players may have experienced this: every time when you feel unbeatable something unexpected and unfortunate happens causing your rating to go down. This was exactly my chess in 2019—I beat some strong GMs, but I also lost to a 1900 and scored zero norms, even though I was very close in several tournaments. It was truly frustrating, but my dad would always encourage me, “just keep on working hard, and when you are strong enough, the rating and title will come naturally!” Yeah right. I also need to work hard on my high school curriculum. Balancing schoolwork and chess is another challenge I need to face, on top of handling the anxiety to achieve my IM title as soon as possible.

And then we all know what happened in 2020—the pandemic hit, and over-the-board chess literally disappeared. As a result, players turned to playing online. Suddenly, playing titled players was no longer a big thing—they were in every

online tournament. They were also not just regular GMs; some were world famous 2700+ GMs! I remember in one of the PNWCC G/60 tournaments that summer, there were about 50 GMs in a 150-player field. You’d have to win a lottery not to face a GM! Such tournaments were the dream of aspiring players. I got many strong games without even walking out of my house. Not only that, but elite trainers also became available to non-professional players.

If you had told me that I could get a chance to attend a camp taught by the former world champion GM Vladimir Kramnik and former world championship challenger GM Boris Gelfand at home, I would have called you crazy. But it happened, more than once! I even got a chance to play some blitz games with them. Skills and knowledge were building up over the year, and even though my rating stayed put, I felt more ready than ever that I could take a step forward.

Then came 2021; the pandemic was still not over, but our society and chess community started to adapt our lives to the new reality. FIDE announced early in the year the innovative Hybrid event format—games are played online with local arbiter supervision and will be rated equally as OTB tournaments. PNWCC jumped on the idea and started hosting FIDE-rated hybrid events, with the help from FIDE Arbiter Andrei Botez and International Arbiter GM Emil Anka. I was able to improve my FIDE rating from 2300 to mid-2400 through these events.

Here I’d like to present you a hybrid game I played with IM Sasho Nikolov, from Bulgaria. This game was critical to my IM title as it helped me to cross the FIDE 2400 mark. Be alert though—it’s a 99-move boring “rook endgame!” It shows one of my “secrets” to climb up the rating ladder—endgame is our friend, be good at it! :)

The second game I want to show is one of the very important wins I had in my first OTB norm event after almost two years, against strong GM Andrey Stokopin.

The last game I’m going to share is the one with my friend FM Milind Maiti from California, whom I first played nearly ten

years ago in my first elementary national championship. That’s one beautiful thing that chess brings to us—we make friends around the country and world.

Achieving an IM title is a milestone for my chess career, but it won’t be the last one. I also hope the next generation of players continue to pursue their own dreams and accomplish their own goals. Cheers!

**Sasho Nikolov (2240) –
Anthony He (2320) [D02]**
PNWCC – Plovdiv Hybrid
Chess.com (R3), July 4, 2021
[Anthony He]

**1.Nf3 d5 2.g3 Nd7 3.d4 Nb6 4.Bg2 Bf5
5.0-0 e6 6.a4 a5**



Position after 6...a5

7.Nc3!?

Unorthodox. White wants plans with e4 by reserving the d2-square for his f3-knight. 7.Nbd2 h6 (7...Nf6 8.c4 c6 9.Nh4 (D. Andreikin – K. Alekseenko, Chess.com INT 2020) 9...dxc4 10.Nxf5 exf5 11.e3 Qd7.) 8.Re1 Nf6 9.Ne5 Be7 (9...Nbd7 10.Nxd7 Qxd7 11.e4 dxe4 12.Nxe4 Bxe4 13.Bxe4 Nxe4 14.Rxe4 Be7 15.Qh5 Bf6 16.Bf4 0-0 17.c3 c6= T. Banusz – M. Bluebaum, Austria 2020) 10.e4 dxe4 11.Nxe4 Nxe4 12.Bxe4 Bxe4 13.Rxe4 Nd7 14.Bf4 Nxe5 15.Bxe5 Bf6 16.Qg4 0-0 17.Rd1 Qe7 (17...c6 18.Bf4 Kh8?) 18.Bf4 Kh8 19.c3 (A. Adly – M. Bluebaum, Moscow 2019) 19...Rfd8=; 7.b3 Be7 8.Bb2 h6 9.Nbd2 Nf6 10.Ne5 0-0=

7...Nf6 8.Bf4

8.Nh4!? Wasn’t too worried about this. In these positions it is not really a problem for White to go Nxf5 and transform the

pawn structure. 8...Bg4 (8...Be7 9.Nxf5 exf5 (A. Huzman – N. Abdusattorov, Lichess.org INT 2021) 10.f3 0-0 11.e4 fxe4 12.fxe4 dxe4 13.Nxe4±; 8...h5!? Indirect prophylaxis. In the event White decides to go Nxf5, he will instantly have to deal with h5-h4 threat 9.Bg5 Be7 10.Nxf5 exf5 11.Bxf6 Bxf6 12.e3 c6 13.Qd3 g6 14.h4 0-0 15.b3±) 9.f3 Bh5 10.g4 Nf7 11.Qe1 Bg6

8...h6 9.Nd2 Bd6 10.Be5!?

Interesting idea. The key to responding to this is realizing that this idea revolves around the weakness of the b7-pawn and c5-square.

10...Bxe5 11.dxe5 Ng4

11...Nf7 Probably a better move objectively, but on the other hand it allows f4. 12.f4 Nc5 13.e4 dxe4 14.Ndx4=

12.e4?!

12.Nf3! Taking advantage of the dangerously placed knight on g4. 12...Nd7 13.Nd4 c6 14.e4 dxe4 15.Nxf5 exf5 16.Nxe4 0-0 17.Nd6 Ndx5 18.h3 Nf6 19.Nxf5± Really nothing much at all, but it is more pleasant for White in the long term.

12...dxe4 13.Ndx4 Qxd1 14.Rfxd1 Nxe5 15.Nb5?

This isn't consistent with his previous plan. He sacrificed a pawn to attack b7 and utilize the c5-square, not to utilize the b5-square and attack the c7-pawn. 15.Nc5 Bg4 16.Bxb7 Bxd1 17.Bxa8 Bxc2.

15...0-0?

There wasn't really a need to castle, and the king should always be active during endgames. 15...Ke7!± Not really sure why I overlooked this move. The idea is the same in regard to connecting rooks, but the king on e7 is simply much better placed by defending key squares such as d6. 16.Nxc7 Rac8 17.Nb5 Bg4 (17...Rxc2 18.Ned6 Bd3) 18.Rdc1 Rhd8±

16.Nc5



Position after 16.Nc5

16...c6?

Being too materialistic, which will

become apparent soon. 16...Bg4! Simply attack the weaknesses (f3-square) 17.Rdc1 Bf3 18.Bxf3 Nxf3+ 19.Kg2 Ne5 20.b3 Prophylaxis (20.Nxb7 Rfb8 21.Nc5 Nxa4!±) 20...Rab8.

17.Nd4!

I was expecting him to go for something like Nd6, as I thought after Nd4 I'm "just up a pawn." Looking closely though, you can see that my knights are poorly placed, White's piece coordination is excellent, and my rooks are passive.

17...Rab8 18.Nxf5 exf5 19.Rd4 Rfe8 20.Rad1 Re7 21.Rd8+ Rxd8 22.Rxd8+ Kh7 23.b3 Ng4

Here I was already in need for counterplay, as I have virtually no weaknesses to attack. However, due to the positioning of my b6-knight, chances of success are low.

24.Bf1?!

24.h3! Best to fight fire with fire 24...Nf6 25.c4 Re1+ 26.Kh2 Rb1 27.Rb8 Nbd7 28.Nxd7 Nxd7 29.Rxb7 Ne5. This is what I was planning, but it becomes evident that White is pressing. 30.Re7 Re1 31.Ra7±

24...Nd5

Now my knight gets into position.

25.Rb8 b6 26.Nd3 Ne5 27.Rc8?

Simply overlooking my next response. 27.c4! Nd7 (27...Nxd3 28.cxd5±) 28.Rc8 Nb4 29.Nxb4 axb4 30.Rc7! Overlooked this move. There is actually a deadly threat of c5 followed by an unstoppable a-pawn. 30...c5 31.f4± Opening up the back rank in preparation of Bg2-c6.

27...Nf3+ 28.Kg2 Nd4 29.c4 Nb4?!

Overlooking my opponent's 31st move. 29...Nc3! 30.Rb8 Nxb3 31.Rxb6 Nd4 32.Ra6 Nxa4 There was literally no reason to go for this instead.

30.Nxb4 axb4 31.c5!

After which the game is likely a draw.

31...bxc5 32.Bc4 Ra7 33.Rd8 Nc2 34.g4 g6 35.gxf5 gxf5 36.Kg3 Na3 37.Bd3 c4 38.bxc4 b3 39.Kf4 b2 40.Rb8 Rxa4 41.Kxf5 b1Q 42.Bxb1 Nxb1 43.Rxb1 Rxc4

The complications have stopped, and it appears to be a dead-drawn rook ending, which I'm sure my opponent realized. He is not wrong, but he failed to have a proper sense of danger.

44.Rg1 c5 45.f4 Rd4 46.Ke5 Rd7 47.Rc1 Kg7

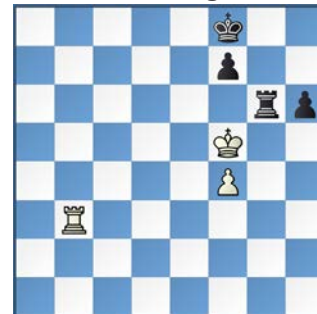
Transitioning the ending. My c-pawn can only get so far considering how active my

opponent's king is.

48.Rxc5 Rd2 49.Rc3 Rxb2 50.Rg3+ Kf8 51.Kf6 Ra2

While this is still dead drawn, it isn't as easy as it seems. Accurate play is still required, and Black's play is easy. The first step is to cut off the king.

52.Rb3 Ra6+ 53.Kf5 Rg6



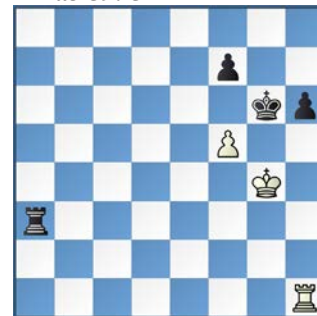
Position after 53...Rg6

Step one complete.

54.Rh3 Kg7

Ok, but what to do now? I can only realistically win this game if I win the f-pawn, but that's impossible with such an active king. Therefore, step two would logically be "forcing the king back," but this isn't exactly easy either. To do so I would need to give up what I achieved in step one. However, as Shankland would say, pawns can't move backwards. I need to find a way to force f5, after which the pawn would be much more vulnerable.

55.Rh1 Rf6+ 56.Kg4 Kg6 57.Rh2 Ra6 58.Rh1 Ra3 59.f5+



Position after 59.f5+

Step two complete.

59...Kg7 60.Kf4 Ra4+ 61.Kf3 Rb4 62.Rh2 Rb1 63.Rh5 Rg1 64.Kf4 Rg2 65.Rh1 Rg5

Now that the pawn is on f5, I need to find a way to win it. In other words, I need to find a way to include my king into the game. If you think of the optimal position of the pieces, it isn't too difficult to see that you want your rook on g4 and king on g5.

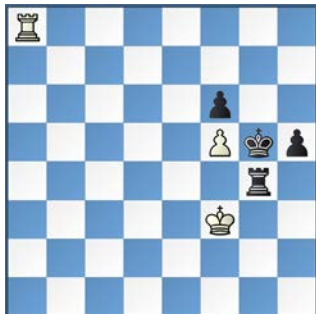
66.Rh2 f6

Preparing ...h5, ...Rg4, ...Kh6, ...Kg5

67.Ra2 h5 68.Ra6 Rg1

Seemingly zugzwang. If White continues to wait then I can push my h-pawn, forcing the rook back, allowing my king to advance.

69.Ra7+ Kh6 70.Ra8 Rg4+ 71.Kf3 Kg5



Position after 71...Kg5

Optimal piece positioning reached.

72.Rh8 Ra4 73.Kg3 Ra3+ 74.Kg2 Ra5

Now the pawn is lost, but I was aware that the ending is technically still drawn with split h- and f-pawns. Practically speaking though, this is far from easy and nearly impossible. White needs to keep his king in front of the farther advanced passed pawn.

75.Kh3 Rxf5 76.Rg8+?

A step in the wrong direction. This only helps me re-coordinate my pieces.

76...Kf4 77.Rg1 Rg5 78.Rf1+ Ke5 79.Re1+ Kf5 80.Kh4 Kg6 81.Rf1 Rg4+ 82.Kh3 Kg5 83.Ra1 h4 84.Ra8 Rg3+ 85.Kh2 f5

Now it's already too late.

86.Ra7 f4 87.Ra8 Kg4 88.Ra7 Rb3 89.Rg7+ Kf3 90.Ra7 Kg4 91.Rg7+ Kf3 92.Ra7 Ke3 93.Re7+ Kf2 94.Ra7 f3 95.Re7 Re3 96.Ra7 Kf1 97.Ra1+ Re1 98.Ra2 f2 99.Rb2 Ra1

0-1

Anthony He (2447) –
Andrey Stukopin (2555) [B44]
Summer of Seattle
(R2), August 12, 2021
[Anthony He]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nc6 5.g3!?

A surprise I was preparing. When preparing for your opponents, always consider what they expect you to do.

5...h5!?

Interesting idea which I had no knowledge on. But in reasonably quiet positions, a move such as ...h5 can only be so good.

6.Bg2 h4 7.Nc3

Normal development.

7...a6

I was reasonably pleased when he played this move. It's basically a Kan/Taimanov, but he spent tempo on ...h5-h4.

8.Nxc6!? bxc6



Position after 8...bxc6

9.e5

Attempting to take advantage of my lead in development. Objectively, 9.Bf4 looks like the best option. 9...h3 (9...h3g3 10.h3g3 Rxh1+ 11.Bxh1 d6 12.Qe2 e5 13.Bd2 Nf6 14.0-0-0 Qb6 15.f4 Rb8 16.b3± with comfortable advantage.; 9...d6 10.gxh4!?) 10.Bf3 d6 11.Qe2 e5 12.Be3 Rb8 13.0-0-0 Nf6 (13...Qa5 14.Qc4!) 14.g4 Qa5 15.g5 Nd7 16.Bg4 Qb4 17.a3! Qxb2+ 18.Kd2 Qb7 19.Rb1 Qa8 20.Rxb8 Qxb8 21.Rb1 Qc7 22.Qc4

Nc5 23.Bxc8 Qxc8 24.g6 fxg6 25.Bxc5 dxc5 26.Nd1!± and Black has problems with king in center.

9...Qc7 10.Qe2

10.Bf4 g5! 11.Bxg5 Qxe5+ 12.Ne4 d5 13.Bf4 Qxb2 14.Rb1 Qg7 15.Nd6+ Bxd6 16.Bxd6 Kd7!?

10...Ne7

10...a5! 11.Bd2 (11.Ne4? Ba6 (11...Qxe5)) 11...Ba6 12.Qe4 Ne7 13.0-0-0 Nd5± with a complex game.

11.Ne4

11.0-0!? Nf5 (11...Ng6 12.f4 hxg3 13.hxg3±) 12.Bf4±

11...Ng6?

Mistake which gives me the advantage. I was expecting 11...Nf5!, with the idea of h3+Nd4, but I wasn't really worried about losing the bishop pair. 12.Bf4 h3 13.Bf3 Nd4 14.Qd3 c5 15.0-0-0 Rb8 16.Rhe1 Qb6 17.b3 a5±

12.f4± Be7 13.Qd3

Controlling the d6-square.

13...Qb6

Now this was an interesting move which I didn't consider at all, and it in all honesty was a brilliant practical move. While it technically doesn't have direct threats, it's still annoying to deal with. ...hxg3, ...Rxh1, and ...Qg1+ hang in the air all the time. Be3 must be objectively the correct move, but the follow-up isn't easy at all, and this transformation of the game wasn't exactly what I wanted, as I was sure that I was much better.

14.Be3?

A poor practical decision. While White must be close to winning after this pawn sacrifice, there is no reason to force yourself to have to find follow-ups in such a position. 14.b3 ignoring Black's ghost threats 14...hxg3 15.hxg3 Rxh1+ 16.Bxh1 Qg1+ 17.Qf1 Qd4 18.c3 Qb6 19.Qf2+-

14...Qxb2 15.0-0 hgx3 16.hgx3 Qa3 17.Qxa3?

Running low on time, I attempted to convert the position into something I viewed as "risk free." This was also wrong, just looking at the position, there is no world where White should trade queens. 17.c3± Rb8 (17...0-0 18.Rfb1 a5 19.Qc2; 17...Qa4 18.Rfb1!; 17...a5 18.Rfd1) 18.Bc1 Qa5 19.c4 0-0 20.Bd2 Qa4 21.Bc3±

17...Bxa3 18.Nd6+?

