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Kaustubh Kodihalli youngest-ever Idaho State Champion.
Photo credit: Desmond Porth.

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Gabriel Razmov at the 2022 Washington State
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Reminder

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
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Spring Thaw

The Spring Thaw tournament was played at the Nampa Public Library in Nampa, Idaho on Saturday, March 19.

Prizes: \$25 for first, \$20 for second, ICA Membership for third. Free entry. Five-Round Swiss, Game/30;d5 for all five rounds. Event started at 10:30 AM and concluded by 5:00 PM (when the library closed). Tournament Director was Jeff Price. Rated by US Chess. A game from the event is featured in the Coaching Corner article on page nine of this issue.

Fifteen players attended this very fun event. See crosstable below. ICA tries to hold one of these free events in Nampa each month at the library. Check out idahochessassociation.com for information on future events, come play, have fun, make new and see old friends. Hope to see you there.

#	Place	Name	Rating	Cls	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total
1	1-2	Josh James Price	1724	B	W10	L2	W4	W6	W3	4.0
2		Zachary D Furman	1301	D	W15	W1	W5	L3	W8	4.0
3	3-4	Caleb Kircher	1797	B	W9	D4	W8	W2	L1	3.5
4		Nobel Ang	1561	C	W11	D3	L1	W9	W5	3.5
5	5-7	Jeffrey T Roland	1700	B	W12	W6	L2	W7	L4	3.0
6		Taylor Nelson	1256p	D	W14	L5	W10	L1	W11	3.0
7		Dru Wright	1164p	E	W13	L8	W11	L5	W12	3.0
8	8-9	Vladislav Nosarev	939	F	H---	W7	L3	W10	L2	2.5
9		Mark Edw Makovsky	862p	F	L3	H---	W12	L4	W13	2.5
10	10-12	Luke Makovsky	558p	H	L1	W15	L6	L8	W14	2.0
11		Ethan Riordan	unr.	U	L4	W13	L7	W14	L6	2.0
12		Isaac Coates	439p	H	L5	W14	L9	W13	L7	2.0
13	13	Nicholas Crase	unr.	U	L7	L11	W14	L12	L9	1.0
14	14-15	Zane Crase	unr.	U	L6	L12	L13	L11	L10	0.0
15		Michael Fenner	unr.	U	L2	L10	U---	U---	U---	0.0

Idaho Closed State Championship

Jeffrey Roland

The 2022 Idaho Closed State Championship was held February 19-21 at the Riverside Inn in Garden City. There were 34 players (really 33 players since one player never actually showed up) in attendance. Jeff Price was Chief TD with Desmond Porth and Jeffrey Roland as Assistant TDs. The tournament was a six-round Swiss tournament with a time control of 30/120;d5 SD/60;d5.

This year, Idaho crowned the youngest-ever state champion. Kaustubh Kodihalli with 5.5/6 points was 4,769 days old or 13.06575 years old which beats the previous record set in 2019 when Kevin Xu as co-champion with Jacob Nathan was 4,998 days old or 13.69315 years old. Congratulations to our new champion!

Second Place Overall went to Josh Price with 5.0/6 points. Third Place Overall went to Jacob Nathan with 4.5/6 points and whose Solkoff Tie-Break earned him the plaque.

The Top Junior was James Wei with 4.0/6 points.

There were no prizes for Expert or Class A.

First Place Class B was Zachary Fritchman with 4.5/6 points. Second Place Class B was Caleb Kircher with 4.0/6 points.

First Place Class C went to Finn Belew with 3.5/6. Nobel Ang took Second Place Class C with 3.5/6 points.

First Place Class D went to Brian Lange with 3.5/6 and Second Place Class D went to Luke Wei with 3.5/6 points.

First Place Class E & Below went to Leonardo Wang with 3.5/6 points. Second Place Class E & Below went to Tim LeBoutillier with 3.0/6 points.

The Top Unrated player was Theodore French with 2.0/6 points.

Congratulations and thanks to all the players who came and played and for the good sportsmanship and courtesy exhibited throughout the event by everyone. Thanks to Jeff Price for being Chief TD, and thanks to Desmond Porth for his enthusiasm and willingness to bring a new generation to the organizational and operational side of Idaho chess.

There was a Friday Blitz tournament the night before the main event. That was a Game/5;d3 Seven double-round Swiss tournament. Most of the players who played in this event also played in the main event the next day, however, there were two players who played only in the Blitz.

First place in the blitz went to Kaustubh Kodihalli with 11.5/14 points. Second place went to James Wei with 11.0/14 points. Third place went to Josh Price with 10.5/14 points.

**Niall McKenzie (1407) –
Corey Longhurst (1494) [C50]**
Idaho Closed (R6), February 21, 2022
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.0-0 d6

4...Nf6

5.h3

5.c3

5...Qf6?!

5...Nf6

6.c3 Qg6 7.Kh1

7.d4!?, since **7...Bxh3?? 8.Ng5!** wins.

7...Qxe4??

Black needs to develop **7...Nf6**, and avoid sending the queen off on a dangerous and potentially fatal adventure.

8.d4!

White could also consider the tactic **8.Bxf7+!**

8...d5 9.Re1

9.Bd3 traps the queen.

9...Qf5 10.Bxd5 Bd6 11.Bxc6+ bxc6 12.Nxe5

12.dxe5!; or even **12.Nbd2** looks even better for White.

12...Ne7 13.Nxc6

White doesn't need to rush the capture on c6; that pawn will always be weak, and for the moment it's a blocker on the long diagonal. **13.Nd2±** is a clear advantage.

13...Bb7 14.d5 Qxf2

14...Bxc6 15.dxc6 Qxf2± is a safer move order for Black.

15.Nxe7 Kd8 16.Be3 Qg3 17.Bg1 Bxe7 18.Bh2 Qh4 19.Nd2 h5 20.Ne4 Bf8

Black makes an escape route for the queen.



Position after 20...Bf8

21.Bxc7+!?

Not necessary. Simply **21.Qb3**; or **21.d6** continue a massive attack without suffering the material deficit.

21...Kxc7 22.d6+!

Passed pawns must be pushed.

22...Kd8

22...Kb8!?

23.Qa4 Bxd6 24.Rad1

24.Qa5+ Bc7 25.Qf5 give the black king some serious trouble.

24...Kc7



Position after 24...Kc7

25.Qc4+

According to the all-knowing computer engine, **25.Re2** is the only move to retain a White advantage. This is far from obvious. **25...Rad8 26.Qa5+ Kb8 27.Rxd6 Rxd6 28.Nxd6 Qxh3+** and there

is no mate on g2.

25...Kb8 26.Qd3 Bc7 27.Nc5 Bxg2+

Even stronger: 27...Qf4! 28.Kg1 (28. Nd7+ Kc8 29.Ne5 Bxe5 30.Rxe5 Qxe5++) 28...Qh2+ 29.Kf2 Qxg2+ 30.Ke3 Bf4+! 31.Kxf4 (31.Kd4 Qd5#) 31...Qf2+ 32.Kg5 (32.Ke5 Qf6#) 32...Qf6#

28.Kg1

No help: 28.Kxg2 Qg5+ -- Qxc5

28...Bb6??

28...Bc6 29.Na6+ Kc8 30.Nxc7 (30.Qf5+ Kb7 31.Nc5+ Kb6+ and the white king is more exposed than the black monarch. 32.Ne4 Rae8 33.Qc5+ Kb7 34.Qb4+ Ka8!); 28...Bxh3 also appears to win for Black, per Stockfish.

29.Qd6+ Kc8 30.Qd7+ Kb8 31.Re8+ Rxe8 32.Qxe8+ Kc7 33.Qd7+ Kb8 34.Qe8+ Kc7



Position after 34...Kc7

In this chaotic situation the players agreed a draw, though White actually could have forced checkmate: 35.Qe5+ Kc8 (35...Kc6 36.Rd6+ Kb5 (36...Kc7 37.Rd4+) 37.a4+ (37.b4 leads to mate, according to Stockfish. 37...Qe4 38.a4+ Kc4 39.Rd4+ Kxc3 40.Rd3+ Kc2 41.Qc3+ Kb1 42.Rd1+ Ka2 43.Ra1# is a typical line.) 37...Qxa4 38.Rxb6+ Kxb6 (38...axb6 39.Nxa4+ Kxa4 40.Kxg2) 39.Nxa4+) 36.Kxg2 Bxc5 37.Qxc5+ Kb8 38.Qf8+ Kc7 39.Qxf7+ (39.Qxa8 is also good enough.) 39...Kc8 40.Qe8+ Kc7 41.Rd7+ Kc6 42.Qe6+ Kc5 43.Rd5+ Kc4 44.Qc6#

1/2-1/2

**Larry Parsons (2000) –
Josh Price (1618) [D15]**
Idaho Closed Garden City, ID
(R2), February 19, 2022
[Josh Price]

1.d4

A little surprised by d4, I was expecting an English.

1...d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 c6

Just trying to play a solid setup where I

can get out of the opening with a decent position.

4.e3 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.a4

I have never seen this OTB a4 fights for b5 but it weakens b4.

6...Bb4 7.Bd2 0-0 8.Be2 b6 9.0-0 Bb7??

Terrible move I can't believe we both missed this simple tactic. Nxd5! My bishop is loose so if I take the knight my bishop on b4 hangs.

10.Na2

I got super lucky we both over looked it. 10.Nxd5 cxd5 (10...Bxd2 11.Nxf6+ Qxf6 12.Qxd2) 11.Bxb4

10...Bd6 11.b4

This is very logical gaining space on the queen side I have to fight back somehow.



Position after 11.b4

11...c5

This is very complicated, but after some deep calculation I decided it was a decent way to fight against his spacial advantage and to free up my bishop on b7.

12.Rb1 Qe7?

Computer gives a different line, and doesn't like ...Qe7 but it is a simple improving move that holds on to the c5-pawn and the bishop on b7.

13.Ne5? cxd4

Ne5 allows me to go to an IQP position where I free my bishop on b7! I was very happy to see this.

14.exd4 dxc4 15.Nxc4

A lot of lines were calculated in the past several moves, but this seems correct.

15...Bc7 16.Bf3?!

I thought it was very important to go Bg5 and pin my knight to my queen first. Bf3 allows me to stay active in the center.

16...Bxf3 17.Qxf3 Nd5! 18.Nc3

I calculated Nc3 before I took on f3 and had a tactic prepared.

18...Qh4! 19.g3

He has to stop the mating threat on h2 but he loses the pawn on d4.

19...Qxd4 20.Nxd5

We both calculated a lot in the past moves taking up a lot of time. I thought I was winning for a while after ...exd5, but there are crazy tactics that let White hold! 20...exd5 21.Rfc1 among many other moves hold the position, and White is doing well.

20...Qxd5 21.Qe2

I didn't consider this move because I thought his best bet was to trade queens



Larry Parsons (L), Josh Price. Photo credit: Jeff Price.

and hope to draw the endgame. After Qe2 was played my opponent offered a draw. I calculated for a little bit and realized that I am the only one pushing for a win in this position, I have attacking possibilities, and my opponent has around 20 minutes to make his next nine moves. I declined.



Position after 21.Qe2

21...Nc6! 22.Bc3 b5 23.Ne3 Qe4

Again, very complicated position so I was calculating everything, I thought my opponent would play 24.f3! which is very interesting after 24...Nd4! but I thought I was slightly better there.

24.axb5 axb5 25.Qxb5

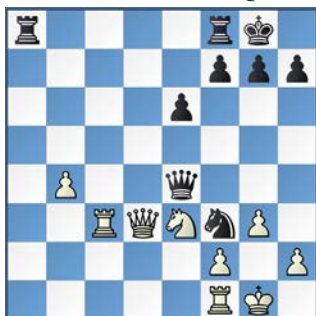
I honestly didn't even consider this move, I thought it was way too dangerous. But even in time trouble my opponent was

finding some good defense!

25...Be5! 26.Rbc1!

My opponent is around five minutes now and the pressure is on! He has four more moves to play before the next hour is given!

26...Bxc3 27.Rxc3 Nd4 28.Qd3! Nf3+



Position after 28...Nf3+

My opponent was at about one minute here and thought for about 30 seconds.

29.Kg2

The move that ended the game, in time trouble he only calculated ...Nh4+, he didn't see Ne1+! Kh1 is the move that saves the game! 29.Kh1 Qb7 30.Ng2! and it is still a game.

29...Ne1+

Here, my opponent resigned. Overall, it was a tough game, the middle game was a positional battle where we both had to play accurately for a slight advantage. Thank you, Larry Parsons, for the game, you played well!

