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Bryce Leifeste, 2022 Idaho State Scholastic Champion.
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Important!!

A new company is printing our issues; it is likely this one issue will arrive later than normal due to the transition.—Editor.

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**Megan Lee (2321) –
John Readey (2289) [B11]**
Washington State Championship
Seattle (R2), February 12, 2022
[Megan Lee]

1.e4 c6

I had a feeling Readey would try something different than his usual...d6 (which he had played against me in last year's event online), so I was prepared for what was to come.

2.Nc3 d5 3.Nf3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Nf6 5.Qe2 Nxe4

Not 5...Nbd7 because of Nd6#. Other options include 5...Bf5, but I figured it would be more awkward for Black to play with doubled kingside pawns.

6.Qxe4 Nd7 7.Bc4 Nf6 8.Ne5

A fun mating trap that helps White solve his light-squared bishop's development.

8...e6 9.Qe2



Position after 9.Qe2

Here I think White is sitting in a nice position—the plan is relatively straightforward, to develop the rest of our pieces by castling and figuring out where to put our dark-squared bishop, and then moving our rooks to the semi-open files in the center to maintain our knight's outpost.

A common idea in this sort of position is to make Black's light-squared bishop have a hard time developing with a4 threatening a5. White's knight is very useful in stopping ...b5 ideas right away, and Black will need to regroup slowly in order to get ...Qc7, ...b6, ...Bb7, ...c5 in.

9...Be7

Somewhat inhuman to play something like 9...b5, but Black has enough resources to prevent what looks like losing two pawns



GAMES OF MEGAN LEE

FROM THE 2022 WASHINGTON STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

10.Nxc6 Qc7 11.Bxb5 a6 12.Ba4 Bd7 13.Qc4 Nd5 14.b3 Nb6 15.Qe4 Qb7 and the pins work in Black's favor to reclaim the lost material.

10.0–0 0–0 11.a4

Again, White's a5 plan is very annoying, as Black's dark-squared bishop does not want to be shut in forever.

11...a5

Probably something like 11...Qc7 might have been a better option. Although White can play a5, Black's light-squared bishop still has a chance to be free with ...c5, ...Bd7–Bc6 ideas. 11...Qc7 12.a5 c5 also useful to challenge the center.

12.b3

I chose to develop my dark-squared bishop this way for a couple of reasons:

1) It would be more useful on the a1–h8 diagonal, supporting d4 and aiming at the enemy's king;

2) If I went the d3 route, it would be a bit slow. My plan is to play d4 eventually, so I would waste some time playing Rf1–d1 (I might want my f-rook to play a role on the kingside in the future, or help support my knight via the e1 square.)

Pushing my pawn from d3 and later d4 is also slow and it makes my light-squared bishop a target for b5 traps.

12...Nd7

Getting rid of the annoying outpost knight and preparing for ...Bf6 to counter White on the diagonal. However, a better plan for Black might be to have gone ...Nd5 to eventually play for ...f6 and ...e5 to free the light-squared bishop.

13.Bb2 Nxe5 14.Bxe5 Bd6 15.f4



Position after 15.f4

I chose to push this pawn instead of the d-pawn since I thought that my f-rook might be more useful once the bishops were traded and I would have preferred the f-file open as opposed to the d-file.

15...Qc7 16.Bd3

My light-squared bishop is no longer useful on the c4 diagonal and can now help attack on the kingside. Also setting up a nice trap.

16...Bd7 17.Bxh7+ Kxh7 18.Qd3+ Kg8 19.Bxd6 Qb6+ 20.Kh1 Rfe8 21.Rf3

A rook lift that helps bring more pieces to the party.

21...Rad8 22.Rh3

Mate is coming...if not serious concessions from Black.

22...f6 23.Qh7+ Kf7 24.Rg3 e5 25.Qxg7+ Ke6 26.fxe5 fxe5 27.Qxe5+

1–0

**Megan Lee (2321) –
Timothy Moroney (2234) [B92]**
Washington State Championship
Seattle (R6), February 19, 2022
[Megan Lee]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6
5.Nc3 a6 6.Be2 e5 7.Nb3 Be7 8.0-0 0-0
9.Be3 Be6 10.Bf3



Position after 10.Bf3

It's generally uncommon to play Bf3 in tandem with Be3 in this position, but I thought I would give this a try. Obviously, we can't let Black break the center with ...d5 yet.

10...Nbd7 11.a4

My favorite plan of the tournament—this time to also stop Black's queenside expansion and to make the b6-square potentially vulnerable in the future.

11...Nb6

I think 11...Qc7 might be a little more flexible for Black, since it maintains some tension and Black might need the a-rook for supporting his pawn in case of a queenside break 12.a5 b5.

12.Bxb6?!

12. Nd2 is probably best since it prepares a5 and puts the b3-knight on a more useful square.

We aren't scared of Nc4 and are happy to trade in that case. Capturing with the

bishop gets rid of one of our nice minor pieces that is helping control the b6-square.

12...Qxb6 13.Nd5

Taking our outpost and fixing Black's pawns. However, we're not in a rush. Better is probably a5 continuing with our plan and supporting the center. Nd5 can always be played. 13.a5 Qa7 14.Re1.

13...Nxd5 14.exd5 Bf5

14...Bd7 is slightly better since Black wants to eventually play ...f5, ...Bf6. So, it is not an ideal solution for the light-squared bishop since we will have to move it again eventually.

15.Be2

Finding a more useful diagonal and taking away escape squares from Black's queen.

15...Rac8 16.c3 Bg6 17.a5 Qc7 18.Ra4



Position after 18.Ra4

Activating our pieces and getting them into the game. Also supporting f4 ideas and Rb4 to target b7.

18...f5 19.Rb4 Bd8 20.Kh1 Qe7 21.Re1

21.f4 seems fine as well, but I figured if Black chooses to play ...e4 the White rook is eventually better suited on the e-file to play for Re3–Rg3 or Rh3.

21...Be8 22.f4 e4 23.Bf1

A waiting move that helps support the g4-break. 23.g4 A very tempting break as Black has a good fortress that is hard to penetrate. But when the position is closed, we have time to wait and gradually improve our position until we are ready. 23...b5 24.axb6 Rb8 Black, although down a pawn, is doing fine here since White's kingside is exposed and the space is opening up to better serve Black's bishop pair.

23...Rf6 24.g4

A good time, since we can play g5 and block Black's pieces from infiltrating too much if needed.

24...Rh6 25.Qd2



Position after 25.Qd2

Not 25.g5? now since Black can play ...Rh4 and ...h6 starts to look scary for White.

25...Qh4 26.g5

Now Black's pieces are a little out of room. ...h6 doesn't come fast enough.

26...Rh5 27.Nd4 g6 28.Rxb7 Bxa5 29.Re2

A little overprotection never hurt anyone. We need our queen in the game!

29...h6 30.Ne6 hxc5 31.Qd4 Rh7 32.Rg7+ Kh8 33.Rxc6+

1-0

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The Oregon Girls Championship moved out of cyberspace in 2021 back into the material world of the Portland Chess Center as it should be. On March 12, 2022, Zoey Tang followed up her online victory in 2021 with a perfect 5-0 record to win the right to represent Oregon at the Tenth Annual Ruth Haring National Tournament of Girls State Champions. Anisha Sripada finished with a 4-1 record to place second on tiebreaks over third place Laxmisri V. Reddy, who also won the under 1200 prize. The remaining prize winners were Neha Narendran who won the under 1000 prize and Sahasra Swargam who won the under 800 prize.

Thanks to David Murray for organizing and directing the Oregon Girls Championship, both this year and last. Thanks to Wilson Gibbins who served as his assistant director. Thanks also to Mike Morris for providing just-in-time trophy management, which allowed them to appear in the picture opposite. And finally, thanks to Chad Lykins for starting a new tournament tradition of a Dairy Queen run, as evidenced in the photo shown below.

**Laxmisri Reddy (260) –
Anisha Sripada (1377) [D58]**
Oregon Girls Championship
(R3), March 12, 2022
[Wilson Gibbins]

**1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 Be7
5.Nf3 0-0 6.e3 Nbd7 7.Bd3 h6 8.Bh4 b6**



Photo credit: Chad Lykins.

Oregon Girls Championship

**Zoey Tang dominates
the Oregon Girls Championship
for the second year in a row.**

Wilson Gibbins

9.0-0 Bb7

Black uses a sophisticated move order to reach a Tartakover Queen's Gambit Declined. This move order avoids the lines where White plays Bg5xf6 at a time when Black is forced to recapture with the bishop from e7—capturing with a knight from d7 is more natural. Very subtle.

**10.Qc2 c5 11.b3 dxc4 12.Bxc4 Bxf3
13.gxf3**

When I try captures like this to double pawns and expose White's king, it usually ends up that the open g-file supporting White's attack is more important than the slight weakening of White's king protection. In this game, Anisha makes White's weakened kingside the more salient issue.

**13...cxd4 14.exd4 Nh5 15.Bxe7 Qxe7
16.Kh1 Nf4 17.Qe4 Qf6 18.Rg1 Qf5**

Black could have used a tricky maneuver to win a pawn: 18...Nh3 19.Rg2 Ng5 20.Qe3 Qxf3.

19.Rg3

19.Qxf5 exf5 is roughly equal according to Stockfish.

19...Nf6 20.Qxf5 exf5

Stockfish thinks Black is better here than in the line suggested on previous move after 19.Qxf5. White will not be able to break through with a kingside attack without queens on the board, so the rook lift to g3 is a loss of time.

21.Rag1 N6h5

And Black wins at least an exchange, as the white rooks cannot avoid the attacks from

Black's knights.

**22.Rxg7+ Nxg7 23.Nd5 Nxd5 24.Bxd5
Rad8 25.Bc4 Rxd4 26.Rg3 Rd2 27.Rh3
Kh7 28.Kg2 Rxa2 29.Rh4 f6 30.Rd4
Kg6 31.f4 Re8 32.b4 Ra1 33.Rd3 Kh7
34.Rg3 Nh5 35.Rf3 Re4 36.Bd3 Nxf4+**

Black finishes the game with an elegant checkmate.

37.Kg3 Rg1+ 38.Kh4 Rg4#

0-1

**Anisha Sripada (1377) –
Zoey Tang (2232) [D93]**
Oregon Girls Championship
(R4), March 12, 2022
[Wilson Gibbins]

1.d4 Nf6 2.Bf4

The London system, formerly a way to avoid the complexities of opening preparation, now the fashionable way to embrace the complexities of opening preparation.

2...d5 3.e3

3.Nc3 transposes to the Jobava variation of Veresov's opening, as played in the games Feldman-Tang and Feldman-Nair which appear on pages five and six of the March 2021 issue of *Northwest Chess*.

3...g6 4.Nf3 Bg7 5.c4 0-0 6.Nc3 c5

We reach to a highly forcing Gruenfeld line.

7.Be2

The second most popular move in this position. 7.dxc5 is the most popular, and is about equal if both sides have memorized an obscene number of moves, starting with 7...Ne4 (or 7...Qa5).

7...cxd4 8.Nxd4 Ne4!

Zoey's knight move is part of a standard Gruenfeld technique to soften White's queenside in general and the a1-h8 diagonal in particular. It would be hard for most of us to choose to move a piece twice in the opening before developing the queenside pieces, but this is quite natural to Gruenfeld players.

9.Nxe4 dxe4

White has a queenside pawn majority and all her minor pieces developed, so must be better, right? In reality, Black is better.

10.Bg3

Avoiding the pawn fork. White cannot castle yet, as 10.0-0? e5 loses a piece; Stockfish suggests avoiding the pawn fork by playing 10.Bxb8 with only a slight disadvantage for White.