The best move was 18.Rfb1! a5 (18...0-0 19.Nc5! a5 20.Rb3 Bxc5 21.Bxc5 Re8 22.Be4±) 19.Rb6 Ba6 20.Rd1 Bc4 21.Rb7 Bd5 22.c4 Bxc4 23.Rdx7 0-0 24.Nd6±

18...Bxd6 19.exd6 a5!



Position after 19...a5

I completely missed this idea, and was depressed over the poor decisions made. Now if anyone is better, it could very easily be Black.

20.c4 Ba6 21.Rfc1 f5 22.Bd2 Kf7 23.c5 a4

23...e5! 24.fxe5 Nxe5 25.Bxa5 Nd3±

24.Bc3 Bd3± 25.Bd4 Rhb8

25...e5! 26.fxe5 Ke6 27.Re1 Bc4.

26.Kf2 a3 27.Ke3 Ba6 28.Rab1

28.Rc3!

28...Re8

28...e5! I was surprised when my opponent decided to keep his material instead of freeing squares for his pieces.

29.fxe5 Rxb1 30.Rxb1 Bc4 31.Ra1 Nf8!±

29.Be5! Nxe5 30.fxe5 Rh8 31.Rb3 Rab8?

Probably some miscalculation. This move doesn't really make sense. 31...g5! 32.Rxa3 Bb5 33.Rcc3 Kg6.

32.Rxa3±

And suddenly the table turn again. It's not immediately obvious, but you slowly realize how weak Black's pawn structure is.

32...Rb2 33.Bf3 Ra8 34.Rcc3 Rbb8 35.Rcb3 Bc4 36.Rxa8 Rxa8 37.Rb7 Ke8 38.a4 g5 39.Rb4 Ba6 40.Rb6

A small trap

40...Bc4??

40...Bc8 41.Rb4 (41.Rxc6?? g4 42.Bg2 Bb7!) 41...g4 42.Be2 Kf7± and Black should be able to hold position.

41.Rxc6+ Bd5 42.Bxd5 exd5 43.Rc7 Rxa4 44.Rc8+ Kf7 45.c6

An up and down game which illustrates the importance of making wise, practical decisions.

1-0

Anthony He (2447) –
Milind Maiti (2384) [B46]
Summer of Seattle
(R4), August 13, 2021
[Anthony He]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nc6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be3 Nf6 7.Qf3 Bb4!?

At this moment, I already knew I got out-prepared. Although it is very possible that it was simply a different move order, even one inaccuracy can change the entire opening. 7...Qc7 was obviously what I was expecting.

8.Nxc6 bxc6

Another option is 8...dxc6, with lots of theory behind it.

9.Bd3 d5

9...e5?! 10.Qg3 d6 (10...0-0 11.0-0 Qe7 12.Bg5 Qe6 13.Bc4 (13.Na4 Rb8 14.b3 d5 15.f3 Bd6 16.Rfe1 h6 17.Be3 Nd7 18.c3) 13...Qd6 (13...Nh5 14.Bxe6 Nxc3 15.Bxf7+ Kxf7 16.hgx3 Bxc3 17.bxc3 d5 18.Rfe1 h6 19.Bc1±) 11.0-0 Nh5 12.Qf3 Nf6 13.Na4!

10.Bd2

10.exd5? cxd5 11.Bd4 0-0; 10.e5 Nd7 11.Qg4?! Bf8 12.Bf4?! h5!

10...0-0 11.0-0 a5!

Now Black achieved good version of certain lines in the Taimanov, without wasting time with ...Qc7.

12.Qe2 Nd7 13.Na4 Bxd2

13...Ne5!? 14.exd5 Bxd2 15.Qxd2 cxd5± looks nice for Black.

14.Qxd2 Ba6?

I really don't see why my opponent prioritized trading bishops. His knight is likely the worst placed piece, so he should exchange them instead. 14...Nb6!? 15.Nxb6 Qxb6± is what I would have done if I were him.

15.Bxa6 Rxa6 16.c4

Putting pressure on the center.

16...Nf6! 17.e5 Nd7 18.b3 Qc7

18...Nxe5? 19.Qe2 with cxd5 next.

19.f4

Once we reached this position, I was feeling pretty confident. I had felt that I had "escaped" the opening and was pretty sure I could slowly outplay my opponent.

19...Raa8 20.Qf2 f6

20...dxc4! 21.bxc4 Rab8 22.a3 Rfd8 23.Rfd1 Nf8 24.Nc5 Rxd1+ 25.Rxd1 Qb6±

21.cxd5 cxd5 22.Rac1 Qb7 23.exf6 Rxf6 24.Qe3

Strangely enough, we kind of have a French structure.

24...Re8 25.Nc3

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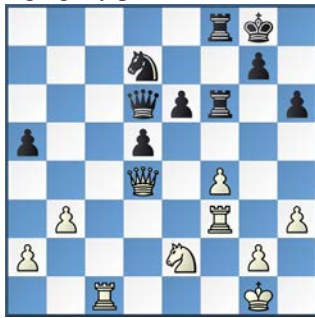
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25.Nb2 e5 26.fxe5 Rxe5 27.Qd4 Re4±
 25...h6 26.h3 Qb8 27.Qd4 Ref8 28.Ne2
 Qd6 29.Rf3

Rearranging my pieces.



Position after 29.Rf3

29...Rg6

29...g5!? 30.Rg3 (30.Rcf1 Qc5±) 30...e5
 31.fxe5 Nxe5 32.Nc3 Nf3+ 33.Rxf3 Rxf3
 34.gxf3 Qg3+ 35.Kh1 Qxh3+ 36.Kg1
 Qg3+=

30.Re3 Rf5 31.Rf1 Nc5 32.Rc1 Nd7
 33.Rf1

The point of this repetition was actually
 not to gain time, but to gauge my
 opponent's mindset. After repeating
 moves I realized he was fine with a draw,
 which boosted my confidence.

33...Nc5 34.Rff3 Nd7 35.Ng3 Rf8 36.
 Kh1 Qc5 37.Qd3 Rgf6?! 38.Nh5! Rf5
 39.g4



Position after 39.g4

39...R5f7?

Basically resignation. I was really quite
 worried about 39...e5!?, but White should
 still be pressing. 40.gxf5 e4 41.Qd1 (41.
 Rxe4 dxe4 42.Qxe4 (42.Qxd7 Qc1+
 43.Kh2 Qb2+ 44.Kg3 exf3) 42...Rxf5
 43.Qe6+ Kh8 44.Qxd7 Rxh5 45.Qe8+
 Kh7 46.Qe4+ Rf5±) 41...exf3 42.Qg1
 g5 43.fxg5 f2 44.Qxf2 hxg5 45.Kg2±;
 39...Rxh5 40.gxh5 e5 41.fxe5 Rxf3
 42.Rxf3 Nxe5 43.Qc3, an important
 intermediate move which I had prepared
 beforehand.

40.Rxe6 Nf6 41.Ng3 h5 42.gxh5!?

42.g5! Ne4 43.Nxe4 dxe4 44.Rxe4±



Anthony He early in 2021. Photo credit: Xuhao He.

42...d4 43.Re5

43.h6!

43...Nd5 44.Ne2 Qc6 45.Qe4

45.Nxd4 Qc1+ 46.Qf1 Qxf1+ 47.Rxf1
 Nxf4 48.Rxa5+-

45...Nb4 46.Qxc6 Nxc6 47.Re5 Rf6

47...Re7!? 48.Ng3 Nb4 49.a3 d3 50.axb4
 d2 51.Rd5 Re1+ 52.Rf1 Rxf4 53.Rd8+
 Kh7 54.Rxd2 Rexf1+ 55.Nxf1 Rxf1+
 56.Kg2 Rf5 57.bxa5 Rxa5 58.Rb2 Rg5+
 59.Kh2 Rxh5 60.b4 Rb5 61.Kg3 Kg6
 62.Kf4 Kf6 63.Ke4 Ke6 64.Kd4 Rh5
 65.Rb3 Kd7 66.b5 Kc7

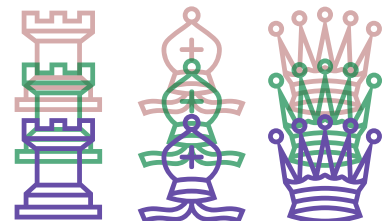
48.Kg2 Re6 49.Kf2 Rfe8 50.Nc1 Nb4
 51.a3 Nc6 52.f5 Rd6 53.Nd3 Rb8 54.Nf4
 d3 55.Nxd3 Rxb3

55...Nd4! 56.Rg3 Rxb3

56.Nf4 Rb2+

56...a4!

57.Kg3 a4 58.Ng6 Rb3 59.Rxc6
 1-0



2022 WASHINGTON STATE CHAMPIONSHIP



FEBRUARY 12-13 & 19-21, 2022

ORLOV CHESS ACADEMY (2 LOCATIONS)

SEATTLE: 7212 WOODLAWN AVE NE, SEATTLE, WA 98115

REDMOND: 4174 148TH AVE NE BLD. I, STE. M, REDMOND, WA 98052

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.

Charm City Chess Club

Karen Schmidt

I had been planning a November 2021 trip to Baltimore to see my boyfriend. About a week ahead of time I decided to surf around on the internet and see if anyone plays casual chess over-the-board in Baltimore. Much to my surprise, I came upon a website for the “Charm City Chess Club.” There was a place to enter my name and email address, and I wrote a message in the “message box.” I sent an inquiry introducing myself as a Seattle chess player and asked where the club is located, and whether they have any casual chess nights, etc. Then I promptly forgot all about it.

The next morning, I was sound asleep when my phone rang at 5:50 AM. Startled out of a deep sleep, I looked at my phone and saw an unfamiliar area code and the hint “New York City” on the screen. I thought to myself, “I don’t know anybody in NYC,” turned my phone off and went back to sleep. When I got up later at a more reasonable hour, I did my usual morning routine of checking texts and emails. I saw that I had an email from an Alan Horowitz.

Once I started reading the email, I realized it was a reply from the “Charm City Chess Club.” I figured that had to



Photo credit: Karen Schmidt.

be Baltimore, and it was. It was a lovely welcoming message from one of the main organizers of the club, letting me know that they meet in person for casual chess on Sundays (from 11:00 AM until 2:00 PM) at a deli only 2.6 miles from my boyfriend’s apartment! I sent off a quick reply and told Alan that I would see him

the following Sunday, November 21. In his signature and contact information, I recognized the area code from the mystery call and had a private chuckle. I figured most folks in Baltimore probably have no idea that Seattle is three hours earlier when it is 8:50 AM in Baltimore.

Just an aside here, as to how Baltimore got the nickname “Charm City.” (I had been seeing that phrase on the sides of busses and light rail trains, and in the names of cafes, etc. So, I decided to find out the provenance.) Per Google, the downtown and Inner Harbor areas were quite rundown in the 1970s and a revitalization movement was begun. I must say, the olde downtown and Inner Harbor areas are quite charming these days. The historic architecture is stunning; I never did see a wooden building or house on my many walks. The rowhouses, hotels, churches, banks and government buildings are all brick, granite and marble--and most were constructed in the 1700s and 1800s, or the early 1900s at the latest.

Alan and I exchanged a couple more emails in the next day or so, and I sent him a few photos of our Seattle Sunday casual chess group at Caffè Umbria in Pioneer Square. I also sent him a link to the summer 2019 Seattle Times story about me being the only female player at Westlake Park.

I flew into Baltimore on Thursday, November 17 and let my boyfriend know early on that I wanted to take a little field trip to a deli on Sunday for some chess. (He is not a chess player but was a good sport about going with me.) We took the bus Sunday morning and ordered breakfast bagels and coffee when we arrived. I didn’t see any chess players until I ascended to the balcony...and voila! There were about 20 of them and eight or ten games underway. As I walked past, I cautiously asked “Alan Horowitz?” A man raised his hand without taking his eyes off the chess board and said, “Playing a game.” I totally get it, as a serious chess player myself...so I moved on and sat down across from a nice-looking elderly man who had a chess set but no opponent.

I hadn’t seen any other girls or women there...but that’s nothing new.



*L-R: Club Co-founders, Alan Horowitz and Wilbert Brown.
Photo credit: Karen Schmidt.*



Photo credit: Karen Schmidt.

Barry introduced himself, and I did the same, telling him I was visiting from Seattle. I was a bit curious when he asked me if I wanted to play on the clock or just a casual game. I told him "Off the clock" and he said "Ok, as long as you don't take too long to make your moves." Feeling somewhat admonished, I assured him I would not, and we proceeded to play two fast games which I managed to win. Then a young guy asked to play winner (me)... so there was a slight shuffling of seats. (Meanwhile my boyfriend and the breakfast bagels were nowhere to be seen.)

Elisha Goldman and I set up the pieces, and then he placed his phone off to his right (he was playing Black) and announced that we would be playing 10/10 with no time delay. He had a chess clock app on his phone. When I expressed some surprise, he told me, "That's how we play here since we only have three hours." I realized that Barry had been quite chivalrous in not enforcing the ten-minute rule with me. I went on to lose two games to Elisha (who was 13), the second one on time. (Honestly, I think I could have won both games if we had not been playing blitz chess!) His grandmother was also there watching, but she is not a chess player.

Then, being even at two wins and two losses, I went in search of my boyfriend and breakfast. I found him at an outdoor table enjoying his bagel, and I ate mine too before returning upstairs. I saw that Alan was not in the middle of a game, so I introduced myself as Karen from Seattle. He seemed to feel bad about brushing me off earlier ("Why didn't you SAY you were Karen from Seattle!?") and we

sat at a table and had a nice chat about chess in our respective cities. Alan had a huge New York accent and mentioned being a transplant; and I never mentioned the phone call. They formed their club in about 2017 and more recently became a non-profit with the help of some pro bono legal work. They have outgrown the Barnes and Noble Cafe nearby where they used to play and are looking for a permanent venue. Although the bagel deli works well for about 20 players, it is too small and too crowded for a tournament venue. This lack of a permanent meeting place is common because of COVID, with a gap of a year or more as far as over-the-board chess goes. I find that many chess clubs had to give up their leases during the height of COVID, since no one was meeting in person.

After our chat we decided to play a game, and sure enough, out came the chess clock aka cell phone app. Ten minutes per person, no delay. These guys take their casual chess pretty seriously. As we were coming down to the endgame, Alan had a pawn and a rook and a king, whereas I only had a rook and a king. However, I had about two and a half minutes; he only had one minute left on the clock. I had my rook lined up on his pawn on the h file. My Plan A was to eat away his time and win on time. But I saw that he was only two or three squares away from queening...and I

couldn't let that happen. I realized that if I took the pawn, he would probably take my rook with his king...moving away from his own rook in the process. So, after his KxR, it was my KxR...and a draw due to insufficient material. He threw up his hands and shouted, "I HAD that game!" We parted as friends and fellow chess-lovers a few minutes later, though.

I thought I was being generous when I went downstairs early to collect my boyfriend at 1:45 PM. It wasn't until several hours later that I saw his text from 1:28 PM It said "I am downstairs. I am ready to go." Lol. In my defense, I had warned him that he should bring a book or a magazine.

It was incredibly enjoyable to sit down and play five games of chess in a new city and feel totally welcomed by the group. I took several photos and told the guys I might write a story about their club for Northwest Chess. When I get the electronic version, I will email it to Alan so he can share it with the others. This was yet another example of how chess can bring together people of all ages, walks of life, ethnicities, employment histories, other interests, and even different spoken languages--truly a welcoming melting pot. The Charm City Chess Club was one of the highlights of my trip, and I would highly recommend it if you find yourself in the Baltimore or DC area.



Photo credit: Karen Schmidt.

PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLASTIC CHESS TOURNAMENT

President's Day Monday, February 21, 2022

Redmond Marriott

7401 164th Ave NE, Redmond, WA 98052

OPEN SECTIONS:

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.

K-3 Open, 4-6 Open, 7-12 Open:

A 5-round G/25; d5 Swiss. For advanced beginner to advanced players.

RESERVE SECTIONS:

K-3 U800, 4-6 U900, 7-12 U1000:

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.

SCHEDULE:

Rounds: 9am, 10:15am, lunch, 12:15pm, 1:30pm, 2:45pm.
Awards presentation at 4pm.

WA State Elementary Qualifier!

ELIGIBILITY:

Open to all students registered in grades K-12. Out-of-state players welcome!

ENTRY FEE:

\$45 by Feb. 14th, \$55 after. Room for 300 players.

AWARDS:

Section Prizes: Amazon Gift Cards awarded and WCF membership extensions awarded in each section: 1st \$70, 2nd \$60, 3rd \$50, 4th \$40, 5th 1-yr WCF ext., 6th 6-mo WCF ext.