0-1

Kaustubh Kodihalli (1843) – Jacob Nathan (1984) [B48]
Idaho Closed Garden City, ID
(R5), February 21, 2022
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nc6 5.Nc3 Qc7 6.Be2 a6 7.a3

7.0-0 Nf6 8.Be3

7...Nf6 8.0-0 Be7 9.Be3 0-0 10.Qd2

10.f4 d6 11.Kh1

10...d6 11.f4 b5 12.Nxc6 Qxc6 13.Bf3

The other option is forcing open the center and long diagonal for tactical operations, at the cost of slightly weakening the e-pawn and allowing the e7-bishop a role in the game. 13.e5 dxe5 14.fxex5 Nd5 15.Bf3 Bc5 16.Bxc5 Qxc5+ 17.Qf2±

13...e5 14.Nd5

14.f5 seems positionally well-motivated,

Idaho Closed State Championship

#	Place	Name	Rating	Cls	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Total	T-Solkoff	T-Cumul.	Op. cumu	T-Med
1	1	Kaustubh Kodihalli	1843	A	W17	W7	W2	W5	D3	W6	5.5	24	20	88.5	21
2	2	Josh James Price	1618	B	W28	W25	L1	W11	W5	W8	5.0	21	17	72	19.5
3	3-4	Jacob Ari Nathan	1984	A	W10	W18	D6	W21	D1	D4	4.5	23.5	17.5	87.5	20.5
4		Zachary Fritchen	1720	B	W30	W12	L5	W9	W14	D3	4.5	20.5	16.5	79.5	19
5	5-6	James Wei	1852	A	W22	W8	W4	L1	L2	W12	4.0	24.5	16	89.5	22
6		Caleb Kircher	1782	B	W16	W31	D3	D14	W13	L1	4.0	22	16.5	82.5	20.5
7	7-16	Finn Belew	1576	C	W20	L1	D10	W15	D9	D16	3.5	22.5	12.5	74	19.5
8		Nobel Ang	1565	C	W23	L5	W17	D12	W10	L2	3.5	21.5	13.5	74.5	19
9		Bryce Leifeste	1457	C	W27	W19	D21	L4	D7	D14	3.5	18.5	14.5	68	17
10		Brian S Lange	1368	D	L3	W24	D7	W31	L8	W22	3.5	18	11	65.5	16.5
11		Niall McKenzie	1407	C	L25	W30	W26	L2	W17	D13	3.5	17.5	11.5	60	16
12		Desmond Add Porth	1478	C	W32	L4	W33	D8	W21	L5	3.5	17	13.5	68	16.5
13		Corey K Longhurst	1494	C	W33	L21	W16	W19	L6	D11	3.5	17	13.5	66	16.5
14		Alex James Machin	1776	B	H---	W26	W25	D6	L4	D9	3.5	16.5	13.5	63.5	16.5
15		Luke Wei	1240	D	L21	W27	W18	L7	D19	W23	3.5	16	11	56.5	14.5
16		Leonardo Wang	1012	E	L6	W29	L13	W26	W30	D7	3.5	16	10.5	57.5	14.5
17	17-20	Taylor Nelson	1256	D	L1	W20	L8	W24	L11	W26	3.0	19.5	9	64.5	12.5
18		Jeffrey T Roland	1700	B	W24	L3	L15	W20	D22	D19	3.0	18.5	10.5	60.5	11.5
19		Michael Henderson	1800	A	X34	L9	W22	L13	D15	D18	3.0	16	10.5	58.5	12.5
20		Tim Leboutillier	801	F	L7	L17	W28	L18	W32	W30	3.0	14	7	43.5	9
21	21-24	Lloyd Landon	1811	A	W15	W13	D9	L3	L12	U---	2.5	18.5	13	70	14
22		Zachary D Furman	1301	D	L5	W28	L19	W33	D18	L10	2.5	15	9	54	11
23		Emma Gao	672	G	L8	H---	W32	L25	W31	L15	2.5	13	8	46	9.5
24		Vladislav Nosarev	939	F	L18	L10	W27	L17	H---	W32	2.5	12.5	5.5	37.5	9
25	25-29	Larry R Parsons	2000	X	W11	L2	L14	W23	U---	U---	2.0	14.5	9	50	9.5
26		William Aa Miller	101	J	B---	L14	L11	L16	W33	L17	2.0	14	7	48.5	10.5
27		Theodore D French	unr.	U	L9	L15	L24	L32	B---	W31	2.0	12.5	2	43.5	9
28		Mark Edw Makovsky	869	F	L2	L22	L20	H---	D29	B---	2.0	12.5	2	36.5	7.5
29		Dru Wright	1525	C	L31	L16	H---	L30	D28	W33	2.0	8.5	3.5	28.5	5
30	30-32	John W Longhurst	945	F	L4	L11	H---	W29	L16	L20	1.5	16.5	4.5	49	12
31		Jay L Simonson	653	G	W29	L6	H---	L10	L23	L27	1.5	13.5	7.5	41	9.5
32		Andrew Gao	608	G	L12	H---	L23	W27	L20	L24	1.5	13	5	36	9.5
33	33	Luke Makovsky	611	G	L13	B---	L12	L22	L26	L29	1.0	13	4	46.5	9.5
34	34	Thomas Steele	1169	E	F19	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	0.0	0	0	0	0

planning to remove the f6-knight with either Bg5xf6 or g4-g5 before occupying the outpost. Black would need to react energetically with 14...a5 when 15.Bg5 (15.g4 Ba6 16.g5 b4 is a murky mess.) 15...b4 16.axb4 axb4 17.Rxa8 Qxa8 looks fine for Black.

14...Qb7

Maybe 14...Bd8 15.Rad1 Ng4!?

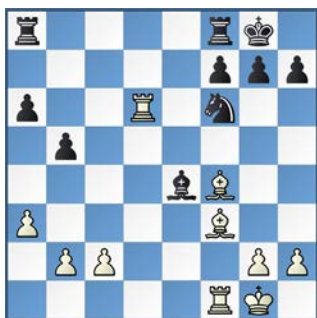


Position after 14...Qb7

15.Nxe7+

It's a shame to exchange that knight for such a sorry bishop. Much stronger is 15.Nxf6+!, either winning a pawn or exposing the black king to attack. 15...Bxf6 (15...gxf6 16.f5±, when none of the black pieces has any potential, and White is free to swing bishop(s), queen, and rook toward the kingside.) 16.Qxd6 Rd8 17.Qb6±, since after 17...Qxb6 18.Bxb6 Rd2 19.fxe5 Bxe5 20.Rd1 back rank threats will give White enough time to consolidate the extra pawn.

15...Qxe7 16.Rad1 Bb7 17.Qxd6 Qxd6 18.Rxd6 exf4 19.Bxf4 Bxe4



Position after 19...Bxe4

20.Bxe4

White could press on: 20.Rfd1!? Bxf3 (20...Bxc2?! 21.Bxa8 Bxd1 22.Rxa6±) 21.gxf3 Rfe8 22.Kf2± Although the white kingside pawns are split, the f3-pawn does a nice job of restricting the black knight.

20...Nxe4 21.Rd7 Rfe8

1/2-1/2

Jacob Nathan (1984) –
Zachary Fritchen (1720) [B90]
Idaho Closed Garden City, ID
(R6), February 21, 2022
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Rg1

Unusual, telegraphing White's intent to expand with g4. There are many other choices here. Approximately in order of popularity: 6.Be3; 6.Be2; 6.Bg5; 6.Bc4; 6.f4; 6.f3; 6.g3; 6.h3; 6.a4

6...e5 7.Nb3 h5

Black chooses to directly prevent White's announced plan. 7...Be6 8.g4 d5 is a central response to White's wing action. 9.exd5 (9.g5 Nxe4 10.Nxe4 dxe4 11.Qxd8+ Kxd8 12.Be3 seems reasonable for Black.) 9...Nxd5 10.Nxd5 Qxd5 looks roughly even, though not yet drawish.

8.Bg5 Be6 9.Qd2 Nbd7 10.0-0 Qc7

10...b5 gets going just a bit faster on the queenside, while not yet committing the queen. 11.f4 b4!? 12.Nd5 Nxe4 13.Bxd8 Nxd2 gets complicated.

11.f4 b5 12.Nd5?!

12.f5 Bc4

12...Bxd5 13.exd5 Ne4 14.Qe1 Nng5 15.fxg5 g6 16.Kb1 Qb6 17.Rh1 b4?!

17...Bg7 18.h4 a5 19.Nd4∞

18.Nd2

18.h4

18...Nc5 19.Nc4 Qb8

19...Qc7 20.Qxb4?! Rb8 and b2 finds

itself in the crosshairs of b-file and long diagonal.

20.Na5 Qb6 21.Nc4 Qb8 22.Na5 Qb6 23.Nc6 Bg7 24.Qxb4 Qxb4 25.Nxb4 a5 26.Bb5+ Kd8

26...Kf8

27.Nc6+ Kc7 28.Rhf1 Rhf8 29.Rf3 Ne4 30.h4 a4 31.Bd3 f5 32.Ne7

32.gxf6 Nxf6 33.Bxg6 Nxd5 34.Rfd3 Nf4 35.Rxd6

32...a3

32...Nc5 33.Bb5 e4 34.Ra3

33.Nxg6 Rfb8 34.Bxe4 Rxb2+ 35.Ka1 f4 36.Rxa3 Rxa3 37.Kxb2 Re3 38.Bf5 e4+ 39.Kc1 f3 40.Bxe4 f2 41.Bd3 Re1 42.Bf1

42.c4

42...Bb2+ 43.Kd2 Bc3+



Position after 43...Bc3+

44.Kc1

To escape the checks costs White a whole rook for the f2-pawn... but White would still be winning, with knight and four pawns for the exchange! 44.Kxc3 Rxd1 45.Be2 f1Q 46.Bxf1 Rxf1 47.Kd3

44...Bb2+

1/2-1/2



Idaho Closed Blitz 2022

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	Rd 8	Rd 9	Rd 10	Rd 11	Rd 12	Rd 13	Rd 14	Total	T-Solkoff
1	1	Kaustubh Kodihalli	1843	W6	W6	W3	W3	L2	W2	D5	D5	W10	W10	W4	D4	W8	W8	11.5	115
2	2	James Wei	1852	W11	W11	W5	W5	W1	L1	L3	W3	W4	L4	W8	W8	W9	W9	11.0	113
3	3	Josh James Price	1618	W9	W9	L1	L1	W13	W13	W2	L2	W5	W5	W10	W10	D4	W4	10.5	107
4	4	Leonardo Wang	1012	W10	D10	D7	W7	W8	D8	W12	W12	L2	W2	L1	D1	D3	L3	8.5	114
5-6	5-6	Alex James Machin	1776	W13	W13	L2	L2	W12	W12	D1	L3	L3	W6	L6	W11	W11	W11	8.0	108
6		Niall McKenzie	1407	L1	L1	W9	W9	W7	W7	L8	L8	W12	L12	L5	W5	W10	W10	8.0	100
7	7	Jeffrey T Roland	1700	W8	D8	D4	L4	L6	L6	D10	L10	W11	L11	W13	W13	W14	W14	7.5	76
8	8-9	Zachary D Furman	1301	L7	D7	W14	W14	L4	D4	W6	W6	D9	W9	L2	L2	L1	L1	6.5	110
9		Taylor Nelson	1256	L3	L3	L6	L6	W11	W11	W13	W13	D8	L8	W14	W14	L2	L2	6.5	92
10	10-12	Nobel Ang	1565	L4	D4	W12	L12	W14	W14	D7	W7	L1	L1	L3	L3	L6	L6	5.0	106
11		Andrew Jam Deedon	1454	L2	L2	L13	L13	L9	L9	W14	W14	L7	W7	W12	W12	L5	L5	5.0	86
12		Corey K Longhurst	1494	L14	W14	L10	W10	L5	L5	L4	L4	L6	W6	L11	L11	W13	W13	5.0	79
13	13	Chase Jablonski	1392	L5	L5	W11	W11	L3	L3	L9	L9	W14	L14	L7	L7	L12	L12	3.0	89
14	14	Theodore D French	unr.	W12	L12	L8	L8	L10	L10	L11	L11	L13	W13	L9	L9	L7	L7	2.0	77



Coaching Corner

Let's talk candidate moves.

FM Ralph Dubisch



From the moment of its first publication in 1970, *Think Like a Grandmaster* by Alexander Kotov has excited players interested in improving their analytic ability. Kotov outlines a system of analysis involving the selection of candidate moves, followed by the creation of analysis trees extending each candidate move into branches, eventually leading to evaluations and the selection of the best choice, based on the results of this analysis.

There's one problem with all of this. People don't really think this way. Computers do.

Sure, if you have unlimited time, creating a tree of analysis may help you determine the truth of a position. *If*, of course, you've chosen all the reasonable candidates in the first place. *If* you picked all of the reasonable responses to your possible first moves. *If* you've correctly evaluated all of the end nodes. *If*, if, if.

In a real chess game, you have limited time. You need to pick a reasonable move, sure, but more importantly you need to understand the positional elements on the board and come up with a rational *plan*. You need to spot the weaknesses in your opponent's position, cover the weaknesses in your own, and take advantage of tactical opportunities.

I was recently watching some online blitz streaming on YouTube, and was shocked when the National Master whose channel it was suddenly stopped offering the well-considered plans of development that guided his opening play, and announced "we talked earlier about candidate moves," followed by his suggestion of several such moves. Unfortunately, that's all these were. Moves. His mouse pointer hovered over a few pieces, followed by his selection of one of the moves in question. "Let's try this." The rest of the game had several tactical oversights, and little strategic direction. His attempt to apply the concept of candidate moves turned into apparently random decisions, and the verbal descriptions suddenly lacked the

positional insight found in his generally excellent opening videos.

What happened here? Instead of identifying the strategic elements of the position, then implementing a plan, we switched to the "Grandmaster" method of analysis: apparently random moves. No, this was not what Kotov envisioned. Sure, the candidate moves were reasonable for the position, but we never paused to consider where these moves came from. After some simple opening rules—control the center, develop the pieces, get the king to safety, connect the rooks—we're left to "play chess."

I'm not going to identify the NM in question, and I've deliberately remembered the quotes above without going to check their accuracy, so it may be difficult to be sure you've found a match (assuming you would even bother to try). Frankly, I like his content in general, and what seems like criticism here is probably just reflecting the facts of life for someone attempting to stream blitz chess. I know I'm not doing that.

But in your own games, I urge you not to start by selecting several candidate moves. Instead, begin by identifying the strengths and weaknesses in the position, and attempting to find ways to press your own advantages while preventing your opponent from advancing his or her interests on the board.

Listening to the Grandmaster commentators in international events, key words are things like harmony and momentum. Activity matters; piece coordination should be maintained; initiative is critical. Avoid going on speculative adventures at the cost of surrendering the initiative or causing disharmony among your pieces. When pressing forward keep the momentum going, and only cash in (for material, say) when you're certain you can win the technical position that arises. Keep your eyes on the prize, and don't be distracted by the non-essentials—while staying aware of changing board conditions.