10...a6?!=



Position after 10...a6

Stopping the threat of 11.Nb5, but losing time. Best is the continuing the policy of sacrificing pawn structure for attacking prospects on the queenside with 10...Nc6 allowing White to weaken Black's queenside pawns and trade queens, but also opening the a1-h8 diagonal for Black's bishop and the b1-b8 file for Black's rooks. This gives Black sufficient pressure on the queenside to more than offset the slightly inferior pawn structure. A sample line runs 11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.Qxd8 Rxd8 13.Rb1 a5 14.Bc7 Rd7 15.Bb6 Rb7 16.Bd4 Bxd4 17.exd4 Rd7 18.Rd1 Rb8 19.Rd2 (Or 19.b3 a4 20.bxa4 Ra8 21.Rd2 Rxa4 22.0-0 Rda7 and Black's queenside pressure means White's passed a-pawn is a weakness, not an asset.) 19...e5 20.dxe5 Rxd2 21.Kxd2 Rxb2+ 22.Kf3

11.0-0 e5 12.Nb3 Qe7=

Black's queenside pieces are still undeveloped, but her plan to advance the pawn from f7 to f3 means that White has more problems to solve than Black does.

2022 Oregon Girls Championship

Place	Name	Rating	State	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total
1	Zoey Tang	2232	OR	W9	W5	W6	W2	W4	5
2	Anisha Sripada	1377	OR	W12	W8	W3	L1	W5	4
3	Laxmisri V Reddy	260	OR	B	W9	L2	W8	W10	4
4	Laasya Sreevalli Lanka	1152	OR	W13	L6	W7	W10	L1	3
5	Neha Narendran	955	OR	W7	L1	W8	W6	L2	3
6	Sahasra Swargam	666	OR	W10	W4	L1	L5	W13	3
7	Saanvi Swargam	566	OR	L5	W12	L4	W13	W9	3
8	Annika Lykins	623	OR	W11	L2	L5	L3	B	2
9	Saanvi Shah	564	OR	L1	L3	W12	W11	L7	2
10	Ms. Prisha Aswal	493	OR	L6	B	W11	L4	L3	2
11	Avery Herring	207	OR	L8	W13	L10	L9	W12	2
12	Jocelyn Cattone	101	OR	L2	L7	L9	B	L11	1
13	Sophie Liu	101	OR	L4	L11	B	L7	L6	1

13.Qc2

Stockfish says that White should be trying to trade queens and suggests 13.c5 Nc6 14.Qd6=; or 13.Qd5 Nc6 14.Qc5=

13...f5 14.h3?

Makes space to keep the bishop on g3 from being trapped but allows Black's attack to roll forward.

14.f3=

14...f4!?

With a kingside attack, Zoey is in her element.

15.exf4 exf4 16.Bh2 f3 17.Bd1 Nc6

After establishing a winning kingside attack. Zoey finally gets around to developing her queenside pieces. It takes excellent judgment to recognize that even though the position is wide open, Black's lag in development is a small price to pay for the attacking pawn formation.

White has no way to prevent Black from developing her remaining pieces and finishing the attack.

18.Bg3 Bf5 19.Qd2 Rad8 20.Qc1 Nb4 21.Bc2

Stopping the black knight from invading on d3, but...

21...Nxc2 22.Qxc2 e3 23.Qc1 Bh6 24.Qc3 exf2+ 25.Bxf2 Rd3 26.Qa5 fxg2 27.Rfe1 Qf7 28.Qb4 Bxh3 29.Qc5 b6 30.Qxb6 Rf3 31.Re2 Be3!

Black has more than one winning move, but this is the best of the bunch.

32.Rxe3 Rxf2 33.Rae1

The scoresheet says 33.Re1; I am guessing it is the undeveloped rook from the a-file, not the one on e3. 33.Rxh3 Rc2 threatens 34.—Qf1+ 35.Rxf1 gxf1Q#

33...Rf1+ 34.Rxf1 gxf1Q+ 35.Kh2 Qg2# 0-1



From Left to Right: David Murray (Chief Director), Anisha Sripada (Second Place), Neha Narendran (U1000), Sahasra Swargam (U800), Laxmisri V Reddy (U1200), Zoey Tang (Girls Champion), Wilson Gibbins (Assistant Director).
Photo credit: Lilly Tang.

The Zen Priest And The Chess Samurai

Nobel Ang

Nestled in the foothills of Pocatello, less than a block north of the Idaho State University campus, sits a nondescript one-story red brick building. From a distance, it does not look too different from the houses surrounding it, and one might be forgiven for thinking it to be just another house in this residential neighborhood. That is, until one gets closer.

The College Market is a coffeeshop that serves mainly the residents of the surrounding university district, as well as students and faculty from ISU. It is also a venerable institution in its own right. Or at least that's what the old-timers tell me; I am embarrassed to say

Chicago: in order to make it big as a chess coffeeshop, an establishment must have the word "Exit" in its name. But I would venture to say that the College Market is a notable landmark in the Southeast Idaho chess scene. There is a small group of chess players (including me) that meets here on a somewhat regular basis to push some wood (or plastic); more on that later.

On a more personal note, the College Market is also the place of my chess awakening. What is a chess awakening? I define it as the moment when a weak player who has hitherto thought of himself as a decent player gets a rude awakening by being thoroughly destroyed by a much stronger player, and thus begins to



College Market. Photo credit: Nobel Ang.

that I still haven't learned enough about the history of Pocatello to regale you with stories about venerable institutions in this city which I've lived in for nine years now and counting.

Fortunately, I don't have to, this being a chess magazine, and not a magazine about the sights and sounds of Idaho. As a chess venue, the College Market is admittedly nowhere near the stature of famous chess coffeeshops like Last Exit on Brooklyn in Seattle or No Exit in

glimpse the endless depths of chess. That is, if he takes the red pill. If he takes the blue pill, he will shrug off the crushing defeat ("whatever, he just got lucky") and go back to blissfully believing that he is a decent chess player for the rest of his life.

Back to my chess awakening. It was an early Fall day in 2015. On that fateful day, I walked into the College Market, and saw a young man in his mid-twenties sitting on the couch and reading a novel by what was then one of my favorite authors, Haruki Murakami. (Why isn't he one of my favorite authors now? I'm happy to tell you, but I can't do that without digressing again from the present story.) He presented an interesting and intriguing sight: besides the fact that one does not often come across somebody reading Haruki Murakami in Southeast Idaho, he also gave off a gentle yet intense vibe with his serious, earnest eyes and his hair styled in a top knot, aka man-bun.

I approached him, and we struck up a lively conversation about Haruki Murakami and a few other topics. Thinking myself a decent player, I steered the conversation towards chess, and asked him if he played. In that instant, his gentle eyes hardened into a steely glint, and the corners of his mouth turned up in a scowl.

"What's your rating?" He asked gruffly.

"I'm about 1200 on chess.com." I replied.

He barely stifled a laugh, and then asked, “No, I mean your OTB rating.”

“Uh, what’s an OTB rating?”

He didn’t bother to answer, and instead suggested that we play a couple of blitz games. I brought the house chess set over, and he proceeded to mop the floor with me in two quick games, his pieces cutting decisively through my position while tying my own pieces up in knots, all the while staring at the board with Samurai-like intensity (How could I not have seen this coming, with his man-bun and all?)

Shortly after, I learned that Chess Samurai’s OTB rating was around 1900, and that at OTB tournaments, 1900 players routinely ate 1200 players for breakfast. It turns out that in “real” life, Chess Samurai was a grad student finishing up his master’s degree, and over the course of the next year or so, he and I would meet a few more times at College Market, where he would take pity on my lowly chess ability and proceed to brutally and honestly critique my games, both those that we played together and those that I played in tournaments: It was also Chess Samurai who opened my mind to the possibility of playing tournaments, and so

it was that I played my first tournament, the 2016 Idaho Closed, at the ripe old age of 40. It was also around this time that I met my friend DeWayne Derryberry; turns out that Chess Samurai was a student in one of DeWayne’s classes. Under the helpful guidance of DeWayne and Chess Samurai, I was able to make some modest chess improvement, and am now a Class C player.

The rest, as they say, is history. Well, not really, but I don’t think I should bore you with more details of my post-chess-awakening career. I’ll use the remainder of this article to tell you a few things about the College Market chess group. Prior to COVID, we would meet every Thursday from around 3 PM to closing (8 PM). We’ve never been a big group, but I dare say that we were a lively, maybe even somewhat colorful group of characters. One that comes immediately to mind was a retired rock-climber and poet who was rated around 2000. In the true spirit of coffeeshop chess, he preferred blitz to slow chess, and his play was peppered with sudden bursts of song and poetry—I still can’t decide whether these seemingly spontaneous recitals were a ploy to distract his opponents—and incisive

trash-talking. (“How can you not win this game? My grandmother would have won easily!”)

These days, the chess scene here at the College Market is a bit quieter. For one, the retired rock-climber has moved away. For another, we are still trying to get back into a regular rhythm of chess group meetings after the disruption posed by the pandemic. Right now, we have been having some modest success with meeting on Thursday afternoons, depending on everyone’s schedules. Here’s a snapshot from one of our recent meetings:

Quick introduction: The gentleman on the left is Jeremy, a sociology professor. On the right is John, a retired software developer and technology acquisition consultant who is also an ordained Zen priest. And then there’s me, who’s taking this picture.

So... I guess that’s that for now. If you ever find yourself in Pocatello on a Thursday afternoon and feel like a game of chess, stop by the College Market. Heck, it doesn’t even have to be a Thursday. If I’m available, I’ll be happy to play a game. Just shoot me an email at siegfried23@hotmail.com.



*(L) Jeremy, a sociology professor;
(R) John, a retired software developer and technology acquisition consultant.
Photo credit: Nobel Ang.*

Idaho State Scholastic Championship

A very memorable event!

Jeffrey Roland

Eighty-seven players participated in the 2022 Idaho State Scholastic Championship held March 26 at the Riverside Inn in Garden City/Boise. The tournament, rated by US Chess, produced official grade-level champions for all of Idaho for grades K-12, determined the national representatives from Idaho to participate in three of the US Chess Scholastic events that will happen July 30-August 2 in Rancho Mirage, California ("GM Arnold Denker National Tournament of

Tournament of Champions held the following day on Sunday, March 27, which decided the title of Idaho State Scholastic Champion—a title that has existed since 1980 which has since been determined in various formats every year except 2020 (which didn't happen because of the COVID-19 pandemic.)

The Chief Tournament Director was Adam Porth, with Jeff Price and Jeffrey Roland as assistant TDs. Adam Porth

High School (9-12) State Champions," "Dewain Barber National Tournament of Middle School State Champions," and "John D. Rockefeller III National Tournament of Elementary School (K-5) State Champions," which happen alongside the 122nd US Open. The Saturday event also determined the eligible players who could play in the Idaho State Scholastic

was the sole TD for the Tournament of Champions. Refreshments (cookies and lemonade) were provided free to the players, and professional photographs (over 1200 in all) were taken by Mike Hill Photography.

This was one of the more enjoyable Idaho State Scholastic Championships I've ever witnessed, and I've seen all but two or three of them since 1980. There was just something special about this group of players, TD's, parents, the chemistry, perhaps the stars themselves, but for whatever reason, this was an incredibly enjoyable event; it's hard to remember ever witnessing a more pleasant and fun event that was also competitive at the same time as being fun.

In the past, the Tournament of Champions was offered to a certain number of top players in each section (top two or top three), and if a player couldn't make it, no replacements were made. This resulted one time in only two players in the event. (And that event ended in a one-one tie!!) This year, ICA President Adam Porth came up with the brilliant idea to invite all players who scored four or more points on the first day to play in the Tournament of Champions. Thirteen of the 14 invited/qualified players did in fact play, hence, I call this a brilliant idea by our ICA President.



Results

The title of Idaho State Scholastic Champion is awarded to Bryce Leifeste, who won the Tournament of Champions.