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 February 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 Fri. Feb. 18th @ 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 3.0+ points qualify for State.

Online Registration:
NWchess.com/OnlineRegistration/
Pay by Credit/Debit/PayPal.

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

Oregon Junior Closed

Wilson Gibbins

The Oregon Chess Federation sponsored the Oregon Junior Closed Championship at the Portland Chess Center on December 10-12. Zoey Tang, Roshen Nair, and Havish Sripada returned from last year's online event, joined by Austin Tang and Jack Woo McClain from last year's Challengers Section (the Challengers Section is good training for moving up!) and event newcomer Ishaan Kodarapu. The Challengers Section players were all new to the event, but most of them are not new to junior chess, as Pace Lykins, Calvin Chang, and Thomas Schuff have been active on the Oregon Scholastic circuit. Jaden Marx and Anisha Sripada have had recent success in the Oregon Class Championships and Portland Winter Open adult tournaments. The final slot was filled by Harry Zhou who stepped in at the last minute when one of the players became ill. Xingjian was rewarded with a 108 point rating gain.

The Championship Section results might appear undramatic, with the top seeds Zoey Tang and Roshen Nair sharing first with 4-1 scores after drawing their individual game in round four. That was not how it felt at the time, as their hard-

fought 66-move draw allowed Austin Tang to join the leaders going into the final round. Zoey and Roshen both had to win with the black pieces in round five to ensure their tie for first.

Jaden Marx took first in the Challengers Section by winning his first four games and drawing Harry Zhou in the last round. Jaden has gained 305 rating points since the 2021 Oregon Open, and I for one am looking forward to following his results when over-the-board chess returns post-Omicron, though I will try to avoid being actually paired against him.

As this was my first experience as a chief tournament director in over 30 years, I was somewhat apprehensive going in. So, I am thankful for all the support that I received from the players' parents and guardians to help the tournament run smoothly. Whenever I was in doubt, I remembered that I had Mike Morris' phone number on speed dial to consult in times of calamity. Finally, I must thank the players for making this a wonderful tournament by universally exhibiting great sportsmanship. Whenever I see a pundit write about the short attention spans of our instant-gratification youth, I will think of these twelve players focused

in silence during their four-hour games to remind myself to avoid such stereotypes.

**Jack McClain (1762) –
Roshen Nair (2105) [C47]**
Oregon Junior Closed
(R1), December 10, 2021
[Wilson Gibbins]

Jack had just completed his first college term before the tournament began, limiting his time for chess study over the previous months. This meant he had to play himself into shape during the tournament. He successfully managed the task, finishing with 1.5 points and a 17-point rating gain, not bad for the lowest seed. But this game is from round one before he had scraped the rust off. Roshen decides to "help" Jack by grinding him down in an ending, giving him 56 moves of experience at the cost of only one point on the crosstable.

**1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.d4 exd4
5.Nxd4 Bb4 6.Nxc6 bxc6 7.Qd4**

7.Bd3 is the popular choice in this position, but Jack's move is fine too.

7...Qe7 8.Bd3 d5 9.Bg5?!

This move appears to be aggressive, pinning the knight and preparing the option of castling long. Unfortunately for White, Black has a forced line that results in a better endgame.

9.0-0=

9...c5!



Position after 9...c5

10.Bxf6

Hmmm, perhaps the endgame isn't completely forced. 10.Bb5+ Kf8 11.Qd1 Bxc3+ 12.bxc3 Qxe4+ 13.Kf1 Qe5 is also better for Black. But with a middlegame



*L-R: Austin Tang, Ishaan Kodarapu.
Photo credit Sanjay Nair.*

on the board instead of an ending, White has more swindling chances than in the actual game. That said, skip ahead to Tang-Nair from round four if you prefer endgame swindling chances.

10...cxd4 11.Bxe7 Kxe7 12.a3

Jack is able to save his pinned knight and eliminate White's advantage of the two bishops, but only at the cost of an inferior pawn structure.

12...Ba5 13.b4 dxc3 14.bxa5 d4!

Black's doubled pawns have a lot more potential than White's doubled pawns.

15.Rb1 Bd7 16.Kc2

It is tempting to put a rook on the seventh rank, but 16.Rb7 Rbh8 17.a6 (17.Rxc7? Rb1+) 17...Rxb7 18.axb7 Rb8 19.Ba6 Bc6 20.f3 Bxb7 21.Bxb7 Rxb7 is much better for Black.

16...Rab8 17.Rhd1 Be6



Position after 17...Be6

Material is still even, but Black is close to a positional win, as the pawns on the c- and d-files will steadily march forward.

18.h3 c5 19.Ba6 Rb2 20.Rdc1 Rbh8 21.Ra1 c4 22.Kf3 Kd6 23.Kf4 Kc5 24.f3 Bd7 25.e5 Re8 26.Rab1 Ba4 27.Re1 Bxc2 28.Rbc1 d3 29.Re4 d2 30.Rxc4+ Kd5 31.Rg1 d1Q 32.Rxd1+ Bxd1 33.Rxc3 Be2 34.Bc8 Rxe5 35.a6 g5+ 36.Kg4 Bc4 37.Bb7+ Kd4 38.f4 Kxc3 39.fxe5 Kd4 40.Kxg5 Kxe5 41.g4 Rb3 42.h4 Rb6 43.h5 h6+ 44.Kh4 Kf4 45.Bg2 Rb2 46.Kh3 Rxc2 47.Kxg2 Kxg4 48.a4 Bxa6 49.a5 f5 50.Kf2 f4 51.Kg2 f3+ 52.Kh1 f2 53.Kh2 Kxh5 54.Kh3 f1Q+ 55.Kh2 Qf2+ 56.Kh3 Bc8#

0-1

**Austin Tang (2023) –
Havish Sripada (2007) [B92]**
Oregon Junior Closed
(R1), December 10, 2021
[Wilson Gibbins]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be2 e5 7.Nb3 Be7 8.0-0 0-0 9.Kh1

This king move is a Kasparov favorite. He has played it five times, beating Nick DeFirmian in 1995 and Boris Gelfand in 1996, but losing Jan-Krzysztof Duda in 2021. White strives for flexibility, waiting for a Black to declare his intentions before committing his f-pawn (f3 or f4?) and dark-squared bishop (e3 or g5?). He

makes a move that often is useful when White castles kingside in the Sicilian.

9...b6

Black will push this pawn to b5 two moves later. So why did he waste time moving it to b6 on move nine? Because Black's bishop needs to be on b7 to stop tricks on the h1–f8 diagonal before the pawn can safely move to b5, as 9...b5 10.a4! is strong with the diagonal undefended. Playing the Najdorf is hard work for both players. 9...b5?! 10.a4 b4 11.Nd5 Nxe4? (11...Nxd5?! 12.Qxd5 Ra7 13.Be3 Be6 14.Qd3; 11...Be6!±) 12.Bf3 f5 13.Nxe7+ Qxe7 14.Qd5+

10.Be3 Bb7 11.f3 b5 12.a4 b4 13.Nd5 Nxd5 14.exd5 Nd7

My database shows over 100 games from this position. Moves that might have appeared to be superficial (9.Kh1) or counter-intuitive (9...b6) are actually deep theory.

15.c4 bxc3 16.bxc3 Bg5 17.Bf2 Qc7 18.c4 a5 19.Nd2 Bxd2

Still in the database. 19...f5 is most popular, but Stockfish prefers Havish's choice.

20.Qxd2 Nc5

The position is balanced, yet both players can still play for the win. This is why I stand by my statement—the road from 1800 to 2200 goes through the Sicilian Defense.



L-R: Pace Lykins, Thomas Schuff, Jack Woo McClain, Zoey Tang, Austin Tang, Calvin Chang, Roshen Nair, Harry Zhou, Jaden Marx, Ishaan Kodarapu, Anisha Sripada, Havish Sripada.
Photo credit: Wilson Gibbins.

21.Qc2 Bc8 22.f4



Position after 22.f4

22...f5?

A move that Black should be striving to play to exploit his kingside pawn majority, but it doesn't quite work. 22...exf4 maintains a rough equality 23.Bd4 Rb8 (23...g5? 24.Bf6 h6 25.Bh5 gives White a dangerous attack against Black's weakened kingside.) 24.Ra3 Qb6 25.Raf3

23.fxe5 dxe5 24.Rfb1±

It is natural to take control of the open file with the king rook while using the queen rook to defend the weak a-pawn. Stockfish suggests sacrificing an exchange... 24.Rab1 Bd7 25.Rb5 Bxb5 26.cxb5... and claims a big advantage for White. It isn't obvious what horrible fate will befall Black in the next few moves, but modern analysts love the two bishops, and rooks are better on offense than defense. So, if Black can't generate play with the e- and f-pawns and ends up trying to use his rooks to defend against White's passed pawns, it probably won't turn out well. Spoiler alert—in the game, Havish will try to generate play with his e- and f-pawns, and it almost saves the game.

24...Bd7 25.Bxc5

25.Rb5!?

25...Qxc5 26.Rb7 Rf7 27.Rab1 Raf8 28.Qc3 e4 29.Qe5



Position after 29.Qe5

29...f4?

Black has been playing well and now

29...g6 gets Black back close to equality. The move Black played in the game allows White a tricky combination which nets a pawn and opens lines to Black's king.

30.Bh5!

30.Qxe4? Bf5

30...g6

So why was this good on move 29 but not here? Black's move 29...f4 gives White the g4-square for his bishop which allows it to reach e6 on move 33.

31.Rxd7! Rxd7 32.Bg4! Rdf7 33.Be6

Stockfish says White has an overwhelming advantage, but the position is still very tricky, as White needs to watch out for back rank mates and pawn advances.

33...f3 34.Bxf7+

34.gxf3 exf3 35.Qf6 Qa7 36.Rf1 is winning easily. White is better in the game continuation, but he has to find a series of "only" moves to maintain his advantage. Austin is up to the challenge.

34...Rxf7 35.Rb8+!

35.gxf3 Qf2=

35...Rf8 36.Qe6+!

36.gxf3 Qf2=

36...Kg7 37.Rb7+!

37.Rxf8 Qxf8=

37...Kh6 38.Qh3!+-

38.g3? is equal. Everything else loses for White.

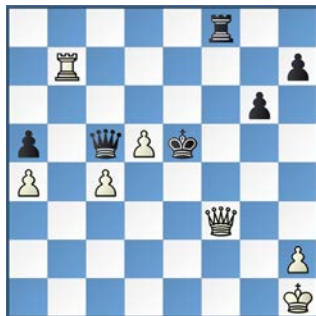
38...Kg5 39.Qg3+!

39.g3? Qe3=

39...Kf5 40.gxf3!

40.Qh3+? Ke5 41.Qg3+ Kd4=

40...exf3 41.Qxf3+ Ke5



Position after 41...Ke5

When I saw this position live, I didn't know what to think. White is up material and Black's king is centralized a little too early for a major piece ending, but Black has a Rf1+ counterattack threatened if White forgets to check, either literally or

figuratively.

42.Qc3+ Kf4 43.Qg3+ Kf5 44.Qf3+ Kg5 45.Qg3+ Kf5 46.Rb5

Still winning for White. 46.Rb2! is most decisive, when a check on f2 from the queen or rook decide the game. 46...Kf6 47.Qf2+ Qxf2 48.Rxf2+ Ke7 49.Rxf8 Kxf8 is an easily won pawn ending. 46.Rb3! is also winning, but more complex.

46...Qc8

46...Qd4 keeps things more complicated, but Black is still lost after 47.Qe1.

47.d6+

The rest is straightforward. Black's counterattacking chances have disappeared, but White's passed pawns and Black's vulnerable king remain.

47...Kf6 48.Qf3+ Kg7 49.Rb7+ Kh6 50.Qe3+ g5 51.Re7 Rf4 52.Re6+ Kg7 53.Qe5+ Kg8 54.Re8+ Rf8 55.Rxc8 Rxc8 56.Qe6+ Kg7 57.Qxc8 h5 58.d7 g4 59.d8Q g3 60.Qe6 h4 61.Qdg8#

1-0

Havish Sripada (2007) –
Zoey Tang (2224) [B89]
Oregon Junior Closed
(R2), December 11, 2021
[Wilson Gibbins]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 Nc6 6.Bc4 e6 7.Be3 a6 8.Qe2 Qc7 9.Bb3 Be7 10.0-0-0 Na5

Zoey played 10...0-0 against Pranav Anoop in the 2021 Oregon Open (see page five of the November 2021 issue). Castling gives White a target for a kingside attack. This is a standard Sicilian technique of tempting White players to decentralize their pieces by using your king as bait, which may sound risky, mainly because it is. This time Zoey leaves her king in the center, which has a different set of risks and rewards.

11.g4 b5 12.g5 Nxb3+ 13.axb3 Nd7 14.Nf5



Position after 14.Nf5

This looks like a speculative sacrifice, but it is actually the main move which has been analyzed quite a bit with no particular conclusion. Velimirovic himself played this move in the earliest recorded game he played in his namesake line.

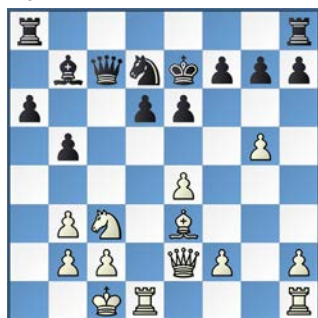
14...Bb7?!

Zoey declines the sacrifice, avoiding tons (terabytes?) of analysis at the cost of an inferior position with plenty of chances for both sides to go wrong. 14...exf5 15.Nd5 Qd8 16.exf5 0-0 (16...Bb7!?) 17.f6 gxf6 18.Bd4 Ne5 19.gxf6 Bxf6 20.Rhg1+ Bg7 21.Bxe5 dxe5 22.Qxe5 f6 23.Ne7+ Kf7 24.Qh5+ 1-0 (24) Velimirovic, D-Sofrevski, J Titograd 1965

15.Nxe7!

I would have been tempted to take a pawn with check and ask questions later 15.Nxg7+ Kf8 16.Nh5 is a little better for White, but Havish's choice is better.

15...Kxe7



Position after 15...Ke7

16.Bd4?

16.Rd4! prepares to double rooks to attack Black's backward d-pawn, slows down Black's b5-b4 counterplay, and offers some temporary defense of the e-pawn. 16...Qa5 (16...e5 17.Nd5+ Bxd5 18.Rxd5+- and Stockfish says White is much better.) 17.Kb1. Now Black can try the plan that Zoey effectively used in the game, but it doesn't work here: 17...b4 18.Na4 e5 19.Rd2 Bxe4 20.Bb6! Bxc2+ 21.Rxc2 Nxb6 22.Rc7+ and the engines say White is much better in spite of Black's material advantage. 22...Nd7

(22...Kd8 23.Rhc1 Nxa4 24.Qe4 Rb8 (24...Nc3+ 25.R7xc3 bxc3 26.Qxa8+) 25.Qc6) 23.Rhc1 Rhd8 24.R1c6+- and White's pieces are cannot be prevented from walking into Black's position with threats like 25.Nb6 and 25.Qh5.

16...b4!?

One inaccurate move by White and the advantage passes to Black.

17.Na4 e5! 18.Be3 Bxe4 19.f3 Bc6 20.Qc4?

20.Rd2? defends against Black's checkmate threats on c2 that will soon be appearing.

20...Rac8!-+ 21.Qxb4

21.Rd2 Bxf3 22.Rf1 Qxc4 23.bxc4 Be4 24.b3 and Stockfish says that Black's advantage is much greater than the extra two pawns imply.

21...Bxa4 22.Rd2 Bc6 23.c4 Bxf3 24.Rf1 Bh5 25.g6 hxg6 26.Rdf2 f6 27.Qd2 Nc5 28.Bxc5 dxc5 29.h4 Qd6 30.Qa5 Rhd8

31.Kb1 Rb8 32.Ka2 Bd1 33.Ka3 Rxb3+ 34.Ka2 Rb4 35.b3 Bxb3+ 36.Kb2 Bxc4+ 37.Kc1 Bxf1 38.Rb2 Qd1#

0-1

Zoey Tang (2224) – Roshen Nair (2105) [D15]
Oregon Junior Closed
(R4), December 12, 2021
[Wilson Gibbins]

Zoey and Roshen were tied with 2.5 points going into round four. Roshen usually plays the Slav against 1.d4, Zoey usually plays the exchange variation, so the opening will be easy to predict.

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3

Easy to predict the opening, but not easy to predict accurately. Zoey varies from her usual repertoire, a good practice for closed tournaments where the players have a week to prepare.