Radoslaw Wojtaszek –
Richard Rapport

FIDE Grand Prix leg #1
Berlin (R1), February 4, 2022
[Ralph Dubisch]

Beginning players can often be seen grabbing a piece, then looking for a place to put it. As we progress, we move past this beginner habit... or do we? How different is it to look at a position and start thinking, "I could go there, or I could move the rook somewhere. Maybe Be3? Or should I exchange pawns first?"

1.d4 e6 2.c4 Bb4+ 3.Bd2 a5 4.Nf3 Nf6
5.g3 d5 6.Bg2 dxc4 7.Qc2 c5 8.a3 Bxd2+
9.Nbxd2 cxd4 10.Nxc4 0-0 11.Qd3 Nc6
12.0-0 Ra6 13.Rfd1 b5 14.Nce5 Bb7
15.Nxc6 Bxc6 16.Qxd4 Qa8 17.Rac1 h6



Position after 17...h6

How to choose White's next move? Well, start by not thinking candidate moves; instead, figure out positional elements, goals, and formulate a plan.

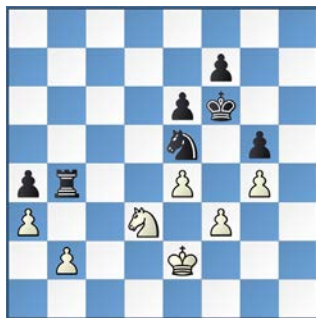
White would love to plant a knight on e5 and advance f3 and e4 to prevent a black piece from camping out on d5. Unfortunately, the f3-knight is in the way of those pawn moves, and moving the knight either hangs g2 (not indicated) or ends up misplacing the knight on g2 (Ne1 or Nh4, then recapturing after ...Bxg2). So, can the white bishop leave the long diagonal first? Well, yes...

18.Bf1! Bd5

18...Bxf3 19.exf3 Qxf3 (19...Rc6! looks like Black's best, leaving White with a small advantage after 20.Rxc6 Qxc6 21.f4, when White's major pieces are

more active and the bishop is more useful than the knight, but Black has few serious weaknesses and decent chances to hold.) 20.Bxb5 (20.a4!? gets GM Daniel King excited due to the coming passed pawn on b5, but the natural capture with the bishop is also quite good.) 20...e5! Forced, as rook retreats lose material to Bc6 tactics. 21.Qc3! (21.Qxe5?! Ne4! gives Black compensation for the pawn if the a6-rook can swing to the kingside, and it's a repetition draw if the rook is captured: 22.Bxa6 Qxf2+ 23.Kh1 Qf3+) 21...Qxc3 22.Rxc3±, with bishop versus knight, the two-to-one queenside majority, and slightly more vulnerable targets on a5 and e5 favoring White.

19.Ne5 Qb8 20.f3 Rd6 21.Qc5 Ra6 22.Qc7 Bc4 23.Qxb8 Rxb8 24.e4 Rab6 25.Rd2 g5 26.g4 Kg7 27.Bxc4 bxc4 28.Nxc4 Rb3 29.Kf2 a4 30.Rcc2 h5 31.h3 hxg4 32.hxg4 Rh8 33.Ne5 Rb5 34.Nd3 Rh2+ 35.Kf1 Rxd2 36.Rxd2 Nd7 37.Ke2 Kf6 38.Rc2 Rb8 39.Rc4 Ne5 40.Rb4 Rxb4



Position after 40...Rxb4

41.Nxb4

Here there are clearly only two reasonable candidate moves, but again it's more important to figure out Black's idea than to start by picking one and building a detailed tree.

So, what is Black threatening? Black hopes to activate that a-pawn with ...Nc4xb2! followed by ...a3-a2-a1. So 41.axb4? is a serious mistake, and after 41...Nc4 White is no longer winning. 42.Kd1 Nxb2+ 43.Nxb2?? even manages to lose to 43...a3, though of course 43.Kc2 is a draw.

41...Nc4 42.Nd3 Ke7 43.Kd1 Kd6 44.Kc2 Kc6 45.Kc3 Kb5 46.Kd4 f6 47.e5 f5 48.gxf5 exf5 49.e6 g4 50.e7 Nd6 51.Kd5 Ne8 52.f4 g3 53.Ne1 Ng7 54.Ng2 Kb6 55.Kd6 Kb5 56.Ne3 Kb6 57.Kd7 Kc5 58.e8Q

When we play over a game, it appears to be a series of moves, played one at a time. How could it be anything else?

But when playing the game, and

when analyzing it with the idea of understanding and learning, we need to overcome the tendency to think move by move. When one looks for a move, that's short-term, reactive thinking. When you are constantly reacting to the opponent, you have, by definition, surrendered the initiative.

Finding a move is no longer the challenge it was when you were a beginner. Start by trying to understand the position, imagine how to create a favorable structure, determine harmonious piece placement, and only then figure out the order of moves to achieve your goals and thwart those of your opposition.

Yes, there will be times that you have no option but to list the possibilities and choose by process of elimination. Make those times as rare as possible, and you will improve your results.

1-0

Nobel Ang (1561) –
Jeffrey T Roland (1700) [D70]
Spring Thaw Nampa, ID
(R5), March 19, 2022
[Ralph Dubisch]

I think we might learn something from this game.

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.c4 d5

Possible, of course, but if you like the main lines of the Grunfeld Exchange, consider delaying ...d5 until after White has played Nc3. 3...Bg7 4.Nc3 (4.g3 0-0 5.Bg2 d5 6.cxd5 Nxd5 7.0-0) 4...d5 5.cxd5 (5.Qb3 dxc4 6.Qxc4 0-0 (6...a6!?) 7.e4 a6) 5...Nxd5 6.e4 Nxc3 7.bxc3 c5

4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.e4 Nb6

And here we see the problem with the early ...d5: Black has at least one more minor piece than can readily fit into the diminished space available. Exchanging on c3, while certainly helping White to shore up d4 with the recapture toward the center, also removes the awkward knight and lines up targets along the long dark diagonal.

6.Nc3

Or the restricting 6.h3 Bg7 7.Nc3 0-0 8.Be2, when Black has difficulty finding decent posts for all the pieces.

6...Bg7

6...Bg4!?

7.Be2

7.h3 0-0 8.Be2 as above

7...0-0 8.0-0 Nc6



Position after 8...Nc6

Black should take advantage of the opportunity to bring out the light-bound bishop, 8...Bg4. If White prevents this development, what are the future prospects for this piece?

9.Be3

What's the plan if White grabs the central space? 9.d5 Na5 (9...Ne5 10.Nxe5 Bxe5 11.f4±; 9...Nb8 10.a4 a5 11.Be3±) 10.Qc2 c6 11.Rd1 and White is much more comfortable.

9...Bg4 10.d5

The Stockfish engine also likes the other central advance, 10.e5, which does grab more central space and shuts down the g7-bishop. But as this appears to give Black more footholds in the center (...Nb4-d5) while improving the prospects of Black's g4-bishop, I'm not at all sure I would recommend it for hominids.

10...Bxf3 11.Bxf3 Ne5 12.Be2 Nec4

Black has exchanged some pieces, solved some of the development problems, and suffers at most a minor disadvantage.

13.Bxb6



Position after 13.Bxb6

13.Bf4!?

13...Nxb2?

But now fancy-play syndrome sets in. Black equalizes comfortably with the simple recapture 13...Nxb6.

14.Qb3 Bxc3

14...cxb6 15.Qxb2 Rc8 16.Rac1, and Black doesn't regain the piece with 16...Qc7 due to 17.Nb5 Bxb2 18.Rxc7,



Nobel Ang (L), Jeffrey Roland. Photo credit: Jeff Price.

and though there are complications, White comes through them with extra material in all lines.

15.Qxc3?

15.Be3! Bg7 16.Rab1. Computer lines from here don't even bother messing around with threats like Bc1xb2 winning a piece. They simply capture Rxb2 and claim something like +5: bishop-pair, central dominance, attack on both sides of the board. For example 16...Re8 (likely not best, but illustrative to avoid a later Bh6 threatening both mate on g7 and the win of the exchange on f8) 17.Rxb2 Bxb2 18.Qxb2 c6 19.Bh6 f6 20.Bg4 Kh8 21.Be6 Qb6 22.Qc3 and despite having

rook and pawn for the two bishops, it's clear that Black has no play whatsoever.

15...Na4 16.Qxc7 Nxb6?

16...axb6! secures the improved knight outpost on c5 while improving the rook on a8. 17.Rfc1 (17.Qxb7 Nc5 18.Qc6 Nxe4 may even be a slight edge to Black.) 17...Nc5 18.Qxd8 Rfxd8 19.f3 f5.

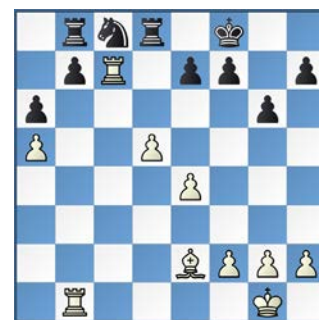
17.Rfc1/ Rb8 18.Qxd8 Rfxd8 19.a4 a6?!

Extra weakening on the b-file. 19...Rbc8 20.a5 Nd7±

20.a5 Nc8 21.Rc7

21.Rab1

21...Kf8 22.Rb1



Position after 22.Rb1

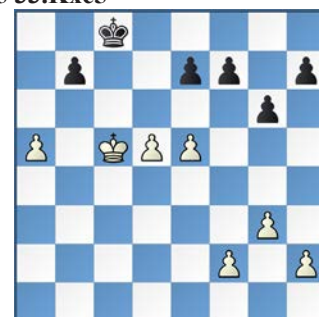
22...Nd6

22...b5 23.axb6 Rxb6 24.Rxb6 Nxb6 25.Bxa6 is not yet clearly winning, but White has good torture potential.

23.e5 Nb5?

Now it's all over. There are definite chances to survive with 23...Ne8 24.Rc5 (24.Rcxb7 Rxb7 25.Rxb7 Rxd5 26.f4 Rxa5 27.Ra7) 24...Rdc8 25.Rbc1 Rxc5 26.Rxc5±.

24.Bxb5 axb5 25.Rxb5 Rbc8 26.Rxc8 Rxc8 27.g3 Rc7 28.Kf1 Ke8 29.Ke2 Kd8 30.Ke3 Kc8 31.Kd4 Rc2 32.Rc5+ Rxc5 33.Kxc5



Position after 33.Kxc5

1-0

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2022 Washington State Championship

NM Josh Sinanan

The 2022 Washington State Championship took place at the Orlov Academies in Seattle and Redmond on February 12-13 and 19-21. Forty players participated in four ten-player Round-Robin sections, the fields of which were determined by rating and seeding: Championship, Premier, Invitational, and Challengers. All sections were dual Northwest and US Chess rated, with the Championship and Premier also being FIDE rated. Senior TD Fred Kleist directed the Championship and Premier sections in Seattle, whilst a team of tournament directors consisting of Vijay Sankaran, Duane Polich, and Liang Shi shared the tournament directing duties at the Redmond location. The event was hosted by the Washington Chess Federation and organized by WCF President Josh Sinanan.

WIM Megan Lee from Bellevue dominated the Championship section from the get-go and sat at 3.5/4 after the first weekend. In the second weekend of play, Megan pulled away from her nearest rivals with an impressive 4.5/5, finishing 2.5 points ahead of the field. No doubt Megan's recent participation in the 2021 US Women's Championship contributed to her strong play and fantastic result in our local Washington State Championship! Queen power was on full display in the Championship section, as WFM Anne-Marie Velea from

Sammamish finished in second place and took a big step towards becoming Washington State's newest US Chess National Master, which she subsequently achieved the later in February at the Washington Girls Championship. Three players tied for third-fifth place with five points apiece: NM Daniel Shubin from Redmond, FM John Readey from Seattle, and NM Rushaan Mahajan from Redmond.

On Saturday February 19, Championship and Premier players were treated to a special visit by Chris Bird, the US Chess FIDE Events Manager and perennial tournament director of the US Championships. Chris was visiting Seattle to check in on the Washington State Championship and Premier, as well as a PNWCC Norm Tournament that was also taking place on President's Day weekend. During his visit, Chris visited with local organizers Josh, Fred, and Xuhao and provided many valuable insights related to running FIDE tournaments. With Chris' recent relocation to Arizona, we hope to collaborate with him at many more tournaments in the future!

In the Premier section, two players abruptly withdrew after just one round of play, which effectively shrunk it into a seven-round Round Robin. In a prestigious event such as the State Championship, it is considered bad form to skip a round for any non-emergency reason, and players who miss even one round in any of the Round Robin sections are promptly withdrawn from the event. After the departure of Michael Hosford and Daniel Qian, the two games that each of them played were still rated but didn't count for tournament score since they completed less than half of the tournament. Fortunately, no color changes were needed, as is often the case when a player withdraws in the final few rounds. In any case, Nikash Vemparala from Redmond emerged victorious in the Premier section with a solid five points from seven games. Nikash recently returned from a chess trip to Europe, where he competed in several strong FIDE rated tournaments and raised his FIDE rating to 1998! Along the way to his Premier title, Nikash scored wins against Ryan Ackerman (1918), Mary Kuhner (1897), and Yiding Lu (1945), and Vignesh

Anand (2080). No doubt Nikash is on the rise and gained valuable experience from his Euro trip. Erin Bian from Shoreline and Yiding Lu from Bellevue finished in second/third place with 4.5 points each. Seattle's Joseph Frantz claimed fourth place honors with four points and was the only player who managed to win against Vemparala. Young Vidip Kona, an eight-year-old from Redmond, rounded out the prize winners with an even score of 3.5/7.