Those who tentatively qualify (in this order) to represent Idaho for the national events that will happen July 30-August 2 in California:

To go for the title of 2022 Rockefeller National Champion, one player will be chosen to represent Idaho in this order of preference: 1) Olivia Ding, 2) Vladislav Nosarev, and 3) Candice Liang.

To go for the title of 2022 Barber National Champion, one player will be chosen to represent Idaho in this order of preference: 1) Kaustubh Kodihalli, 2) Linus Wannamaker, and 3) Darren Su.

To go for the title of 2022 Denker National Champion, one player will be chosen to represent Idaho in this order of preference: 1) Niall McKenzie, 2) Jacob Nathan, and 3) Finn Belew.

Grade-level Titles Awarded:

Grade K: Adithya Sriraj

Grade 1: Ravyn Salazar

Grade 2: Andrew Gao

Grade 3: Isabella Luo

Grade 4: Emma Gao

Grade 5: Leonardo Wang

Grade 6: Luke Wei

Grade 7: Andrew Beck

Grade 8: Christopher Hall

Grade 9: James Wei

Grade 10: Audrey Fourroux

Grade 11: Bryce Leifeste

Grade 12: Ty McClanahan

Upcoming ICA events in April and May will determine who Idaho will send to the John T. Irwin National Tournament of Senior State Champions and the WIM Ruth Haring National Tournament of Girls State Champions, both events will also be held alongside the US Open mentioned earlier. So be sure to check out the website:

<https://www.idahochoessassociation.com>



*Bryce Leifeste at awards ceremony.
Photo credit: Mike Hill Photography.*

**Bryce Leifeste (1536) –
Kaustubh Kodihalli (1896) [C30]**
Tournament of Champions
Garden City, ID (R2), March 27, 2022
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 e5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.d3 h6

4...Na5 5.Nge2 Nxc4 6.dxc4 is a well-traveled path to rough equality. 6...Bc5 7.0-0 d6 8.Qd3; 4...Bb4 5.Nge2 d5 6.exd5 Nxd5 7.0-0 Be6 8.Bxd5 (8.Ne4 Be7; 8.Nxd5?! Bxd5 9.Bxd5 Qxd5 10.Ng3.) 8...Bxd5 9.f4

5.f4 Bc5 6.Nf3 d6 7.Na4 Bb6 8.Nxb6 axb6 9.0-0 0-0 10.Be3

10.fxe5 dxe5 11.a3±

10...Bg4

10...d5 11.exd5 (11.fxe5? Ng4) 11...Nxd5 12.Qd2 (12.Bxd5 Qxd5 13.c4 Qd6 14.fxe5 Nxe5 15.Nxe5 Qxe5 16.Qd2) 12...Nxe3 13.Qxe3 exf4 14.Qxf4 Ra5!?

11.h3 exf4 12.Bxf4 Be6 13.Bb3 Bxb3 14.axb3 Qd7 15.Qd2 Kh7

15...Rxa1 16.Rxa1 Re8 removes some of White's potential while hinting at central distraction with ...d5. The position is close to equal.

[Diagram top of next page]



Position after 15...Kh7

16.Be3?!

White finds a plan to exchange knights. This is for sure better than not having a plan at all, but other plans suggest themselves that may be a bit more in harmony with the structure.

The positional elements that appear important here are the half-open f-file and especially the advanced outpost on f5, as well as the possibly mobile pawn center. 16.Rae1 is a start, avoiding the possibility of having to recapture on a1, while supporting the center and even suggesting the idea of doubling on the f-line. Yes, it gives Black control of the open a-file, but is that the important factor here? What are the targets? For Black, the b2-pawn. For White, the black king. 16...Ra2 17.Nh4± (Or 17.d4± One line in the complications: 17...Rxb2?! 18.d5 Ne7 19.Bxh6! gxh6 20.Qc3 Ra2 21.Qxf6 Rxc2 22.Nd4 Ra2 23.Ne6+-.) 17...Nh5 (17...g5?? 18.Bxg5 hxg5 19.Rxf6 gxh4? 20.Rh6+ Kg7 21.Qg5#) 18.Be3±;

The impatient 16.Nh4 Rxa1 17.Rxa1 d5 draws the white pieces away from the action and undermines the center. White is still not doing too badly here, but things are less clear.

16...Qe6 17.Nd4

White should again consider centralizing 17.Rae1, since Black clearly does not have time for 17...Ra2 18.Nh4 Rxb2 when 19.Nf5 offers a huge kingside attack.

17...Nxd4 18.Bxd4 Nd7 19.Kh1

19.Rxa8 Rxa8 20.Qc3 looks like a fork, but 20...c5 21.Bxg7 Kg6! suggests the bishop may experience some difficulties. (The superficially attractive 21...Rg8 22.Bf6 Qxh3 23.Qd2 Rg6 24.Bc3±, however, leaves White with fewer pawn islands and fairly active bishop and rook.)

19...c6 20.Qf4 f6 21.Qf2 b5 22.Qg3 d5

Perhaps it's more thematic to keep the

center somewhat closed and secure an outpost for the knight: 22...c5 23.Bg1 Ne5.

23.Rae1 Rae8 24.Qc7 dxe4

24...c5!? 25.exd5 (25.Bxc5?? Rc8 26.Qd6 Nxc5-+) 25...Qxd5 26.Bg1

25.Rxe4 Qd5 26.c4 bxc4

26...Qf7!?

27.bxc4 Qf7 28.Rf1 Rxe4 29.Rxe4 f5

29...Ne5 30.Bxe5 fxe5 31.Qxf7 Rxf7 32.Rxe5 leads to a theoretically drawn rook ending, though of course White can and should press on indefinitely. 32...Rf1+ 33.Kh2 Rb1 34.Re2 Rd1 35.Re7 b5 36.cxb5 cxb5 37.Rb7 Rxd3 38.Rxb5±

30.Re2



Position after 30.Re2

30...Nb8??

30...f4! By threatening further advance and kingside disruption, Black can cause enough distraction to maintain a rough balance. 31.Rf2 Qf5! 32.Qxb7 (32.g4!? Qe6 (32...Qxd3!? 33.Qxd7 Rf6! 34.c5 Qxh3+ 35.Kg1 Rg6 36.Qf5 Qxg4+ 37.Qxg4 Rxg4+ 38.Kf1 g5∞) 33.Rxf4 Qe1+ 34.Kg2 Qe2+ 35.Rf2?! Rxf2+ 36.Bxf2 Ne5∞) 32...c5 33.Bc3 Qxd3 34.Rd2 Qb1+! (34...Qf1+?? 35.Kh2 Nf6 36.Rd7!! (36.Bxf6 Rxf6 37.Qe4+! also wins nicely: 37...Rg6 (37...Kg8 38.Rd8+ Rf8 39.Qd5+ Kh7 40.Rxf8; 37...g6 38.Qe7+) 38.Rd6) 36...Nxd7 37.Qxd7 Rg8 38.Qf5+ Kh8 39.Qg6+- Black is helpless against the threat of mate on h6 or, if the rook moves, g7. This is a nice pattern to remember.) 35.Kh2 Nf6∞ The black queen retains its interest in the b1-h7 diagonal, and while there is still play in the position, Black is not losing.

31.Re7 Na6 32.Rxf7 Nxc7 33.Rxg7+ Kh8 34.Rxc7+ Kg8 35.Rg7+ Kh8 36.Rxb7+ Kg8 37.Rg7+ Kh8 38.Rf7+ Kg8 39.Rxf8+ Kxf8 40.Kg1 Kf7 41.Kf2 Ke6 42.Ke3

1-0

Niall McKenzie (1636) –
Bryce Leifeste (1536) [B10]

Tournament of Champions
Garden City, ID (R5), March 27, 2022
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 c6 2.c4 d5 3.cxd5 cxd5 4.exd5 Nf6
5.Nc3 Nxd5 6.Nf3 Nc6 7.Bc4

7.Bb5 and; 7.d4 are more common.

7...Nb6 8.Bb3



Position after 8.Bb3

8...e5?!

The normal play from here is 8...Bf5 9.d4 e6 10.0-0 Be7 11.d5, leading to equality through liquidation.

9.0-0 Be7 10.h3 0-0 11.Re1 Bf6 12.Ne4 Bf5 13.Qe2 Re8 14.d3 h6 15.Be3



Position after 15.Be3

15...Bxe4?

Surrendering the bishop-pair while simultaneously fixing White's pawn structure just can't be the right idea. 15...Be7 16.Rae1 offers chances for further creativity.

16.dxe4± Re7 17.Red1 Rd7 18.Rxd7

18.Qb5!?

18...Qxd7 19.Rd1 Qc7 20.Bd5?!

20.Qb5± does a nice job of tying down the black queenside.

20...Nb4

20...Rd8±

21.Rc1 Qd7 22.Bxb6?!

22.Bb3 maintains the current generally advantageous imbalance, though White will still need to make progress somehow.

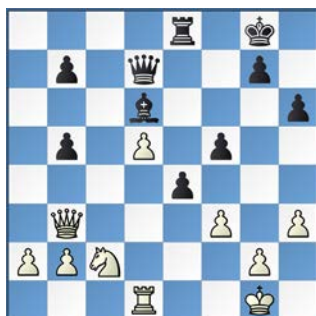
22...Nxd5 23.exd5 axb6 24.Qc4 b5 25.Qb3 Rd8 26.Rd1 e4 27.Ne1 Be7 28.Qe3 f5 29.Qb3 Bd6

29...Kh7 30.Nc2 Bc5. Black has a threatening pawn mass and superior minor piece.

30.f3?

30.Nc2 is both forward-looking, intending Nd4–e6 for example, and less positionally self-destructive.

30...Re8 31.Nc2



Position after 31.Nc2

31...Kf8?

31...e3! 32.Re1 (32.Nxe3 Bc5 and Black will win the pinned piece with ...f4 as needed.) 32...e2 33.Qd3 Qe7+ The bishop dominates the dark squares, and has many paths to e1. 34.Nd4 Qh4! is a nice little tactic as well: 35.Rxe2 Rxe2 36.Nxe2 Qe1#

32.fxe4

32.Nd4∞ regains White's footing.

32...Rxe4 33.Kh1?

33.Re1 Bc5+ 34.Kh1 Qe7, initiative Black.

33...Qe8! 34.Qf3 g6?

34...Qe5! first, forcing 35.g3

35.Qc3 Kf7 36.Qd2

Clearly time pressure is playing a role here.

36...Bf4

36...Qe5

37.Qc3 Bd6 38.Qd2 Qe5! 39.Kg1 Qh2+ 40.Kf2 Bc5+ 41.Kf3 Bd6 42.Kf2 Rf4+

0–1

Idaho Scholastic Champions 1980-Present

Year	Champion	Co-Champion	Co-Champion
1980	David Brizzee		
1981	Yge Visser		
1982	Andree Gilmore		
1983	Andree Gilmore		
1984	Steve Kennedy		
1985	Matthias Bureik		
1986	Jeff Ulmen		
1987	Philip D. Humpherys		
1988	Jeff Ulmen		
1989	Jim Demoss		
1990	Jim Demoss		
1991	Brian Weers		
1992	Steve Maguire		
1993	Steve Maguire		
1994	Brett Jameson		
1995	Vincent Carlson	Brett Jameson	Pace Nielson
1996	Brett Jameson	Paul Albano	
1997	Garrett Reynolds	Ian Jameson	
1998	Garrett Reynolds		
1999	Daniel Vellotti		
2000	Daniel Vellotti		
2001	Dylan Smith		
2002	Daniel Vellotti		
2003	Dylan Smith		
2004	Bobby Powers		
2005	Philip Weyland		
2006	Jesse Brent		
2007	Daniel Taylor		
2008	Luke Harmon-Vellotti		
2009	Katie Abderhalden	Emily Patterson	
2010	Katie Abderhalden		
2011	Carl Harmon-Vellotti		
2012	Adam Jiang	Carl Harmon-Vellotti	
2013	Nathan Jiang		
2014	Cody Gorman	Elijah Hill	
2015	Nathan Jiang	Carmen Pemsler	
2016	Travis Miller		
2017	Seth Machakos		
2018	Forrest Zeng		
2019	Alex Goodwin	William Wang	
2020	cancelled due to COVID		
2021	James Wei		
2022	Bryce Leifeste		

I try not to be consumed by my US Chess rating...or “live for my rating” like some chess players do. But after years of improving my game, yet seeing my rating go down, I have embarked on a plan to boost it up...at least somewhere closer to my skill level. My skill level is around 1400, or perhaps 1500 on a good day. But my US Chess rating, which was around 1000 a few years ago, is now 827.

