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Shrey Talathi (grade four, round three, playing Black vs Russell Jaeger) at Washington State Elementary School Championship.
Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.

On the back cover:

Nolan Zhou (grade three, round two, playing White vs Lucas Deng) at Washington State Elementary School Championship.
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Idaho Open

By Jay Simonson

James Wei triumphed over 13 other players to win the title of Champion in the 2022 Idaho Open Chess Championship on April 16, 2022. He had a perfect 5.0/5 score which earned him the championship plaque and \$200. The 15-year-old Wei was the highest-rated player at the tournament, and his no-loss, no-draw performance at the 2022 Idaho Open shows that his rating is well deserved.

There were no other overall prizes awarded for this five-round Swiss System tournament, directed by veteran tournament director Jay Simonson.

The class prize winners each won \$75 and the runner up in each class earned \$25. James Wei, who won the

championship honors, was the only class A player, so no prizes were awarded for class A. First place class B honors went to Zachary Fritchen of Idaho Falls, and second place was claimed by Niall McKenzie of Pocatello. Bryce Leifeste of Eagle, Idaho's reigning scholastic champion, won first place in class C, with ISU professor Nobel Ang of Pocatello winning second place. Darren Furman of Idaho Falls claimed first place in class D. John Eisenmenger of Idaho Falls won first place in Class E.

Huntington Lysy from Utah would have won second place class E, but he withdrew from the tournament after round four. Raul Villacorta of Rexburg took top honors for the unrated players, and Spencer Flamm from St. Anthony won second place among the five unrated players who battled in this prestigious tournament.



(L) Jay Simonson, James Wei.
Photo credit: John Eisenmenger.

29th Dave Collyer Memorial

Kevin Korsmo

Youth was served during the 29th Dave Collyer Memorial tournament, even though the name on the top of the leader board at the end was a familiar one. IM John Donaldson scored another perfect 5.0/5 to again win the event. Second place was shared by ten-year-old Finnegan Flavin of Wenatchee and Spokane veteran Dave Rowles, both of whom finished with 4.5/5 scores.

Continuing a trend that we've noticed since the Spokane Chess Club reopened last fall, the return to over-the-board (OTB) after nearly two years was swelled by many newcomers and many former players who returned to chess during the pandemic. Most of them trained

and played online during the closure, rendering their OTB ratings obsolete. This point was driven home when I had to override 13 alerts while submitting the event to US Chess for rating—nine of the overrides involved players greatly exceeding their expected results.

Foremost among that group was Finnegan Flavin, whose father Devin also outplayed his rating for the event. Finnegan's play over the weekend began with a draw against Donaldson in the Friday night simul, putting him on many people's radars. He started the tournament with an established rating of 887 and scored an upset every round of the event. The only blemish on his record was a second-round draw with Jeremy

Younker, a class A player, and even that result was high on the tourney list of upsets. Finnegan finished the event with a 1307 rating.

He was far from the only newcomer to make his mark. Owen McDevitt, a graduate student at WSU recently transplanted from Vanderbilt sported a provisional rating of 663 entering the event and left with a provisional rating of 1070, nearly matching Finnegan's upsets point for point. McDevitt finished with a score of 4.0/5, including a 2-1 record against class A players in the final three rounds. WSU freshman Brian Lee, an experienced class A player making his Collyer debut, won his first four games before battling Donaldson on board one with the tournament title at stake. These outstanding results overshadowed fine play from youngsters from Montana, the Tri-Cities, and Yakima who also managed to boost their ratings. First-time players Caelan Angell, Andrew Graham, and Garrett Thompson came out of the event with provisional ratings of 1630, 1714, and 1718, respectively. Pocatello's Niall McKenzie saw his established rating climb over 200 points.

The numerous upsets each and every round made the competition for the Jim Waugh biggest upset prizes one of the fierce sidelights of the event. Finnegan Flavin won both of the prizes, although he would only have won the first of those two prizes if provisionally rated players were eligible for the award.

The upset carnage reached the top boards early, with one Expert upended in each of the first three rounds. The top boards, John Donaldson and Viktor Pupols, avoided damage the first day, but each of them had to play lengthy games every round. Three of Donaldson's opponents would flag on time. Pupols had the final game of the first day, finishing off Karl Reutter with three seconds on his clock to one second on Reutter's. Five players concluded the first day's action with perfect 3.0/3 scores: Donaldson, Pupols, Steve Merwin, Lee, and McKenzie.

Sunday morning's round four saw Pupols battle Lee on board two in another lengthy affair, but the younger man prevailed in the resulting time scramble. Meanwhile, Merwin had spent half the night preparing a line to throw at Donaldson that forced the IM to go down significantly on time early in the



John Donaldson. Photo credit: James Stripes.

game. His refutation of the Merwin Gamble (my name) ultimately turned the clock on Merwin, who flagged in a losing position. Rowles, who had taken his customary third-round bye, put an end to McKenzie's perfect score, leaving only Donaldson and Lee with 4.0/4.

The IM prevailed in another lengthy affair to win the tournament. Meanwhile, Rowles battled Andrew Rankin of Helena on board two. Rankin, a provisionally-rated player who played his first OTB tourney at last year's Montana Open (I had the privilege of being his second-round victim), finished the event with an established rating of 1772 that probably understates his true strength. Rowles ground out the victory to reach 4.5/5. Meanwhile, on board three Finnegan battled Viktors in a classic youth versus age matchup, with the youngster defeating the legend to join Rowles in a tie for second.

The class prize winners constitute a typically lengthy list. David Arganian and Michael Cambareri (4.0/5) shared the Expert prize. The class A prizes were split among Lee, Merwin, and Younker. The class B prizes were shared by Neal Bonrud, Griffin Herr, and Rankin with their 3.5/5 scores. That figure also won McKenzie the class C first prize. A four-way tie for second in that class was shared by Jesse Driscoll, Tayseer Khalil, Murlin Varner, and Jeremy Wohl. The class D prizes all went to Spokane chess clubbers. Casey Bruner, another returnee to chess, won first prize, while veteran Patrick Kirlin and high school freshman Arnav Wadikar (another fast-rising youth) took the second prize. Unrated players claimed both prizes in the class E/unrated category. Owen McDevitt (4.0/5) won the section, while Andrew Graham (3.0/5) claimed the second prize.

The event drew 71 participants (including two house players) this year, tying its second highest total. This was the first time the event was played at a hotel. Although the accommodations were nice, the playing hall was stretched to comfortable limits by the turnout. It would not have been able to handle the 79 people who registered. We will be looking for a larger venue next year.

As always, the event was sponsored by the Spokane Chess Club and the Gary Younker Foundation in memory of Dave and Ellen Collyer and Gary Younker. The weekend began with a Friday afternoon

blitz tournament that drew 14 players, and then the annual John Donaldson lecture. The ensuing simul was a sign of things to come, with the IM playing over three hours to tackle the 25 players. He won 19 games but lost two and drew four.

Organizers also announced that next year's event, the 30th, will be the final Collyer Memorial. Mark your calendars for the weekend of February 24-26, 2023, to help us send off the tournament in style! Details will be announced in the Fall, but we are interested in making the tourney the biggest and best one ever. Stay tuned.

**Brian Lee (1897) –
Viktors Pupols (2200) [D46]
29th Dave Collyer Memorial
Spokane, WA (R4), February 27, 2022
[Brian Lee]**

1.d4 e6 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.c4 d5 4.Nc3 c6 5.e3

I usually don't get much from the opening with this move, but I didn't mind having a drawish position against a higher-rated opponent.

**5...Nbd7 6.Qc2 Bd6 7.Bd3 0-0 8.0-0 e5
9.cxd5 cxd5 10.Nb5 Bb8 11.dxe5 Nxe5
12.Nxe5 Bxe5 13.Nd4**

I played this because I was worried about 13...Bxh2+ and wanted to be able to bring my knight to f3 to defend against mate on h2, but it turns out this is unnecessary because after 13.Bd2 Bxh2+ 14.Kxh2 Ng4+ 15.Kg1 Qh4 White has 16.Qc7.

**13...Bd7 14.Bd2 Rc8 15.Bc3 Bxd4
16.exd4 Qb6**

With the idea of playing 17...Bb5 trying to trade off White's best minor piece.

17.Rfe1?!

17.a4 was a stronger way to meet Black's 17...Bb5 idea.