In the Invitational section, Ted Wang, a second grader from Medina, scored an impressive tournament victory with seven points from nine games. On his way to the title, Ted won against Erik Liu (1823), Stephen Willy (1898), Kylie Zhang (1675), Gabriel Razmov (1668), Robin Tu (1809), and Sridhar Seshadri (1792). In the game against Seshadri, Ted won an amazing same-colored bishop ending in which he was down multiple pawns but had an unstoppable passed pawn! Two players shared second/third place with six points apiece: Anand Gupta from Sammamish and Edward Cheng from Seattle. WCF Tournament Coordinator Valentin Razmov from Seattle finished in fourth place with 5.5 points and was the only player able to score a win against the Champion Ted. Stephen Willy, from the Sammamish plateau, claimed fifth place honors with 4.5 points from nine rounds.

In the Challengers section, in which no one yet had a driver's license, Lakeside freshman Daniel Wang from Mercer Island cruised to victory with an undefeated seven points from eight games. Daniel has played 588 NWSRS rated games throughout his scholastic career, many of which have been at the Chess4Life Quads held weekly on Friday evenings. Besides Megan Lee in the Championship section, Daniel was the only other player to go undefeated in the entire event! In fact, the only players who managed to hold Daniel to a draw were Owen Xu (1658) and Abhay Sankar (1495). After Jai Budhrajia withdrew in round three, the tournament shrunk to a nine-player Round Robin, with one player receiving a bye in each round. Haituka Anandkumar from Redmond finished in second place with six points, continuing the trend girl power exhibited in the Championship (Lee, Velea) and Premier (Bian) sections. A trio of players



shared third-fifth place honors, each with five points: Owen Xu from Bellevue, Abhay Sankar from Bothell, and Nikhil Ramkumar from Bothell.

Several of the players have graciously annotated a game for the Northwest Chess readers to enjoy.

**Anand Gupta (1842) –
Valentin Razmov (1821) [D37]**
WA State Championship (Invitational)
Redmond, (R1), February 12, 2022
[Valentin Razmov]

This game was played in round one, so neither opponent knew what to expect—except that we were of similar ratings. It was promising to be an interesting battle between potential contenders for the top spots in the section.

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 c6 5.Bf4?!

A move likely intended to surprise Black or at least escape lines where Black may have relevant experience. Objectively, that move allows Black to take a pawn and likely keep it, at the cost of some complications.

5...Be7?!

White's intended plan worked. After ten minutes of thought on the choices, Black decides to avoid a possible opening preparation that may be harder to decipher over the board. The principled alternative is illustrated by lines such as: 5...dxc4. 6.a4 (6.e4 b5 7.Qc2) 6...Bb4 7.Qc2 (7.g3) 7...Nbd7 (7...b5) 8.e4 b5 9.Be2

6.e3 0-0 7.c5

Perhaps this strategic choice of a closed pawn structure was White's idea all along. At least I had relevant experience and knowledge to guide me. 7.Bd3; 7.Qc2

7...Nh5

After seven more minutes I decided to directly challenge White's bishop first. The typical approach in such closed



positions instead is for Black to play ...b6 followed by ...a5, aiming to open lines on the queenside, where White attempts to create a cramping effect with their c4-c5 thrust.

8.Ne5?±

Though played quickly, this otherwise typical knight move shows that White didn't appreciate the significance of Black's latest challenge. 8.Bd3 would have been the "normal" continuation, leading to a balanced position after 8...Nxf4 9.exf4 b6 10.b4 a5 11.a3 Ba6.

8...Nxf4 9.exf4 f6!

This is the point: the absence of a knight on f6 allows Black to directly push away White's knight from its favorite e5-square, thus negating its previous jump. The relative weakening of the e6-square is not as significant here, because White is behind on development and their center is overextended, so a challenge to that center is coming up shortly, which will radically change the pawn structure.

10.Nf3 Nd7!

Suddenly White's position is rather

Player Bio

Valentin Razmov is a teacher/mentor by heart, and a chess coach (find him at https://www.chess.com/member/Coach_Valentin) who helps both youth and adult students to grow, from beginner to advanced levels. He returned to active tournament play in 2020, many years after being trained to expert level as a youth in Eastern Europe. Valentin is on the board of Washington Chess Federation, where in his capacity as Tournament Coordinator he strives to improve the local chess scene through innovative and inclusive initiatives to meet the aspirations of all our active players. He looks forward to meeting and welcoming you at an upcoming chess event.

unpleasant. A central pawn break ...e6-e5 is imminent, while White's king is still unsafe.

11.Qe2?



Position after 11.Qe2

Spending 17 minutes, White doesn't find a workable solution. The queen on e2 only adds to the problems, as it slows down the bishop's development and allows Black to rely on tactics due to the potential skewer of the king and queen. 11.Bd3 e5 12.fxe5 fxe5 13.dxe5 was relatively better, leaving Black up a pawn after 13...Qc7 but giving White a chance to at least consolidate their king-side.

11...e5!

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White's center is falling apart. What should White do with highest priority?

12.fxe5?!

Facilitating the opening of more lines for Black's pieces is generally not the right approach, and specifically here it does not help either. White needs to complete development quickly and add stability to their position and safety to their king. 12.Rd1; 12.0-0-0

12...fxe5 13.Nxe5?+-

Perhaps White was still hoping to contain the damage positionally and/or materially, but again the chosen path exacerbates the situation. 13.dxe5 Nxc5?

13...Nxe5 14.Qxe5

If 14.dxe5 Bxc5 15.f3 Qg5 then the White king cannot castle in either direction.

14...Bf6 15.Qh5 Bxd4 16.0-0-0

By this point we had collectively spent over two hours playing, a curiosity for most players around us who had already finished their games in a brisk tempo.

16...Qf6?!

This "automatic" move—developing a piece while adding pressure—was hard to resist. It gives White a brief moment of respite to develop their bishop: Bd3. The engine suggests instead lines like 16...g6! 17.Qe2 (17.Qh6!? Be5 18.g3 Bxc3 19.bxc3 Qa5 20.Qd2 Bg4 21.Re1 Rxf2! 22.Be2 Qa3+ 23.Kd1 d4 24.Qxd4 Qb2!-+) 17...Rxf2

17.Rd3?!

Perhaps the pressure felt too great and White misses that chance... or maybe after 17.Bd3 g6 18.Qe2 Qxf2 White saw no point in playing down two pawns with no compensation, so was seeking complications in hopes of reversing damages.

17...Qf4+

Forcing the rook to retreat due to the threat of the light-squared bishop coming

in with skewers on f5 or g4.

18.Rd2 Bg4 19.Qh4 Bxf2 20.g3 Qf3

Black strives to keep up the pressure and not allow White to bring their pieces into the game. By now each of the players had about 30 minutes left to complete the 40-move time control...

21.Bd3

The alternative 21.Rxf2 Qxh1 22.Rxf8+ Rxf8 23.Qxg4 Qxf1+- seems like a clean win.

21...Qxh1+

21...h5! was even stronger, and I calculated this alternative, but missed that after 22.Rf1 Black wins on the spot due to 22...Qe3!—threatening to trap the white queen with ...g7-g5 or win the pinned rook after 23.Bc2 Be1-+

22.Rd1

Realistically an only move, and an unpleasant surprise for Black, as I had overlooked this possibility from a distance, way back on move 17. Luckily Black has a good and simple move in store:

22...Qf3

The engine offers fascinating alternative winning lines starting with 22...Be3+. During that phase of the game, I was trying to actively simplify the position, being wary of the chance to overlook another tactical detail, especially with the f-file open against my king too. 23.Kb1 h5! (23...Qf3 24.Qxh7+ Kf7 25.Rf1 Bf2 26.Nd1 Rh8 27.Qg6+ Kg8! 28.Nxf2 Bh5! 29.Qe6+ Bf7-+) 24.Rxh1 g5! 25.Qxg4 hxg4+

23.Qxh7+ Kf7 24.Rf1

With the last few minutes ticking down on the clock, White decides to try to complicate things. I thought I had convinced myself that Black escapes attempts for a perpetual check or a mating attack after the more conventional 24.Qg6+ Ke7 25.Nxd5+ (25.Qxg7+ Rf7

26.Qe5+ Kd7 27.Qd6+ Kc8-+) 25...cxd5 26.Qd6+ Ke8 27.Bg6+ Rf7 However, continuing from this line of my calculation, the engine doesn't give up just yet and insists on posing additional serious tactical challenges—28.Rxd5!? Be3+ (28...Qe3+ 29.Kc2 Qe2+ 30.Kb1 following as in the mainline) 29.Kc2 and at this juncture of these variations Black must earn the win by finding the spectacular piece sacrifice to deflect the white rook from the threat of Re5+:

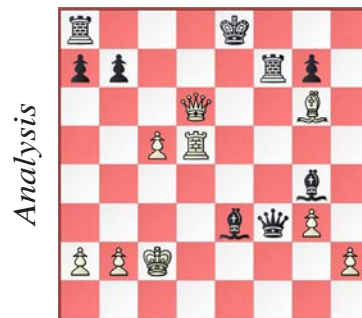


Diagram-analysis after 29.Kc2

29...Bd4! 30.Rxd4 Bf5+ 31.Bxf5 Qxf5+ 32.Kc3 Rf6-+

24...Qf6

Adding the reassuring presence of a queen to help the fearful Black king. Simpler was 24...Rh8 25.Qg6+ Kg8-+

25.h3 Rh8 26.Qg6+

26.Rxf2 Qxf2 27.Qg6+ Kg8 28.Qxg4 Re8-+ was another possibility.

26...Qxg6 27.Rxf2+ Ke6?

I knew that I had miscalculated something somewhere, but the nervous tension had mounted by that point—White had a mere one minute left on the clock, while Black had 14. Although I did consider the obvious 27...Qf6, it appeared to me—incorrectly—that at the end of that line White was equalizing the material; I was mis-visualizing White's rook as still being present on the board, even though I was recapturing it for Black's queen on f6. 27...Qf6 28.Rxf6+ Kxf6 29.hxg4

Rh2-+

28.Bxg6 Rxh3

Luckily for Black, the resulting position retains ample margin for a comfortable win.

29.Rf7?

This loses additional material, though with the queens gone and the potential White attack vanished it's hard to recommend something promising for White.

29...Rh6! 30.Rxg7 Kf6

The game could have reasonably ended here with a resignation given Black's enormous material advantage and no real risks (including nine minutes left to make the next ten moves).

31.Rxb7 Kxg6 32.Rc7 Kf5 33.Rf7+ Ke5 34.Re7+ Kd4 35.Rg7 Bf3 36.Rf7 Be4 37.g4 Rg8 38.Rxa7 Rxd4 39.Ra5 Rg2 40.Ra4+ Kd3 41.Nd1 Rc2+ 42.Kb1 Rh1

and White resigned. Following this difficult and disappointing game, Anand Gupta recovered very well: he played a strong tournament and finished in shared second place, remaining in contention for first place until the very last round. My heartfelt congratulations to him on this!

0-1

**Vijay Nallappa (1602) –
Daniel Wang (1631) [A48]**
WA State Championship (Challengers)
Redmond WA (R6), February 19, 2022
[Daniel Wang]

**1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.Bg5 Bg7 4.Nbd2
0-0 5.c3 d6**

I only recently began playing the King's Indian Defense against 1.d4, so I didn't know much theory. In fact, I believe this was the first time I had faced the Torre Attack.

6.e4 Nbd7

Here the more popular move was 6...c5, which the computer evaluates as equal and has been played by Kasparov and Vachier-Lagrave, among others. The text gives white a very slight advantage.

7.Bc4 e5 8.dxe5 Nxe5

I wanted to open up my light-squared bishop.

9.Nxe5 dxe5 10.0-0 Qe8

Sidestepping the pin and preparing Be6.

**11.Qc2 Be6 12.a4 Bxc4 13.Nxc4 Qc6
14.Nd2 a5**

Here I offered a draw as I thought the position appeared very equal. The computer gives +0.2 for White which is

somewhat negligible.

15.f3 Nd7

Rotating my knight to the queenside, possibly to c5 where it would eye the holes in White's position on d3 and b3.

16.Rfd1 Bf6

16...Nc5 would have been better, but I decided to shamelessly play for a draw!



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.

16...Nc5 17.Nf1 (17.b4?? Ne6 18.Be3 Nd4 19.Qd3 Qxc3!! 20.Qxc3 Ne2+!-+) 17...Bf6 18.Bh6 Bg7=

17.Bxf6 Qxf6 18.Nc4 Nb6 19.Nxb6 Qxb6+

All the minor pieces have been traded off and the position is now 0.00. Here I offered another draw, which was also declined.

20.Kh1 Rad8 21.Qe2?! Qb3 22.Rdb1

22.h3 Rxd1+ 23.Qxd1 (23.Rxd1 Qxa4) 23...Qxb2; 22.Ra3?? Qxd1+

22...Rd6

Doubling on the d-file with the additional idea of a potential ...Rb6 targeting the weak b2-pawn.

23.Ra3 Qb6 24.Qc2? Rfd8 25.Rb3 Qe3!



Position after 25...Qe3

26.Rxb7?? Rd2 27.Qb3 Qe2

Here the computer finds instead: 27...Rxc2!! 28.Kxc2 (28.Rb8 Qf2!! With mate to follow.) 28...Rd2+ 29.Kh3 Qxf3+ 30.Kh4 Rxh2+ 31.Kg5 Qf4#

28.Rg1 Rd1 29.h3 Rxc2 30.Kxc1 Rd2

0-1

Robin Tu (1809) – Gabriel Razmov (1600) [B01]
WA State Championship (Invitational)
Redmond, (R4), February 13, 2022
[Gabriel Razmov]

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qa5 4.Bc4 Nf6 5.d3

This is a very quiet and reserved line. 5.d4 is by far the most popular move in this position, and it is more ambitious as it gets more central space.