I have been impacted in a big way by COVID, as have we all. But I kept playing chess online on chess.com throughout the pandemic. I also worked religiously on puzzles on chess.com. And I played a weekly online game of chess with a cousin, and with one of his friends in Austin, Texas. Our games—in both cases—usually last one or two hours, and we analyze them move by move in the app on the phone afterward. On Sundays I meet a group of chess playing friends at a local coffee shop for casual chess and coffee. All these practices have strengthened my chess game.

However, as things are starting to open back up as the threats of COVID diminish, I started to play in some “Novice” tournaments at the Seattle Chess Club, with a goal of raising my rating...only to see it tank! The first thing I realized is that there are no “novices” these days. Due to both the pandemic and *The Queen’s Gambit* (Netflix series), it seems that millions of people of all ages have taken up chess in a big way...including playing on chess.com and [Lichess](https://lichess.org), taking Zoom lessons, or watching chess tutorials on several different internet platforms.

Therefore, when I played an unrated (UNR) guy in a Novice tournament, he would generally turn out to be about my same skill level or even better. And therefore, if I won the game, my rating might go up five points. But if I LOST to an UNR, my rating would go down 20 or 30 points. And believe me, it did. It took me three or four Novice tournaments to understand the situation.

There was also the likelihood that I would be playing against a fourth grader whose US Chess rating was 600. At first,

I was thinking “Yeah... possibly an easy win!” But invariably, the fourth grader would turn out to be about my skill level, or higher. Again, it took me three or four tournaments to realize that they had a “scholastic rating” (and skill level) of maybe 1600 or 1700. Their 600 US Chess rating meant only that they had never or rarely played in a US Chess tournament. It also frequently turned out that the fourth grader also had a Russian (Gregory Serper) or Hungarian (Emil Anka) Grand Master as a private lesson coach.

Trying Not To Live For My US Chess Rating But...

Karen Schmidt

See also the cover story in the March 2022 issue of *Chess Life* for more on this increasingly common phenomenon. (“Why Do I Lose to a Fourth Grader?”) In the Seattle area, with all the high-tech industries headquartered here, such as Amazon, Nintendo and Microsoft, there are a lot of parents with above average salaries AND a high level of interest in chess—both for themselves and their children. These parents can afford high level private coaches for their kids (and themselves). I have a friend who works for Microsoft, and he plays on the Microsoft chess team. We are talking some serious chess here. A few years ago, GM Nakamura came to Microsoft and played a Simul against members of the team. My friend (Eugene Rozenfeld)

was the only player to come away with a win. His wife (also my friend) is tired of hearing that story...but she is obviously not a chess player!

I have a new two-pronged plan of attack to raise my rating (which I honestly don’t “live for”). First of all, I am registering for bigger one- or two-day tournaments and playing in the Reserve Section, which is usually U1600 or U1700. It costs a bit more to register, but there are fewer kids and fewer UNRs. In the last tournament (two days but only one section) I won two games out of five, including a game against a 1300 player. My rating went up by 141 points! My losses to a 1749 player and a couple guys around 1100 and 1500 didn’t hurt me much. I hope to do this again in the next big tournament. The bottom line is, to improve your game you need to play against stronger players.

The second prong of my improvement plan involves taking a weekly zoom lesson from a Master level player in Idaho, Jim Maki. We mainly analyze one of my tournament games each lesson. It is amazing how much I am learning—and how quickly—by having an expert show me my one fatal pawn move...or tell me that I need to correct my negative thinking. (I had told him I “wasn’t a good enough player to ever sacrifice a piece.”) Meanwhile I am continuing to play my two weekly online games...and those guys are probably wondering why I am so hard to beat these days...or why I have won the last three games in a row!

My coach also gave me permission not to worry about my rating (!!) or whether I win or lose a specific game of chess. And that too has been extremely helpful. I find that when I play some guy from Indonesia or Paraguay in a 30 minutes per person game on chess.com, I no longer am immobilized by a case of anxiety about losing. If I lose to him, I go on to win a game against the next guy from Sweden or New Zealand or India.

I wish you luck in your goal of raising your rating (which we no longer live for...). I hope some of these musings help you. The main thing is to play against stronger players, improve your game over time, and have fun doing it!



IT WAS RUMORED THAT JIMMY LIKED HIS QUEEN THE BEST.
UNFORTUNATELY, IT WAS ALWAYS THE FIRST PIECE TO GO.



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

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 ½ 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 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.

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

A Northwest Chess Grand Prix Event

WASHINGTON OPEN

Sat-Mon, May 28-30, 2022

Redmond Marriott

7401 164th Ave NE, Redmond, WA 98052

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.

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 rd 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 (most run between rounds of the Main Event):

Washington Open Adult-only Swiss: Sponsored by *Seattle Chess Club*. Sat-Mon, 05/28-30 @ 11 AM & 4 PM. Format: A 6-round Swiss in one section, 2 half-point byes available. US Chess 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 regular and online ratings used to determine pairings and prizes. Guaranteed prize fund: \$1,000. 1st \$200, 2nd \$150, 3rd \$110, 1st U2000 \$90, 1st U1700 \$90, 1st U1400 \$90, 1st U1100/Unrated \$90, Biggest upset: \$90, Best Female player (by TPR): \$90.

Washington Open Chess960 (Fischer Random) Championship: (b/w rds 1 & 2)

Sat, 05/28 @ 2:15 PM. Format: A 4-Round Swiss in one section, 1 half-point bye available. Unrated. TC: G/10; +2. EF: \$20. Registration: 1:30-2 PM. Rounds at 2:15 PM, 2:50, 3:25, and 4 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 opening position. Prize fund: \$100/b10. 1st \$40, 2nd \$30, 3rd \$20, 1st U1400/Unrated 6-mon NWC extension.

Washington Open Puzzle Solving Competition: (b/w rds 1 & 2)

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. Prizes: Medals awarded to top-3 finishers and to the best puzzle solver in U2000, U1700, U1400, and Unrated.

Washington Open Rapid Championship: (b/w rds 3 & 4)

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: (after rd 6)

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.

WASHINGTON OPEN



Saturday, May 28, 2022

Redmond Marriott

7401 164th Ave NE, Redmond, WA 98052

OPEN SECTION:

A 4-round G/40; d5 Swiss in one section: **K-12 Open**. For intermediate to advanced players. Rounds: 9am, 10:45am, lunch, 12:45pm, 2:30pm. Awards presentation at 4pm. Dual Northwest and US Chess Rated. US Chess membership required. **Clocks and notation required – Please bring a digital clock if you have one**, a limited number will be available to borrow.

RESERVE SECTIONS:

A 5-round G/30 Swiss in two sections: **K-5 U1200, 6-12 U1200**. For novice to intermediate players. Northwest rated only. US Chess membership not required. No clocks used from the start, but a 10-minute clock will be placed into the game after 40 minutes. Rounds: 9am, 10:15am, lunch, 12pm, 1:15pm, 2:30pm. Awards presentation at 4pm.

ELIGIBILITY:

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

ENTRY FEE:

\$45 by May 21st, \$55 after. Room for 100 players.

AWARDS:

Section Prizes: Amazon Gift Cards and WCF membership extensions awarded in each section:

1st \$100, 2nd \$75, 3rd \$50, 4th 1-yr WCF ext.

Special Prizes (per section):

Medals for first-timers, best female player, and biggest upset.

Top two players (by TPR) in the K-12 Open win free entry into the 2-day section of the 2022 WA Open!

RATING:

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



THE DETAILS

Health/Safety Protocols: Face masks optional for players and spectators. If interested, 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 Wednesday May 25th @ 5:00pm. Unpaid players will be immediately withdrawn from the tournament.

Online Registration:

[NWchess.com/OnlineRegistration/](https://nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration/)
Pay by Credit/Debit/PayPal.

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



Montana Open

**You CAN go home again...
(60 Years of personal history)**

Mike Murray

Additional reference resource materials:

Washington Chess Letter, May 1962:

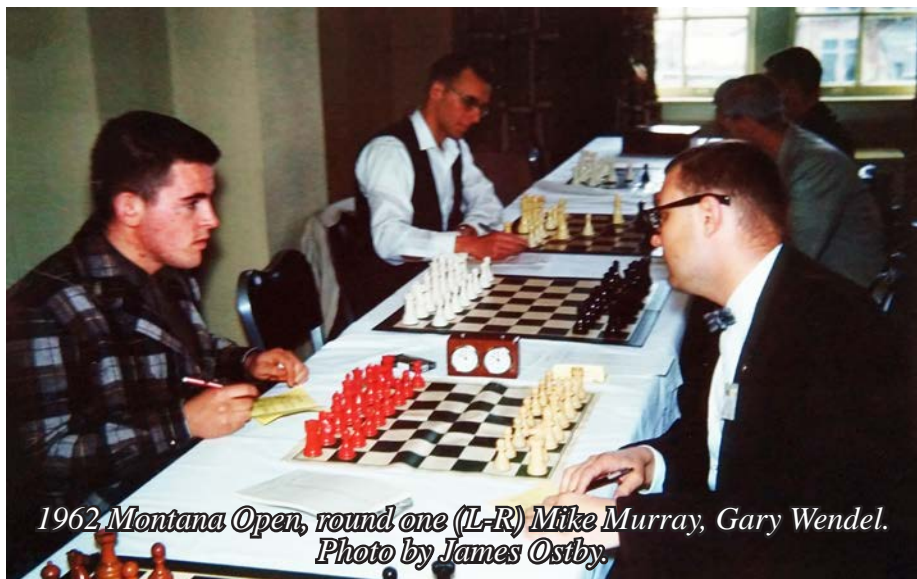
https://www.nwchess.com/articles/history/WCL/WCL_1962_05.pdf

2022 Montana Open crosstable:

<https://www.uschess.org/msa/XtblMain.php?202204034442-10509131>

I was a high school senior from Froid, Montana, when my friend Jim Ostby and I entered our first chess tournament, the 1962 Montana Open in Butte. Nervously, we entered the “B” section, and while Jim did well, tying for second with a 4.0/5 score, the event proved an absolute disaster for me. I self-destructed before I could be outplayed, blundering and hanging pieces in almost

every game, and was lucky to score 2.0/5. After my last game, I watched Missoula’s Dr. Lapiken and New Jersey’s Peter Irwin (1963 winner of the United States Junior) conclude their critical final round draw in the top section (which gave Helena’s Don Devore—also a high school senior—the State Championship), and I wondered what it would be like to compete at that level.



*1962 Montana Open, round one (L-R) Mike Murray, Gary Wendel.
Photo by James Ostby.*

I’ve played in this event many times over the years, ultimately performing better, tying for first with Dr. Lapiken in 1967 and winning it outright in 2006 and 2011.

The tournament rotates annually between various Montana cities. This year, it returned to Missoula. With relatives nearby for post-tournament visiting, it seemed an opportune time to return to my tournament roots. This time, luck held, and I managed to win it with four wins and one draw, a full sixty years after my first bungled effort.