17...Bb5 18.Bf5 Bd7 19.Bd3

Played to see if Black was interested in a draw.

19...Rfe8

Obviously he is not.

20.f3

The computer doesn't like this move because it allows Black to play Bb5 again, forcing either an exchange of bishops or a repetition, but Black already made it clear that he is not interested in a draw.

20...Rxe1+ 21.Rxe1 Re8?!

With the rooks traded, White's leftover pieces are more active than Black's giving White a small advantage. The computer once again prefers 21...Bb5.

22.Rxe8+ Bxe8 23.Qe2 Qe6?!

Black allows White to enter a favorable endgame in which White's two bishops will dominate the board whereas Black will struggle to find good squares for his minor pieces and be unable to activate his king.

**24.Qxe6 fxe6 25.Bb4 Kf7 26.g4 Nd7
27.Bd6 Nb6 28.b3 Nc8 29.Bb8 g6**



Viktors Pupols. Photo credit: James Stripes.

30.Kf2 a6

All of Black's pawns are on the same color square as his bishop and he has moved his knight three times in the last five moves and still has not found a good home for it.

31.Ke3 Ne7 32.Bd6 Nc6 33.g5 Bd7 34.h4 Be8 35.Bc2 Na7 36.Bc5 Nc6 37.b4?!

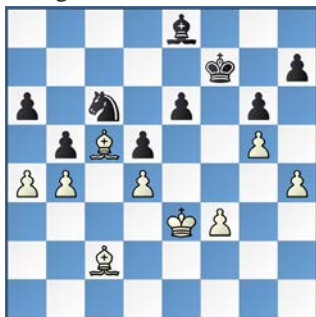
This allows Black's knight access to c4. At the moment it doesn't seem like Black can get it there, but there is a tricky way to do it, which Black misses. 37. Kf4 Ne7 38. Bxe7 Kxe7 is better, when White has been able to trade his bishop for Black's knight at a favorable time, similar to what happens in the game.

37...b5

37...b6! 38. Bd6 (38.Bxb6 Nxb4 39.Bd1 Bb5 and Black has activated his pieces.) 38...Na7 39.Be5 Nb5 40.Bb3 Na3 and the knight makes it to c4.

38.a4?

Throwing away the entire advantage! Almost any other reasonable move keeps White's edge.



Position after 38.a4

38...Ne7??

Black misses his opportunity and allows White to trade his dark-squared bishop for Black's knight into an easily won ending. 38...bxa4 39.Bxa4 Ne7! 40.Bxe7 (40.Bxe8+ [40.Bc2 Nf5+] Kxe8 41.Kf4 Nf5 is better for Black since his knight has targets and all of his pawns are on the opposite color as White's bishop, so White would have to play 41.Bxe7 and the resulting king and pawn ending is drawn) 40...Bxa4 Black has forced White into an opposite-colored bishop ending which should be an easy draw.

39.Bxe7 Kxe7 40.axb5!

Not 40.a5? when White cannot break through.

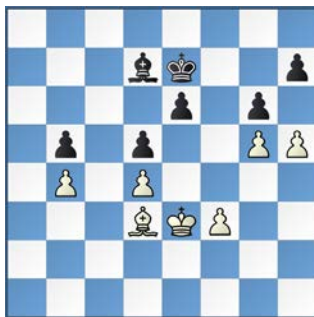
40...axb5?!

40...Bxb5 was better, though still losing.

41.Bd3

Black's two big problems are that his pawns are all on the same color as his bishop and White has targets on both sides of the board (b5 and g6), which cannot both be defended for long. The winning plan involves putting Black in zugzwang by forcing him to either give up a pawn, allow White a passed pawn, or allow White's king to advance decisively.

41...Bd7 42.h5



Position after 42.h5

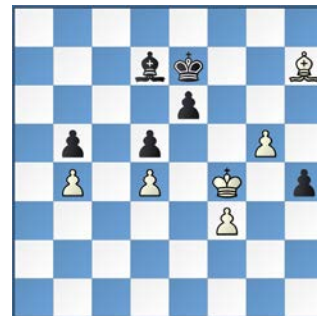
42...gxh5

If Black tries to hold tight with 42...Be8 then 43.h6 Kd6 44.Kf4 and we have the zugzwang I mentioned earlier. Black cannot move his bishop without either losing the b5-pawn or allowing 45.Bxg6, and if he moves his king then White plays 45.Ke5 and wins.

43.Bxh7 h4 44.Kf4??

This natural move allows black to save the game! The saving move is tough to find however, and fortunately my

opponent missed it in time trouble.



Position after 44.Kf4

44...h3??

44...e5+! 45.dxe5 d4! The problem is White cannot stop both the d- and h-pawns without giving up his g5-pawn. The critical lines are 46.Bd3 Kf7 47.Bf1 (47.e6+ Bxe6 48.Bxb5 h3 49.Kg3 Bf5) 47...Kg6 (not 47...h3? 48.Kg3 and White will be able to play f4 and defend his g5-pawn) 48.e6 (If White moves his bishop, then Black will just repeat with 48...Kf7 when White has nothing better than to play 49.Bf1 again anyway) 49...Bxe6 49.Bxb5 Bf5 50.Be8+ Kg7 51.b5 d3 52.b6 d2 53.Ba4 Bc8 54.Ke3 (54.b7 Bxb7 55.Kg4 h3 56.Kxh3 Bxf3) 54...Bb7 55.Kf2 Kg6 56.f4 Kf5 57.Bc2+ Be4 58.Bxe4+ Kxe4 59.Ke2 h3 60.b7 h2 61.b8=Q d1=Q+ 62.Kxd1 h1=Q+ and this is drawn since White's king can't find cover. After the text move, Black doesn't get any more chances.

45.Kg3 Kf7 46.f4 Kg7 47.Bd3 Kf7 48.Bf1 e5 49.dxe5 d4 50.Bd3 Kg7 51.f5 1-0



Spectators watch final-round board-one game between (L) Brian Lee and (R) John Donaldson. Photo credit: James Stripes.



Pacific Northwest Chess Center (PNWCC)

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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



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Jackpot Registration



Tournament dates and details are subject to changes.

On Sunday April 10, I played in the Spring Team Championship in Salt Lake City, Utah. This was my first-ever team chess tournament. Leo Wang and I formed a team to play in this event. Since we are both from Singapore, we decided to call ourselves “Team Singapura.” (Singapura is the Malay name for Singapore).

It all started with a phone call. More precisely, it started with a message on chess.com. On Monday April 4, I received a message on chess.com from Alex, Leo’s dad, asking me to give him a call. My first thought was, “Wow, what’s going on? Is there a chess emergency?” What would count as a chess emergency anyway? Maybe Leo qualified for the Candidates Tournament, and needs some last-minute help with the semi-Slav? But then, why would he call me? There’s got to be any number of stronger players out there...

My curiosity piqued, I called Alex, and it was indeed an emergency of a kind. Leo wanted to play in the Spring Team Championship in Salt Lake City

Crash And Burn In Salt Lake City

Nobel Ang

on Sunday, and they couldn’t find anyone to partner up with him. Would I, a compatriot, be willing to wage battle on the sixty-four squares for the glory of Singapura? I told Alex to give me twenty-four hours to think it over. I had a prior commitment on Saturday night, so playing in the tournament would entail waking up very early on Sunday and driving two and a half hours to Salt Lake City—probably not the best recipe for a great tournament performance. But twenty-four hours later, I found myself saying yes to Alex, not because I am a patriot, but because

I find it hard to say no to playing chess, even if it would mean sacrificing sleep. Furthermore, I had also heard that there are some strong players in Salt Lake City (there are a few players rated around 2100, and then there’s GM Kayden Troff. But Troff probably wouldn’t play in a tournament for class players), and I wanted to see how I stack up against them.

And so it was that I found myself in Salt Lake City early on an April Sunday morning, playing four rounds of G60 with 5-second increment. I had a strong start. In the

first round, I squared off against Tinh Son Nguyen, rated around 2100 and one of the strongest players in the area. I had the black pieces, and mounted the Berlin defense against his Ruy Lopez. Right from the beginning, he put a ton of pressure on my position, and had the upper hand for much of the game. At one point, his f- and e-pawns advanced all the way to his sixth and seventh ranks respectively, and my rook and king were stuck on the back rank frantically practicing birth control, attempting to prevent the birth of a new white queen. But then I was somehow able to get my dark-square bishop outside of my pawn chain and deep into his territory, which somehow caused him to blunder away a pawn, and I ended up creating a queening threat of my own with my f-pawn. I still had to give up an exchange (my rook for his bishop and e-pawn) in order to stop him from queening. But from that point, I was able to steer things into a rook versus bishop-and-two-pawns endgame, and play him to a draw.