5...c6

Another way for Black is 5...Bg4 6.Nge2 c6 7.Bd2 Nbd7 (7...e6?! leaves Black's bishop almost trapped 8.f3 Bh5 9.Nd5 Qd8 10.Nxf6+ Qxf6 (but not 10...gxf6? 11.h4 h6 12.Nf4 Bg6 13.Nxc6 fxc6+-))

6.f4?!

A puzzling move that blocks the dark-squared bishop while it also weakens the dark squares on the kingside. I spent about five minutes thinking on my response. (As I learned later, my opponent apparently plays f4 with White in almost any opening.)

6...Bg4?!

A conventional response, but not the best. A more active response would be 6...b5! 7.Bb3 e6 8.Nf3 Be7 9.0-0 0-0 10.Ne4 Qb6+ 11.Kh1 Nxe4 12.dxe4 a5 taking advantage of White's slow-down.

7.Nf3 h6?

The intent here was to create room for Black's bishop, but in retrospect this move literally loses a tempo, since the bishop will have to be exchanged on f3, rather than being immobilized and stranded on

h7. 7...e6 8.h3 Bxf3 9.Qxf3 Bb4±

8.h3 Bxf3

I considered 8...Qh5 here but it didn't seem to do much good.

9.Qxf3 e6 10.Bd2 Qc7 11.0-0-0

Black is far behind on development and must hurry.

11...Nbd7 12.g4 0-0-0 13.g5?!

White is eager to open files, but what if Black doesn't do so?

13...hxcg5?!

Automatic and incorrect. 13...Nd5 doesn't play by White's script. 14.h4±

14.fxg5 Ne5 15.Qf2!

A nice move that, among other things, attacks a7.

15...Nxc4?

Here I didn't really know what to play. I didn't (and I needed to) consider 15...Nd5, which simply moves the knight to its favorite position, while saving f7. Even then, Black is still worse due to space disadvantage on the kingside, the inactive dark-squared bishop, and the hanging pawn on a7. 15...Nd5 16.Qxa7 b5 17.Qxc7+ Nxc7 18.Bb3 Be7±

16.gxf6?!

A blunder, played surprisingly quickly in a position that required careful evaluation of alternatives. I was not counting on this move when I played ...Nxc4, but I had foreseen that it's a mistake. 16.dxc4 maintains White's advantage and pressure on Black's position.

16...Nxd2

Washington State Championship

	Name	Rating	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total	S-B	Place	Prize
1	NM Daniel Shubin	2214	♔	0.5	1	0.5	0.5	0.5	0	1	0	1	5	19	3rd-5th	\$150.00
2	WFM Anne-Marie Velea	2187	0.5	♔	0.5	0.5	1	1	1	0.5	0	0.5	5.5	21.25	2nd	\$375.00
3	FM John Readey	2289	0	0.5	♔	0.5	0.5	1	0.5	1	0	1	5	18	3rd-5th	\$150.00
4	NM Rushaan Mahajan	2253	0.5	0.5	0.5	♔	1	1	0	0	0.5	1	5	20.25	3rd-5th	\$150.00
5	CM Brandon Jiang	2154	0.5	0	0.5	0	♔	0.5	1	0	0	0.5	3	12.25		
6	NM Joseph Levine	2251	0.5	0	0	0	0.5	♔	1	0.5	0	1	3.5	12.25		
7	CM Timothy Moroney	2234	1	0	0.5	1	0	0	♔	1	0	1	4.5	18		
8	Austin Liu	2004	0	0.5	0	1	1	0.5	0	♔	0.5	0	3.5	16.5		
9	WIM Megan Lee	2321	1	1	1	0.5	1	1	1	0.5	♔	1	8	32.75	1st	\$675.00
10	NM Viktors Pupols	2200	0	0.5	0	0	0.5	0	0	1	0	♔	2	7.75		

Suddenly Black is better.

17.Rxd2 gxf6

This capture's effect is probably what my opponent missed. He cannot recapture on f6 now due to 17...Bh6, winning the exchange.

18.Kb1 f5

Stabilizing the kingside and the important f-passer for Black, while also restricting the mobility of White's knight.

19.Qxa7 b6 20.Qa6+?!

20.Qa8+ Kd7 21.Qa4+ is the more technical way—who wants to play with a king on d7 in the middlegame?

20...Qb7! 21.Qxb7+

White's problem is that even the more active looking 21.Qc4 b5 22.Qb3 Rh4! leads to a rather passive position for all their pieces. Notice the dominating effect Black's pawns have on the light squares!

21...Kxb7

I felt good about my chances after entering this endgame. There was no real risk of Black losing any more, while I could grind for a win with my passed f-pawns.

22.Rf2 Rd4

Activating and aiming to keep White passively defending the h3-weakness.

23.Ne2 Rdh4 24.Rf3 Bd6

Black dominates the board!

25.c4 c5

Attempting to secure the queenside so that my opponent doesn't get counter-play there.

26.a3 f6

This and the next few moves aim to prepare support for a future e6-e5-e4 push.

27.Nc3 R8h5 28.Nb5 Be7?!

Keeping guard of the b4-square, which is the only place his counter-play can start. White could have gotten some relief as a result, but missed it.

29.Rg1 Kc8?

Gives White counter-play in the form of forcing moves, which limits Black's options for pressing on. 29...Kc6 is more natural and centralized. 30.Rg7 Kd7 31.Nc7 Rxh3+.

30.Rg8+ Kd7 31.Rb8 Rxh3

A key decision moment; Black decides to press forward and counts on being able to quickly advance the f-pawn toward queening. The main alternative was 31...Bd8 (which I considered), aiming to keep the queenside defended and capture h3 soon after.

32.Rb7+ Ke8 33.Rxh3 Rxh3 34.Rxb6 e5?!

Miscalculating the stronger prospects for Black after 34...f4. 34...f4! is the principled alternative. 35.Kc2! only move by White to stay in the game! (35.Rxe6?? Rh1+ 36.Kc2 f3 and the f-pawn queens.; 35.Nc3? f3 36.Nd1 Rh1 37.Kc2 Kf7 38.Kd2 f5-+) 35...Re3 36.Kd2 f5+.

35.Nc7+ Kf8?

Here I thought that if I chose to move to f7, Nd5 would hurt me due to the coming pin on the bishop. As my analysis shows, ...Kf7 is indeed best but only good

enough for a small edge. I was probably also affected by the previous unsuccessful games in the tournament, wanting to press for a win here. 35...Kf7+ 36.Nd5 Bd8! A critical resource for Black. 37.Rb8 (37.Rd6 Rh8!) 37...Rh8! Another critical resource, after which Black can press on.

36.Kc2 f4

Trying to keep the initiative.

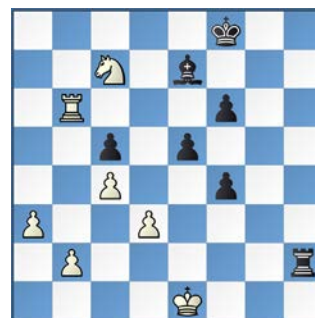
37.Kd2??

An act of panic? 37.Nd5 was the only move for White (and not too hard to find). 37...Rh2+ 38.Kd1 and Black has to soon confess that it is likely going to be a draw. 38...f3 39.Ke1 (39.Rb8+).

37...Rh2+!

An only winning move which heads into a series of other precise moves to secure a win for Black.

38.Ke1



Position after 38.Ke1

38...f5!

A strong idea—Black needs to involve the bishop, as the rook and f-pawn cannot do it all by themselves. 38...f3? 39.Nd5 and once again White will escape with a

Washington State Premier

	Name	Rating	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total	S-B	Place	Prize
1	Nikash Vemparala	1998	♔	0	1	-	-	0.5	0.5	1	1	1	5	15	1st	\$472.50
2	Joseph Frantz	2009	1	♔	1	-	-	1	0	0	1	0	4	14.5	4th	\$105.00
3	Ryan Ackerman	1918	0	0	♔	-	-	0	0	1	0	0.5	1.5	3.5		
4	Michael Hosford (withdrew)	1985	-	-	-	♔	-	-	0	-	-	-	0	0		
5	Daniel Qian (withdrew)	1936	-	-	-	-	♔	0	-	-	-	-	0	0		
6	Vidip Kona	1929	0.5	0	1	-	1	♔	1	1	0	0	3.5	10.5	5th	\$52.50
7	Erin Bian	1919	0.5	1	1	1	-	0	♔	1	0	1	4.5	13	2nd/3rd	\$210.00
8	WCM Mary Kuhner	1897	0	1	0	-	-	0	0	♔	0	1	2	7		
9	Yiding Lu	1945	0	0	1	-	-	1	1	1	♔	0.5	4.5	13	2nd/3rd	\$210.00
10	CM Vignesh Anand	2080	0	1	0.5	-	-	1	0	0	0.5	♔	3	10.5		

draw.

39.Nd5

White finally opts for activating their knight, but by now ...f5 has opened up Black's bishop and the f6-pawn is safe too. The next move is still an only winning move, but it was easy to find.

39...Bh4+! 40.Kf1 f3

Threatening a cool mate :-), but even without it Black is winning as the pawn promotes.

41.Rb8+ Kf7 42.Rb7+ Kg6 43.Ne7+ Kg5 44.Kg1 f2+

44...Bg3! is a nice touch to finish the game in the most efficient manner. I missed that elegance, but I also had already calculated that there was nothing for my opponent to hope for in the line I played.

45.Kxh2 f1Q 46.Rb6 Qf2+ 47.Kh1 Qf3+ 48.Kg1 Bf2+ 49.Kf1 Bg3+ 50.Kg1 Qf2+ 51.Kh1 Qh2#

It was satisfying to win a challenging game against a player rated in the 1800s. I had this as a goal to strive for, and now that goal has been achieved!

0-1

Sridhar Seshadri (1792) –

Ted Wang (1800) [A00]

WA State Championship (Invitational)
Redmond (R4), February 13, 2022
[Ted Wang]

1.b4

This is a surprising start.

1...e5 2.Bb2 d6 3.a3 Nf6 4.g3 g6 5.Bg2 Bg7

I started with my familiar King's Indian Defence.

6.Nf3 0-0 7.0-0 Nbd7 8.c4 Ne8 9.e4 f5 10.exf5 gxf5 11.d3 c6 12.Re1 Qc7 13.Qb3

By this point, White already established an advantage with more space and ways to attack. Black did not have any play.

13...Kh8 14.Bc3

This is a strange move without a clear intention.

14...c5 15.Qb2 Qd8 16.Nbd2 Nc7 17.Nf1 Ne6 18.Qc1 Nd4 19.Nxd4 exd4

This was a mistake because the e-file was opened.

20.Bd2 Nf6

This was a blunder. ...Ne5 to block the e-file was the best move.

21.Bh6 Qd7 22.Bxg7+ Qxg7 23.Qf4 Rd8 24.Nd2 Qg4 25.Qxg4 Nxg4 26.bxc5 dxc5 27.h3 Nf6 28.Re5 Rg8 29.Rxc5

By this point, Black was completely lost with material down and pawn-structure damaged.

29...Be6 30.Nf3 Rad8 31.Re1 Bc8 32.Re7 f4 33.Kh2 fxf3+ 34.fxf3 Rg7 35.Ree7 Rxe7 36.Rxe7 Kg8 37.Ng5 h6 38.Ne4 Nxe4 39.Bxe4 Kf8 40.Rh7 Kg8 41.Rxh6

Black was down by two pawns now. The situation was hopeless.

41...Kg7 42.Rh7+ Kf6 43.Bxb7

This appeared to be a natural move to gain



more material, but it actually gave Black counterplay. Black had a small hope alive now.

43...Bf5 44.Rh4 Bxd3

Black now had a passed pawn, a small hope to come back.

45.Bd5 Ke5 46.Rh5+ Kf6 47.Rh6+ Kf5 48.Rh5+ Kf6 49.Rh6+ Kf5 50.Kg1 Re8 51.g4+ Kg5 52.Re6 Rb8 53.Kf2 Kf4 54.Rf6+ Ke5 55.Rf7 Bg6 56.Rb7 Rf8+ 57.Ke1 d3 58.Rg7 Rf6 59.g5 Rb6 60.Re7+ Kd4 61.Rb7

This was a blunder because now Black's d-pawn can promote!

61...Rxb7 62.Bxb7 Ke3 63.Bc8 d2+ 64.Kd1 Be8

0-1

Washington State Invitational

	Name	Rating	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total	S-B	Place	Prize
1	Erik Liu	1823	♔	0	1	0	0.5	0	0	1	0.5	1	4	17.25		
2	Anand Gupta	1842	1	♔	0.5	1	0	1	0.5	1	0	1	6	21.75	2nd/3rd	\$150.00
3	Stephen Willy	1898	0	0.5	♔	1	0.5	1	0	1	0.5	0	4.5	17.25	5th	\$37.50
4	Kylie Zhang	1675	1	0	0	♔	0	0	0	0	0	0.5	1.5	5.75		
5	Edward Cheng	1716	0.5	1	0.5	1	♔	1	0.5	0	0.5	1	6	26	2nd/3rd	\$150.00
6	Gabriel Razmov	1668	1	0	0	1	0	♔	0	1	0.5	0	3.5	11.75		
7	Ted Wang	1800	1	0.5	1	1	0.5	1	♔	1	0	1	7	26.5	1st	\$337.50
8	Robin Tu	1809	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	♔	1	0.5	3.5	14.75		
9	Valentin Razmov	1821	0.5	1	0.5	1	0.5	0.5	1	0	♔	0.5	5.5	25.25	4th	\$75.00
10	AFM Sridhar Seshadri	1792	0	0	1	0.5	0	1	0	0.5	0.5	♔	3.5	13.25		

Additional Player Bios



Daniel Shubin

2013 Washington State School Championships — first place

2015 Washington State School Championships — first place

2016 North Israel School Championships — first place

2016 US National K-12 Chess School Championships Bughouse — fourth place

2016 World School Individual Championships. Sochi, Russia — top 25

2017 US National K-12 Chess School Championships, Orlando, Florida — fifth place

2017 North American Youth Chess Championships, New York — ninth place

2018 US National School Congress Championship, San Jose, California — first place

2018 World Youth Championships, Halkidiki, Greece — top 50

2019 Pan American Youth Championship, Guayaquil, Ecuador — tie for second place

2020 Washington State Junior Closed — first place

2021 National Master Title

Owen Xu

Owen started showing interested in chess at age six.