Rusty after no real OTB chess since the pandemic, I had a shaky start, and was lucky to scrounge a first-round draw against an opponent rated over 500 points below me, but then settled down and kept winning. With thirty-nine players in the event, I scrapped my intended third round half-point bye on Saturday evening. Not an easy decision when pushing 80, but I was top-seed by rating and wanted to retain a shot at winning.

The final round on Sunday was critical as top board found me facing Rasul Nazriev, a computer science major at the University of Montana, fresh from winning his last two Montana tournaments. Rasul was 4.0/4 at this point. I was 3.5/4. A win would give me at least a tie for first, a draw possibly a multi-way tie for second, a loss would put me out of everything. Tired, like an aging pug who knows he won’t last the full 15 rounds, I decided my best chance was to go for a quick kill while my brain still worked. (OK, I probably would have done the same thing had I been fresh.) It worked, and luck continued when Will Strickland, the only other player with 3.5 points, was held to a draw, thus giving me outright first, while Strickland, Nazriev, Mattson and Stacey clustered in a four-way tie for second.

**Mike Murray (2031) –
Rasul Nazriev (1860) [D00]**
Montana Open Missoula, MT
(R5), April 2, 2022
[Mike Murray]

**1.Nc3 d5 2.d4 Nf6 3.Bf4 g6 4.e3 Bg7
5.Be2**

I wanted to avoid letting him exchange his light bishop for my Ng1. Engines say this move is as good as any. GM Simon Williams likes the immediate 5.h4.

5...0-0 6.Nf3 c5 7.Nb5!?

Thematic, but this move tends to be less effective when Black has already castled, so White might consider 7.Ne5.

7...Na6

This lets the pesky White knight tie up Black's whole queenside. Black has an interesting exchange sac here: 7...cxd4 8.Nc7 dxe3 9.fxe3 Nh5 10.Nxa8 Nxf4 11.exf4 with about equal chances. 11...Bxb2 12.Rb1 Bc3+ 13.Kf2 Nc6; Also reasonable is 7...Nc6 8.Nc7 Rb8 and a possible draw by repetition 9.Nb5 Ra8 etc.

8.c3 Ne4?! 9.h4

Stockfish wants to castle here.

9...h5

And here, but...

10.Ne5

I wanted to attack.

10...Nd6 11.a4 cxd4 12.exd4 Bf5

Plays right into it. 12...Nc7 might be better.

13.g4 hxg4 14.Bxg4 f6?!+-

Better was 14...Bxe5 15.Bxe5 Qc8 16.Rg1 but Black is still lost.

15.Bxf5 fxe5 16.Be6+



Position after 16.Be6+

16...Kh7 17.Bxe5?!

I was tired and kept getting lost in the complications. 17.h5! is obvious and best 17...Rxf4 (17...g5 18.Bxg5 was better, but probably still lost after 18...exd4) 18.hxg6+ Kxg6 19.Qh5+ Kf6 20.Qxe5+ Kg6 21.Rg1+.

17...Bxe5 18.dxe5?!

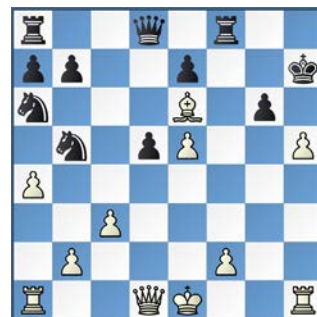
18.h5! g5 19.dxe5 was the correct way to

do it.

18...Nxb5?

Black could have made things much tougher by 18...Qb6 (threatening mate) 19.Nd4 Qxb2 (again, threatening mate) 20.0-0 (best, but what a sad move to make) 20...Ne4 21.Rb1 Qxc3 22.h5 g5 23.Rxb7± and the forced win is gone—all White can claim is the advantage.

19.h5



Position after 19.h5

Finally!

19...Nd6 20.hxg6+ Kg7 21.Rh7+

1-0



Intermat Candidates

Josh Sinanan

Standings: 2022 Intermat Candidates

The 2022 Intermat Candidates Tournament took place on Saturday, March 19 online via Chess.com. The four highest-rated Washington players in each grade squared off in an intense three-round G/90;+30 quad to determine the two honored players who will represent Team Washington at the upcoming WA vs BC International Match (Intermat) on April 23. Out of concern for the players' health and safety, as well as the potential issues likely to be encountered when attempting to cross the US-Canada border, the organizers decided to host the Intermat online again for the third consecutive year. The Intermat Candidates tournament was directed by Redmond High School Chess Club President Vignesh Anand and organized by WCF President Josh Sinanan.

The qualified players are shown in **bold** (and **highlighted**) in the Standings chart to the right. In the high school grades, fewer than three players registered for the Intermat Candidates tournament, so players were seeded directly into the Intermat. In Kindergarten, only three players registered, so it was conducted as a three-player quad with one player receiving a bye each round. In the seventh grade section, three players triangled with one point apiece, so a blitz playoff was used to decide the second place finisher. Instead of the traditional plaques, \$25 Amazon Gift Cards awarded to the two highest-finishing players in each grade level for easier distribution since the tournament was held remotely. Special thanks to all participants for competing and making this such a wonderful event and best of luck to Team Washington in the 2022 WA vs BC Intermat!

Grade	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Total
Kindergarten	1	Daniel D Yun	1087	B---	W3	W2	3
	2	Chen Yuan	489	W3	B---	L1	2
	3	Rebecca Li	480	L2	L1	B---	1
1st Grade	1-2	Vayu Kakkad	1019	W4	W2	L3	2
	1-2	Samarth Bharadwaj	1456	W3	L1	W4	2
	3	Edgar Li	988	L2	D4	W1	1.5
	4	Aiden Zhu	1179	L1	D3	L2	0.5
2nd Grade	1-2	Ted Wang	1853	D3	W2	D4	2
	1-2	Michael Lin	1635	W4	L1	W3	2
	3	Dann Merriman	1588	D1	W4	L2	1.5
	4	Owen Xu	1635	L2	L3	D1	0.5
3rd Grade	1	Vidip Kona	1952	W4	W2	W3	3
	2	Michael Xiong	1548	D3	L1	W4	1.5
	3	Odbayar Yondon	1581	D2	D4	L1	1
	4	Sharvesh Arul	1477	L1	D3	L2	0.5
4th Grade	1	Lucas Liu	1513	W2	W4	W3	3
	2	Selina Cheng	1461	L1	W3	W4	2
	3	Nikhil Ramkumar	1601	W4	L2	L1	1
	4	Srihaan Chintalapudi	1135	L3	L1	L2	0
5th Grade	1-2	Yiding Lu	1959	W4	W3	D2	2.5
	1-2	Alexander Yang	1811	W3	W4	D1	2.5
	3	Jamie Zhu	1764	L2	L1	W4	1
	4	Darsh Verma	1661	L1	L2	L3	0
6th Grade	1	Neeraj Harish	1871	W4	D2	W3	2.5
	2	Derek Heath	1703	W3	D1	L4	1.5
	3-4	Nikash Vemparala	1974	L2	W4	L1	1
	3-4	Stephen Willy	1846	L1	L3	W2	1
7th Grade	1	Austin Liu	2048	W4	W2	W3	3
	2-4	Haituka Anandkumar	1557	W3	L1	L4	1
	2-4	Pranav Balaji	1764	L2	W4	L1	1
	2-4	Nugen Tran	1483	L1	L3	W2	1
8th Grade	1	Varin Nallabothula	1704	W4	D2	X3	2.5
	2	Abhay Sankar	1527	D3	D1	W4	2
	3	Emerson Wong-Godfrey	1654	D2	W4	F1	1.5
	4	Hiruna Devadithya	1527	L1	L3	L2	0

The inaugural Cascadia Dragon's Lair Chess Tournament took place on Saturday, March 19 online via Chess.com! We had an impressive turnout, with 77 scholastic chess players in grades K-12 competing across five sections parsed by grade and rating level: K-1 U800, 2-5 U900, 6-12 U1000, K-5 Open, and 6-12 Open. For several courageous chess dragons, it was their first ever chess tournament! The online format made the tournament readily accessible to players from throughout the Pacific Northwest region, including the cities of Seattle, Bellevue, Bothell, Redmond, Lacey, Sammamish, Yarrow Point, Portland (Oregon), Lake Forest Park, Medina, Ravensdale, and Vancouver (Washington).

The pace of play was dynamic amongst the younger competitors and balanced amongst the older ones. All players put forth their best effort and showed off the chess skills which they developed during the pandemic. Each round featured several daring attacks, fiery sacrifices, and sneaky defenses devised by the many brilliant characters taking part in the proceedings! All players were respectful and demonstrated genuine kindness and sportsmanship throughout the day.

The event was hosted by the Cascadia Elementary School PTA, organized by Cascadia Elementary Principal Sandra Mackey and Cascadia Chess Parent Coordinator Susan Llorens, and directed by National Master and Washington Chess Federation President Josh Sinanan.

Congratulations to the winners!



Cascadia Dragon's Lair Chess Tournament

Josh Sinanan



Raffle Prizes

- 1st Place Free 30-min private Zoom chess lesson with NM Josh Sinanan
2nd Place Complimentary digital issue of Northwest Chess magazine

	1st Place	2nd Place
K-1 U800	Alec Pearson	Bryce Maibaum
2-5 U900	Calum Quigg	Manjeet Bawa-Tercero
6-12 U1000	Akul Sood	Vindhya Seshadri
K-5 Open	Alfred Su	Anika Kulkarni
6-12 Open	Gavin Shi	Christopher Yu

Section	1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place	4th Place	5th Place
K-1 U800	Alec Pearson - Champion!	Tied 2nd/3rd: Amy Xuan & Emry Baker, \$22.50 each		Tied 4th/5th: Orion Wu & Sinan Bissat, \$12.50 each	
2-5 U900	Tied 1st/2nd: Co-Champions! - Aiden Wu & Kala Balasubramanian, \$27.50 each		Tied 3rd/4th: Spencer Han & Neil Kossuri, \$17.50 each		Sneha Sankar
6-12 U1000	Tied 1st/2nd: Co-Champions! - Rahul Mitra & Vindhya Seshadri, \$27.50 each		Tied 3rd/4th: Sai Sahasra Nooli & Aairah Sofi, \$17.50 each		Akul Sood
K-5 Open	Tied 1st/2nd: Co-Champions! - Shashank Seela & Ruban Sai Meiyalagan, \$27.50 each		Tied 3rd/4th: Likhith Arnava Pusuluri & Manasvi Nalasan, \$17.50 each		Tied 5th: Sarang Sankrithi, Stanley Deng, Austin Xu, Rajas Shah, Yuchang Yang, Victor Han & Ishan Nair, \$1.43 each
6-12 Open	Tied 1st/2nd: Co-Champions! - Zane Wirkkala & Martin Soukal, \$27.50 each		Gavin Shi	Tied 4th/5th: Keaton Jewsbury, Christopher Yu & Luka Froehlich, \$8.33 each	

St. Anne Celtic Challenge Spring 2022 Chess Tournament

Josh Sinanan



The Spring 2022 St. Anne Celtic Challenge took place on Sunday March 20 online via Chess.com! We had a splendid turnout of 63 scholastic chess players in grades K-12 competing across four sections: K-3 U800, K-3 Open, 4-8 U900, and 4-12 Open. Due to a small field size in the K-1 U800, the K-1 U800 was merged with the 2-3 U800 after three rounds to form a combined K-3 U800 section. For several brave chess players, it was their first ever chess tournament!