This was definitely a chess lifetime achievement: It’s the first time I’ve played a 2000+ player and not lost. A couple of people came up to congratulate me on my draw, and then went on their merry ways... wait what? Shouldn’t there be a shaft of light shining down from high above, accompanied by a pair of chess angels trumpeting my great achievement? Isn’t this all a bit anticlimactic?

Nevertheless, as you can imagine, I was riding a huge wave of confidence. In the next round, I beat a 1400 player.



*Nobel Ang (L) squaring off against Tinh Son Nguyen.
Photo credit: Benjamin Watanabe.*

But then lack of sleep caught up with me (that is my excuse, at any rate), and things took a sudden downturn. I lost the next two games, one against a 954, the other against a 1305. I can at least say that the 954 was severely underrated; after the game, he told me that due to his busy work schedule, he rarely plays OTB tournaments, but plays online a lot, and that his online rating is much higher than his OTB rating. He didn't tell me how much higher, but I would estimate that his true playing strength is at least around 1500.

On the other hand, my game against the 1305 was a complete fiasco. I played the black side of the Scotch. Things started out alright, and I was even able to threaten checkmate with a queen-bishop battery on the h1-a8 diagonal. But then—and I'm still too shell-shocked even now to fully explain how it happened—I ended up falling for some stock mating threat, and resigned on move 23 in the face of an unavoidable mate in one.

Objectively speaking, this was definitely not a great tournament performance. I finished 1.5/4; both my losses were against lower-rated players, which caused me to lose a chunk of rating points (please don't ask me how many). But there is that one bright spot: I drew a 2100 player for the first time in my life. Which means that I am capable of playing at that level, I just have to figure out how to play that well consistently. Easier said than done, I know, but when has chess ever been easy?

Leo, on the other hand, had a great



*Leo Wang (facing camera) systematically applying pressure on his unsuspecting opponent, as Darren Su from Twin Falls looks on.
Photo credit: Benjamin Watanabe.*

tournament, finishing with a score of 3.0/4. He vanquished his opponents quite effortlessly, and picked up a bunch of rating points in the process. Well, at least one Singaporean had a good tournament that day. 😊

All in all, though, I feel that I had a fun and informative tournament. Actually, “informative” is not quite the word I’m looking for here; How do you describe an experience which, although not totally pleasant, was nevertheless a useful learning and training experience, which then informs your future experiences?

Hmmm... actually, maybe “informative” is the right word here, we just have to understand it in a different way from the way it’s normally understood.

I see that I’m starting to lapse into a pseudo-linguistic ramble here, so I should probably sign off now. But before I do, I want to say one more thing: Credit for this fun tournament must be given to the TD, Ben Watanabe. Ben is an 11th grader and is already directing tournaments. What was I even doing in 11th grade? Definitely not directing tournaments, that much is for sure.

Chandra Alexis Chess Club

Upcoming Northwest Chess grand prix

chandraalexischessclub.org

US Chess and FIDE rated tournaments for June—July 2022

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

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

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

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July 2-3: [Chess Nuts Roasting in the Summer - 12](#)

July 9-10: [Time to Think - 12](#)

Inland Empire Open

Kevin Korsmo

Spokane's oldest tournament, the Inland Empire Open (first played in 1954), returned after a COVID-required three-year absence on April 23-24, 2022. Eighteen players took part, with the top third comprised of a tightly grouped cluster of class A players trailing expert Michael Cambareri in the initial rankings. Throw in two strong unrated players and a pair of underrated provisional 1300 players, and the event was uncommonly competitive for its size.

Second seed Brian Lee, a WSU freshman from Napavine, continued his strong play in Spokane events by sweeping the field to win with a 5.0/5 score. Lee had scored 4.0/5 in the Collyer Memorial in February, losing only to IM John Donaldson on board one in the final round. His success has put him on the edge of obtaining an Expert rating.

Although upsets were few and limited, the play through every round was generally tightly contested. Indeed, the only draw of the entire tournament occurred in the fourth round on the bottom board—a draw by repetition to save a losing position. An oddity of the third round was that the bottom two boards were the last to finish Saturday night.

The first day's action had resulted in two perfect scores from Lee and third seed Brad Bodie. The two met on board one to open the second day's action. Brian topped Brad and moved on to defeat Spokane veteran Dave Rowles in the final round. Rowles had defeated Cambareri in the fourth round and won the biggest upset prize.

Bodie scored the sole 4.0/5 to win the second prize. The class A prize was shared by Rowles and James Stripes with

scores of 3.5/5. The class B/C prize was won by Jeremy Burnett (3.0/5). The class D/unrated prize was won by newcomer Dakota Wickel (3.0/5). He had arrived in Spokane a month earlier and turned his online chess into an over the board experience, earning a 1695 provisional rating in the process. Second in the class (2.5/5) was shared by Owen McDevitt and Arnav Wadikar, two underrated players who continue to move up the ratings listing.

**James Stripes (1856) –
Brian Lee (1925) [E92]**
Inland Empire Open
Spokane, WA (R2) April 23, 2022
[Brian Lee]

This was my most interesting game of the tournament, despite the fact that my opponent blundered very early. Even though the game was kind of one-sided, my opponent put up a good fight and there were many interesting and instructive moments.

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.c4 Bg7 4.Nc3 0-0 5.e4 d6 6.Be2 e5 7.dxe5 dxe5 8.Qxd8 Rxd8 9.Bg5 Re8 10.0-0 c6 11.Nxe5 Nxe4 12.Nxe4 Bxe5



Position after 12...Bxe5

This position has occurred several times with White scoring quite well after 13.f4 and 13.Nd6, but here my opponent blundered.

13.Nf6+??

Missing my 14th move.

13...Bxf6 14.Bxf6 Nd7

This attacks the bishop and also blocks Rd8+ making 15...Rxe2 a threat.

15.Rxd7 Bxd7

White's dark-square bishop looks pretty strong, but he doesn't have enough compensation.

16.Bf3 Re6 17.Bc3 Rae8 18.h4 h6 19.h5 g5 20.Rd1 Bc8 21.Bg4

This doesn't change the computer's evaluation but is probable just a mistake since White does not want to trade pieces.

21...R6e7 22.Bf3?!

Best is 22.Bxc8 but trading pieces doesn't seem very appealing.

22...g4 23.Rd6



Position after 23.Rd6

23...Re6?!

There is no reason not to take the bishop. I looked at this briefly but when I saw 24.Rxh6 threatening mate I dismissed it thinking it was simpler to trade rooks. Normally it is a good idea to avoid complications when you are already winning, but in this case, this was just laziness on my part. White has nothing after 23...gxf3 24.Rxh6 Re1+ (Or even simply 24...f6) 25.Kc2 Bf5+ 26.Kb3 Bh7+.

24.Rxe6 Bxe6 25.Bd1 c5 26.Bd2 Kg7 27.g3 b6

Here and on the three previous moves it was slightly stronger to take on c4 but I wanted to keep my pawn on g4.

28.b3 f5 29.Bc2 Bd7

With the intention of play 30...Rf8

and 31...Be8 winning the h-pawn. It is important that Black takes the h-pawn because it is hard to break through without doing so. It was stronger, however, to play 29...Bf7 when although Black loses his f-pawn, he can capture White's h-pawn; 30.Bxf5 Bxh5 31.Bc3+ Kg8 32.Bd2 Re2 33.Bxh6 Rxf2 should be an easy win. I thought I could create a situation where I could win the h-pawn and keep my f-pawn, but the more I thought about this, I realized it was more difficult than I thought.

30.Be3 Rxe3!

If I continued with my plan 30...Rf8 then after 31.Bf4 Be8 32.Bd6 Rf7 33.Be5+ Kg8 it is difficult to win the h-pawn without giving up either my h-pawn or my f-pawn. I realized this and came to the conclusion that it was best to return the exchange and transition into a bishop ending where I can easily scoop up the h-pawn and win. The computer surprisingly agrees. At first 30...Rxe3 is not one of its top three choices, but once you show it the move it realizes how bad White's position is and it becomes its top choice by a pretty significant margin.