3...Nf6 4.Nc3 a6 5.c5 g6 6.Bf4 Bg7 7.e3



*L-R: Zoey Tang, Jack Woo McClain.
Photo credit Sanjay Nair.*

Championship Section

Place	Name	Rating	State	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total
1	Zoey Tang	2224	OR	W4	W6	D5	D2	W3	4
2	Roshen Sanjay Nair	2105	OR	W5	D3	W6	D1	W4	4
3	Austin Tang	2023	OR	W6	D2	D4	W5	L1	3
4	Ishaan Kodarapu	1891	OR	L1	L5	D3	W6	L2	1.5
5	Jack Woo McClain	1762	OR	L2	W4	D1	L3	L6	1.5
6	Havish Sripada	2007	OR	L3	L1	L2	L4	W5	1

Nbd7 8.Bd3 0-0 9.0-0 Ne8 10.Qc2 Nc7 11.b4 Re8 12.Rfd1

Stockfish recommends 12.Bg5 which provokes 12...f6 a move that Black plays willingly in the game. But after 13.Bh4 e5 14.dxe5 Nxe5 15.Nxe5 the pin on Black's f-pawn means that he must play 15...Rxe5 16.Na4 and White is better with the knight jumping to b6, the e3-e4 break in the works to open the position for White's better developed pieces, and the dark-squared bishop taking over the g3-b8 diagonal, especially relevant after the moves 16...— 17.Nb6 Rb8.

12...f6?!

Black plans to take over the center, but this is too ambitious as White is better developed and Black is cramped. 12...e5! 13.dxe5 Nxe5 14.Nxe5 Bxe5 15.Bxe5 Rxe5 and in this position 16.Na4 isn't as troublesome as the position from the previous note. With the dark-squared bishops off the board, the g3-b8 diagonal isn't as vulnerable. 16...Bg4

13.e4!

Opening the game and accentuating White's overwhelming advantage, which she will maintain for nearly the whole game.

13...e5 14.Bg3± f5 15.exd5 cxd5 16.Nxd5 Nxd5 17.Bc4 e4 18.Bxd5+ Kh8 19.Ne1± 19.Ne5!+-

19...Nf6 20.Bf7 Rf8 21.Bb3 Ne8 22.Be5 Bxe5 23.dxe5 Qe7 24.f4 exf3

24...g5 is the kind of recommendations that engines irresponsibly make to flesh and blood's players who may be less enthusiastic about removing the king's pawn cover when they are worse. White is still much better, but less so than in the game continuation.

25.Nxf3 a5 26.a3 Nc7 27.Qd3 Be6 28.Bxe6 Nxe6 29.Qc4 axb4 30.axb4 Rxa1 31.Rxa1 Rd8 32.h3 Qd7 33.Kh2 Re8 34.Ra2 Qc6 35.Qh4 Qe4 36.Rd2 Qxh4 37.Nxh4 Nd8 38.Rd7 Nc6 39.b5 Rxe5?!



L-R: Roshen Nair, Havish Sripada.
Photo credit Sanjay Nair.

39...Nxe5 40.Rxb7 is hopeless for Black, but sacrificing a piece in an endgame should be hopeless too, shouldn't it?

40.bxc6 bxc6 41.Nf3 Rxc5 42.Rc7

You might think that Black is getting closer to a draw, but White's active pieces mean that Black is still in big trouble.

42...f4 43.Nd4 Rc4 44.Nxc6 h5 45.Rc8+ Kg7 46.Ne7 Rxc8 47.Nxc8 g5 48.Nd6 Kg6 49.Kg1 Kf6 50.Kf2 Ke5 51.Ne8 Kf5 52.Ke2

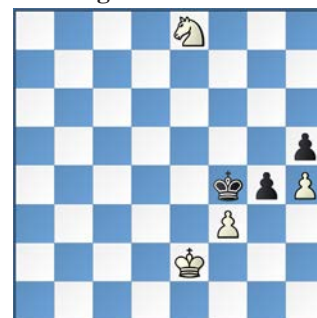
If you look ahead to the game continuation, you might be surprised that one of the winning moves is 52.h4 as 52...g4 fails in this position (52...g4 53.Kf3 Kg5 54.Nd6 h3 55.gxh3 Kh4 56.Kg2 f3+ 57.Kh2 f2 58.Nf5+ Kg5 59.Ng3 and the knight returns just in time.) 53.Nc7 and Black's trick from the game doesn't work because White can check on e6 or d5 to drive Black's king back at a time when White's king is still on f2 defending the g3 square. 53...f3 54.gxf3 Kf4 55.Ne6+ Kf5 56.Nd4+ Ke5 57.Ne2. The Black king

never is able to attack White's h-pawn.

52...g4+- 53.h4?

This move is logical, as it keeps more pawns on the board. This is White's only significant slip since gaining the advantage on move 13. But it is sufficient to turn a win into a draw if Black has remained alert.

53...f3+!= 54.gxf3 Kf4!



Position after 54...Kf4

Black is threatening to take both White pawns off the board, and White can

Challengers Section

Place	Name	Rating	State	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total
1	Jaden Andrew Marx	1577	OR	W5	W2	W3	W4	D6	4.5
2	Pace Lykins	1530	OR	W6	L1	W5	W3	D4	3.5
3	Calvin Chang	1569	OR	W4	D6	L1	L2	W5	2.5
4	Anisha Sripada	1426	OR	L3	W5	W6	L1	D2	2.5
5	Thomas A Schuff	1166	OR	L1	L4	L2	W6	L3	1
6	Harry Zhou	963	OR	L2	D3	L4	L5	D1	1

only stop it by sacrificing the knight to enter a drawn pawn ending. 54...gxf3+? 55.Kxf3+-

55.Kf2 gxf3 56.Nf6 Kf5 57.Kxf3

57.Nxh5 Kg4 and White's last pawn will leave the board on the next move. 58.Nf6+ Kxh4

57...Kxf6 58.Kf4 Kg7 59.Kg5 Kh7 60.Kxh5 Kg7 61.Kg5 Kh7 62.h5 Kg7 63.h6+ Kh7 64.Kh5 Kg8 65.Kg6 Kh8 66.h7

1/2-1/2

**Calvin Chang (1569) –
Jaden Marx (1577) [B11]**
Oregon Junior Closed
(R3), December 11, 2021
[Wilson Gibbins]

1.e4 c6

I always considered the Caro-Kann a way for positional players like Botvinnik and Petrosian to take the starch out of the sails of attacking players like Tal. Today it is played by aggressive players like Alireza Firouzja. The pawn structure is unbalanced, most of the pieces stay on the board—what is not to like?

2.Nf3 d5 3.Nc3 Bg4 4.d4 e6 5.Be3 Nf6 6.e5 Ne4 7.a3

White has chances for the advantage in a messy position with 7.Nxe4 dxe4 8.h3. This will be the last opportunity Jaden will give him.

7...Qa5 8.Bd2 Nxd2 9.Qxd2 c5 10.dxc5

Bxc5 11.Qf4 Bxf3 12.Qxf3



Position after 12.Qxf3

This is natural, keeping queens on the board with a space advantage. The less natural computer recommendation is 12.b4! which is still better for Black, but less so than the game continuation 12...Bxb4 13.Qxb4 Qxb4 14.axb4 Bh5 15.Nb5 and Black has an extra pawn but the White knight arriving on d6 will soon give him a few threats and some hope as compensation.

12...Nc6

Black stands very well in this position. At first glance you might notice White's space advantage and strong light-squared bishop and think White has some attacking chances. In reality, Black has an edge in development and a weak pawn on e5 to target, so White won't get the opportunity to attack.

13.Bb5

White trades off his wonderful light-squared bishop to reduce the pressure on his e5-pawn. It is White's best move, but

it isn't much fun to make.

13...0-0 14.Bxc6 bxc6 15.0-0 Bd4 16. Rfe1 f6!



Position after 16...f6

Black's position resembles the Advance variation of the French Defense where everything has gone right.

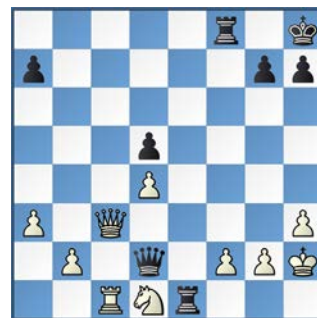
17.Qg4 fxe5! 18.Qxe6+ Kh8 19.Re2 Qb6 20.Nd1 e4 21.c3 Qb5 22.Rc2 Qd3! 23.Rac1 Rae8 24.Qxc6?!

Why not grab a pawn for your troubles? Especially when the engine recommends the defeatist line 24.Qxe8 Rxe8 25.cxd4 Qxd4.

24...e3!

Because now Black's position is overwhelming.

25.cxd4 e2 26.Rxe2 Qxe2 27.h3 Qd2 28.Qc3 Re1+ 29.Kh2



Position after 29.Kh2

29...Rxd1

Black is a rook up and clearly winning. A cute computer sideline is 29...Qf4+ 30.g3 (better but insufficient is 30.Qg3 Qxc1) 30...Qxf2+ 31.Nxf2 Rxf2#

30.Rxd1 Qxd1 31.Qc5 Re8 32.Qxd5 Qe2 33.Qf7 Qe7 34.Qf5 Rd8 35.Qg4 Qd6+ 36.f4 Qxd4 37.Qf5 Qxb2 38.Qa5 Qd4 39.Qc7 Qd6 40.Qc4 Qxa3 41.h4 Rb8 42.Qc7 Qb4 43.Qxa7 Qxf4+ 44.g3 Rb2+ 45.Kh3 Qf5+ 46.g4 Qf3#

0-1



*L-R: Thomas Schuff, Calvin Chang.
Photo credit Sanjay Nair.*

HARMON MEMORIAL CHESS TOURNAMENT

A NORTHWEST CHESS GRAND PRIX EVENT



APRIL 2-3, 2022

ORLOV CHESS ACADEMY (2 LOCATIONS)

SEATTLE: 7212 WOODLAWN AVE NE SEATTLE, WA 98115
REDMOND: 4174 148TH AVE NE BLD. I, STE. M, REDMOND, WA 98052

Dual Format: A 5-round Swiss in two sections. Max 25 players in Open section, max 20 players in Reserve (U1500) – please register early!

Open (in Seattle): NWSRS, US Chess & FIDE (rds. 2-5 only) Tri-Rated. Time control: Rd. 1: G/60; d10. Rds. 2-5: 40/100, SD/30; d10. Rounds: Sat 10 AM, 1 PM, 6:30 PM; Sun 10 AM, 3:30 PM. Two half-point byes available, request before end of round 2.

Reserve U1500 (in Redmond): NWSRS & US Chess Dual-Rated. Time control: 30/75, SD/30; d10. Rounds: Sat 9:30 AM, 2:00 PM, 6:00 PM; Sun 9:30 AM, 2:00 PM. Two half-point byes available, request before end of round 2.

Entry Fees: Must be paid by Mar 30: no late or on-site registrations or payments. \$80 by Mar 26, \$95 after. Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs, or US Chess 2400+. \$40 play-up fee if rated under 1500 and playing in Open section.

Prize Fund: \$1,800 (based on 45 paid entries)

Open: 1st \$400, 2nd \$300
1st U2100/U1900/U1700: \$100.

Reserve: 1st \$250, 2nd \$150
1st U1400/U1200/U1000: \$100
1st Unrated \$100.

Special Prizes (per section):

Biggest Upset/Best Female Player (by TPR)/Best Senior (65+, by TPR): 1-yr WCF ext.

Memberships: Current US Chess and WCF membership required, other states accepted. Memberships must be paid at time of registration. This tournament is a qualifier for the WA State Elementary Championships.

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

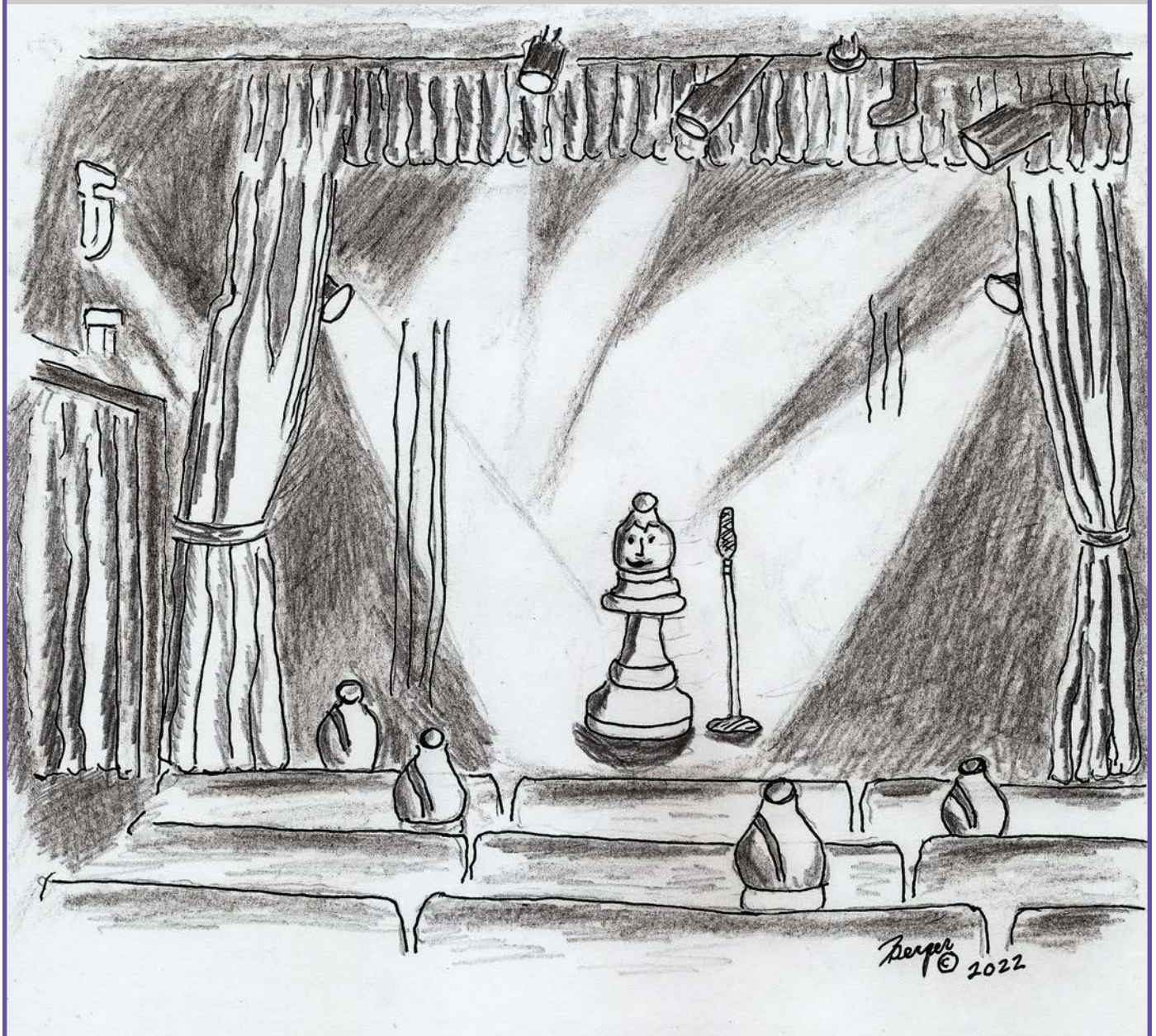
Registration: Online at
nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration

Registration, payment, & Health/Safety Form deadline: Wed, Mar 30 @ 5pm. Unpaid players will be removed from the roster after the deadline, and players from a Waitlist will be offered a spot.

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.

CHES COMEDIAN



A funny thing happened
on my way to b5!

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

Section Expert (2000-2199) EF: \$179 (2-day EF: \$175) \$2,000-1,000-500-300-300

Section "A" (1800-1999) EF: \$178 (2-day EF: \$175) \$1,800-900-500-300-300

Section "B" (1600-1799) EF: \$177 (2-day EF: \$175) \$1,700-800-400-300-300

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Top Senior (65+) - \$200; Club Championship - \$600 - 300.

Wednesday 4/13: 7:00 pm - GM Sergey Kudrin - Clock Simul w/ complete analysis of YOUR Game (Only \$30!)

Thursday 4/14: 6 - 7:15 pm - Lecture by IM John Donaldson (FREE)

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

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



Registration: Thursday (4/14) 5 - 8 pm. - Friday (4/15) 9 - 10 am. - Saturday (4/16) 9 - 10 am.