The online format made the tournament readily accessible to players from throughout the Pacific Northwest, including the cities of Snohomish, Clyde Hill, Bellevue, Sammamish, Redmond, Bothell, Seattle, Issaquah, Mercer Island, Kirkland, Yarrow Point, and Gig Harbor. The pace of play was expeditious amongst the younger grades, with several games lasting just a few minutes as the quick-witted chess Jedis engaged in intellectual combat! The older players, on the other hand, played at an even and steady pace, demonstrating the wisdom and patience of chess veterans! All players put forth their best effort and exhibited the chess skills that they have been developing during the pandemic.

Each round showcased several exciting attacks, brilliant sacrifices, and ingenious defenses concocted by the colorful cast of characters taking part in the proceedings! The vast majority of players were respectful and demonstrated genuine sportsmanship and integrity throughout the afternoon, often wishing one another "Good luck" and "Good Game" at the start and conclusion of each game. The event was hosted by St. Anne School Chess Club, organized by St. Anne Chess Club Coordinator Kelly Jaeger, dedicated in memory of Coach Chris Hurley (1965-2020), and directed by St. Anne Coach Josh Sinanan and High School Chess Stud Advait Vijayakumar.

Congratulations to the winners!

Section	1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place	4th Place	5th Place
K-1 U800	Tied 1st/2nd K-1: Co-Champions! - Akshita Swaminath & Elijah Edwin, \$27.50 each		Gavin Stack	Avyukth Gande	Advay Parihar
2-3 U800	Sakash Agrawal	Tied 2nd/3rd 2-3: Jamey Francis & Nathan Jiang, \$22.50 each		Tied 4th/5th 2-3: Ian Lu, Veronique Joseph, Jacob Z Wang & Rishab Mitra, \$6.25 each	
K-3 Open	Vishnu Mohan	Stas Black	Tied 3rd-5th: Moses Li, Atharv Rao & Yash Syal, \$15 each		
4-8 U9000	Yufei Qu	Tied 2nd/3rd: Russell Jaeger & Niharika Vutukuri, \$22.50 each		Ishan Iyer	Tied 5th: Rian Kim & Naveen Mishra, \$5 each
4-12 Open	Ruban Sai Meiyalagan	Tied 2nd/3rd: Arjun Yadav & Martin Soukal, \$22.50 each		Tied 4th/5th: Laya Mohan, Kate Wong & Haosen Tang, \$8.33 each	

The Open Window School Spring Tornado took place on Saturday March 26 online via Chess.com! We had a strong turnout of 65 scholastic chess players in grades K-12 competing across four sections: K-3 U800, K-3 Open, K-12 U1200, and K-12 Open. For several brave “chess bobcats,” it was their first ever chess tournament! The online format made the tournament readily accessible to players from throughout the Pacific Northwest, including the towns of Sammamish, Kenmore, Kirkland, Bellevue, Seattle, Redmond, Mountlake Terrace, Olympia, Woodinville, Snoqualmie, Renton, Bothell, Clyde Hill, Maple Valley, Yarrow Point, Reno (NV), Issaquah, Mercer Island, Medina, and Camas.

The cadence of play was warp speed amongst the younger players, with several games lasting just mere seconds as the quick-witted chess warriors engaged in intellectual sparring! Amongst the experienced players in the K-12 Open section, an even and steady pace was adopted to accommodate the longer G/45 time control in which the players demonstrated the chess acumen and patience developed during the pandemic! All players put forth their best effort and demonstrated genuine sportsmanship and integrity throughout the tournament, often wishing one another “Good luck” and “Good Game” at the start and conclusion of each round.

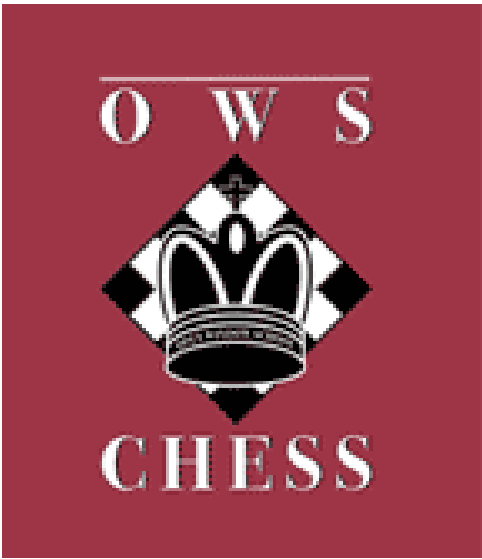
The games showcased several daring attacks, brilliant sacrifices, and ingenious defenses concocted by the many tricky characters taking part in the proceedings! The event was hosted by Open Window School Chess Club, organized by OWS Chess Co-Chairs Sha Sha Zhong-Metzmaker and Tammy Hensel, and directed by OWS Chess Coach and WCF President Josh Sinanan with assistance from High School Chess Stud Advait Vijayakumar.

Congratulations to the winners!



Spring Tornado

Josh Sinanan



Section	1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place	4th Place	5th Place
K-3 U800	Sean Cai	Tied 2nd/3rd: Ethan Mao & Akshita Swaminath, \$27.50 each		Tied 4th/5th: Nate Guzman, Jonathan Lan & Terrence Zhang, \$11.67 each	
K-3 Open	Arnav Gadde	Tied 2nd/3rd: Deeksha Shankaranand & Miranda Meng, \$27.50 each		Tied 4th/5th: Aiden Zhu, Edgar Li, Kanav Shah, \$11.67 each	
K-12 U1200	Ishaan Gupta	Tied 2nd/3rd: Spencer Han & Elena Heider, \$27.50 each		Advait Vangala	Tied 5th: Jacob Lu, Hongren Zhen, Hamsini Ramanathan, \$5 each
K-12 Open	Daniel Meyerzon	Arush Yadlapati	Selina Cheng	Tied 4th/5th: Gabriel Razmov & Jeremy Chen, \$17.50 each	

All Girls Chess Tournament

Presented by
Medina Elementary

Josh Sinanan

The 2022 Queen's Quest chess tournament took place on Sunday April 3 online via Chess.com! The Queen's Quest all girls chess tournament has been in existence for over 20 years and is one of the longest running events of its kind in the world. It was our honor and privilege to continue this wonderful tradition online under the circumstances to support girls' chess and provide opportunities for our local female players. The event attracted 42 girls in grades K-5 competing across three grade-level sections: K-1, K-3, and K-5. Originally advertised as a six-section event, several sections were merged to ensure competitive balance and a quality tournament experience for all girls in each grade level. For several of the girls competing last Sunday, it was their first ever chess tournament!

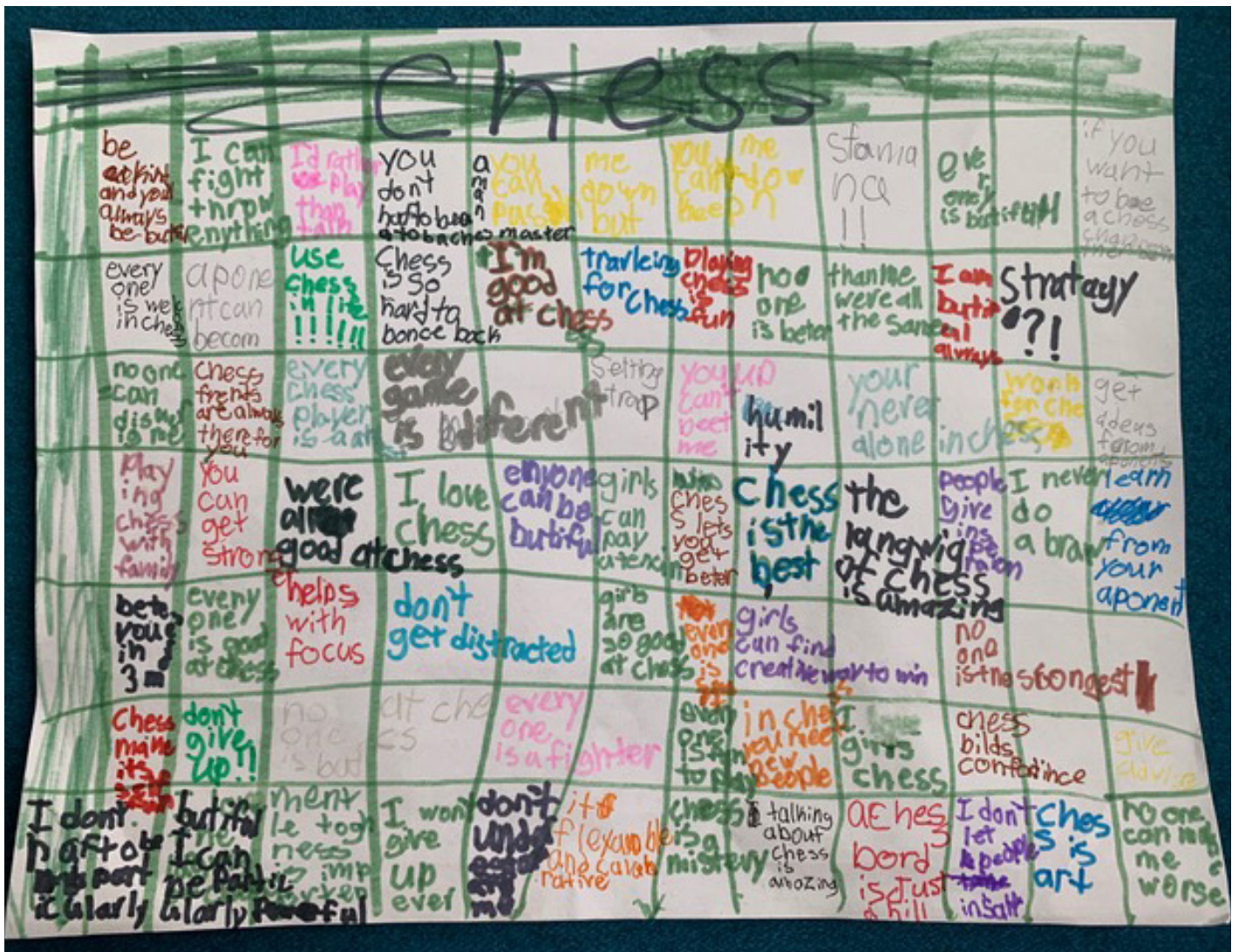
Alongside the main tournament, Coach Wendy and her daughter Megan hosted a girls chess workshop in a Zoom breakout room! The girls were encouraged to visit Coach Wendy's breakout room between their matches to learn about famous female chess players, meet some of our local top female chess players, and discuss ways that chess can help to empower and inspire them! Featured in the star-studded panel were Minda Chen, Melina Li, Michelle Zhang, and Megan Ruppel (the quadruple-M team!). During the workshop, the girls collaborated to create the enclosed chess board artwork featuring inspiring quotes and words of encouragement. Please share it with the girls!



taking part in the proceedings! In the end, a few games ended in draws by agreement, three-move repetition, and sometimes stalemate, despite the strong fighting spirit on display. The event was hosted by the Medina Elementary School PTA, organized by Medina Chess Club

Congratulations to the winners!

Section	1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place
K-1	Amy Xuan	Rebecca Li	Tied 3rd: Prisha Sood, Allison Yeung, Nicole Shi, Aixin Gouwang & Jacqueline Chen
K-3	Elizabeth Schechter	Elizabeth Li	Tied 3rd: Paige Choi & Roubaix Cook-Bugaighis
K-5	Kate Wong	Selina Cheng	Charlotte Westover



Harmon Memorial

Tessiore and Fondren on Top

Josh Sinanan

Clark Harmon (1942-2007) was a prominent chess player and organizer in the Northwest, winning the Oregon State Championship nine times and serving as both WCF and OCF President at various points in his career. To honor his legacy, the Washington Chess Federation and Oregon Chess Federation take turns hosting the annual Harmon Memorial, with Washington hosting in even years and Oregon in odd years. The 2022 Harmon Memorial Chess Tournament was held at the Orlov Chess Academies in Seattle and Redmond on April 2-3. Due to space constraints, the tournament was split between two locations, with the 29-player FIDE Rated Open section taking place in Seattle under the direction of Senior TD Fred Kleist and the 17-player Reserve section 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. Assistant TD Ani Barua ensured that the atmosphere in the Open section remained quiet and conducive to focused play, helping to minimize noise distractions by several of the youngsters.