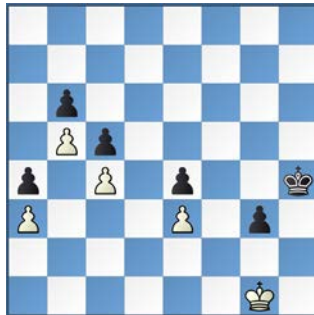
31.fxe3 Kf6 32.Kd2

32.e4 f4! 33.gxf4 g3 34.e5+ Ke7 35.Be4 Bh3—

32...Bc6 33.a3 a5 34.Kc3 Be4 35.Bxe4

The king and pawn ending is an easy win, but White is losing anyway.

35...fxe4 36.b4 a4 37.b5 Kg5 38.Kd2 Kxh5 39.Ke2 Kg5 40.Kf2 h5 41.Kg2 h4 42.Kh2 h3 43.Kxg3 Kh5 44.Kg2 Kh4 45.Kh2 g3+ 46.Kg1!



Position after 46.Kg1

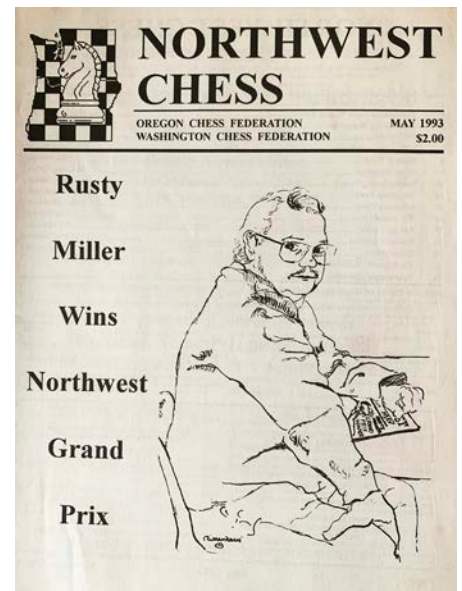
I was playing pretty fast since I knew I was winning and completely missed this move. It doesn't change anything, but Black has to find the right idea(s) to win the game.

46...g2!

Sacrificing a pawn to obtain opposition. Another winning idea is 46...Kh5 47.Kh1 Kg5 48.Kg1 Kh4 and Black has successfully triangulated.

47.Kh2 g1Q+ 48.Kxg1 Kg3

0-1



A NORTHWEST CHESS GRAND PRIX EVENT

RUSTY MILLER MEMORIAL CHESS TOURNAMENT

In Memory of Rusty Miller, 1942-2020.

JUNE 18-19, 2022

Site: Online via iChess.com

Dual Format: A Swiss-style tournament in two sections. Co-hosted by Northwest Chess and WCF. Dual US Chess Online and NWSRS Rated.

Open section: A 6-Round Swiss. Time Control: G/75; +15 sec increment.

Reserve U1500 section: A 6-Round Double Swiss – Play 12 games – one as white and one as black vs each opponent. Time Control: G/30; +5 sec increment.

Rating: Dual NWSRS and US Chess Online Rated, US Chess membership required.

Entry Fee: \$45. Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs, or US Chess 2400+.

Rounds: Sat./Sun. @ 10 AM, 2 PM, 6 PM.

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

Prize Fund: 60% of paid entries returned as prizes.

Open: 1st 23%, 2nd 17%, 1st U2000/U1800 5% each Best NW Player (by TPR) 2.5%, Best Dad Player (by TPR) 2.5%

Reserve: 1st 15%, 2nd 10%, 1st U1400/U1200/U1000 5% each, 1st Unrated 2.5%, Best Dad Player (by TPR) 2.5%

Memberships: Current US Chess + WCF/OCF/ICA membership required. Other states accepted. Memberships must be current as of the time of the event. A Chess.com and Zoom account are required.

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

Procedure: Pairings will be released prior to the start of each round. Games will be launched by the TD in the [Live Chess](#) area. Second game in each round of the Reserve section will start immediately after the first game ends using the "rematch" button.

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

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

Mail To: Washington Chess Federation
c/o Orlov Chess Academy
4174 148th Ave. NE
Building I, Ste. M
Redmond, WA 98052
Contact: Josh Sinanan, WCF President
Phone: 206-769-3757
Email: WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com

Registration: Online at [nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration](#).
Registration **deadline Fri. 6/17 @ 5pm**.
Unpaid players will receive a zero-point bye for round 1.

“EN MASSE”

(STANCHIONS BUCKLED)

Karen Schmidt

I planned a weekend trip to my sister’s house in Tacoma around the April 30 Washington State Elementary Chess Championships. So, I bussed from Seattle to Tacoma on Friday, April 29, and enjoyed a relaxing day out in the country with her, the dog, two cats, and the chickens—while mentally gearing up for the tournament on Saturday at the Tacoma Convention Center.

I was looking forward to seeing Seattle’s Detective Cookie (who runs an inner-city chess program for kids) and several other “chronic volunteers” whom I have gotten to know over the past year. When I arrived at the Convention Center, I got directions as to where to go to check in, and then was directed to the fifth floor. When I walked into the exhibition hall at 8:00 AM, I just about fell over after seeing the enormity of the room... and the 800 chess boards, with the pieces still in Ziplock bags. Rather than hunt down the tournament director and ask him what he wanted me to do, I just started setting up pieces. The tournament was scheduled to start at 9:30 AM. At first, I was the only volunteer setting up the pieces, and I got really fast at setting up pieces with both hands. I do remember thinking there was no way we (I?) would get them all set up by 9:30 AM.

I had a passing thought that maybe the kids could just set up their own pieces... but with hundreds of players between kindergarten and sixth grade, the probability of backwards kings and queens was just too great. About 9:00 AM, I noticed that a few others in “VOLUNTEER” t-shirts had joined me in my task. Somehow, we finished in time.

My “real job” turned out to be helping Detective Cookie again with the security detail. I prefer to call it the parent control detail. (Later that day a friend texted and asked me whether I meant controlling the kids or the parents, and it was obvious he was not familiar with gigantic chess tournaments. “The parents,” I replied.)

Detective Cookie and I were stationed out in front of the three sets of double doors leading into the exhibition hall. Thankfully there were stanchions setting up a border in front of the hall, kind of like a no-fly zone in a war. As round one approached, about 1400 kids and at least 1000 parents and siblings pressed up against the ribboned stanchions, awaiting the go-ahead signal to rush in, *en masse*.

Parents were allowed to accompany their kids into the hall before each of the five rounds to help them find their table, board, and the correct side (black/white) of the table. Then the parents were asked to leave so that the games could begin. Some of them took their sweet time leaving. After announcements were made from the stage and the double doors closed, the games began.

And at this point our “real job” really began. Chess parents can be pushy, wily, and very determined about getting into the hall while the games are in progress. They are also very creative about why they alone should be allowed to go in. But frankly, it would be absolute chaos if we let 1000 parents pop in for a minute “just to take a picture of my son playing his game,” or “just to give my daughter her water bottle,” and so on. We had to be ruthless about telling them that parents

are not allowed in the hall during the games.

Round one and its aftermath were the craziest. Approximately five minutes after the round started, a steady stream of children came *out* all three doors, having already finished their blitz, bullet, and four-move checkmate games. One would think that at such a huge venue, parents would have instructed their children where to find them when they finished their games. But no. We had quite a few boys and girls who had no idea where mom/dad was when they emerged from the hall. Thankfully there were three or four convention center staffers helping us out, and they would cruise the lobby with child in tow looking for the parents. One staffer in particular had a “voice that carried”—an even more commanding voice than Detective Cookie’s—and she was marvelous at barking orders. “Let’s go kids, right this way, go find your parents” was pretty much the mantra throughout the day.

We had our most shocking moment of the day during round two, when a hysterical dad blew past all three of us shouting “My daughter is missing!!” The round was about a half hour underway (rounds lasted an hour), and he shot into the tournament hall hollering this refrain over and over. We were speechless for several seconds, and then Detective Cookie and the staffer went in after him. It turned out that his daughter was *not*



missing; she was playing her chess game. His shouting interrupted a lot of games and distracted numerous players. Who knows how many pieces were dropped or games lost at this point? We never figured out why he was in such a state. My own theory was that maybe she had finished round one in five minutes, and the dad couldn't believe she was still inside after half an hour in round two. (And obviously he had not arranged any meetup point after her game ended.)