He was the 2021 US Junior Chess Congress National Online Scholastic Age Six & Under Champion.



Washington State Challengers

	Name	Rating	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total	S-B	Place	Prize
1	Haituka Anandkumar	1475	♔	1	0.5	1	0	1	0.5	1	1	1	6	18	2nd	\$125.00
2	Vijay Nallappa	1602	0	♔	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	-	3	5		
3	Owen Xu	1658	0.5	1	♔	1	0.5	1	1	0	0	-	5	17.5	3rd-5th	\$50.00
4	Adithya Parthasarathy	1011	0	0	0	♔	0	0	0	0	0	-	0	0		
5	Daniel Wang	1631	1	1	0.5	1	♔	1	0.5	1	1	-	7	24	1st	\$225.00
6	Selina Cheng	1367	0	0	0	1	0	♔	1	0	1	1	3	7		
7	Abhay Sankar	1495	0.5	1	0	1	0.5	0	♔	1	1	-	5	16.5	3rd-5th	\$50.00
8	Nikhil Ramkumar	1585	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	♔	1	-	5	13	3rd-5th	\$50.00
9	Vishnu Vijeyanandh	1130	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	♔	-	2	5		
10	Jai Budhraj (withdrew)	1113	0	-	-	-	-	0	-	-	-	♔	0	0		

Washington News Roundup

NM Josh Sinanan

2022 Lakeside Classic

The first annual Lakeside Classic took place Saturday March 5 online via Chess.com. We had a fantastic turnout of 91 scholastic chess players in grades K-12 competing across three sections: K-3 U800, K-5 U1200, and K-12 Open. Due to sparse attendance in the K-12 Open, the K-12 U1600 and K-12 Open sections were merged for the final two rounds. For several courageous “Chess Lions,” it was their first ever chess tournament! The online format made the tournament readily accessible to players from throughout the US, including the cities of Snohomish, Burien, Sammamish, Bothell, Redmond, Issaquah, Seattle, Everett, Yarrow Point, Renton, Bellevue, Olympia, River Hills (WI), Maple Valley, Portland (OR), Medina, Gig Harbor, Woodinville, Kirkland, and Mercer Island. The style of play was brisk and fearless amongst the younger players, and purposeful and patient amongst the older ones. All players put forth their best effort and showed off their chess “Jedi” skills, which have been fine-tuned during the pandemic. Each round featured several daring attacks, sparkling sacrifices, and ingenious defenses devised by the many colorful characters taking part in the proceedings! All players were respectful and demonstrated genuine sportsmanship and integrity throughout the tournament. The event was hosted by the Lakeside School Chess Team, organized by Lakeside Chess Coach Josh Sinanan, and directed by WCF Scholastic Director Rekha Sagar with assistance from volunteers Meera Shanmugam and Advait Vijayakumar.

(See chart below for prize list.)

2022 Washington President’s Cup

The 2022 Washington President’s Cup was held in person at the Orlov Chess Academies in Seattle and Redmond on February 5-6. Due to space constraints, the tournament was split between two locations, with the Open section of 27 players taking place in Seattle under the direction of Senior TD Fred Kleist and the Reserve section of 21 players taking place in Redmond under the direction of Redmond High School Chess Club President Vignesh Anand. The event, a five-round Swiss tournament over two days, was hosted by the Washington Chess Federation and organized by WCF Tournament Coordinator Valentin Razmov and WCF President Josh Sinanan.

NM Joseph Levine, a high school freshman from Clyde Hill, won the Open section with a perfect 5.0/5, defeating four Class A players as well as Expert Austin Liu (2004) along the way! For his victory, Joseph is seeded into the Invitational section of the 2023 Washington State Championship, though he will most certainly qualify for a higher section based on his master-level rating. Two players tied for second place a full point back: Vidip Kona from Redmond and Colin Diamond from Seattle. Six Class A players tied for First U2000 honors with three points apiece: Karl Reutter from Bellevue, Luca Tessiore from Seattle, Stephen Willy from Sammamish, Nikash Vemparala from Redmond, Erin Bian from Shoreline, and Ryan Min from Bellevue! Zaki Maksyutov, who made his tournament debut at the Washington Class Championships in November, claimed

the First U1800 Prize by virtue of being the only Class B player to finish on a plus score! Bothell Chess Legend Sridhar Seshadri won the biggest upset prize with a jaw-dropping 362-point upset win in the first round!

In the Reserve U1600 section, two players—Haituka Anandkumar from Redmond and Abhay Sankar from Bothell—shared first place honors, each scoring an undefeated four points from five games. Leo Saloranta from Mercer Island and Shuyi Han from Bellevue tied for Third/U1400 a half-point back with 3.5 points, drawing against each other in the fourth round. Newcomer Alexander Rundle from Everett won the unrated prize with 3.5 points, starting out red-hot with three straight wins and a half-point bye before succumbing to Anandkumar’s relentless pressure in the final round. Youngster Vladimir Fedorov from Sammamish won the U1200 prize with three points, recovering well with a three-game winning streak after a slow start. Up-and-coming juniors Stas Black from Bothell and Martin Soukal from Sammamish tied for first place U1000 with two points each and rounded out the prize winners. Mercer Island High Schooler Leo Saloranta won the upset prize with a 264-point upset in the final round. Congratulations to the winners and thanks to all who contributed to this fantastic event!

2022 Washington Girls Championship

The 2022 Washington Girls Championship took place in person at the Orlov Chess Academy in Redmond on

Amazon Gift Cards awarded in each section			
			
1st Place - \$50			
2nd Place - \$35			
3rd Place - \$25			
Section	1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place
K-3 U800	Aiden Wu	Tied 2nd/3rd: Kala Balasubramanian & Jacob Z Wang	
K-5 U1200	Aneesh Vashisht	Tied 2nd/3rd: Aya Aelion, Likhit Arnav Pusuluri, Deeksha Shankaranand & Sean Cao	
K-12 U1600	Kate Wong	Tied 2nd/3rd: Samarth Bharadwaj & Zerui Li	
K-12 Open	Tied 1st/2nd: Co-Champions! - Michael Lin & Michael Nelson		Jind Kaur

February 26-27. Female chess warriors from throughout Washington State were represented in the 26-player field, including the cities of Bothell, Redmond, Shoreline, Seattle, Bellevue, Kirkland, Sammamish, Medina, and Mercer Island!

The event was hosted by the Washington Chess Federation and organized by President Josh Sinanan. Redmond High School Chess Club President Vignesh Anand directed the tournament. The five-round Swiss tournament featured 16 players in the Championship section and ten in the Reserve U1400 section.

Anne-Marie Velea, a junior from Eastlake High School in Sammamish, won clear first place in the Championship section with 5.0/5. Already a WFM for a few years now, Anne-Marie also became Washington State's newest US Chess National Master by achieving a US Chess rating of 2201 as a result of her perfect score at the Washington Girls Championship. Along the way, Anne-Marie scored wins against Lakeside's Erin Bian (1945) and Felicity Wang (1713), which added to her rating gain from the Washington State Championship the weekend before.

For her victory, Anne-Marie receives the title of Washington State Girls Champion and a \$750 travel stipend from the WCF to attend the 2022 Haring National Girls Tournament of Champions. Congratulations Anne-Marie! A trio of chess queens tied for second-fourth place honors with 3.5 points: Erin Bian from Shoreline, Felicity Wang from Bellevue, and Varnika Jammalamadaka from Redmond. Aashi Mathur from Sammamish won the best upset prize with a 229-point upset in the final round.

Miranda Meng, a second grader from Chestnut Hill Academy in Bellevue, topped the Reserve U1400 section with a perfect 5.0/5! Miranda's biggest victory came against her classmate Zoe Xu in round four. Ankita Swaminath from Bothell swam above her nearest rivals and clinched second place honors with 3.5 points.

Redmond's Zoe Xu and Bothell's Sneha Sankar tied for third/fourth place half-a-point back at three points. Kala Balasubramanian from Bothell won the upset prize (395 points) with a surprising first-round knockout against the second seed. Congratulations to the winners and many thanks to all who contributed to this event. Our fabulous chess community continues to thrive despite these challenging times!

2022 Presidential Scholastic

The 2022 Presidential Scholastic chess tournament was held in person at the Redmond Marriott on President's Day Monday, February 21. Scholastic chess players in grades K-12 participated from throughout Washington State, including the cities of Bothell, Issaquah, Redmond, Sammamish, Snohomish, Bellevue, Seattle, Medina, Stanwood, Richland, Mercer Island, Kirkland, Auburn, Duvall, Lake Forest Park, Snoqualmie, University Place, Yarrow Point, Ravensdale, and Bremerton! The event was hosted by the Washington Chess Federation and directed by former WCF Scholastic Director Jacob Mayer, with assistance from Meiling Cheng, Karen Schmidt, Detective Denise "Cookie" Bouldin, Ani Barua, Kyle Haining, Michael Nelson, Stuart Bushfield, Sophie Szeto, Vignesh Anand, Sloan Setiadikurnia, and Siva Sankrithi. A total of 166 players competed across six sections separated by grade level and rating: K-3 U800, K-3 Open, 4-6 U900, 4-6 Open, 7-12 U1000, and 7-12 Open.

Congratulations to the Section Winners!

Section	Champion(s)
K-3 U800	Bright Weng (5.0/5!!)
K-3 Open	Dann Merriman (5.0/5!!)
4-6 U900	Ankita Swaminath & Naamya Gulati (4.5/5!)
4-6 Open	Selina Cheng & Nikhil Ramkumar (4.5/5!)
7-12 U1000	Yabi Ephrem (4.5/5!)
7-12 Open	Kennard Hou (4.5/5!)

Congratulations to the Top Finishing Teams!

Place	Team	Score
1st	Detective Cookie's Chess Club	15
1st	Medina Elementary	13
2nd	Tyee Middle	12.5
3rd	Canyon Creek Elementary	12.5
4th	Redmond Middle	12
5th	Open Window	12

Congratulations to the Special Prize Winners:

Section	Best Female Player (by TPR)	Biggest Upset
K-3 U800	Rebecca Li (581)	Jacob Wang (379 pts.)
K-3 Open	Miranda Meng (1029)	Alex Dai (447 pts.)
4-6 U900	Sneha Sankar (743)	Rian Kim (238 pts.)
4-6 Open	Alice Zhao (1313)	Jake Li (705 pts.)
7-12 U1000	Giulia Pretti (531)	Juan Moraleja (66 pts.)
7-12 Open	Selin Iskender (999)	Max Fan (376 pts.)

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



Sheridan Wyoming Open Chess Tournament

Saturday, April 30th and Sunday, May 1, 2022

US Chess- and FIDE-Rated Tournament – Limited Enrollment

5 Round Swiss – all games G/90, d5

Location – Sheridan College, 1 Whitney Way - Sheridan, WY; Room # 235

Saturday April 30th registration/sign-in 8:00 am to 9:00 am

Division # 1 (Open)		Division # 2 (< 1600/unrated)	
1 st Place	\$1,600.00	1 st Place	\$ 400.00
2 nd Place	800.00	2 nd Place	\$ 200.00
3 rd Place	400.00	3 rd Place	\$ 100.00
4 th Place	200.00	4 th Place	\$ 50.00
5 th Place	100.00	5 th Place	\$ 25.00

Pre-Registration – \$35.00/Day-of Registration \$45.00 (Cash Only)

Saturday: Round #1 – 9:30 AM; Round #2 – 1:30 PM; Round #3 – 6:00 PM

Sunday: Round #4 – 8:00 AM; Round #5 - 11:00 AM (or ASAP)

One ½ bye available. Byes for rounds 4+5 must be requested before the end of Round 3.

US Chess membership required.

Renew or join: <https://new.uschess.org/form/membership>

Additional information and pre-registration: www.SheridanChess.com

WA State Barber/Rockefeller QUALIFIER TOURNAMENT

Sunday, April 17, 2022

Redmond Marriott

7401 164th Ave NE, Redmond, WA 98052

CLASSICAL SECTIONS:

K-5 Open (Rockefeller Qualifier) 6-8 Open (Barber Qualifier)

A 4-round G/75; d5 Swiss. Longer time control for Intermediate to Advanced players. Dual NWSRS and US Chess Rated; US Chess membership required. Rounds: 9am, 12:30pm, 3:30pm, 6:30pm. Awards ceremony ~ 9:45pm.

RAPID SECTIONS:

K-3 U800, K-3 Open, 4-12 U900, 4-12 Open: A 5-round G/25; d5 Swiss. Shorter time control for players of all levels. Rounds: 9am, 10:15am, lunch, 12:15pm, 1:30pm, 2:45pm. Awards ceremony ~ 4pm.

ALL SECTIONS:

NWSRS Rated. Open sections are also US Chess Rated, which requires clocks, notation, and US Chess membership. **Please bring a digital clock if you have one**, a limited number will be available to borrow. The U800 and U900 sections don't require clocks or notation, but a clock set for 10 minutes will be placed in the game after 40 minutes of play.