The Open section featured many of the top scholastic players from Washington (and a few from B.C.) with very few adults in the mix. Luca Tessiore, a fifth grader from Decatur Elementary School in Seattle, won the Open section with an undefeated 4.5/5, conceding only a single

draw to second grade phenom Ted Wang in the final round. Two players tied for second place with four points each: Ryan Min from Bellevue and Ted Wang from Medina. Youth continued to dominate the class prizes as well, with only one

adult, WCF Tournament Coordinator Valentin Razmov, managing to finish in the winner's circle. Three players tied for U1900 honors with 3.5 points apiece: Stephen Willy from Sammamish, Valentin Razmov from Seattle, and Zachary Liu from Coquitlam, B.C. Likewise, a trio of scholastic chess all-stars shared the U1700 prize with three points each: Aiden Leong from Burnaby B.C., Michael Lin from Sammamish, and Owen Xu from Bellevue. Lin also scored the biggest upset of the tournament (262 points), winning a one-year WCF membership extension for his efforts. Felicity Wang from Bellevue won the Best Female Player prize with a tournament performance rating (TPR) of 1725.

Final Standings. Harmon Memorial: Open

#	Name	Rtng	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Tot	Prize
1	Luca Tessiore	1846	W10	W19	W9	W4	D3	4.5	1st
2	Ryan Min	1970	H---	W13	D5	W11	W10	4	Tied 2nd/U2100
3	Ted Wang	1842	W25	H---	W16	W6	D1	4	Tied 2nd/U2100
4	Austin Liu	2054	W24	W7	H---	L1	W12	3.5	
5	Stephen Willy	1832	D16	W20	D2	H---	W17	3.5	Tied U1900
6	Valentin Razmov	1821	W29	W17	D11	L3	W15	3.5	Tied U1900
7	Zachary Liu	1802	W27	L4	W14	D17	W11	3.5	Tied U1900
8	Aiden Leong	1694	W21	L11	H---	D14	W22	3	Tied U1700
9	Michael Lin	1660	W23	W18	L1	L10	W21	3	Tied U1700 + Upset
10	Owen Xu	1608	L1	W28	W26	W9	L2	3	Tied U1700
11	Vidip Kona	1959	W14	W8	D6	L2	L7	2.5	
12	Felicity Wang	1752	H---	L16	W13	W25	L4	2.5	Best Female
13	Emerson Wong-Godfrey	1661	D22	L2	L12	W28	W19	2.5	
14	Darsh Verma	1633	L11	W29	L7	D8	W25	2.5	
15	Gabriel Razmov	1631	L18	D21	W27	W16	L6	2.5	
16	Abhay Sankar	1583	D5	W12	L3	L15	W24	2.5	
17	Nugen Tran	1499	W26	L6	B---	D7	L5	2.5	
18	Daniel Qian	1922	W15	L9	W24	U---	U---	2	
19	Leonardo Zhou	1660	W28	L1	H---	H---	L13	2	
20	Michael Xiong	1561	H---	L5	D22	L21	W27	2	
21	Shuyi Han	1405	L8	D15	H---	W20	L9	2	
22	Amana Demberel	1384	D13	L26	D20	W23	L8	2	
23	Vineesh Nallabothula	1341	L9	L25	W29	L22	W28	2	
24	Paras Shah	1657	L4	W27	L18	H---	L16	1.5	
25	Dann Merriman	1605	L3	W23	H---	L12	L14	1.5	
26	Varin Nallabothula	1716	L17	W22	L10	U---	U---	1	
27	Alexander Rundle	1552	L7	L24	L15	B---	L20	1	
28	Javier Trejo Garcia	706	L19	L10	H---	L13	L23	0.5	
29	Nikhil Ramkumar	1558	L6	L14	L23	U---	U---	0	

In contrast, the Reserve U1500 section was far more age-balanced and several adults emerged among the winners. Chad Fondren from Sammamish emerged victorious in the Reserve section with a perfect five points from five games. Chad recently opened the Issaquah Highlands Chess Club, which meets weekly on Wednesdays at the Issaquah Highlands Community Center! If you are located near the East side, be sure to check it out! Mathias Burton from Seattle finished in second place with four points, dropping only one game to Fondren in round three. Spencer Freeman from Richland won the U1400 prize with 3.5 points and scored the tournaments biggest upset (488 points!) Spencer has kindly annotated one of his games to share with the Northwest Chess readers. Two up-and-coming juniors shared U1200 honors with three points apiece: Soham Sharma from Sammamish and Deeksha Shankaranand from Redmond. Keith Ciani from Olympia won the first place U1000 prize with two points, taking two half-point byes in the final rounds since his daughter Nola was playing in the Queen's Quest tournament on Sunday. Oliver Wakeman from Kenmore claimed second place U1000 honors with a hard-fought 500-point upset draw in the first round! Miranda Meng, a second grader from Bellevue, won the best female prize with a TPR of 943. Newcomer Carlos Alvarez from Kirkland won the Unrated prize with a very strong 3.5 points and earned a provisional US Chess rating of 1368! The two Best Senior (age 65+) Prizes went unclaimed this time due to a

lack of eligible players in either section!

Some notably sharp games in the Open section showcased skillful attacks and resilient defenses (e.g., Tessiore vs A. Liu, Willy vs Min, Kona vs Min) by the eventual prize winners. To complement that, a number of games reached a deep endgame and lasted well into the second time control, where perseverance, precision, and fighting skills counted (e.g., V. Razmov vs Kona, Zhou vs Wong-Godfrey). Even games between players separated in rating by 200 points or more took fascinating and even unpredictable turns, where much credit goes to the creativity and courage of the rising challengers. Congratulations to the winners and thanks to all who contributed to this fantastic event!

**Leo Saloranta (1362) –
Spencer Freeman (Unr.) [D08]**
Clark Harmon Memorial (Reserve)
Redmond, WA (R4), April 3, 2022
[Spencer Freeman]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e5 3.dxe5 d4 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.e3 Bb4+ 6.Nbd2 dxe3 7.fxe3 Bg4 8.a3 Bxf3 9.Qxf3 Nxe5 10.Qe4 Bxd2+ 11.Bxd2 f6

This felt like an ugly move, but the alternative was protecting with the queen, which allows Qxb7 to come with a tempo because the rook is no longer protected, so it seemed like the best option.

12.Rd1 Qc8 13.Bc3 Ne7

I knowingly gave up a pawn here. It didn't seem practical to protect further, and developing my knight felt more important

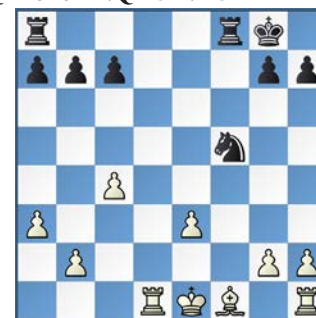


than holding onto it.

14.Bxe5 fxe5 15.Qxe5 Qf5

This allows the capture of either the g-pawn or the c-pawn, however after Qxc7, I have a quick counterplay with 0-0 threatening ...Qf2#, and after Qxg7, both ...Rg8 and ...Rf8 are possible and create problems for White.

16.Qf4 0-0 17.Qxf5 Nxf5



Position after 17...Nxf5

18.Ke2 Rae8

Ke2 struck me as a mistake. Although it adequately defends the pawn for now, it blocks in the light-squared bishop and makes it much harder for the rook on h1 to develop as well. Kf2 looked better to me even though it allows a revealed check, as the knight has no good targets. Kd2 was another option, protecting the pawn and leaving White with more flexibility for development.

19.Rd3 Re4 20.b3 Rfe8

b3 was the move that I was trying to provoke with ...Re4, but I marked it as

Standings. Harmon Memorial: Reserve U1500

#	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total	Prize
1	Chad Fondren	1475	W5	W14	W2	W4	W7	5	1st
2	Mathias Burton	1045	W12	W8	L1	W6	W9	4	2nd
3	Spencer Freeman	874	D15	L10	W17	W8	W11	3.5	1st U1400 + Upset
4	Carlos Alvarez	unr.	W16	H---	W7	L1	W10	3.5	1st Unrated
5	Soham Sharma	1183	L1	L9	W16	W15	B---	3	Tied 1st U1200
6	Deeksha Shankaranand	1091	L11	W16	W14	L2	W13	3	Tied 1st U1200
7	Ivan Shneerson	unr.	W9	W11	L4	W13	L1	3	
8	Leo Saloranta	1362	D17	L2	W15	L3	W16	2.5	
9	Miranda Meng	1283	L7	W5	W11	D10	L2	2.5	Best Female
10	Alix Ogier	1311	D13	W3	H---	D9	L4	2.5	
11	Arnav Gadde	1362	W6	L7	L9	W12	L3	2	
12	Hannah Nami Gajcowski	1287	L2	W17	H---	L11	H---	2	
13	Vishnu Vijeyanandh	1227	D10	W15	H---	L7	L6	2	
14	Keith Ciani	698	B---	L1	L6	H---	H---	2	1st U1000
15	Stephen F Weller	1356	D3	L13	L8	L5	W17	1.5	
16	Zoe Xu	1193	L4	L6	L5	W17	L8	1	
17	Oliver Wakeman	898	D8	L12	L3	L16	L15	0.5	2nd U1000

a mistake during the game. I thought that g4 immediately was necessary to disallow me from stacking my rooks on the e-file with the knight on f5. I would either have had to retreat my knight, or play ...Rxc4, allowing Bh3, skewering my rook and my knight and allowing the light-squared bishop to become active. b3 still would have been possible after all of this to protect the c-pawn.

21.Kd2 Nxe3 22.g3 Ng4 23.Rf3 Rd8+ 24.Kc3 Red4

This was an inaccuracy on my part. The idea was to play ...Rd2 and ...a5 creating a mating net, and then rotate my knight to f6 and then e4 for checkmate. This is of course very preventable, but it seemed like a reasonable long-term plan.

25.Be2 Nf6



Position after 25...Nf6

26.Bd3?? Rxd3+!

This was my opponent's first, and perhaps only big mistake of the game. After a lot of thought, I realized that Rxd3, temporarily sacrificing the exchange led to a winning position, because even though my knight gets trapped after all the trades, the time it would take White to win the knight allows me enough time to bring my king to win his queen-side pawns and win the game.

27.Rxd3 Ne4+ 28.Kc2 Rxd3 29.Kxd3

Nf2+ 30.Ke2 Nxb1 31.Kf1 Kf7 32.Kg2 Ke6 33.Kxb1 Ke5 34.Kg2 Kd4 35.Kf3 a5 36.h4 Kc3 37.b4 Kxc4 38.bxa5 Kd3 39.Kf4 c5 40.g4 c4

0-1

Medina All-City Chess Tournament

By Josh Sinanan

The 2022 Medina All-City chess tournament took place on Sunday March 27 online via Chess.com! We had an amazing turnout of 133 scholastic chess players in grades K-5 competing across seven sections: Kindergarten, K-1, K-2, K-3, K-4, K-5, and K-5 Open (US Chess Rated). For many brave "Chess Tigers," it was their first ever chess tournament! The online format made the tournament readily accessible to players from throughout the Pacific Northwest, including the cities of Snohomish, Bellevue, Clyde Hill,

Sammamish, Medina, Redmond, Seattle, Yarrow Point, Issaquah, Camas, Bothell, Kirkland, El Paso (Texas), and Vancouver (Washington).