The second weirdest incident was the dad who went ballistic when Detective Cookie informed him that he couldn't go into the hall during the round. I was dealing with other situations at the time—and learned later that he had blown a fuse, including swearing at her profusely. Much later in the day, Detective Cookie had a little personal chat with him in the lobby about his earlier behavior. I would have loved to be the proverbial fly on the wall for that one.

The TDs and the volunteer team did an outstanding job, and I don't think I have ever seen a better organized tournament—especially one of this size. There was a back computer room with several volunteers who input the results after each round, magically transforming them into the pairings for the next round. The judges who roamed the hall during the games also did a great job dealing with the raised hands and numerous questions. All-in-all, the players were extremely well-behaved and had a wonderful day. Most importantly, they had a lot of fun.

I realize that I have highlighted a few of the “parental bad behavior” incidents here, but I want to emphasize that the great majority of the parents were patient, understanding, and followed the rules. This tournament may have been overwhelming for many of them—especially for first-timers—and probably overwhelming for many of the younger players. As Detective Cookie said in a text

to me afterwards, “We want to give many thanks to the parents who understand and follow the rules. We also give thanks to the parents who have conversations with their kids about a location for them to meet after they finish their chess games... Remember, this is about the kids, not about you. Let's all enjoy and have fun. We are all winners at the end.”

This day brought back many good memories from my own “chess mom” days at tournaments. I believe that chess in general benefits kids (and adults) of all ages in many ways, including: patience, concentration, looking at all options, deciding on the best course of action, and good sportsmanship.

I'll be happy to volunteer at this event every year in the future.

Although I do recall asking after round one if it was too early in the day to have a drink.



*Karen Schmidt setting up sets before the 2022 Washington State Elementary Chess Championship starts.
Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.*



SEATTLE SUMMER KICKOFF

SATURDAY JUNE 25TH, 2022

CO-HOSTED BY WCF + CHESS MATES FOUNDATION ONLINE VIA 

DUAL FORMAT: *ENTRY FEE:* \$30 before 6/22,

Format 1: A 5-Round
G/25; +5 Swiss in three
sections:

K-3 U1000

K-3 Open

K-12 U1200

Schedule:

Rd. 1 - 9:00am

Rd. 2 - 10:30am

Rd. 3 - 11:45am

Lunch Break

Rd. 4 - 1:30pm

Rd. 5 - 2:45pm

Format 2: A 4-Round
G/45; +5 Swiss in one
section:

K-12 Open

Schedule:

Rd. 1 - 9:00am

Rd. 2 - 11:00am

Lunch Break

Rd. 3 - 1:30pm

Rd. 4 - 3:30pm

\$40 after. Scholarships available for
Chess Mates students.

AWARDS:

Amazon Gift Card Prizes awarded in
each section:

1st - 5th: \$45, \$40, \$35, \$30, \$25

Raffle prizes announced during the
tournament.

RATING:

Reserve sections will be NWSRS rated.
Open sections will be dual NWSRS and
US Chess Online rated; US Chess
membership required for Open
sections. Highest of NWSRS, US Chess
Online, and US Chess Regular rating will
be used to determine section and
pairings.

ELIGIBILITY:

Open to all students registered in grades K-
12 as of the 2021-22 school year. A
Chess.com account is required. Zoom
monitoring with webcam required only for
Open sections.

THE DETAILS

Procedure:

Zoom help desk available for all players
to communicate with the Tournament
Director (TD). Pairings will be released
prior to the start of each round.
Players will be paired automatically by
the TD in the [Live Chess](#) area.

Fair Play Policy:

All players and parents are required to
sign the [Fair Play Agreement](#) prior to
the start of the tournament. WCF's Fair
Play Committee will review any
suspicious games on a case-by-case
basis. Good sportsmanship by all
players is strongly encouraged!

Online Registration:

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

Registration, payment, and fair play
agreement **deadline is Friday, June
24th by 5pm**. No registrations
accepted or refunds offered after the
deadline. Unpaid players will receive a
zero-point bye for round 1.

Questions? Contact: Rekha Sagar,
WCF Scholastic Director,
Rekha4Chess@gmail.com

WASHINGTON *SUMMER SIZZLER* CHESS TOURNAMENT

JULY 16, 2022

ONLINE VIA  Chess.com



FORMAT:

A 5-round Swiss tournament in four sections:

K-4 U1100

K-4 Open

5-12 U1300

5-12 Open

ROUNDS:

Rd. 1 – 9:00am

Rd. 2 – 10:30am

Rd. 3 – 11:45am

Lunch break

Rd. 4 – 1:30pm

Rd. 5 – 2:45pm

TIME

CONTROL:

Game in 25 minutes with a 5-second increment per move.

ENTRY FEE:

\$35 by 7/13, \$45 after.

AWARDS:

Amazon Gift Card Prizes awarded in each section:

1st – \$50

2nd – \$40

3rd – \$35

4th – \$30

5th – \$20

RATING:

NWSRS Rated. Open sections also US Chess Online Rated. Highest of NWSRS, US Chess, or US Chess online rating will be used to determine section and pairings. US Chess membership required only for Open sections.

ELIGIBILITY:

Open to all students registered in grades K-12. A Chess.com account is required. Zoom monitoring with webcam required only for Open sections.

THE DETAILS

Procedure:

Zoom help desk available for all players to communicate with the tournament director (TD). Pairings will be released prior to the start of each round. Players will be paired automatically by the TD in the [Live Chess](#) area.

Fair Play Policy:

All players and parents are required to sign the [WCF Fair Play Agreement](#) prior to the start of the tournament. WCF's Fair Play Committee will review any suspicious games on a case-by-case basis. Fair play standards will be strictly enforced. Good sportsmanship by all players is highly encouraged!

Online Registration:

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

Registration, payment, and fair play agreement deadline is **Friday, July 15th by 5pm**. No registrations will be accepted after the deadline. Unpaid players will receive a zero-point bye for round 1.

Questions? Contact Rekha Sagar, WCF Tournament Director, 425-496-9160, Rekha4Chess@gmail.com

INTERMAT

Team WA Wins 31st Event Washington vs British Columbia

JOSH SINANAN

The 31st Annual WA vs BC Intermat ended in a close 29-23 victory for Team WA! The Washington vs British Columbia International Scholastic Chess Match, known informally as the Intermat, was hosted online via chess.com for the third consecutive year due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. All 26 players from each team, two in each grade level, played their games from home via chess.com with Zoom monitoring. To accommodate the players, parents, and team captains, two virtual “team rooms” and a “playing hall” were created using Zoom’s Breakout Room feature. This allowed for a quiet playing area in which players were monitored during their games via Zoom with webcam on and mic muted. Meanwhile in the team rooms, captains and players met to kibitz and analyze the match games in progress.

Team WA played white on all boards in the first round and obtained a strong 17-9 lead due to several key victories in grades K-9! Especially notable were the clean 2-0 sweeps in kindergarten (Daniel + Chen), second grade (Ted + Michael L.), third grade (Vidip + Michael X.), fifth grade (Yiding + Alexander), and ninth grade (Edward + Daniel)! Historically, Team WA has done well in grades K-6, but struggled in the high school grades. With a key two-point knockout by the ninth graders and two clutch mini-upset draws by Ojas Kandhare (grade 10) and George King (grade 12), Team WA was able to fix its major weakness from previous years. Many players on Team WA had played just last weekend in the Barber + Rockefeller Qualifier Tournaments, which no doubt helped them prepare for this tough match. In the team match format, playing hard in every game helps the team, and each move is important.

Notable upset victories were achieved by Lucas Liu (grade four), Abhay Sankar (grade eight), Edward Cheng (grade nine), Daniel Wang (grade nine), and WFM Anne-Marie Velea (grade 11), Team WA’s top player. Especially impressive was Alexander Yang’s comeback win despite dropping a bishop on move 13! Four Washington players drew their games in the first round: Samarth Bharadwaj, Varin Nallabothula, Ojas Kandhare, and George King. In Kandhare-Qiu P, Ojas sacrificed a bishop and then a rook to force a perpetual check against a higher-rated opponent! In King-Shinn, George held a space advantage throughout the game and steered the game to a level rook ending, securing a solid draw for Team WA!