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

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

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

(H) 775-747-1405 OR (Cell) 775-354-8728 • 6578 Valley Wood Dr., Reno, NV 89523 • wackyykl@aol.com

Room Reservations: Call the Sands Regency - 1-866-FUN-STAY • Reserve by 4/1 for Chess Rate, code: CHESS422

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

ENTRY FORM - 9th Annual Larry Evans Memorial Open - Reno, Nevada - April 15-17 OR April 16-17, 2022

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

PRINT Name _____ Daytime Phone _____ USCF/FIDE Rating _____

Street Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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

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

	----- OPEN SECTION -----				EXPERT	"A"	"B"	"C"	"D/Under"	UNRATED
	GM/IM	Masters	2000-2199	1999-Below	2000-2199	1800-1999	1600-1799	1400-1599	1399-Below	Free With
3-Day EF	Free	\$179	\$250	\$300	\$179	\$178	\$177	\$176	\$165	USCF Dues
2-Day EF					\$175	\$175	\$175	\$175	\$175	USCF Dues

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- ☐ \$30 Wed. Clock Simul GM Kudrin
- ☐ \$20 Thu Simul GM Yermolinsky
- ☐ \$25 Thursday Blitz (G/5 d0)
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HOTEL INFORMATION:

- ☐ No Room Needed
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- ☐ Please Make Me a Reservation*
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Do not mail after 4/8. \$22 on site. Make check / m.o. payable to THE SANDS REGENCY or provide credit card info and signature. \$5 service charge on credit card entries.

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Washington Class Championships

Josh Sinanan

The 2021 Washington Class Championships, a six-round Swiss tournament in seven class sections organized by the Washington Chess Federation, was held in person at the Bellevue Hilton November 26-28. The event marked the official return to OTB chess for many players since March of 2020, when nearly all in-person chess tournaments abruptly came to a halt worldwide. A solid attendance of 156 players took part, with the field evenly distributed between the seven class sections. This was in large part due to a recent change in WCF policy which enables players to register for a section based on their highest rating among the local Northwest rating, US Chess Regular rating, US Chess Online rating, and FIDE rating, which allows for the most accurate placement. The tournament was organized by WCF President Josh Sinanan and Tournament Coordinator Valentin Razmov. Senior Tournament Directors Fred Kleist and Gary Dorfner directed the main event with assistance from long-time WCF Treasurer Robert Allen and WCF Member-at-Large Ani Barua. Scholastic players voluntarily assisted with cleanup after the event.

Just before the start of the first round on Friday morning, players and spectators were in for a treat as local performance artist and aerialist Jill Marissa performed a special chess-themed dance as part of the opening ceremony of the Washington Class Championships. The dance included several acrobatic tricks with Jill embodying Beth Harmon, the main character of the hit Netflix show, *The Queen's Gambit*! Be sure to check out the entire performance on the WCF Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/Washington-Chess-Federation-173076032716634>) or WCF YouTube (<https://youtu.be/ZS7zPpCO3Rc>) pages.

Due to a small turnout of only five players in the Master Section, the Master and Expert sections were merged from round four onward. NM Kyle Haining (2288-2294 (USCF) – 5.0) of Lake Forest Park and Brandon Jiang (2115-2138 – 5.0) of Bellevue tied for first place in the

Seattle-based dancer, hand-balancer, and aerialist Jill Marissa performs a chess-themed dance during the opening ceremony of the Washington Class Championships. Viktors Pupols (bottom-right) was not so thrilled! Photo credit: Siva Sankrithi.



22-player merged Master/Expert section. Five players shared second/third/first U2100/second U2100 honors a full point back: Yu-Cheng Liang (2036-2039 – 4.0) of Camas, Yiding Lu (1862-1916 – 4.0) of Bellevue, Nikash Vemparala (1804-1903 – 4.0) of Redmond, Ryan Min (1850-1921 – 4.0) of Bellevue, and Ishaan Kodarapu

(1877-1891 – 4.0) of Portland. Tim Moroney (2047-2055 – 3.5) of Mountlake Terrace finished in second place in the Master section with 3.5 points. Redmond High School senior Vignesh Anand (2073-2051 – 2.5) finished third in the Master section with 2.5 points. The Man, the Myth, the Legend FM Ignacio Perez

(2202-2200 – 2.0) of Seattle captured the U2300 prize to round out the prize winners. Harrison Toppen-Ryan (1760-1838 – 3.5) won the Best Upset Prize (375 pts.!) and was awarded a complimentary copy of *How Chessmasters Think*, by IM Eric Tangborn for his efforts.

Austin Liu (1754-1862 – 5.0) of Sammamish topped the 26-player Class A section with an impressive five-point score! A chasing pack of four players tied for second/third/first U1900/second U1900 half-a-point back: Colin Diamond (1874-1890 – 4.5) of Seattle, Aaron Nicoski (1742-1790 – 4.5) of Vancouver, Vidip Kona (1721-1826 – 4.5) of Redmond, and Erik Liu (1600-1642 – 4.5) of Bellevue.

In the 33-player Class B section, Jamie Zhu (1517-1555 – 5.0) of Sammamish claimed first place honors with an undefeated four wins, one draw, and a half-point-bye! Four players tied for second place honors a half-point back: Edward Cheng (1035-1361 – 4.5)

of Seattle, Michael Shapiro (1577-1572 – 4.5) of Sammamish, Ani Barua (1594-1625 – 4.5) of Seattle, and Nihanth Tatikonda (1288-1469 – 4.5) of Bothell. Varnika Jammalamadaka (1499-1497 – 4.0) of Redmond and Jeffrey Kou (1560-1544 – 4.0) of Issaquah shared first U1700 honors with four points apiece. Leonardo Zhou (1446-1522 – 3.5) of Issaquah and Ujwal Garine (1311-1409 – 3.5) of Redmond split the second U1700 prize with 3.5 points each. Two chess queens shared the Top Female Prize with three points each: Emma Li (1518-1490 – 3.0) from Redmond and Shuyi Han (1020-1065 – 3.0) from Bellevue.

A closely contested 22-player Class C section finished in a tie for first between four players, each with 4.5 points: Michael Rabadan (1468-1475 – 4.5) of Yakima, Eric Chang (1059-1225 – 4.5) of Bellevue, Noah Condit (unrated-1336 – 4.5) of Kirkland, and William Dann (1163-1318 – 4.5) of Kirkland. Three players shared first/second U1500 honors

a full point back: Vijay Nallappa (752-988 – 3.5) of Redmond, Jerrold Richards (1301-1300 – 3.5) of Lyle, and Jacob Sele (1401-1393 – 3.5) of Seattle.

Two Oregon players, Anisha Sripada (1361-1332 – 4.5) of Portland and Arthur Yang (979-1112 – 4.5) of Portland, topped the sparse 17-player Class D section. Sripada's clutch final round win against Yang guaranteed her a share of first place and put a stop to Yang's four-game winning streak! Five players shared second/third place honors half-a-point back: Bichen Liu (919-1064 – 4.0) of Bothell, Aashi Mathur (814-1017 – 4.0) of Sammamish, Zach Traynor (1290-1254 – 4.0) of Washington D.C., Andrew Smith (1135-1087 – 4.0) of Lynnwood, and Laasya Lanka (1185-1174 – 4.0) of Portland. Leo Saloranta (787-880 – 2.5) of Mercer Island claimed the first U1300 prize. Achyuth Vijayakrishnan (unrated-756 – 2.0) of Kirkland and Anish Bharadwaj (437-570 – 2.0) of Redmond shared second U1300 honors.

*Young chess players enjoy a fun game on the large chess set on the Bellevue Hilton foyer.
Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.*



The 35-player Class E section, the tournament's largest, featured the event's only perfect score, achieved by Blessington Moses (unrated-1536 – 6.0) of Bellevue. Vladimir Fedorov (820-903 – 5.0) of Sammamish and Marvin Wilbur (1125-1103 – 5.0) of Anacortes shared second place honors a full point back. Jai Budhraj (560-829 – 4.5) of Redmond finished in third place with a solid “plus three” score. The Class E section featured seven unrated players, with Andra Marinescu (unrated-949 – 4.5) of Renton finishing first among the newcomers.

Aaroh Kandhare (961-884 – 3.5) of Bellevue captured the first U1000 prize with 3.5 points. Laurion Burchall (921-935 – 3.0) of Seattle and Likhit Pusuluri (596-630 – 3.0) of Bothell split the second U1000 prize, each with an even three-point score. Adrian Galer (unrated-628 – 3.0) of Seattle and Anirudh Manoj (540-609 – 3.0) of Riverton (UT) shared first/second U800 honors with three-points each. Youngster Evelyn Huttelmaier (121-110 – 2.5) of Bellevue won the Top Female prize with a solid 2.5 points.

Congratulations to the winners!

Thanksgiving Scholastic

Former WCF Scholastic Director Jacob Mayer ran the Thanksgiving Scholastic on Black Friday Nov 26, which attracted a whopping 146 players in four sections. He was assisted by volunteers Tim Campbell and Lane Van Weerdhuizen.

A generous number of trophies were awarded to players across all four sections. Here are some of the winners:

K-3 U800:

First: Nicole Wang, 5.0

=Second-fourth: Yash Syal, Kevin Zhang, Arihant Chaudhuri, 4.0

=Fifth-sixth: Vihaan Pai, Andrew Ouyang, 3.5

K-3 Open:

First: Odbayar Yondon, 5.0

=Second-fourth: Rajas Shah, Vincent Liu, Sarang Sankrithi, 4.0

=Fifth-sixth: Siddharth Bhaskaran, Aaron Ren, 3.5

4-12 U900:

First: Yabi Ephrem, 4.5

=Second-fifth: Rian Raja, Martin Soukal, Gavin Tardif, Adithya Parthasarathy, 4.0

=Sixth-seventh: Mikhail Kosau, Sebastian Phillips-Acheson, 3.5

4-12 Open:

First: Srikrishna Gurumurthy, 5.0

Second: Kai Pisan 4.5

=Third=seventh: David Marcellia, William Summerfield, Vihan Dudala, Vijay Patankar, Bichen Liu, 4.0

=Eighth-twelfth: Samuel Cha, William Chen, Adrian Preizler, Sanjay Urali, Jackson Miller, 3.5

Puzzle Solving Championship

On Friday evening at 5:00 PM, 30 brave contestants were given a maximum of 45 minutes to solve 15 challenging chess puzzles. Solutions were written on paper, and contestants were evaluated based on accuracy, completeness, and speed. Congratulations to the winners:

=First-third: Nikash Vemparala, Austin Liu, Gabriel Razmov, 13.5

First U2000: Ujwal Garine, 12.5

First U1700: Edward Cheng, 12.0

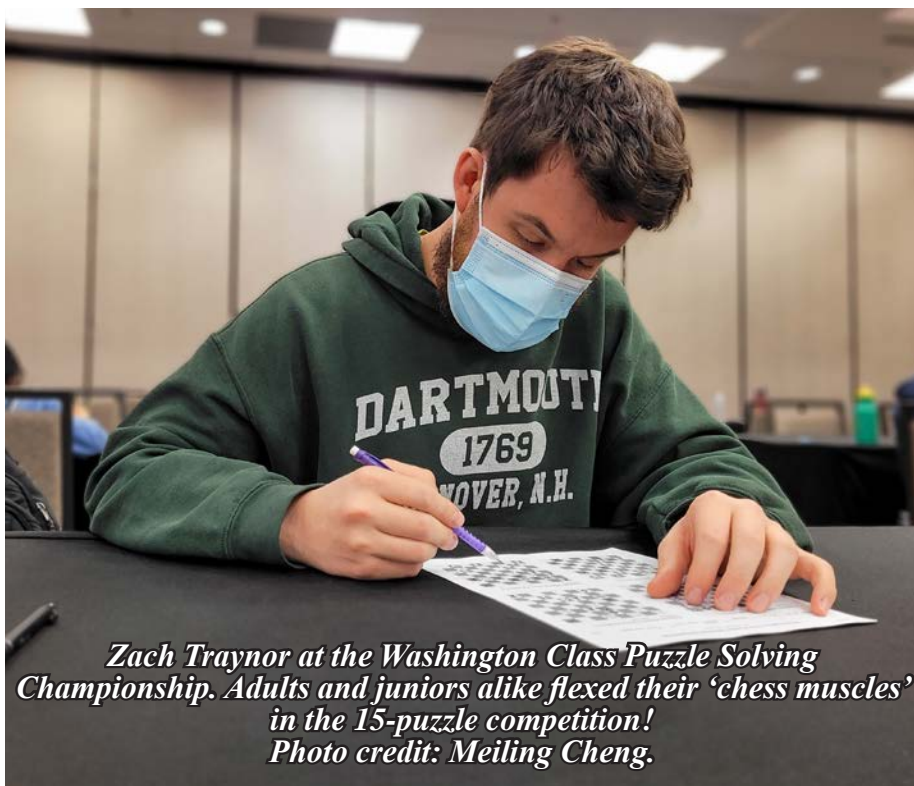
First U1400: Arnav Bablani, 10.0

First Unrated: Quinn Rasmussen, 4.0

We have included the puzzles below for the Northwest Chess readers to enjoy. How many can you solve? Solutions will be revealed in a future issue of Northwest Chess!



Fourth grader Selina Cheng at the Washington Class Puzzle Solving Championship. Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.



Zach Traynor at the Washington Class Puzzle Solving Championship. Adults and juniors alike flexed their 'chess muscles' in the 15-puzzle competition! Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.

Washington Class Puzzle Solving Competition

November 26, 2021

Name: _____ Rating: _____ NWSRS Start Time: _____ PM End Time: _____ PM

Puzzle #1: White to move and mate in 1.

Solution: 1. _____



Puzzle #2: Black to move and mate in 1.

Solution: 1... _____



Puzzle #3: Black to move and mate in 2.

Solution: 1... _____ 2. _____ (or 2. _____)



Puzzle #4: White to move and mate in 3.

Solution: 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____



1 of 4

Washington Class Puzzle Solving Competition

Puzzle #5: White to move and win material.

Solution: 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

Brief explanation (optional): _____



Puzzle #6: Black to move and win material.

Solution: 1... _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

Brief explanation (optional): _____



Puzzle #7: White to move and win material.

Solution: 1. _____ 2. _____ (or 1... _____ 2. _____)

Brief explanation (optional): _____



Puzzle #8: How can White avoid losing material?

Solution: 1. _____ 2. _____

Brief explanation: _____



2 of 4

Washington Class Puzzle Solving Competition

Puzzle #9: White to move and win.

Solution: 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

Brief explanation (optional): _____



Puzzle #10: White to move and win.

Solution: 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

Brief explanation (optional): _____



Puzzle #11: White starts and queens in 5 moves.

Solution: 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

(or 2... _____ 3. _____)

Brief explanation: _____



Puzzle #12: White to move and avoid losing.

Solution: 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

Brief explanation: _____



3 of 4

Washington Class Puzzle Solving Competition

Puzzle #13: White to move and avoid losing.

Solution: 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

4. _____ (or 3... _____ 4. _____)

Brief explanation: _____



Puzzle #14: White threatens a strong attack with g3-g4. How can Black survive in the long term?

Solution: 1... _____ 2. _____ (or 2... _____)

Brief explanation: _____



Puzzle #15: White has strong threats against Black's king. How can Black survive and even thrive?

Solution: 1... _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ (or 2... _____ 3. _____)

Brief explanation: _____



4 of 4

Puzzles
courtesy of
Valentin
Razmov

Chess Workshop for Women and Girls

The Second Chess Workshop for Girls and Women, led by WFM Chouchan Airapetian, WCF Director of Women's and Girls' Chess, took place on Friday evening from 6:00-7:30 PM on the Hilton lobby foyer. A good turnout of about a dozen girls attended the workshop and enjoyed some complimentary Pagliacci pizza while discussing how to support and grow chess for women and girls in the Pacific Northwest. Some fun blitz and bughouse games rounded out the festivities!

Chess960 Championship (Fischer Random)

The Washington Class Chess960 (Fischer Random) Championship was conducted as a four-player quad on Saturday November 27 at 4:00 PM. Four gentlemen honored Bobby Fischer as they scrambled up the back-rank pieces and played from a different starting position each round! Pieces were drawn at random by the players and spectators out of a bag, which produced some truly interesting positions including: RBKNQRBN,

RNQKNRBB, and BRNKNQRB. When the dust settled, Valentin Razmov (1866 – 2.5) of Seattle and Sridhar Seshadri (1785 – 2.5) of Bothell tied for first/second with 2.5 points apiece. Michael Rabadan (1554 – 0.5) of Yakima and James “Skip” Hamlett (1534 – 0.5) of Shoreline shared third/U2000 honors after a tense last-round draw.

G/45 Championship

The WA Class G/45 Championship, a four-round Swiss in one eight-player section, took place on Sunday afternoon at 2:00 PM. Players ranged in rating from unrated to 1925, which made for some quite interesting struggles!

Harrison Keyser (1595-1599 – 3.5) of Sammamish emerged victorious with an undefeated 3.5 points, conceding only a single draw in the final round to the unrated ringer Zaki Maksyutov.

Young Siddharth Bhaskaran (1147-1278 – 3.0) of Redmond captured clear second place half-a-point back, scoring a huge 636-pt. upset along the way! Zaki Maksyutov (unrated-1529 – 2.5) of Redmond and Robert Karl (1059-1073 – 2.5) of Seattle shared third/U2000 honors with 2.5 points apiece. Newcomer Lucas

Sauve (916-963 – 2.0) of Enumclaw and Jeff Klink (1168-1167 – 2.0) of Bothell split the U1700/U1400/unrated prize with an even two points from four games.