WA State Elementary Qualifier!

ELIGIBILITY:

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

ENTRY FEE:

\$45 by Apr. 10th, \$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: Amazon Gift Cards awarded to the top 4 players from the top 5 finishing teams (top 4 scores from same school comprise team score) across all sections: 1st \$30, 2nd \$25, 3rd \$20, 4th \$15, 5th \$10.
Special Prizes (per section): Medals for first-timers, best female player, and biggest upset.

RATING:

Highest of April 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. Apr 15th @ 5:00pm. No registrations accepted or refunds offered after the deadline. Unpaid players will be immediately withdrawn from the tournament.

Highest finishing WA State resident in the K-5 Open and 6-8 Open section will earn a \$750 travel stipend (donated by the WCF) to become the WA State representative at the Rockefeller (K-5) and Barber (6-8) Tournament of Champions, respectively, held concurrently with the US Open in early August. A tie for first place in the Barber/Rockefeller Qualifier sections will be resolved later in the year by playoffs, to be played within two months from the end of the tournament.

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

Questions? Contact Josh Sinanan, WCF President at 206.769.3757 or washingtonchessfederation@gmail.com

Meet The Chengs

Karen Schmidt

In October 2021, I met Selina and Edward Cheng and their mom, Meiling, at the Susan Polgar Foundation National Open (SPFNO) scholastic tournament in Bellevue, Washington. This was the

same weekend I met Seattle's Detective Cookie, and her head volunteer coach, Larry Greenawalt. I was a tournament volunteer for the whole weekend, and so were Detective Cookie and Larry.

Meiling was there in a "dual capacity"—both as the mom of two players, and as a semi-official photographer at the event.

Selina (9) and Edward (14) Cheng both played the whole weekend, and both did very well. In fact, Selina came in second place in her group, the K-5 Girls Open two-day event. As trophies were being presented by Susan Polgar on Sunday, I got a huge kick out of the fact that Selina's second-place trophy was taller by several inches than she was!

The family lives in the Rainier Beach area in Seattle. When I asked Meiling how her kids got introduced to chess in the first place, she explained that Edward first learned about chess from one of the childcare staff when he was attending after-school care at Van Asselt Community Center at the age of about seven. When he was about eight, he started learning officially at his after-school chess club, from the Seattle Chess School coaches (Coach/Director Steve Ryan, and Coach Bill Schill).

One day the family discovered Detective Cookie's Chess Club at the Rainier Beach Community Center after a swimming lesson, and the boys (Edward and his big brother Howard) started a new journey with Detective Cookie, the volunteers, and Coach Larry. Selina followed her mom whenever Meiling was with Edward at Detective Cookie's chess club. She started learning about the pieces at the age of four and a half. Detective Cookie and Coach Larry were her very first coaches.

I asked about other hobbies besides chess. Edward has been playing violin since elementary school, "even though he does not like it that much," according to his mom. He likes soccer and played ultimate frisbee when he was in middle school. He has also been a swimmer. Selina is very active and has a lot of interests: swimming, biking, reading, and drawing. She is currently learning violin and cello.

Neither of the kids has watched *The Queen's Gambit* (Netflix Series). But they watched and enjoyed *Queen of Katwe* together with their mom.



*(L-R): Larry Greenawalt, Selina Cheng, Detective Denise "Cookie" Bouldin, Edward Cheng at Othello Park in 2021.
Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.*

Coach Steve and Coach Bill from The Seattle Chess School started the official training for Edward and Howard (Edward's big brother who used to play chess but does not play as much now) when they were in elementary school. Selina had been in her after-school chess club with The Seattle Chess School too until the pandemic broke out. Thanks to the generosity of Coach/Director Steve and The Seattle Chess School, both Selina and Edward had the great opportunity to take online group lessons from Coach Bill and Coach Matt for more than a year during the pandemic, with scholarships provided by the chess school.

With the help of Detective Cookie and local chess Master Josh Sinanan, both Edward and Selina were able to play a lot of online tournaments and continue to learn and make progress during the COVID pandemic. Coach Ray Easterday, whom they met during a series of free chess events held at the different libraries, has also helped both kids a lot by playing with them in person before the pandemic. (Coach Ray runs the Orangutan Chess School.) He gave a very good chess book as a gift to the kids not too long after he met them. Coach Ray has been extremely kind by offering both kids gold memberships at chesskid.com and Selina has put it to good use, especially since the pandemic. Coach Ray recently invited both Edward and Selina to play chess with his students.

Both Selina and Edward also benefited greatly from the gift of a chess.com membership from Coach Larry. Coach Larry has been watching the kids' games closely and even plays chess games online with them when he is available. Before the pandemic, Meiling also used to take the kids to the Seattle Armory at the Seattle Center so that they could play with a wide variety of chess players there. Sometimes they also went to Crossroads Mall to play chess, after Coach Larry introduced them to that popular Bellevue chess hang-out.

I asked Meiling whether she thinks that chess has helped her children in any other areas of their lives (ie: decision making, self-confidence, or concentration.) She replied "Yes, playing chess helps the kids calm down and focus their attention. It improves their logical thinking. They are making new friends and learning more about teamwork. They are also learning about the relationship between actions and consequences."

When I first broached the idea of a story for *Northwest Chess*, Meiling was hesitant. She named Detective Cookie

and Coach Larry (the Detective Cookie Chess Club); Coach/Director Steve Ryan, Coach Bill, and Coach Matt (The Seattle Chess School); Coach Ray (Orangutan Chess School); and Coach Elliott Neff (Chess 4Life) for their great patience with both Selina and Edward. She observed, "They could be really active and naughty sometimes." She continued, "There is also Coach Valentin (a chess.com coach) who is always so willing and ready to go through the games with the kids after their tournaments (online or in person). I will always remember the nicest Coach Josh (Josh Sinanan) who previously offered both my kids a free lesson each, and they loved it."

As a chess player, chess writer, and former "chess mom" myself, Meiling's sentiments hit home, and illustrate what a strong and wonderfully supportive chess city we live in.

Lastly, we discussed the stresses of tournament play, and I wondered how the kids dealt with the stress. Meiling observed, "Most of the time, I encourage them to take breaks and eat snacks between rounds when they are playing in the tournament. I used to keep checking frequently and reminded them to take a break in the past. But after my kids helped me open my own chess.com account, it is much easier to go remind them to take a break after their games are done. They don't have any problem when playing in person most of the time. Selina used to play with stuffed animals to remind her to slow down during online tournaments, but it does not seem that she has slowed down too much yet. They tend to play chess fast and it has been a big challenge for Edward and now also for Selina to slow down." Who knows? Maybe they will become speed chess champions down the road!



*(L-R): Edward Cheng, Selina Cheng at 16th Susan Polgar Foundation National Open for Girls & Boys tournament in 2021.
Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.*

Zachary Fritchen Discovers *Northwest Chess*

(But we discovered him first!)

Jeffrey Roland

Well, I can certainly relate to the discovery of *Northwest Chess*. I remember when I discovered it, and I valued this discovery a lot, so when I witnessed the discovery by another player, I just had to take note!

Zachary Fritchen recently won the Southern Idaho Open (Veteran's Tournament) held in Twin Falls in November, and Barry Eacker wrote an article on the event that was published in the magazine.

I brought a couple months' worth of samples to the recent Idaho Closed State Championship, held February 19-21 in Boise, that Zachary played in. Now keep in mind, Zachary had never even heard of *Northwest Chess* before this moment. And me, well, I'm kind of an evangelist for the magazine. I bring samples to chess tournaments and sometimes show off the magazine, all the stuff that is in each issue, which I am truly passionate about... anyway, it inspires me to talk about *Northwest Chess* to people!

I had never met Zachary before either, so when I saw him at the tournament (to me he was kind of already a legend since he won the Southern Idaho Open that was covered in the magazine) —I mentioned to him that he was actually featured in the magazine! I really think he thought I was pulling his leg! But then I gave him samples of the January and February issues and directed him to pages 18-19 of the January issue and he knew it was for real!

Both he and his wife were very surprised and thrilled to see this coverage. Anyway, as a photographer, I caught the moment for history. The "discovery" of *Northwest Chess*!

This probably isn't earth shattering news, and maybe not worth the space I'm taking here, but to me, it is kind of special and historic in a way too! Photographs are meant to capture moments and preserve memories. I think the discovery of *Northwest Chess* magazine is something to be remembered and cherished, hence this photograph!



Zachary Fritchen holding a copy of the January 2022 issue of Northwest Chess. Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.

A Northwest Chess Grand Prix Event



Over \$11,000 Prize Fund
(based on 150 paid entries)

WASHINGTON OPEN

Sat-Mon, May 28-30, 2022

Redmond Marriott

7401 164th Ave NE, Redmond, WA 98052

Main Event:

Format: A 6-round Swiss event across 3 sections: Open, Premier (U1800), and Reserve (U1400).

Rating: Dual rated (US Chess & NWSRS), plus Open section will be FIDE rated (except G/60 games). Higher of May 2022 US Chess (regular or online), FIDE, and NWSRS ratings used to determine sections, pairings, and prizes. Foreign ratings used for players with no US Chess rating. Higher of US Chess or foreign ratings used at TD discretion.

Highest finishing WA resident in the Open and Premier section seeded into the 2023 WA State Championship, in the Championship and Challengers sections, respectively.

Entry Fee: \$130 by Sun, 05/01; \$140 by Sun, 05/15; and \$150 after 05/15 or on-site. Less \$50 for Seniors (age 50+). Add \$50 if rated U1800 and wanting to play in the Open section. Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs, and US Chess 2400+. Canadians may pay CAN\$ at par. Re-entry for 1/2 of original entry fee.

Prizes:

- **Open:** \$900, \$700, \$550, \$450, \$350; U2100: \$200, \$150; U1900: \$200, \$150
- **Premier (U1800):** \$700, \$600, \$500, \$400, \$300; U1650: \$200, \$150; U1500: \$200, \$150
- **Reserve (U1400):** \$500, \$400, \$350, \$300, \$250; U1200: \$200, \$150; U1000: \$200, \$150; Unrated: \$200, \$150.

Special Prizes (per section):

- **Biggest Upset:** \$100, \$50, 1-yr NWC subscription ext.
- **Best Female Player:** \$100, \$50, 1-yr NWC subscription extension. Awarded to the best scoring (by TPR) female players who do not win another cash prize. Requires min 3 qualifying players per section.
- **Best Annotated Game:** \$100, \$50, 1-yr NWC subscription extension. Submit one annotated game from the event that you consider to be interesting or well-played. A panel of judges will select the winners.

Schedule:

- **3-day option:** Sat @ 10 AM, 5:30 PM; Sun @ 10 AM, 6 PM; Mon @ 10 AM, 4 PM.
- **2-day option:** Sun @ 9 AM, 11:30 AM, 2:30 PM, then join 3-day schedule @ 6 PM (from round 4 onward).
- **WCF Annual Meeting & Elections:** Mon @ 3 PM.

Note: You may play in the main event *and* take part in side events with minimum (or even no) half-point byes!

Time Controls:

- **3-day:** 40/120, SD/30; d10. Late Default: 60 min.
 - **2-day:** G/60; d10 (rds 1-3), rds 4-6 same as for 3-day.
- Please bring a digital clock, if available.

Hotel Info: Redmond Marriott, \$119 per night. One King or two Queen beds, single or double occupancy. Call (800) 228-9290 to request the Washington Chess Federation block, or use the [online reservation](#). Group code: WFFWFFR. Cut-off date for discounts: Fri, May 06 @ 5 PM PST.

Miscellaneous: Current US Chess and WCF/OCF/ICA memberships required; may be paid at registration. Other states accepted. No Computers. Wheelchair accessible.

Registration, Information & Payment:

- **Before event:** Online (by Thu, 05/26 @ 5 PM) at nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration/ (pay by credit/debit/PayPal) or make checks payable to Washington Chess Federation. Mail to: Josh Sinanan, 4174 NE 148th Ave NE, Building I, Suite M, Redmond, WA 98052. Info: washingtonchessfederation@gmail.com, 206-769-3757.
- **On-site:** Sat, 05/28 @ 8-9 AM for 3-day schedule, or 4:30-5 PM if entering with 1 half-point bye. Sun, 05/29 @ 8-8:30 AM for 2-day schedule, or 9-9:30 AM if entering 3-day schedule with 2 half-point byes. Late registrations may receive a half-point bye for first round. 2 half-point byes available; request before end of round 2. Play any two days, if taking 2 half-point byes.

Procedure and Health/Safety Policy: Pairings will be posted before each round in the hallway near the play area. All players (including in the side events) are required to sign the [WCF Health/Safety Protocols & Waiver of Liability](#) form prior to the start of the events.

Fun Side Events:

Washington Open Adult-only Swiss: Sat-Mon, 05/28-30 @ 11 AM & 4 PM. Format: A 6-round Swiss in one section, 2 half-point byes available. US Chess & NWSRS dual rated. TC: G/90; +30. EF: \$60 online (by Fri, 05/27 @ 5 PM) or \$70 on-site; EF waived for new unrated players who purchase memberships. Registration: Sat, 05/28 @ 10-10:30 AM (unless entering with half-point byes). Current US Chess membership and WCF/OCF/ICA membership required. Higher of May 2022 US Chess rating (regular or online) and NWSRS rating used to determine pairings and prizes. Prize fund: \$900/b25. 1st \$180, 2nd \$140, 3rd \$100, 1st U2000 \$80, 1st U1700 \$80, 1st U1400 \$80, 1st U1100/Unrated \$80, Biggest upset: \$80, Best Female player (by TPR): \$80.