In the second round, Team WA was first to score with two quick victories by our kindergarten phenoms Daniel and Chen! Team BC struck back with two surprising upset victories in grade one and nearly swept the high school grades. In fact, Team BC dropped only 1.5 points in grades 9-12 thanks to a draw by Edward Cheng and a huge win by Aditya Singh in a game in which his opponent played the Barnes Opening (1.f3 2.Kf2?!). Overall, Team WA defended well with the black pieces and launched several well-timed counterattacks to rack up the points in grades two-six, with notable wins scored by Ted + Michael L. (grade two), Michael X. (grade three), Lucas (grade four), Yiding + Alexander (grade five), and Austin (grade seven). In grade ten, Team WA’s Brandon Peng held a nearly four-point advantage on the black side of a Sicilian Grand Prix Attack, but couldn’t finish off the slippery Peter Qiu from Team BC. However, it was his teammate from the Lakeside High School chess team, Aditya Singh (grade 12), who picked up the slack and took

down Team BC’s second highest-rated player, Jungmin Shinn, in a completely wild game that saw Aditya sacrifice a knight on the kingside to rip open White’s poorly placed king! Aditya’s huge victory propelled Team WA to 27 points and secured the match victory! Despite the match already being decided on paper, numerous Team WA players and captains Chouchan and Valentin stuck around till the very end to analyze the games and cheer on their teammates. A short closing ceremony concluded the day’s festivities, wrapping up just before 6:00 PM.

Special congratulations to our 2022 Team Washington All Stars, each of whom scored 1.5 or two points from two games: **Daniel Yun, Chen Yuan, Ted Wang, Michael Lin, Vidip Kona, Michael Xiong, Lucas Liu, Yiding Lu, Alexander Yang, Austin Liu, Abhay Sankar, and Edward Cheng!**

It was a pleasure for the captains to analyze games with the players and follow the match games while keeping tabs on how everyone was doing. Congratulations to the players from both teams on an exciting and close match once again! Special thanks to BC Captains Michael Lo and Eric Gu, WA Captains Chouchanik Airapetian and Valentin Razmov, and to our amazing TDs Stephen Wright and Josh Sinanan for all their hard work in setting up this online Intermat. Since no travel was required, and the match took place across both WA and BC, the organizers from both teams decided to co-host this year’s Intermat. It truly was a collaborative effort!

Thanks go to all the players and parents for their patience and flexibility with the online format under the circumstances. We look forward to continuing this great tradition, hopefully in-person again, for many years to come!

**Anne-Marie Velea (2207) [WA] –
Patrick Huang (2240) [BC] [B06]**

Intermat 31st (online) chess.com
(R1), April 23, 2022
[Anne-Marie Velea]

1.e4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.Nc3 d6 4.f4 a6

4...Nf6 or 4...c6 are more popular.

5.Nf3 b5 6.a3

6.Bd3 was slightly better for White.

**6...Nd7 7.Be3 Bb7 8.Bd3 c5 9.dxc5 Nxc5
10.Bxc5 dxc5**

10...Bxc3+ 11.bxc3 dxc5 was a better choice for Black to prevent his g7-bishop from being caged in after 11.e5.

11.e5 Bh6 12.g3 b4 13.axb4 cxb4 14.Ne4 Qb6 15.Qe2 a5 16.Qf2!

A very good option for White in this position; if Black trades queens, his position towards the endgame is very deteriorated.

16...Qc7 17.0-0



Position after 17.0-0

17...f5?

This allows the very strong Bb5+.

18.Bb5+ Bc6??

18...Kf8 19.Nc5 Kf7+- [3.82]

19.Qc5!!+-

[6.52] Exploiting multiple pins and threatening c6.

19...Rc8 20.Nd4?

White still has a decisive advantage but 20.Nd6+ exd6 21.exd6 Qd7 22.Bxc6 Rxc6 23.Rfe1+ Kf8 24.Ne5 is more forcing of a bigger advantage.

20...Bxb5 21.Qxb5+ Qd7 22.Qxd7+ Kxd7 23.Nd2 e6 24.Rxa5 Rc7 25.Ra6 Bf8 26.N2b3 Nh6 27.Rd1 Ke7 28.Rxe6+ Kf7 29.Rf6+ Ke8 30.Ra1 Bg7 31.Ra8+ Ke7 32.Rxh8 Bxh8 33.Rb6 Ng4 34.Rxb4 g5 35.Nxf5+ Ke6 36.Nbd4+ Kd5 37.h3

Trapping the knight.

37...gxf4 38.gxf4 Bxe5 39.fxe5 Nxe5 40.Ne3+ Kc5 41.Ne6+ Kxb4 42.Nxc7 Kc5 43.Kf2 Kd6 44.Ncd5 Kc5 45.Kg3 Kd4 46.Kf4 Ng6+ 47.Kg5 Ke4 48.b4 Ne5 49.b5 Kd4 50.b6 Kc5 51.h4 Nf7+ 52.Kf6 Nd6 53.Kg7 h5 54.Kg6 Kb5 55.Kxh5 Kc5 56.Kg6 Kd4 57.h5 Ke5 58.h6 Ke6 59.h7 Nf7 60.b7 Ne5+ 61.Kg7 Nf7 62.b8Q Ne5 63.Qc8+ Nd7 64.Qc6+ Ke5 65.Qxd7 Kd4 66.Qg4+ Kc5 67.Qc4+ Kd6 68.Kf6 Kd7 69.Qc7+ Ke8 70.Qe7#

1-0



MOM, DO YOU THINK I'LL EVER GROW UP TO BE A BISHOP?

Brandon Peng (1822) [WA] – Andrew Qiu (1792) [BC] [E51]
Intermat 31st (online) chess.com
(R1), April 23, 2022
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Bd2

There are several more popular, and arguably better, moves here: 4.e3; 4.Qc2; 4.Nf3; 4.f3; 4.Bg5; 4.a3; 4.g3; 4.Qb3

4...0-0 5.Nf3 d5 6.e3 c5 7.a3 cxd4

7...Bxc3 8.Bxc3 Ne4 (or 8...cxd4 9.Bxd4 (9.Nxd4!?) 9...Nc6 10.cxd5) 9.Rc1 Nxc3 10.Rxc3 cxd4 11.Qxd4 Nc6±

8.Nxd4

8.axb4 dxc3 9.Bxc3

8...Ba5 9.b4 Bc7 10.c5?!

Releasing the tension, and giving Black free rein to demonstrate what extra center

pawns can do. White is fine after 10.Rc1 a6 11.cxd5 exd5.

10...a6 11.g3 e5 12.Nb3 d4 13.Na4 Qd5 14.f3 Rd8



Position after 14...Rd8

15.Bg2?

Loses by force. White can keep hope alive with 15.Nb2 dxe3 16.Bxe3 Qe6 17.Qc2

Nc67, when White has over-extended on the queenside and weakened the kingside, but is still in the game.

15...Be6! 16.Na5 dxe3 17.Bxe3 Qxd1+ 18.Rxd1 Rxd1+ 19.Kxd1 Bxa5

The threat of ...Bb3+ wins a piece.