“Knight”-Time Blitz

The 18-player Washington Class “Knight”-Time Blitz tournament, a popular and traditional side event, kicked off around 9:00 PM on Sunday evening in the skittles room under the direction of WCF President Josh Sinanan.

A trio of “Knight” Owls - Vidip Kona (1507-1626 – 5.0) of Redmond, FM Ignacio Perez (2191-2161 – 5.0) of Capitol Hill, and Valentin Razmov (unrated-1761 – 5.0) of Seattle – won the seven-round, five-minute, single Swiss blitz tournament. Edward Cheng (1461-1562 – 4.5) from Detective Cookie's Chess Club in Seattle captured the first U1700 prize half-a-point back from the leaders. Robin Tu (1765-1739 – 4.5) of Seattle and Nikash Vemparala (1696-1700 – 4.5) of Redmond shared first U2000 honors.

The unrated prize was awarded to Zaki Maksyutov (unrated-1435 – 3.5) of Redmond, who no doubt refined his blitz skills online during the pandemic.



Ignacio Perez (L) vs Samuel Cha at the Washington Class “Knight”-Time Blitz. This would be Ignacio's last ever blitz tournament, of which he won many! Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.

**Michael Hosford (1881) –
Austin Liu (1864) [D03]**

Washington Class Championships
Bellevue, WA (R6), November 26, 2021
[Austin Liu]

**1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.Bg5 Bg7 4.Nbd2 d5
5.e3 0-0 6.Bd3 b6**

A solid option. I considered ...c5, but decided getting back the pawn if he played dxc5 would take too much time.

7.Qe2

Keeping the option of castling queenside open.

**7...c5 8.c3 Bb7 9.Ne5 Nbd7 10.Nxd7
Nxd7**

I considered 10...Qxd7, since it's a natural capture, but I felt that after White plays f3 later, my knight will be misplaced.

11.0-0

At this point, my plan was to go f6-e5, but I wanted to be able to recapture with the pawn, which I couldn't do because of the pin. However, in fact capturing with the knight is perfectly fine.

11...Re8?!

11...f6! 12.Bh4 e5 13.dxe5 Nxe5 14.Ba6 Bxa6 15.Qxa6 Qc8 the endgame is good for Black due to his better placed pieces. 16.Qe2 Qe6 and Black will play f5 and have a pleasant position due to his space advantage.

12.f4 Qc7 13.f5 e5!

Countering a flank-attack with counterplay in the center. Now comes one of the critical moments of the game; how does White respond? He can play fxg6, f6, fxe6, or keep the tension with Qg4.

14.f6

14.fxe6 Rxe6 and my opponent's e3-pawn will be a hindrance for him. Black has no problems in this position, since any attack along the f-file can be easily defended against.; 14.fxg6 fxg6 allowing Black to fight for the f-file. 15.Qg4 Qd6 stopping any Qe6+ ideas. Black will soon place his rooks on f8 and e8, with a good position.; 14.Qg4! In my opinion, the best move. White keeps his options open, leaving Black without a clear plan. White can then choose whether to play f6 or capture on g6 at the time of his choice, depending on what Black does.

14...Bf8

A difficult decision. On h8, the bishop attacks the f6-pawn, but might be trapped later.

15.Qg4 e4

Taking away the important f3-square from White.

16.Bb5

Presumably White doesn't want to lose time dropping back the bishop, but it also exchanges his good bishop for my bad one.

16...Bc6 17.Bxc6 Qxc6



Position after 17...Qxc6

18.h4?

We both agreed afterwards that this was the critical mistake.

18...Qe6?!

I considered 18...h6! for a while. 19.h5! Obviously the only practical try. 19...hxg5 20.hxg6 Nxf6 21.Qxg5 Bg7 22.gxf7+ Kxf7-+ This line is in fact just winning for Black, and objectively I should have gone for it. In the game though, I was under a lot of pressure and went for the "safer" option.

19.Qf4 Bd6 20.Qf2 Qg4

Black threatens a queen trap with Bg3.

21.Rae1 c4?!

My idea here was to go into an endgame where I have an advantage due to my better minors and space advantage. However, there is an even better option. 21...Bg3! 22.Qe2 with the idea that Black's queen is en prise. 22...Qe6 23.Rb1 h6! 24.Bxh6 Nxf6-+ and White is losing across the board.

22.Qe2 Qxe2 23.Rxe2 Bg3

Stopping any counterplay with g4.

24.h5!?

White needs to try something. If he waits one more move, Black plays ...h5 himself.

24...Nf8?!

This isn't necessary at all. 24...gxh5?? 25.Rf5!±

25.Bf4 Bxf4?!

Trading bishops for no good reason. 25...Bh4 I was worried about my bishop getting trapped here, but White doesn't have anything, since Black always

Chandra Alexis Chess Club

Upcoming Northwest Chess grand prix
chandraalexischessclub.org

US Chess and FIDE rated tournaments for February—March 2022

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: February 26-27: [A Scorpion's Cyclone!](#)

**March 5-6: [あなたがあなたの時計を始めるかもしれない名誉ある敵!](#)
(Honorable Opponents, you may start your clocks!)**

March 12-13: [Chuck, Wishes You Luck!](#)

captures f6 in time with ...Re6 and/or ...Nd7.

26.Rxf4

So now I've managed to really ruin things. I now try to desperately capture f6 before White gets g4-g5.

26...Re6 27.Nf1

The start of the wrong plan, in my opinion, although this isn't a mistake. 27.g4 was the move I was worried about. 27...h6 I realized this doesn't work due to 28.hxg6 fxg6 29.Rh2! Kh7 30.g5 h5 and Black doesn't have anything.

27...Nd7 28.Ref2 Rc8 29.hxg6 fxg6



Position after 29...fxg6

30.Nh2?

30.g4 is the only saving move now. 30...h6 31.g5! hxg5 32.Rg4 Rf8 33.Rxg5 Rxf6

34.Rxf6 Nxf6 35.Rxg6+ Kf7 This is a good position for sure, but with correct play White should definitely draw this.

30...Rf8 31.Ng4 h5

and suddenly the f-pawn becomes undefendable.

32.f7+ Kg7 33.Nh2?

Missing the last chance for a draw. In fairness, my opponent was probably demoralized and tired from hours of playing this exhausting game. 33.Ne5 Nxe5 34.dxe5 Rxe5. I saw this in the game, and I realized it's surprisingly difficult to convert the advantage here, due to the weak d5-pawn.

33...Rf6 34.Rxf6 Nxf6 35.b3 Rxf7 36.bxc4 dxc4 37.Rb2 Nd5 38.Nf1 Nxc3 39.Rc2 Nd5

and at this point he realized Rxc4 fails to Rxf1+ and Nxe3+, so he duly resigned.

0-1

Emma Li (1689) – Gabriel Razmov (1609) [B01]
Washington Class Championships
Bellevue, WA (R5), November 28, 2021
[Gabriel Razmov]

This game was played in Round five of

the Washington Class Championships in the Class B section. My opponent was rated ~100 points higher than me. I felt this game was critical, so I went for what I consider a no-risk, solid opening as Black.

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qa5

This is the main line of the Scandinavian, called Mieses-Kotrc. It is a line in which Black often equalizes relatively simply, with good play to follow.

4.Nf3 Nf6 5.Bc4 Bf5 6.0-0 e6 7.d4 c6

The moves up to this point can transpose in many different ways.

8.Re1

One trap that White needs to be aware of in this opening line is that if 8.a3 Nbd7 9.b4?? Bxb4, taking advantage of the pin. Obviously, White should not play like this when their dark squared Bishop is still on c1 and the rook is on a1.

8...Be7 9.Bf4 Qd8?!

I felt that the queen was no longer as useful on a5, so I brought it back to base camp to ensure that my pieces are protected while I develop. This is one thing that draws people away from the Scandinavian--it involves moving Black's queen three or four times, seemingly uselessly. However,



*Andrew Wall (L) vs. Harishkumar Karthikeyan during round four of the Class A section.
Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.*

this Qd8–d5–a5–d8 maneuver offers some challenges for White (e.g., it temporarily pins the white knight when developed to c3), and it is instrumental in leaving enough space for Black to develop before the queen comes back to safety in Black's camp. 9...Nbd7 is another natural way to continue development quickly, though it allows White a more long-term pressure via the dark-squared bishop.

10.Qd2 0–0 11.Bd3?!

Usually White aims to exchange Black's bishop for the knight, not the light-squared bishop. 11.Nh4

11...Bg6 12.Bxg6 hxg6 13.Ng5?!



Position after 13.Ng5

Over-ambitious. There are sacrificial tricks White can play around the potential weakness of the e6–pawn (I once fell into such a trap); however, here this idea does not work, as the game shows.

13...Nbd7 14.Qe2 Nb6 15.Nxe6?

Did White blunder the rook defense 16...Rf7 a couple of moves down the line?

15...fxe6 16.Qxe6+ Rf7=

16...Kh7?! 17.Qxe7 Qxe7 18.Rxe7 Nbd5 19.Nxd5 Nxd5 20.Bg5 Nxe7 21.Bxe7= Although Black still comes out better, White would have two pawns for the exchange and some practical drawing chances.

17.Ne4 Nxe4 18.Rxe4 Nd5

18...Qd5 looks simpler and compelling.

19.Be5 Nf6 20.Rae1?

A material blunder or a sign of desperation?

20...Qd5?

I have no idea why I didn't simply take the offered rook. 20...Nxe4 21.Rxe4 Qd5 and the game would be over already.

21.Bxf6 Qxe6 22.Rxe6 Bxf6 23.c3 Kf8

I intended to trade a set of rooks in order to make this endgame simpler to win, because rooks could create extra counter-chances and complications.

24.g3 Re7 25.f4 Rae8 26.Rxe7 Bxe7?!

26...Rxe7 either captures control over the e-file or trades rooks and thus makes it simpler for Black to win the endgame.

27.Re5 Bf6

I realized that rooks did indeed create complications, so I admitted my previous mistake and offered the trade again.

28.Rxe8+ Kxe8

This position should be technically winning, but Black needs to be careful, especially not to allow too many pawns to be exchanged.

29.h4 Ke7 30.Kf2 Ke6 31.Ke3 Kd5 32.Kd3 c5 33.dxc5 Kxc5 34.Ke4 Kc4 35.Ke3 b5

Black's plan is to advance on the queenside and thus either win some white pawns there or gain access to the vital d4–square, which would allow an invasion on one of the flanks, e.g., via Bf6–d4–f2, attacking the white kingside pawns with a bishop while the black king attacks the queen-side pawns.

36.Kd2 a5 37.b3+?!

Already a weakening that White cannot reverse.

37...Kd5 38.Kd3 a4

White is practically in zugzwang.

39.bxa4 bxa4 40.c4+ Kc5

Another zugzwang wins a pawn.

41.g4 Bxh4 42.f5 gxf5 43.gxf5 Bf6

And another zugzwang wins another pawn. The game is practically over.

44.Ke4 Kxc4 45.Ke3 Kc3 46.Ke4 Kb2 47.Kd3 Kxa2 48.Kc2 a3 49.Kc1 Kb3 50.Kb1 a2+

White resigned. Overall, I felt I played well, though the game was colored by the early "blunder" piece sacrifice by White.

0–1

**Kyle Haining (2288) –
Brandon Jiang (2088) [A21]**
Washington Class Championships
Bellevue, WA (R6), November 28, 2021
[Kyle Haining]

For the last round, I was paired against Brandon Jiang, who was having a great tournament and had already won his section. I played him before as White, where he went for a sharp line. Not wanting to go for that, I spent awhile on my first move and decided to play my black opening as White.

1.g3 f5 2.Bg2 Nf6 3.c4 d6 4.Nc3 e5 5.d3 Be7 6.Rb1 a5 7.a3 0–0 8.b4 Nc6?!

It is better for Black to trade pawns on b4. As you'll see from the game, neither of us really understood this. Also, in this kind of structure Black is better off playing c6 and developing the knight to d7. 8...axb4 9.axb4 gives Black the a-file for his rook.

9.e3?!

9.b5 not allowing the trade on b4 is better 9...Nd4 10.e3 Ne6 11.Nge2±

9...Qe8 10.Nge2

Again, 9... axb4 and 10. b5 would have been better moves.

10...Qh5 11.Qc2 Kh8 12.b5 Nb8 13.Nd5 Bd8 14.c5?!



Position after 14.c5

I thought this was a good move, weakening Black's pawn structure, but this turns out not to be the case.

14...Nxd5 15.Bxd5 Nd7?!

A problem with 14.c5 is that 15...dxc5 16.Qxc5 Nd7 and the natural looking 17.Qc2 can be met by 17...f4! 18.exf4 exf4. exposes an attack on the d5–bishop.

16.c6 bxc6 17.Bxc6 Ra7 18.d4 Be7 19.Bb2 Nb8

A good practical decision by my opponent, offering a pawn in exchange for the bishop pair.

20.Bg2

I decline. 20.dxe5 Nxc6 21.Qxc6 is still good for White, but is risky, letting Black have the h1–a8 diagonal (21.bxc6? Ba6 White has lost most of his advantage here, according to the computer. White has serious problems with his light squares. This is one of the cases where you should decide you're not paid enough to take the extra pawn.)

20...e4 21.Nf4 Qf7 22.h4 d5 23.h5

Threatening Ng6+ with a discovery on the h-file if Black takes.

23...Kg8 24.Bf1

Threatening Nxd5, and Black can't play ...Qxd5 due to Bc4.

24...Be6 25.Bc1 Rc8 26.Qd2?!

I was scared of a break on the c-file but turns out it doesn't work. 26.Be2 c5 27.dxc5 Bxc5 28.Qd2 and Black does not have much. A sample line is 28...d4 29.exd4 Rd7 30.Bb2 Rcd8 31.Nxe6 Qxe6 32.Qc2 Bb6 33.Bc4+-.

26...Nd7 27.Be2 Bd6 28.Kf1?!



Position after 28.Kf1

28...Nb6?!

Here and in later moves, Black should take the knight. According to the computer, I should have traded on e6 the previous move. This is not at all intuitive to me. Why should I exchange my knight for the "bad" light-square bishop rather than the "good" dark-square bishop? Apparently, the answer has to do with the weakness of the g-file. 28...Bxf4 29.gxf4 h6! and Black has a plan of Kh7, Rg8, and g5.

29.Bb2 Bd7 30.Kg2 Qe8 31.Bc3 Rca8 32.Qa2 Qf7 33.a4 Rf8

White has a good position, but how to improve? I came up with a plan of Bc3-b2-a3 to trade dark-square bishops. That way, c7 is weakened and I can also post a rook on c5. To protect a4 while my bishop is on a3, also planned Bd1, which has the nice benefit of allowing Bb3, putting more pressure on d5.

34.Bd1 Bc8 35.Bb2 Bb7 36.Ba3 Qe7 37.Bxd6 Qxd6 38.Bb3 Rd8 39.Rbc1 Ba8 40.Rc5 Kh8 41.Rhc1 Kg8

My plan worked quite nicely. Now, all my pieces are active, while Black doesn't have good plans. This is the kind of position you're happy to be playing in person, where others can see your board :)

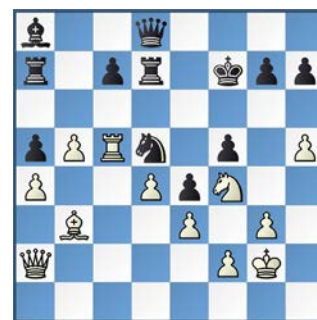
42.Qc2

I played Rxd5 later. Not sure when exactly I spotted it, but was being a bit lazy. Why am I going down material when I have such a huge position? I was hoping to find an easier way to win.

42...Rd7 43.Qd1 Qf6 44.Qe2 Kf7 45.Qa2 Qd8

Eventually I decide this is the easier win.

46.Rxd5 Nxd5 47.Rc5



Position after 47.Rc5

White crashes through. Black has no way to guard d5. An example line is 47.Rc5 Kg8 48.Nxd5 Bxd5 49.Bxd5+ Kh8 50.Bc6 and White is about to regain material with a great position after taking the f5 pawn. Black's a7 rook, meanwhile, is trapped by the bishop.

1-0



Washington Senior Championship

APRIL 15-17TH, 2022

Highest finishing Washington resident receives the title of Washington State Senior Champion, a seed into the Invitational Section of the 2023 Washington State Championship, and a \$750 travel stipend from the WCF to attend the [2022 National Tournament of Senior State Champions](#), which is held concurrently with the U.S. Open in early August.

Site: Orlov Chess Academy: 4174 148th Ave NE Bld. I, Ste. M, Redmond, WA 98052.