Washington Open Chess960 (Fischer Random) Championship: Sat, 05/28 @ 2 PM. Format: A 4-Round Swiss in one section, 1 half-point bye available. Unrated. TC: G/10; +2. EF: \$20. Registration: 1-1:45 PM. Rounds at 2 PM, 2:30, 3:00, and 3:30 PM. No memberships required. Higher of May 2022 US Chess (regular or online) and NWSRS rating used to determine pairings and prizes. A new (randomized) opening position for each round. Players have 2 minutes before clocks start to examine the position. Prize Fund: \$100/b10. 1st \$40, 2nd \$30, 3rd \$20, 1st U1400/Unrated 6-mon NWC extension.

Washington Open Puzzle Solving Competition: Sat, 05/28 @ 4:30-5:15 PM. Format: Solve 15 chess puzzles in 45 minutes. Write solutions on paper. Evaluation based on accuracy and completeness. EF: \$10. Registration: 3:30-4:15 PM. No memberships required. Medals awarded to top-3 finishers and to the best puzzle solver in U2000, U1700, U1400, and Unrated.

Washington Open Rapid Championship: Sun, 05/29 @ 2 PM. Format: A 5-Round Swiss in one section, 2 half-point byes available. US Chess Quick rated. TC: G/15; +5. EF: \$25 online (by Sat, 05/28 @ 5 PM) or \$30 on-site. Registration: 1-1:45 PM. Rounds at 2 PM, 2:45, 3:30, 4:15, and 5 PM. Current US Chess membership and WCF/OCF/ICA membership required. Higher of May 2022 US Chess Quick rating (regular or online) and NWSRS rating used to determine pairings and prizes. Prize Fund: \$500/b25. 1st \$110, 2nd \$90, 3rd \$60, 1st U2000 \$40, 1st U1700 \$40, 1st U1400 \$40, 1st U1100/Unrated \$40, Biggest upset: \$40, Best Female player (by TPR): \$40.

Washington Open "Knight-Time" Blitz: Mon, 05/30 @ 7:30 PM. Format: A 9-Round Swiss in one section, 3 half-point byes available. US Chess Blitz rated. TC: G/5; +3. EF: \$25 online (by Sun, 05/29 @ 5 PM) or \$30 on-site. Registration: 6:30-7:15 PM. Rounds at 7:30 PM, 7:50, 8:10, 8:30, 8:50, 9:10, 9:30, 9:50, and 10:10 PM. Current US Chess membership and WCF/OCF/ICA membership required. Higher of May 2022 US Chess Blitz rating (regular or online) and NWSRS rating used to determine pairings and prizes. Prize Fund: \$500/b25. 1st \$110, 2nd \$90, 3rd \$60, 1st U2000 \$40, 1st U1700 \$40, 1st U1400 \$40, 1st U1100/Unrated \$40, Biggest upset: \$40, Best Female player (by TPR): \$40.

In Memory Of Ignacio Perez

Karen Schmidt

A long time ago when my son was taking private chess lessons from a coach on the East side, Vincent Marr, we had an occasion to meet Ignacio Perez. Vincent and Ignacio were friends, and both were active in the “Seattle Chess Scene.” My son was only about 12 or 13 years old at the time. I remember being properly impressed to be meeting a two-time Washington State Champion (2007 and 2013). Ignacio was originally from Cuba, and I had always been a secret admirer of another Cuban World Champion, from another era, Jose Raul Capablanca.

I did not run into Ignacio again for several years, until I had discovered casual chess in Pioneer Square. I started playing at the large Starbucks at 1st and Yesler in the spring of 2015 with a group of a dozen or so guys. I was still working full time for UW so I could only play on weekends. But many of the guys were there seven days a week. I got to know (and practice my high school and college Spanish with) several Hispanic chess guys—including Ignacio’s best friend from Mexico, Isaias Oragel. I also had the opportunity to watch Ignacio win a small outdoor blitz tournament in Occidental Park one Saturday. I was not familiar with the concept of “one minute per person” chess games at that point and remember being dumbfounded...that anyone could think that fast, move that fast, or even hit a clock that fast.

This past October, I played in my first over-the-board tournament since Covid, at the Seattle Chess Club—which is now meeting and holding tournaments at the Orlov Chess Academy near Green Lake. Ignacio and Isaias were both playing, and a mutual friend of ours, Efrain Tovar originally from El Salvador, had come to watch us play. I knew that Ignacio had undergone surgery about a year earlier, for throat cancer—after which he could no longer speak aloud. After the first round of the tournament, Ignacio treated the four of us to lunch next door at Rosita’s—great Mexican food. Ignacio was a charismatic guy, and even though now unable to speak, he had quite a presence at the table—using eye contact, hand gestures and scribbled notes.

When we went back to the tournament, Ignacio spent all the rest of the time between rounds in the “skittles room” helping the young kids analyze their tournament games that day. There were some very skilled young players, and it was quite amazing to see them all flocking around Ignacio, focused intently on what he was communicating to them about their good moves, tactics, missed opportunities, and so on—by means of notes, eye contact and hand gestures. Ignacio was a natural teacher and really had a way of connecting with young people—as well as adults—over the chess board.

Ignacio won four out of four rounds that day and took first place, a recent common occurrence. Seeing him so excited about chess and playing so well, I was very optimistic that he had beaten the cancer. I was distraught to learn in early January that he died of a cancer recurrence in his lungs, at the age of 54. I will always be grateful that I decided to play in that tournament and had the opportunity to see him again over such an enjoyable lunch. He had a generous spirit and was a fine teacher—and a true gentleman—over the chess board. All of us in the chess community will miss him very much.



*Ignacio Perez at the 2021 Washington Challenger's Cup.
Photo credit: Josh Sinanan.*

The 2022 Ignacio Perez Memorial Northwest Chess Grand Prix

Murlin Varner, number dude

Four events in February puts us at ten for the year. A better number than this time last year. Two of those events had multipliers, so point values are rising. My chart for this month shows the top 25 in Washington, plus all the players from Idaho and from "Other Places." By this point next month I should be able to resume listing people by Class.

The Dave and Ellen Collyer Memorial in Spokane was one of the multiplier events from February, and had the second highest attendance ever, with 69 players, including yours truly. Next year will be the last Collyer Memorial and is expected to be something big. Mark your calendars now for the last weekend in February 2023.

March had seven potential events. At the Seattle Chess Club, there were

the usual Quads and Tornado, as well as the Spring Open. When I wrote about that event last month, it looked to be a single point value event, but it seems the prize fund was revised, and in the March advertisement the prize structure allowed it to be scored as a 2x multiplier event!

Meanwhile, there were four weekly FIDE-rated events scheduled at the Chandra Alexis Chess Club in Boise. These events only occur if at least five players pre-register in advance, so they may or may not end up in my stats. The list of Idaho players shows you that some have come to pass, as I can attest to there not being that many Idaho players at the Collyer Memorial in Spokane.

April starts out with a double points event on the second and third, the Clark Harmon Memorial. This event will be held

in two places, with limits on the number of entrants, so reserve your seat early. The Open section will be at the Seattle Orlov Chess Academy facility and limited to 25 players, while the U1500 section will be at the Redmond installation of the Academy with a limit of 20 players. Due to Easter and a large tournament in Sheridan, Wyoming (which I may be attending, getting me my 25th state!), the Chandra Alexis FIDE events in Boise will happen on no more than three weekends (first, second and fourth). At the Seattle Chess Club, there will be the usual Quads (April 9) and Tornado (April 24). Add in the Inland Empire Open in Spokane on April 23-24 (see page 31) and you have seven opportunities to add to your Grand Prix totals in April.

Data below are current through March 1.

The 2022 Ignacio Perez Memorial Northwest Chess Grand Prix Top twenty-five, by location

Idaho				Washington				Other Places				
1	Lundy	George	18.5	1	Pupols	Viktors	28.0	1	Donaldson	W. John	CA	21.0
2	Cambareri	Michael E	18.0	2	Reutter	Karl	26.5	2	Merwin	Steven E	NV	18.0
3	Herr	Griffin G	16.5	3	Corey-Derrah	Alan	25.0	3	Rankin	Andrew J	MT	16.5
3	McKenzie	Niall	16.5	4	Zhang	Michelle	21.0	4	Driscoll	Jesse	MT	15.0
5	Kircher	Caleb	11.5	5	Jiang	Brandon	20.0	4	Nazriev	Rasul	MT	15.0
6	Longhurst	Corey K	10.5	6	Flavin	Finnegan	19.5	4	Skovron	James J	MT	15.0
7	Barrett	Evan	6.5	6	Rowles	David	19.5	7	Wagner	Eric	MT	13.5
8	Roberts	Liam	6.0	8	Wang	Ted	18.5	8	Finlay	John	MT	12.0
8	Zhou	Angela	6.0	9	Arganian	David G	18.0	8	McCourt	Daniel	MT	12.0
10	Parsons	Larry R	5.5	9	Lee	Brian	18.0	8	Moore	Sherwood	MT	12.0
11	Boeckel	Clayton	5.0	9	McDevitt	Owen	18.0	8	Walthall	Thomas K	MT	12.0
11	Jablonski	Chase	5.0	9	Yunker	Jeremy	18.0	8	Williams	Jack H	MT	12.0
11	Minichiello	Anthony J	5.0	13	Bonrud	Neal	16.5	13	Downey	Brent	MT	9.0
14	Tate	Alexander	4.5	14	Sankar	Abhay	16.0	13	Stredwick	James K	OR	9.0
15	Blue-Day	Alexander P	4.0	15	Anandkumar	Haituka	15.0	13	Wicks	Lane	MT	9.0
16	Mao	Bryce	3.0	15	Buck	Stephen	15.0	16	Carpenter	Romie G	MT	6.0
16	Pon	Caleb K	3.0	15	Cross	Jason	15.0	17	Aiello	Roberto	OR	5.0
18	Mumford	Glenn E	1.0	15	Khalil	Tayseer T	15.0	18	Semancik	Zackary T	MT	4.5
19	Longhurst	John W	0.5	15	Leslie	Cameron	15.0	19	Gillen	Paul M	OH	4.0
20	Conners, III	John E.	0.0	15	Min	Ryan	15.0	20	Campbell	Connor M	OR	3.0
20	Presutti	Michael J	0.0	15	Ramkumar	Nikhil	15.0					
				15	Thompson	Garrett F	15.0					
				15	Varner	Murlin	15.0					
				15	Willaford	Loyd J	15.0					
				15	Wohl	Jeremy D	15.0					

Seattle Chess Club Tournaments

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

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 accommodate about twenty, which is why advance sign-ups are required.

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

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

April 10 SCC G/20 Hexes
Format: 5-RR in 6- or 5-player sections. **TC:** G/20;+8. **EF:** \$12 (+\$6 fee for non-SCC). **Prize Fund:** \$554 b/6. **Prizes:** \$36-18. **Reg:** 12-12:45 p.m. **Time Frame:** 1 to ~6:30 p.m. **Byes:** 0. **Misc:** US Chess. NS, NC.

April 15-17 SCC Team in Reno!
Join the SCC Team(s) at the **Larry Evans Memorial**. We will compete against teams from San Francisco, Reno, Sacramento, and elsewhere! *We need a volunteer to organize the team(s)!*

♠April 24 Sunday Tornado♠
Format: 4-SS. **TC:** G/60; d5. **EF:** \$18 (+\$7 fee for non-SCC). **Prizes:** 1st 35%, 2nd 27%, Bottom Half 1st 22%, 2nd 16% (\$10 per EF to prize fund). **Reg:** 10:30-11:15 a.m. **Rds:** 11:30-1:50-4:10-6:30. **Byes:** 1 (Rd 3/4—commit at reg.). **Misc:** US Chess, WCF; OSA. NS, NC.

*Mondays are for
casual play*

SCC ADULT SWISS

April 30-May 1, 2022

A four-round Swiss open to those born before 5/1/2004 with a prize fund of \$320.

First	\$100	U1600	\$45
Second	\$70	U1300	\$40
U1900	\$50	U1000/Unr	\$15

Time Control: G/120; +30. **Entry Fees:** Free to SCC members. \$12 for non-members.

Registration: Sat. 10-10:45 a.m. **Rounds:** 11-4:30, 11-4:30.

Byes: 1 (Sunday rounds, commit at registration). **Miscellaneous:** US Chess req'd. NS. NC.

Sponsored by Henry Yan.

Upcoming Tournaments

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

♣ **Apr 23-24 Inland Empire Open, Spokane, WA.** Site: Gonzaga University (Jepson Center) Room 109. SPECIAL NOTICE: Vaccine or recent negative Covid test required; Gonzaga may require that masks be worn. Check with TD when registering. Format: Five Round Swiss System. Registration: Sat. 8:30-9:30 a.m. Rounds: Sat. 10:00-2:30-7:00, Sun: 9:00-1:30 or ASAP. Time Control: G/120 (with 5 second delay). E.F. \$23 if received by 4/22, \$28 at the door; 18 and under \$5 less. Telephone entries accepted. \$600 prize fund based on 30. Class prizes based on at least five per section. Only one prize per person (excluding biggest upset). NS, NC, W. One ½ point bye if requested before proceeding round. Sunday byes must be requested before the end of round 3. Director reserves the right to use class pairings in the final round. Prizes: 1st Overall: \$135, 2nd Overall: \$100. Class Prizes: 1st (A; B; C; D/E/unrated) \$60, 2nd (B; C; D/E/unrated) \$25, Biggest Upset \$50 (non-provisional ratings). Entries: Spokane CC, c/o Kevin Korsmo, 9923 N. Moore, Spokane, WA 99208. For information: cell (509) 270-1772, or visit www.spokanechessclub.org.



HAROLD FINALLY REALIZED HIS REASON FOR CONTINUING TO PLAY CHESS WAS NOT DRIVEN BY INSPIRATION, BUT BY DESPERATION TO ONE DAY WIN A GAME.

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