20.Kc2 Bc7 21.Rd1 Nc6 22.Bf1 Rd8 23.Re1 Nd4+ 24.Bxd4 Rxd4 25.Nc3 Bf5+ 26.Kb3 Rd2 27.h3 Bc2+ 28.Kc4 Rd4#

0-1

**Edward Cheng (1807) [WA] –
Veronica Guo (1955) [BC] [A07]**
Intermat 31st (online) chess.com
(R1), April 23, 2022
[Ralph Dubisch]

**1.Nf3 d5 2.g3 c6 3.Bg2 Nf6 4.0-0 Bf5
5.b3 e6 6.Bb2 Be7 7.d3 0-0 8.Nbd2
Nbd7 9.Re1 Bb4?!**

9...Qc7; 9...a5

10.a3 Bxd2

Giving up the bishop-pair cedes White a long-term slight, but fairly stable, advantage. 10...Be7

11.Nxd2 e5 12.e4 dxe4 13.Nxe4

13.dxe4 Bg4 14.Qc1

13...Bxe4

13...Nxe4 14.dxe4 Be6 15.Qd6

**14.dxe4 Qb6 15.Qe2 Rfe8 16.Rad1
Rad8 17.h4 Nc5 18.g4?!**

The kingside pawns can over-extend here.
18.Rxd8 Qxd8 19.Rd1 Qc7 20.Qe3 b6

18...g6 19.Bf3 Nfd7 20.g5

20.Qe3

20...Ne6 21.Bg4



Position after 21.Bg4

21...Qc7

21...Nd4! 22.Qc4 Qc7 23.Bxd4 (23.
Rxd4!? exd4 24.Qxd4 Qe5 25.Qxe5 (25.

f4 Qxd4+ 26.Bxd4 Nf8 27.Bc3.) 25...Nxe5
26.Bd1 c5 27.f4 Nc6) 23...exd4 24.Rxd4
(24.Qxd4?? Ne5-+) 24...Ne5 25.Rxd8
Rxd8 26.Qe2 Nxc4 27.Qxc4 Qa5

22.Bxe6 Rxe6 23.b4 b5?

23...Ree8

24.c4 a6 25.c5 Nf8 26.Rd3

26.Rxd8 Qxd8 27.Rd1 Qe7 28.Qg4

26...Ree8

26...Re7 27.Red1 Red7

27.Red1 Rxd3 28.Rxd3 Ne6 29.Qd2

29.Rd6

29...Nf4?

29...h6

30.Rd7 Qb8 31.Qd6 Qxd6 32.Rxd6

32.cxd6! Kf8 33.Rc7+

**32...Re6 33.Rd8+ Kg7 34.f3 h6 35.Kh2
Re7**

35...hxg5 36.hxg5 f5 37.gxf6+ Kxf6
38.Kg3 Ke7 39.Ra8

**36.Rd6 hxg5 37.hxg5 Re6 38.Rxe6
Nxe6 39.Bxe5+**

Now the slow and steady advance of
pawns, coupled with the occasional
zugzwang, will lead to inevitable victory.

**39...Kf8 40.f4 Ke7 41.Kg3 Kd7 42.Kg4
a5 43.f5 Nf8 44.bxa5 Kc8 45.Bd6 Nd7
46.a6**

1-0

**Varin Nallabothula (1706) [WA] –
Nathan Ping-Ying Wu (2054) [BC]**
[C42] Intermat 31st (online) chess.com
(R1), April 23, 2022
[Varin Nallabothula]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 Nc6

My opponent played the Stafford
Gambit, which was surprising since I was
expecting a Scandinavian.

4.Nxc6 dxc6 5.d3

The main move in order to solidify with
Be2 and then castling, staying up the
pawn.

5...Bc5 6.Be2 h5

6...Ng4 7.Bxc4 Qh4 is another variation
that gives more attacking opportunities
for Black.

7.h3 Qd4 8.0-0 Qd6 9.Bf3

Here I played Be4 in order to threaten e5

with the fork followed by Re1 in order to
apply pressure, but I completely ignored
...Ng4.

9...Ng4



Position after 9...Ng4

10.e5!

The only saving move here in order to
divert the queen since taking with the
pawn or bishop will open up the h-file for
a clear attack. 10.Bxc4 hxg4 11.e5 Qg6

10...Nxe5 11.Re1 Be6 12.Nc3

Here I played Nc3 instead of grabbing
the pawn on h5 since I didn't want to
allow any attacking play for Black on the
kingside.

12...Nxf3+ 13.Qxf3 0-0-0 14.Be3

I decided to offer a trade of dark-squared
bishops here, because his bishop was
very active and could be crucial for his
kingside attack in the future.

14...Bxe3 15.Rxe3 g5

Going for the ...g4 break to open up the
h-file.

16.Ne4 Qb4 17.Qf6!

This was a crucial move here since it
applies pressure on the g5-pawn, while
defending b2, and stopping ...f5 from
kicking out my knight.

**17...Rhg8 18.a3 Qb5 19.Nd2 Rg6
20.Qe5**

I offered a queen trade here since the
endgame looked more promising for me.

**20...Qd5 21.Rae1 b6 22.Nc4 Rgg8
23.Qf6**

Threatening Re5.

23...Rg6 24.Qe5 Qd7 25.Qc3

Clearing the e5-square for the knight
while focusing on the c6-pawn.

25...Bxc4 26.Qxc4 Qd5 27.Qa6+

This was a little over ambitious; queen
trading and placing my rooks on the

seventh rank was probably stronger.

27...Kb8 28.Qa4 Kb7 29.Re5 Qd6 30.Qe4 Qf6 31.c3 Qf4 32.d4 Qxe4 33.R1xe4 Rd5 34.Kh2?

A missed opportunity here, Rxd5 and then f4 would prove better. 34.Rxd5 cxd5 35.Re5 Kc6 36.f4! f6 37.f5! Rg7 38.Re6+ Kb5 39.Rxf6

34...a5 35.h4 f6 36.Re7 Rf5 37.Kg1

Here I went back with Kg1, since f3 would lead up to ...gxh4 followed by ...Rfg5 giving him activity.

37...Rb5 38.b4 axb4 39.axb4 gxh4 40.Rxh4 Rg4 41.Rxg4 hxg4 42.Kh2 Rd5 43.Kg3 c5 44.bxc5 bxc5 45.Re4 cxd4 46.cxd4

Rxd4 would've given me an extra pawn, but the endgame is still drawn.

46...f5 47.Re5 Rxd4 48.Rxf5 Kb6 49.f4

49.Rf4!? Rxf4 50.Kxf4 c5 51.Kxg4 Kb5 52.Kf3 Kb4 53.Ke2 Kb3 54.g4 c4 55.g5 c3 56.g6 c2 57.g7 c1Q 58.g8Q+

49...gxf3 50.Kxf3 c5 51.g4 c4 52.Rf4 Kc5 53.Rxd4 Kxd4 54.Ke2 Kc3 55.g5 Kb2 56.g6 c3 57.g7 c2 58.g8Q c1Q 59.Qb8+ Kc2 60.Qc7+ Kb2 61.Qxc1+ Kxc1

Game drawn by insufficient material. Overall it was a nice and interesting battle with some chances for me, but my opponent put up a solid defense so in the end it was a draw.

1/2-1/2

**Neeraj Harish (1734) [WA] –
Arya Boroomand (1600) [BC] [C00]**
Intermat 31st (online) chess.com
(R1), April 23, 2022
[Neeraj Harish]

Before this game while I was checking the pairings, I saw that Washington was higher-rated on grades K-7, but were underdogs in the higher grades. Assuming all results are accurate to rating, to win the match it would mean Washington had to win sixth grade to win the match.

1.e4 e6 2.d4 b6

Going into the game I was not familiar with this opening but, I got an advantage quickly.

3.Bd3 Bb7 4.Nf3 Nf6

4...c5 is the main line and the move I expected him to play.

5.Qe2

5.Nc3 runs into 5...Bb4 and White is better, though there is some pressure Black has on the center.

5...d5

This move looked weird to me because Black played ...b6, ...Bb7 and then blocks his powerful bishop with ...d5. 5...c5 here this is not as good as after 6.d5± Qe2 is eyeing the black king.

6.e5

Now White has a very good version of the French. In the French, Black usually wants to play ...Bc8-a6 in one go and trade of his bad bishop. In this case, Black has already wasted a tempo with ...Bb7 and he cannot play ...Ba6 anyway because of Qe2.

6...Nfd7

6...Ne4 7.Nbd2± and White is doing very well (7.0-0 c5± was a little worrying for me, though the engines say that 7.0-0 is the strongest move in that position).

7.c3 c5 8.h4!? h6 9.Be3 Nc6 10.a3 a6 11.b4

I had seen a similar idea in the French Advanced Variation to try and block the queenside, though it is not as great here. 11.h5± is stronger as it gains space on the kingside and Black cannot create anything on the queenside.

11...c4 12.Bc2 b5 13.Nbd2 Be7?!

The bishop is no better on e7 than it is on f8. At some point, White will play Nh2, Qg4 and g7 will be a problem. 13...a5 was better as the bishop might not need to move from f8 at all 14.0-0 Nb6± and Black is close to equalizing.

14.h5 a5 15.0-0



Position after 15.0-0

15...a4?!