Format: A 5-Round, G/90; +30 Swiss. Open to Seniors age 50+ (or reaching age 50 by or before August 1, 2022). Playoff round if needed to break tie for 1st place will be resolved later in the year by a G/90 playoff game.

Entry Fee: \$50 by 4/8, \$60 after. Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs, or US Chess 2400+.

Rounds: Fri: 6:30 PM. Sat: 10 AM, 3 PM. Sun: 10 AM, 3 PM.

Prize Fund: \$500 (based on 20 paid entries).
1st \$150, 2nd \$125
1st U2000/U1700/U1400 \$75

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

Memberships: Current US Chess and WCF membership required, other states accepted. Membership must be paid at time of registration.

Rating: Dual US Chess and NWSRS Rated. Highest of April 2022 US Chess Regular/Online rating or currently NWSRS will be used to determine pairings and prizes.

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.

Info/Entries: Josh Sinanan, WCF President

Phone: 206-769-3757

Email: WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com

Registration: Online at nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration. Registration deadline **Thu. 4/14 @ 5pm**. \$15 Late Fee for payments accepted after the deadline. Unpaid players will receive a zero-point bye for round 1.

Washington Winter Classic

Josh Sinanan

The 2021 Washington Winter Classic was held online via Chess.com December 26-27. Chess players from throughout the world, including parts of Washington, Massachusetts, British Columbia, Belarus, Armenia, and India were represented in the 35-player field! The two-day, eight-round Swiss tournament was hosted by the Washington Chess Federation and directed by WCF Scholastic Director Rekha Sagar. The field was split evenly between the 17-player Open and 18-player Reserve U1500 sections.

GM Aleksey Aleksandrov of Minsk, Belarus, topped the star-studded Open section with an astounding 7.5/8 score, conceding only a single draw to Armenian IM David Shahinyan in the third round! IM Bala Chandra Prasad Dhulipalla of India captured clear second place seven points, losing only to Aleksandrov in round four, but then quickly bouncing back with a win against fellow IM Shahinyan in the very next round. Shahinyan finished in third place with 5.5 points, a whole point clear of the chasing pack of local players, after taking a zero-point bye in the final round since it was mathematically impossible for anyone to catch up with him! A quintuplet of Northwest local shared first U2000/U1800 honors with an even four-points apiece: WCF Tournament Coordinator Valentin Razmov of Seattle, Edward Cheng of Seattle, Edward Strong of Seattle, Bohan Zhang of Redmond, and Daniel Wang of Mercer Island. Two up-and-coming juniors, Darsh Verma of Bothell and Chengrui Fan of Bellevue, tied for the U1600 prize with 3.5 points each.

Kai Marcelais of Redmond and Eduard Edson of Mukilteo were crowned co-champions of the Reserve U1500 section, each scoring an impressive seven points from eight games! Marcelais recovered well from a fourth-round loss to Edson and won his last four games in a row. Edson, on the other hand, won his first seven games in a row and seemed nearly invincible, but his rampage was put to a stop by youngster Vishnu Mohan, a third-grader from Bothell, in the final round! Mohan, incidentally, captured clear third place with 5.5 points, scoring 4.5 points in the final five rounds! Two chess queens, Selina Cheng of Seattle and Laya Mohan

of Bothell, shared first U1400 honors with five points each. Aaroh Kandhare, a seventh-grader from Odle Middle School in Bellevue, won the U1200 prize with 4.5 points. A trio of rising juniors, Yabi Ephrem of Seattle, Likhit Arnav Pusuluri of Bothell, and Jonah Shah of Seattle, split the U1000 prize. Jonah added to his winnings by claiming the Biggest Upset Prize with a jaw-dropping 944-point upset in the third round. Two more special prizes were awarded based on tournament performance rating to the Best Player from the Northwest Region and to the Best Female Player. Harry Bell of West Richland was the Best NW Player with a TPR of 2038 and Angela Chen of Seattle was the Best Female Player with a TPR of 1567. Congratulations to the winners!

**David Shahinyan (2570) –
Aleksej Aleksandrov (2708) [C47]**
Washington Winter Classic
Chess.com, December 26, 2021
[Ralph Dubisch]

**1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.d4 exd4
5.Nxd4 Bb4 6.Nxc6 bxc6 7.Bd3 d5
8.Bd2!?**

8.exd5 cxd5 9.0–0 0–0 10.Bg5 c6 11.Qf3
has been played hundreds of times (at
least), with an equal position.

8...0–0 9.0–0



Position after 9.0-0

9...Bg4

9...Bxc3 10.Bxc3 dxe4 (10...Nxe4
11.Bxe4 dxe4 12.Qe2 Bf5 (Similarly
12...Re8 13.Qe3, when White has full
compensation for the pawn through active
pieces and pressure against the many pawn
weaknesses—though it is hard to see this
leading to a serious advantage.) 13.Qe3 is
essentially equal.) 11.Bxf6 Qxf6 12.Bxe4

and an eternal optimist might be able to
claim a microscopic advantage for White.

**10.f3 dxe4 11.Nxe4 Nxe4 12.Bxb4 Qd4+
13.Kh1 Qxb4 14.Bxe4 Be6 15.b3 Rad8
16.Qe1! Qxe1**

16...Rd2?? 17.Rf2 Rfd8 18.Bd3+-

17.Rfxe1±

Now White has a distinct structural edge
in the endgame.

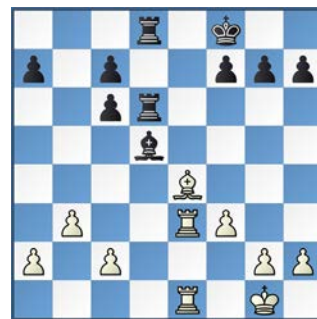
17...Rd6

Possibly 17...c5, intending ...c4, keeps the
troubles to a minimum.

18.Kg1 Rfd8 19.Re3! Bd5

19...c5 20.Rc3 c4!?±

20.Rae1 Kf8?!



Position after 20...Kf8

20...g6 21.Kf2 Kf8 22.Rc3±

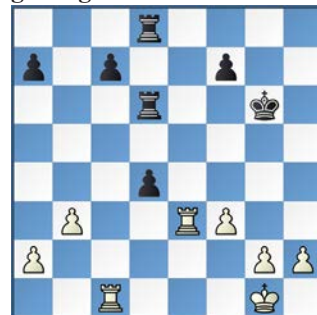
21.Bxh7!

Black probably assumed this to be
impossible, but White sees the tactical
overload of the f7-pawn.

21...g6 22.c4 Kg7

If 22...Be6 23.Bxg6+-

23.Bxg6 Kxg6 24.cxd5 cxd5 25.Rc1 d4



Position after 25...d4

26.Re7?!

Blockade! 26.Rd3 R8d7 27.Kf2 followed by a slow mobilization of the white pawns. Black is helpless.

Not that White's choice actually throws away the game or anything...

26...Ra6

26...d3!?

27.Rc2

27.Rcxc7 Rxa2 (27...d3 28.Red7 Rd6 29.Rxd6+ Rxd6 30.Rc1+-) 28.Rxf7+- Sure, White seems to be able to counter Black's scary ideas, but this requires accurate calculation.

27...d3 28.Rd2 Rc6 29.Kf2 f5 30.f4 Kf6 31.Re1

31.Re5!/? keeps the option of Ra5 at some point.

31...Rc3 32.h3 Rd4 33.Kf3 a5 34.g4 a4

34...Rc2!/? 35.Rxc2 (35.Red1 Rxd2 36.Rxd2 a4!/?) 35...dxc2 36.g5+ Kf7 37.Rc1 Rd2±

35.g5+! Kf7 36.Re5 axb3 37.axb3

Why not the intermediate 37.Rxf5+!, I wonder?

37...Kg6 38.h4 Rc2 39.Rxc2 dxc2 40.Rc5?/?

Here, or on the last move, the key to winning is to prevent Black's counterplay involving ...Kh5-g4. It's actually a basic principle to push the king back with tempo, so it didn't need a great deal of

analysis. Time must have been a factor.

Gotta finish off these 2700 players when you have the chance. 40.Re6+! Kf7 (40...Kh5?? 41.Rh6#) 41.Rc6 Rd3+ 42.Ke2 Rh3 (42...Rxb3 43.h5!) 43.b4! Rxh4 44.Ke3 Rh3+ 45.Kd4 Rb3 46.Ke5 Rxb4 47.Kxf5+-

40...Rd3+ 41.Ke2 Rxb3 42.Rxc2

42.Kd2; and 42.Rxc7 are other attempts. Black should be able to hold.

42...Kh5! 43.Rc5 Kg4 44.g6 Rb8 45.Rxc7 Rg8 46.g7 Kxf4 47.Rf7 Kg4 48.Ra3 Kh5 49.Kf4 Kg6 50.Rxf5 Rxf7 51.Ra5 Rf7+ 52.Kg4 Kg7 53.Kg5 Rb7 54.h5 Kh7 55.Re5 Ra7

1/2-1/2

Final Standings. Washington Winter Classic: Open Section

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	Rd 8	Total
1	1	Aleksej Aleksandrov	2708	W16	W6	D3	W2	W7	W5	W13	W9	7.5
2	2	Bala Chandra Prasad Dhulipalla	2215	W9	W8	W5	L1	W3	W7	W6	W10	7
3	3	David Shahinyan	2570	W12	W7	D1	W4	L2	W8	W5	U---	5.5
4	4-5	Ze Wang	2135	H---	H---	W16	L3	H---	U---	W17	W13	4.5
5		Harry E Bell	2008	D10	W13	L2	W12	W6	L1	L3	W7	4.5
6	6-10	Valentin Razmov	1810	W17	L1	L12	W14	L5	W16	L2	W15	4
7		Edward Cheng	1689	W14	L3	W13	W8	L1	L2	W12	L5	4
8		Edward Strong	1660	W15	L2	W10	L7	W11	L3	L9	W16	4
9		Bohan Zhang	1604	L2	D17	W15	D11	H---	D12	W8	L1	4
10		Daniel Wang	1603	D5	D11	L8	W15	D12	D13	W14	L2	4
11	11-14	Richard Ingram	1880	L13	D10	W17	D9	L8	L14	B---	D12	3.5
12		Gabriel Razmov	1624	L3	W14	W6	L5	D10	D9	L7	D11	3.5
13		Darsh Verma	1579	W11	L5	L7	W16	B---	D10	L1	L4	3.5
14		Chengrui Fan	1527	L7	L12	B---	L6	W15	W11	L10	D17	3.5
15	15	Hiruna Devadithya	1520	L8	B---	L9	L10	L14	W17	W16	L6	3
16	16-17	Angela Chen	1646	L1	X18	L4	L13	W17	L6	L15	L8	2
17		Ojas Kandhare	1560	L6	D9	L11	B---	L16	L15	L4	D14	2
18	18	Arjun Tiwari	1597	U---	F16	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	0

Final Standings. Washington Winter Classic: Reserve Section

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	Rd 8	Total
1	1-2	Kai Marcelais	1437	W17	W5	W4	L2	W6	W7	W8	W11	7
2		Eduard Edson	1389	W16	W15	W7	W1	W8	W4	W12	L3	7
3	3	Vishnu Mohan	1344	L11	X18	L12	W17	W5	D6	W7	W2	5.5
4	4-5	Selina Cheng	1386	W6	W11	L1	L8	W12	L2	W14	W7	5
5		Laya Mohan	1358	W10	L1	W17	L11	L3	W9	W6	W8	5
6	6	Aaroh Kandhare	1060	L4	W14	W15	W10	L1	D3	L5	W12	4.5
7	7-12	Kai Pisan	1409	W13	W8	L2	W12	W11	L1	L3	L4	4
8		Evan Cen	1310	W14	L7	W16	W4	L2	W11	L1	L5	4
9		Yi-Kuang Chang	1190	L12	W10	L11	W14	L13	L5	W17	W16	4
10		Yabi Ephrem	990	L5	X---	D13	L6	W17	L12	W16	D14	4
11		Likhit Arnav Pusuluri	894	W3	L4	W9	W5	L7	L8	W13	L1	4
12		Jonah Shah	400	W9	W13	W3	L7	L4	W10	L2	L6	4
13	13-14	Yuchang Yang	1145	L7	L12	D10	B---	W9	L14	L11	W17	3.5
14		Aayush Chulki	850	L8	L6	B---	L9	W16	W13	L4	D10	3.5
15	15-16	David Bradshaw	1198	X19	L2	L6	W16	U---	U---	U---	U---	2
16		Mariel Pachucki	1127	L2	X20	L8	L15	L14	W17	L10	L9	2
17	17	Anish Bharadwaj	1190	L1	X19	L5	L3	L10	L16	L9	L13	1
18	18-20	Hayden York	1040	U---	F3	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	0
19		Adrian Galer	756	F15	F17	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	0
20		Salyh Saryyev	unr.	U---	F16	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	0

Another Annotated Game From 2021 Northwest Chess Winter Open

Gabriel Razmov

**Gabriel Razmov (1605) –
Edward Cheng (1738) [E67]**

NW Chess Winter Open
Chess.com (R5), December 11, 2021
[Gabriel Razmov]

This game was played in the last round of the NW Chess Winter Open. I had 2.5/4 with two wins against lower-rated opposition and a draw with a 2000-rated player, and here I was playing a well-known opponent ~130 points higher than my rating. I prepared a quiet line against his expected King's Indian Defense (KID), mostly because I was not as familiar with the mainlines. I practiced and looked it up over and over until I was sure I could play it with eyes closed.

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.Nf3 0-0 5.g3

A relatively quiet line, where typical KID moves like ...f7–f5 don't work so well. This also helps White worry less, if at all, about a king-side attack by Black. 5.e4 d6 6.h3 e5 7.d5 is another, well-known, line.

5...d6 6.e4 e5 7.d5 a5 8.Bg2 Na6 9.0-0 Nc5 10.Re1

Not the most common move, but playable still. My pre-game preparation ended about here, and I started wondering what I'm in for - what he might play and what I might respond with.

10...Nh5?!

Signals an intent by Black to play ...f5, but I already knew that ...f5 was not as good for Black in such positions. I decided to simply prevent it.

11.Be3

11.Bg5 is another possibility, where 11...Qe8 12.Qd2 Bd7 might follow.

11...f5?

This is simply not a correct idea for the variation we're playing. Black will not get the attack they expect, and on top of that White will win material. My response might have been unexpected because it isn't as typical of KID play for White.

12.Bxc5 dxc5

12...fxe4 13.Nxe4 dxc5 14.Nxc5 still wins a pawn.

13.exf5 e4?!

I honestly expected 13...Bxf5, when 14.Nxe5 and I am only up a pawn, as opposed to the two extra pawns I get in the game.

14.Nxe4

Around here I realized he didn't have much indeed, so my confidence level rose. 14.Nh4 is apparently just as good, because the f-pawn is immune: 14...Bxf5? (14...gxf5?? 15.Qxh5) 15.Nxf5 Bxc3 (15...Rxf5?! and now 16.Nxe4 (16.g4? Nf4!! What a surprise that would be—Black's rook is now immune, since after 17.gxf5?? Qg5 Black suddenly wins!)) 16.Nh6+ Kg7 17.bxc3 Kxh6 18.Rxe4+—

14...Bxf5 15.Nxc5!



Position after 15.Nxc5

A nice exchange sacrifice, which to my surprise he didn't accept.

15...b6?!

15...Bxb2 I intended 16.Ne6 Bxe6 17.Rb1±

16.Na4?!

I intended to defend the b2-pawn and return to c3, but apparently I went astray here due to a miscalculation. 16.Ne6 and White initiates more beneficial trades. 16...Bxe6 17.dxe6

16...Qf6

Now, White must pay attention to the threat of ...Bg4. 16...Bg4 immediately may be better, although after 17.h3 Bxf3

18.Bxf3 Qf6 19.Kg2 Still, I can't say that this is much easier to play compared to the game.

17.Qd2 Bg4?!

Not nearly as effective due to...

18.Ne5

Simple and strong.

18...Bc8 19.d6

Now White wins material due to tactics.

19...Ra7?!

19...Rb8? 20.dxc7; 19...Ra6? 20.d7; 19...cxd6 could be played, though after 20.Bxa8 dxe5 White is still easily winning.

20.Nc6



Position after 20.Nc6

The rest was easy to convert.

20...Ra6 21.Ne7+ Kh8 22.Nxc8 Rxc8 23.Bb7 Raa8 24.Bxc8 Rxc8 25.d7 Rd8 26.Re8+ Bf8 27.Rxd8 Qxd8 28.Re1 Ng7 29.Qd4 Kg8 30.Qd5+ Kh8 31.Qf7 h5 32.Re8

The game is practically over.