The tempo of play was hypersonic amongst the younger players, with several games lasting just mere seconds as the quick-witted chess Jedis engaged in intellectual slugfests! Novice and experienced players alike showed off the chess skills and strategies which they fine-tuned during the pandemic. All players put forth their best effort and demonstrated genuine sportsmanship and integrity throughout the tournament, often wishing one another "Good Luck" and "Good Game" at the start and conclusion of each round. The games in each showcased several "caveman" attacks, daring sacrifices, and ingenious defenses concocted by the diverse cast of characters taking part in the proceedings!

The event was hosted by the Medina Elementary School PTA, organized by Medina Chess Club Co-Chairs Gelareh Golanbar, Rongzhi Lu, and Robert Donner, and directed by Medina Chess Coach and WCF President Josh Sinanan with assistance from High School Chess Stud Advait Vijayakumar.

Congratulations to the winners!

Section	1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place
Kindergarten	Avyukth Gande	Kei Shih	Tied 3rd: David Pan, Prisha Sood & Ayden Mobin
K-1	Samarth Bharadwaj	Edgar Li	Tied 3rd: Elijah Edwin & Moses Li
K-2	Tied 1st/2nd: Vihaan Pai & Aakash Mishra		Tied 3rd: Harry Li, Ursula Zak & Kavir Agarwal
K-3	Tied 1st/2nd: Arnav Gadde & Derek Wang		Bei Shih
K-4	Bogdan Genkin	Tied 2nd/3rd: Sanjay Urali, Milan Kuruvilla, Enoch Shen & Ishan Nair	
K-5	Shashank Seela	Tied 2nd/3rd: Tai Shih & Aya Aelion	
K-5 Open	Ruban Sai Meiyalagan	Sambhav Koppala	Michael Xiong

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Pacific Northwest Chess Center (PNWCC)

PNWChessCenter@gmail.com (General)

pnwcctd@gmail.com (Tournament)

<https://www.pnwchesscenter.org>

PNWCC FIDE Open - SOS (Summer of Seattle)

FIDE Rated Blitz – Jackpot OTB II

6/24 - 6/28, 2022

Regisiter at - <https://www.nachesshub.com>

A 2-section, US Chess and FIDE rated 9-round Swiss tournament with time control of 90+30, in the beautiful Hilton Garden Inn Redmond Town Center from June 24 -28, 2022. Top section (Rainer) is for FIDE 2200+ players in which 6+ GM's will participate and offers serious IM/GM norm chances for ambitious players. Lower section (Baker) is for US Chess 1800+. Limited play ups available.

Schedule (Pacific Daylight Time) –

R1 - 6/24 1:00 PM

R2 - 6/24 7:00 PM

R3 - 6/25 11:00 AM

R4 - 6/25 6:00 PM

6/26 Side Event 1:00 PM - FIDE Rated Jackpot OTB Blitz

R5 - 6/26 7:00 PM (single game day)

R6 - 6/27 11:00 AM

R7 - 6/27 6:00 PM

R8 - 6/28 11:00 AM

R9 - 6/28 6:00 PM

Scan the QC code for more detail -

All PNWC Events



SOS Registration



Flyer

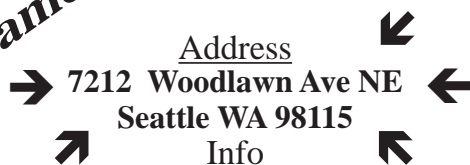


Jackpot Registration



Tournament dates and details are subject to changes.

Seattle Chess Club Tournaments



www.seattlechess.club

Addresses for Entries

SCC Tnmt Dir
2420 S 137 St
Seattle WA 98168

---or---

www.seattlechess.club

SCC Fridays

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

May Flowers (Close Ratings 2): 5/6, 13, 20.

Casual Play (WA Open Weekend): 5/27.

It's Summertime!: 6/3, 10, 17, 24.

Hot as Hades: 7/1, 8, 15, 22.

Quick-Rated G/15 (4 or 5 rds.): 7/29.

Dog Days: 8/5, 12, 19, 26.

May 7

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

Saturday Quads

May 14

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.

SCC G/20 Hexes

May 15

Format: 4-SS. Open to U1200 and UNR. **TC:** G/75; d5. **EF:** \$15 by 5/9, \$20 at site. (-\$2 SCC mem., -\$1 mem. other NW dues-req'd CCs). **Prizes:** SCC membership(s). **Reg:** 9-9:45a.m. **Rds:** 10-12:45-3:30-6. **Byes:** 1 (Rd 3/4—commit at reg.). **Misc:** US Chess memb. req'd. NS, NC.

SCC Novice

May 22

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

Sunday Tornado

*Mondays are for
casual play*

Emerald City Open

June 25-26

A four-round Swiss with a time control of 40/90 & SD/30;+30 . The prize fund of \$500 is based on twenty-four paid entries.

a Grand Prix event

First	\$150	U1800	\$70	U1400	\$50
Second	\$100	U1600	\$60	U1200/unr	\$40
Upset (rds 1-3) \$10					

Entry Fees: \$40 if rec'd by 6/20, \$50 at site. **SCC members**—subtract \$10. **GMs, WGMs, IMs, WIMs**—FREE. **Unr**—free with purchase (at SCC) of 1-year US Chess and WCF. **Registration:** Sat. 9-9:45 a.m.

Rounds: Sat. 11-4:30, Sun. 11-4:30. **Byes:** 1 (for Sunday rounds, commit at registration).

Miscellaneous: US Chess & WCF membership req'd (OSA). No smoking. No computers.

The 2022 Ignacio Perez Memorial Northwest Chess Grand Prix

Murlin Varner, frustrated figurer

March had a total of four or five events (one is not yet included as questions have been going unanswered) with a total of 49 or so entrants. One, the Seattle Spring Open, even had a 2x multiplier and constituted almost half of the month's activity. I now have enough data for the full chart, as you can see.

April activities are going to be a little slimmer, inasmuch as two of them are already in the data table. The numbers below do include the Clark Harmon Memorial, held in Seattle and Redmond with 46 players, and the Dancing Knights in Boise with eight players. Both were held on the first weekend of the month. Other April events included the usual SCC Quads and Tornado in Seattle, two more FIDE events in Boise, and long-running Inland Empire Open in Spokane. If turn-out was good at those events, we will be able to see that our numbers have grown nicely.

May might be a little slack, at least until the end of the month. Right now, all I know about are the four weekend FIDE events scheduled for the Chandra Alexis Chess Club in Boise (12 player limit, advance registration required) and the annual Washington Open in Redmond on Memorial Day weekend. That one should be big, giving me all sorts of data to process with just a few days until my July deadline. It also carries a huge 5x multiplier with six rounds, so your point potential is significant (40 points maximum, 10 points even if you lose all your games, as I do sometimes). Probably, there will be Quads and/or a Tornado in Seattle, but at this writing even the SCC website doesn't know about them.

Have a happy May. Enjoy the springtime weather during the week so you can play all sorts of chess on the weekends. The weeding can wait.

Data in the chart are current through April 3.

Washington			Idaho			Other Places						
last	first	pts.	last	first	pts	last	first	state	pts.			
Masters			Masters			Masters						
1	Pupols	Viktors	31.5			1	Donaldson	W. John	CA	21.0		
2	Levine	Joseph	14.0									
Experts			Experts			Experts						
1	Liu	Austin	22.0	1	Cambareri	Michael E	18.0					
2	Jiang	Brandon	20.0	2	Parsons	Larry R	5.5					
3	Arganian	David G	18.0									
4	Leslie	Cameron	15.0									
5	Paez	David	3.0									
Class A			Class A			Class A						
1	Min	Ryan	31.0	1	Kircher	Caleb	19.5	1	Merwin	Steven E	NV	18.0
2	Reutter	Karl	26.5					2	Nazriev	Rasul	MT	15.0
3	Kona	Vidip K	21.0					3	Carpenter	Romie G	MT	6.0
4	Razmov	Valentin N	20.0					4	Aiello	Roberto	OR	5.0
5	Rowles	David	19.5									
Class B			Class B			Class B						
1	Tessiore	Luca G	35.0	1	Herr	Griffin G	16.5	1	Rankin	Andrew J	MT	16.5
2	Wang	Ted	34.5	1	McKenzie	Niall	16.5	2	Skovron	James J	MT	15.0
3	Corey-Derrah	Alan	25.0	3	Barrett	Evan	11.5	3	Walthall	Thomas K	MT	12.0
4	Chowdhery	Evan M	24.5	4	Presutti	Michael J	0.0	3	McCourt	Daniel	MT	12.0
5	Willy	Stephen	21.0					5	Leong	Aiden	CAN	10.0
Class C			Class C			Class C						
1	Zhang	Michelle	31.0	1	Lundy	George	30.5	1	Driscoll	Jesse	MT	15.0
2	Khalil	Tayseer T	15.0	2	Longhurst	Corey K	10.5	2	Wagner	Eric	MT	13.5
2	Varner	Murlin	15.0					3	Moore	Sherwood	MT	12.0
2	Wohl	Jeremy D	15.0					4	Semancik	Zackary T	MT	4.5
5	Fondren	Chad S	14.0					5	Gillen	Paul M	OH	4.0
Class D and below			Class D and below			Class D and below						
1	Vijeyanandh	Vishnu	30.0	1	Minichiello	Anthony J	16.5	1	Williams	Jack H	MT	12.0
2	Han	Shuyi	27.0	2	Roberts	Liam	11.0	1	Finlay	John	MT	12.0
3	Sankar	Abhay	25.0	3	Blue-Day	Alexander P	8.5	1	Burton	Mathias	MI	12.0
4	Saloranta	Leo	20.0	4	Widdifield	Tristen A	7.0	4	Liu	Zachary H	CAN	11.0
5	Flavin	Finnegan	19.5	5	Zhou	Angela	6.0	5	Downey	Brent	MT	9.0
Overall standings												
1	Tessiore	Luca G	35.0	1	Lundy	George	30.5	1	Donaldson	W. John	CA	21.0
2	Wang	Ted	34.5	2	Kircher	Caleb	19.5	2	Merwin	Steven E	NV	18.0
3	Pupols	Viktors	31.5	3	Cambareri	Michael E	18.0	3	Rankin	Andrew J	MT	16.5
4	Min	Ryan	31.0	4	Herr	Griffin G	16.5	4	Nazriev	Rasul	MT	15.0
4	Zhang	Michelle	31.0	4	McKenzie	Niall	16.5	4	Skovron	James J	MT	15.0
6	Vijeyanandh	Vishnu	30.0	4	Minichiello	Anthony J	16.5	4	Driscoll	Jesse	MT	15.0
7	Han	Shuyi	27.0	7	Barrett	Evan	11.5	7	Wagner	Eric	MT	13.5
8	Reutter	Karl	26.5	8	Roberts	Liam	11.0	8	Walthall	Thomas K	MT	12.0
9	Corey-Derrah	Alan	25.0	9	Longhurst	Corey K	10.5	8	McCourt	Daniel	MT	12.0
9	Sankar	Abhay	25.0	10	Blue-Day	Alexander P	8.5	8	Moore	Sherwood	MT	12.0
11	Chowdhery	Evan M	24.5	11	Widdifield	Tristen A	7.0	8	Williams	Jack H	MT	12.0
12	Liu	Austin	22.0	12	Zhou	Angela	6.0	8	Finlay	John	MT	12.0
13	Kona	Vidip K	21.0	13	Parsons	Larry R	5.5	8	Burton	Mathias	MI	12.0
13	Willy	Stephen	21.0	13	Marino	Joshua	5.5	14	Liu	Zachary H	CAN	11.0
15	Three Tied At	20.0		15	Jablonski	Chase	5.0	15	Leong	Aiden	CAN	10.0



2022 Idaho State
Scholastic Championship
1st Place