32...Nxe8 33.dxe8R Qxe8 34.Qxe8 Kg7 35.Nc3 Bd6 36.Nd5 h4 37.Qd7+ Kh6 38.gxh4 Be5 39.f4 Bxb2 40.Qg4 c6 41.Ne7 Kg7 42.Qxg6+ Kf8 43.Nf5 b5 44.cxb5 cxb5 45.Qh7 Bf6 46.Nd6 Bd4+ 47.Kg2 Bg7 48.Qg6 Ke7 49.Qxg7+ Kxd6 50.Qe5+ Kc6 51.f5 b4 52.f6 b3 53.axb3 a4 54.bxa4 Kb6 55.f7 Kc6 56.f8R Kd7 57.Rf6 Kd8 58.Rf7 Kc8 59.Qh8#

1-0

2021 Year-End Scholastic Cup

Josh Sinanan



*Ted Wang, Washington State's top-ranked second grader, playing Black on board one of the Year-End Scholastic Cup.
Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.*

The 2021 Year-End Scholastic Cup, a new event designed for our stronger youth to play against peers by skill level, was held in-person at the Orlov Chess Academy in Greenlake on Saturday, December 18. Twenty-four scholastic chess players from the greater Seattle area competed in two sections, Open and Reserve (1100-1499). The event was hosted by the Washington Chess Federation and directed by newly appointed WCF Scholastic Director Rekha Sagar, who flew up all the way from San Diego to direct the tournament.

The field was evenly split between the 14-player Open and 10-player Reserve sections. On the line in the Open section was a seed into the 2022 WA Junior Closed, which attracted a star-studded cast of many top Washington scholastic players including Vidip Kona (1861, grade three), Ted Wang (1731, grade two), Edward Cheng (1697, grade nine), Nihanth Tatikonda (1671, grade seven), Owen Xu (1654, grade two), Gabriel Razmov (1647, grade six), and Paras Shah (1640, grade six).

Congratulations to the amazing chess warriors who competed in this challenging event!

Standings. 2021 Year-End Scholastic Cup: Open

#	Name	Rtng	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total	Prize
1	Vidip Kona	1861	W13	W3	D2	W7	W9	4.5	Tied 1st/2nd *
2	Ted Wang	1731	W12	W8	D1	W10	W7	4.5	Tied 1st/2nd
3	Paras Shah	1640	W14	L1	D8	W12	D4	3	3rd
4	Michael Lin	1491	D10	W11	D7	D9	D3	3	4th
5	Haituka Anandkumar	1431	B---	L7	L11	W8	W10	3	5th
6	Siddharth Bhaskaran	1525	L7	L13	W14	B---	W11	3	1st U13
7	Owen Xu	1654	W6	W5	D4	L1	L2	2.5	1st U9
8	Nikhil Ramkumar	1547	W11	L2	D3	L5	W13	2.5	
9	Edward Cheng	1697	H---	D10	W12	D4	L1	2.5	
10	Gabriel Razmov	1647	D4	D9	W13	L2	L5	2	
11	Nihanth Tatikonda	1671	L8	L4	W5	W13	L6	2	
12	Ujwal Garine	1552	L2	W14	L9	L3	B---	2	
13	Lucas Liu	1578	L1	W6	L10	L11	L8	1	
14	Shuyi Han	1462	L3	L12	L6	U---	U---	0	

* Won playoff for Junior Closed seed in Armageddon!

**Ted Wang (1731) –
Gabriel Razmov (1647) [B01]**
Year-End Scholastic Cup
(R4), December 18, 2021
[Ted Wang]

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qa5 4.d4
Nf6 5.Nf3 c6 6.Bc4 Bf5

This is Scandinavian Defense.

7.Ne5



Position after 7.Ne5

The intention of this move is to attack f7 and support the g4 move next. This sets up double threats.

7...e6

This is a great move to defend the attack to f7.

8.g4

White focuses on the other attack to the bishop on f5.

8...Bg6 9.h4

White continues to put pressure on the bishop after its retreat to g6.

9...h6

This is a natural move to protect the bishop at g6 but allows White to destroy Black's pawn structure.

*Gabriel Razmov (L) vs Lucas Liu at the Year-End Scholastic Cup.
Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.*



10.Nxg6 fxg6 11.Qe2

This is an inaccuracy, Qd3 is the best move because it attacks the g6 pawn.

11...Be7

This move protects the check against the king.

12.Bd2

White could have taken the pawn at e6, but this move allows White to castle, opening up the space for the rook to enter the game with an open file for later attack.

12...Qd8 13.Qxe6 Qd7 14.Qf7+ Kd8
15.0-0-0 Qxg4 16.Rhe1

Rook is in position to attack the e7 bishop.

16...Qd7 17.Qxg7 Qe8 18.Rxe7



Position after 18.Rxe7

White is up by a minor piece and in good attack position.

1-0

Standings. 2021 Year-End Scholastic Cup: Reserve

#	Name	Rtng	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total	Prize
1	Bichen Liu	1411	W4	W2	W3	W6	W8	5	1st *
2	Aaron Ren	1364	W9	L1	W7	W3	W4	4	2nd
3	Laya Mohan	1317	W7	W5	L1	L2	W6	3	3rd
4	Vishnu Mohan	1294	L1	W9	W5	W10	L2	3	4th
5	Michael Xiong	1377	W8	L3	L4	W9	H---	2.5	5th
6	Gaurav Godse	1110	W10	L7	W8	L1	L3	2	
7	Jan Lorenz Bartminn	1426	L3	W6	L2	L8	B---	2	1st U12
8	Rajas Shah	1262	L5	D10	L6	W7	L1	1.5	
9	Alec Edmond	1231	L2	L4	B---	L5	D10	1.5	1st U8
10	Sarang Sankrithi	1360	L6	D8	H---	L4	D9	1.5	
11	Derek Wang	1313	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	0	

* Earns free entry into 2022 WA Junior Open!

A hand-made Queen of Katwe drum from Uganda signed by coach Robert Katende. Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.



Sridhar Wins

Benjamin Amar (2002) –
Sridhar Seshadri (1600) [D08]
51st Continental Open
Sturbridge, MA, August 17, 2021
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e5 3.dxe5 d4 4.Nf3 c5
4...Nc6
5.e3 Nc6 6.Be2
6.exd4
6...Bf5 7.Qa4
7.Bd3!?
7...d3 8.Bd1 Qd7 9.Nc3 Nge7 10.b3?
10.0-0±
10...Ng6 11.Bb2 d2+ 12.Nxd2 Ngxe5
13.Be2



Position after 13.Be2

13...Bd3??
13...Nd3+ 14.Bxd3 Qxd3 15.Rd1 0-0-0
16.Nd5 Bd6∞
14.0-0-0??
14.Nf3 Bxe2 15.Nxe5 Nxe5 16.Qxd7+
Nxd7 17.Kxe2± White is essentially
winning with an extra pawn and more
active pieces.
14...Bxe2 15.Nxe2 Nd3+ 16.Kb1 Nxf2
17.Rhf1 Nxd1 18.Rxd1 Qd3+ 19.Kc1
Qxe2 20.Qb5 0-0-0 21.Bxg7 Bxg7
22.Qxc5 Bc3-+

Or 22...Qd3, which leaves White with
only delaying moves (such as the
obviously hopeless Qf5+ or Qd4) against
the threat of ...Qc3+ and ...Qb2#. 23.Qa3
Qc3+ 24.Kb1 Nb4 and mate next.

0-1

Sridhar reports his opponent was
frustrated, and that he just left the
tournament hall after six minutes and 53
seconds.



Northwest Chess

The 2021 Russell "Rusty" Miller Memorial Northwest Chess Grand Prix

Final Report

Murlin Varner, one more year!

We finished the dismal year of 2021 with four more events, two OTB and two online. The OTB events were the monthly Quads and Tornado held by the Seattle Chess Club at the Orlov Chess Academy. These had moderate attendance of 13 and 19 players. The two online events were the *Northwest Chess* Winter Open, a fund raiser for this magazine, with 29 entrants, and the Washington Winter Classic, an eight-round event with a 2x multiplier, with 34. These four events did have some bearing on the final results, as a few people moved into, or out of, prize position.

Speaking of the prizes, they are smaller than has historically been the case, in part because of the issues we faced in 2020. Attendance at Grand Prix events peaked in 2017, when 825 players entered 87 events a total of 3136 times. In 2018, these numbers dropped just a little, down to 796 players, 2852 entries and 86 events. However, in 2019, Oregon decided to drop out of the program, reducing the number of Grand Prix events to 49. This had little impact on the prizes paid to players in Washington and Idaho, and it made my workload lighter. But we didn't get to send checks to Oregon for the first year since I took over in 2003.

Then 2020 came down with a pandemic. Oregon was going to rejoin the GP and had conducted two events. Idaho had held their Closed event and Washington had conducted seven, including the Collyer Memorial the last weekend in February. The final OTB event of 2020 was very appropriately held in Seattle on the Ides of March. Meeting face-to-face across a chess board was not necessarily a safe thing to do and online seemed the only way to keep playing. The Washington Chess Federation decided to try holding some online Grand Prix events through Chess.com. These were quite well attended and helped keep the numbers up for the year. Oregon and Idaho decided not to go that way, and their three early events were backed out of the data. We ended with 464 players making 1150 entries into just 24 events, setting a GP record for entries per event. But the pandemic dragged on.

In 2021, we found ourselves in a hybrid world with some events online and some OTB. Our number of events rose to 31, but attendance per event dropped and we ended the year with just 401 players making just 834 entries. I am hoping that this will be our low point. We have a series of events being held in Boise that offer FIDE rating and are participating in the Grand Prix. It is my hope that the ICA will bring their events back to the program, allowing an Idaho contest to appear this year. I don't know what to expect from Oregon at this juncture. The old Gresham Open should have occurred the first weekend in January, but I've seen no word of it as of this writing. I guess we

just have to wait and see how 2022 shapes up. I'll just keep adding whatever numbers I can get.

Winners in the chart are noted with bold print. On to the New Year!

Washington				Other Places			
last	first	pts.		last	first	state	pts.
Masters				Masters			
1	Perez	Ignacio	111.0	1	Guha	Mitrabha	IND 83.0
2	Haining	Kyle	35.0	2	Talukdar	Rohan	CAN 70.0
2	Pupols	Viktors	35.0	3	Lenderman	Aleksandr	NY 51.0
4	Levine	Joseph	31.0	4	Kulkarni	Ojas	CA 42.0
5	Porter	Ryan	28.0	5	Shahinyan	David	ARM 41.5
Experts				Experts			
1	Jiang	Brandon	72.0	1	Sripada	Havish	OR 25.0
2	Bell	Harry	49.5	2	Jorajuria Mendoza	Algol	MEX 22.0
3	Chang	Eddie	42.0	3	ThurLOW	Ryan G	NY 12.5
4	Vijayakumar	Advait	41.0	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	Ingram	Richard	CAN 49.0
2	Razmov	Valentin N	91.5	2	Vega	Isaac	OR 47.0
3	Vemparala	Nikash	74.0	3	Kodarapu	Ishaan	OR 40.0
4	Lu	Yiding	61.0	4	Hosford	Michael J	OR 38.5
5	Ackerman	Ryan	60.5	5	Murray	David E	OR 18.0
Class B				Class B			
1	Li	Edward S	52.0	1	Le	Hung	OR 10.0
2	Zhou	Leonardo	49.0	2	Beauchet	Pierre-Hadrier	OR 9.0
3	Corey-Derrah	Alan	46.0	2	Korda	Christopher J	FL 9.0
4	Wang	Felicity	44.5	2	Walquist	Elaine	OR 9.0
5	Campbell	Tim	40.5	5	He	Justin S	TX 8.0
Class C				Class C			
1	Cheng	Edward	107.5	1	Sripada	Anisha	OR 40.5
2	Hamlett	James M	73.5	2	Vasey	Daniel	OR 35.0
3	Zhu	Jamie Z	70.5	3	Yang	Arnold T	OR 30.0
4	Zhang	Michelle	66.5	4	Rodriguez-Melendez	Mauricio	OR 17.0
5	Karthikeyan	Harishkumar	64.0	5	Wei	Brian	OR 13.0
Class D and below				Class D and below			
1	Razmov	Gabriel	105.0	1	Hack	Don	CAN 57.5
2	Cheng	Selina	95.5	2	Yang	Arthur T	OR 32.5
3	Devadithya	Hiruna	71.0	3	Lanka	Laasya S	OR 30.0
4	Ramkumar	Nikhil	64.0	3	Traynor	Zach	DC 30.0
5	Kamel	Yaseen	60.0	3	Zhu	Alexander	OR 30.0
Overall standings							
1	Nicoski	Aaron M	111.5	1	Guha	Mitrabha	IND 83.0
2	Perez	Ignacio	111.0	2	Talukdar	Rohan	CAN 70.0
3	Cheng	Edward	107.5	3	Hack	Don	CAN 57.5
4	Razmov	Gabriel	105.0	4	Lenderman	Aleksandr	NY 51.0
5	Cheng	Selina	95.5	5	Ingram	Richard	CAN 49.0
6	Razmov	Valentin N	91.5	6	Vega	Isaac	OR 47.0
7	Vemparala	Nikash	74.0	7	Kulkarni	Ojas	CA 42.0
8	Hamlett	James M	73.5	8	Shahinyan	David	ARM 41.5
9	Jiang	Brandon	72.0	9	Dhulipalla	Bala C P	IND 41.0
10	Devadithya	Hiruna	71.0	9	Aleksandrov	Aleksej	BLR 40.5
11	Zhu	Jamie Z	70.5	11	Sripada	Anisha	OR 40.5
12	Zhang	Michelle	66.5	12	Kodarapu	Ishaan	OR 40.0
13	Karthikeyan	Harishkumar	64.0	13	Hosford	Michael J	OR 38.5
13	Ramkumar	Nikhil	64.0	14	Vasey	Daniel	OR 35.0
15	Lu	Yiding	61.0	15	Yang	Arthur T	OR 32.5

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

February 26

Format: 4-SS. Open to U1200 and UNR. **TC:** G/75; d5.
EF: \$15 by 2/21, \$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.

SCC Novice

February 27

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.

Sunday Tornado

March 5

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.

Saturday Quads

SCC Fridays

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

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.

Close Ratings 2: 5/6, 13, 20, 27.

The SCC is still subletting at the Orlov Chess Academy
 at Green Lake. **Thanks, Georgi!!!** Mondays (casual
 chess), Fridays (rated play), and weekend events have
 mostly been running at 60% of capacity or more. The
 site can comfortably accomodate about twenty, which
 is why advance sign-ups are required.

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

Seattle Spring Open

March 19-20, 2022

A five-round Swiss with a time control of G/100 with a 15-increment. The prize fund of \$450 is based on 20 paid entries,
 3 per prize group.

a Northwest Grand Prix event

First	\$100	Second	\$80	U2100	\$70
U1950	\$65	U1700	\$60	U1450	\$55
		Unrated	\$20		

Entry Fees: \$39 if rec'd by 3/14 (\$26 SCC memb., \$32 memb. of other dues-required CCs in the NW), \$50 at site
 (\$36 SCC memb., \$42 memb. of other dues-required CCs in the NW). **Unrated**-Free with purchase of 1-yr US
 Chess & 1-yr WCF.

Registration: Sat. 9-9:45am. **Rounds:** Sat. 10-2:30-7, Sun. 11-3:30.

Byes: 2 (Sunday rounds, commit at registration). **Miscellaneous:** US Chess & WCF membership req'd. No smoking.

Upcoming Tournaments

🏠 denotes 2022 Northwest Grand Prix event; for Seattle Chess Club events see page 38

🏠 **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.

Chess and Romance

*Ah! My dear, do you remember,
That boisterous, late snowstorm.
An evening in the drear December,
We cloistered, safe and warm?*

*The music moaned, soft and low,
You wore your lovely gingham dress.
Reclined before warm fire's glow,
We played our favorite game of chess.*

*I see your hand so soft, so white,
Our eyes meet, our fingers touch.
Hovering warm, o'er rook and knight,
I ne'er enjoyed a game so much!*

*Golden hair, falls round your face,
That framed a furrowed brow.
Emboldened pawns, in their place,
Which one to push now?*

*Protected kings, castled, at rest,
Intrepid knights, poised to spring.
A glimpse I catch of heaving breast,
What will your next move bring?*

*In vain I try to concentrate,
To calculate, not blunder!
Bishops in the wings await,
Predicament, I ponder.*

*Far afield, your queen sweeps swift,
She wouldn't do it, wouldn't dare!
My queen cannot a finger lift,
Alas, I'm caught in mating snare!*

*Ah, many a move since, we've made,
'Mid-life's muddled, chequered ways.
Many a game, with fate we've played.
Enjoyed some golden days!*

*How I yearn for days of yore,
We shut out messy weather.
And over the position pored,
As we played chess together!*

—By Glen O'Harra

Written December 2021

(An Idaho chess player and poet)

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Redmond, WA 98052-5164

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