Now Black has no counterplay and White can freely roll on the kingside. 15...Nb6

Black has to keep the tension on the queenside as that is where his source of counterplay is. 16.Nh2 Na4 and Black is ok.

16.Nh2+- Qc7 17.f4 f5?!

17...0-0-0 is a better defense but White is still dominating after 18.f5 Rdg8 19.Ng4+-.

18.exf6

18.g4+- was even stronger, but my move still wins.

18...Nxf6 19.Bg6+ Kd7 20.Ng4 Raf8 21.f5

Now White crashes through.

21...e5 22.Nxe5+ Nxe5 23.Bf4 Kd8 24.dxe5 Ne8 25.Nf3!

Black is devoid of counterplay, so instead of trying to cash in immediately, it is best for white to bring all the pieces to the party.

25...Bc8 26.g4 Qb6+ 27.Kg2 Nc7 28.Nd4 Bd7 29.Rae1

Now every one of the white pieces is developed and well positioned. Ten out of ten times when you have all your pieces in the attack, there will be a tactical opportunity.

29...Be8

29...Kc8 30.f6+- comes anyway.

30.f6! gxf6 31.exf6 Bxf6 32.Bxc7+ Kxc7 33.Ne6+ Kb8 34.Nxf8 Rxf8 35.Bxe8 Qb7 36.Qe6 d4+ 37.Bc6

Now the bishop on f6 is lost as well.

37...Qc7 38.Rxf6 Rd8 39.Rf7 d3 40.Rxc7 d2 41.Rb7+ Ka8 42.Rxb5+ Ka7 43.Qe7+ Rd7 44.Qxd7+ Ka6 45.Qb7#

1-0

**Sherry Tian (2045) [BC] –
Anne-Marie Velea (2207) [WA] [E06]**
Intermat 31st (online) chess.com
(R2), April 23, 2022
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.Nf3 d5 2.c4 e6 3.g3 Nf6 4.Bg2 Be7 5.0-0 0-0 6.d4 c6

I'll point out the more popular choices between here and move ten, starting with 6...dxc4.

7.Nc3

7.Qc2

7...b6

7...Nbd7 8.b3 b6 9.Bb2

8.Nd2

8.Ne5 Ba6 (8...Bb7 9.e4 dxc4 10.Nxc4) 9.cxd5 cxd5

8...Bb7 9.e4 a5

Now we're out of my vague opening knowledge. My suggestion would be 9...dxe4 10.Ndxe4 Nxe4 11.Nxe4 Nd7±; 9...Na6 10.e5 Nd7 11.cxd5 cxd5 has been played, with at least some edge for White.

10.Re1 Na6

10...dxc4 11.Nxc4 b5 12.Ne5 Nbd7 13.Nd3±

11.a3 Rc8 12.cxd5 cxd5 13.e5 Nd7 14.Bf1 Nc7 15.h4 Bc6

15...Ba6!?

16.a4 Bb7 17.Nf3 Ba6 18.Nb5 Bxb5 19.axb5 Re8

19...f6 20.Bf4±

20.Bf4 Nf8 21.h5 Qd7 22.h6



Position after 22.h6

22...g6

22...Nxb5 23.hxg7 Kxg7 (If 23...Ng6 24.Qa4 is an option, winning material.) 24.Bd3+- White plans to activate a rook on the h-file after Kg2.

23.Qa4 Red8 24.Rec1 Na8 25.Rc6 Rc7 26.Rac1 Rdc8 27.Bd2 Qe8 28.Kg2 Nd7 29.b4 axb4 30.Bxb4 Bxb4 31.Qxb4 Nb8 32.Rxc7 Rxc7 33.Rxc7 Nxc7 34.Qd6 Na8 35.Nh2 Nd7 36.Ng4 Kh8 37.Kg1 f5 38.exf6 Qf7 39.Ne5 Nxe5 40.dxe5 Nc7 41.Qd8+ Ne8 42.Qxb6

A positional *tour de force* by White, showing that space and file-control can simply overwhelm a passive defense.

1-0



Peter Qiu (1864) [BC] –
Brandon Peng (1822) [WA] [B23]
Intermat 31st (online) chess.com
(R2), April 23, 2022
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.f4 g6 4.Nf3 Bg7 5.Bc4 e6 6.0-0 Nge7 7.d3 d5 8.Bb3 0-0 9.Qe1 a6 10.a4 Rb8 11.Qg3?!

The queen isn't significantly better placed here for the coming kingside action.

Immediately 11.f5!? is a better try. 11...gxf5 (11...dxe4 12.dxe4 (12.f6!? exf3 13.fxg7 Kxg7 14.Rxf3 Nf5∞) 12...b5 13.Bg5 f6 14.Bf4 c4!∞) 12.exd5 exd5 13.Bf4∞

11...b5 12.f5?!

12.e5 f6.

12...c4 13.axb5 axb5 14.dxc4 dxc4 15.f6 Bxf6 16.Bf4

16.Ba2±

16...e5 17.Bh6 cxb3 18.Bxf8 Qxf8 19.cxb3 Be6 20.Kh1 Bg7

20...h6!?

21.Ng5 Qc8 22.Qf2 f6

22...f5 23.Nxe6 Qxe6 24.Qc5 b4 looks close to winning for Black.

23.Nxe6 Qxe6 24.Qc5 Nd4 25.Qc7



Position after 25.Qc7

25...Nec6??

Moving the rook out of harm's way avoids the tactics and retains an advantage for Black: 25...Re8 26.Ra7 f5 27.Rb7 Qc6±. Two minors are simply better than a rook.

26.Ra7! Nxa7 27.Qxb8+ Nc8 28.Nd5 Kf7 29.Rc1 Ne7??

Black can interfere with White's c-file tactic with the saving retreat 29...Nc6! 30.Qxb5 (A relatively clear option for equality is 30.Qb7+ N8e7 31.Rxc6 Qxc6 32.Qxe7+ Kg8 33.Qd8+ Kf7 34.Qe7+ Kg8. A draw by repetition would be reasonable here, or White could try

35.Qc7 Qxc7 (perhaps not entirely forced) 36.Nxc7, though actual winning chances are slim.) 30...N6e7! 31.Nc7! Nd6! with a still murky battle ahead.

30.Nxe7 Qxe7 31.Rc7 Bf8 32.Rxe7+ Bxe7 33.Qh8 g5 34.Qxh7+ Ke6 35.g3!

White's plan to advance the h-pawn wins at least a piece. Good human technique.

35...Kd6 36.h4 Ne6 37.h5 b4 38.h6 Bf8 39.Qg6 Ke7 40.h7 Bg7 41.Qxg7+ Nxg7 42.h8Q Kf7 43.Qb8 Ne6 44.Qxb4 Nd4 45.Qb7+ Kg6 46.b4

1-0

Bowen Wu (1156) [BC] –
Vidip Kona (1932) [WA] [E61]
Intermat 31st (online) chess.com
(R2), April 23, 2022
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.c4 Nf6 2.g3 c5 3.Bg2 Nc6 4.Nc3 g6 5.e3 Bg7 6.Nge2 0-0 7.0-0 d6 8.d4 cxd4 9.exd4 Bd7 10.Be3 Rc8 11.b3

11.d5 Ne5 12.b3± More space and more secure minor piece placement.

11...Ng4 12.Qd2

12.Bc1!?, planning to meet 12...e5 with 13.dxe5. Now 13...dxe5 (or 13...Ngxe5 when the c1-bishop can return to e3 or f4.) 14.Ba3 Re8 15.Ne4±

12...Nxe3

Bishop-pair.

13.fxg3 a6 14.Rac1 Qa5 15.Rfd1 Qg5

15...Bh6!?

16.e4?

Weakens d4. 16.Ne4

16...Qxd2 17.Rxd2 Rb8

If 17...Bh6 18.Nf4, Black does not immediately threaten ...e5 since the d7-bishop is hanging: 18...e5?! (18...Rfd8 19.Rcd1. is complicated.) 19.dxe5 dxe5 20.Rxd7 exf4 21.Rcd1

18.Nd5? Kh8?

Black can undermine d4 right away: 18...Bg4! 19.e5 (19.Ndc3 Bxe2 20.Nxe2 Bh6 21.Nf4 e5-+ works now.) 19...Bxe2 20.Rxe2 Nxd4 21.Rd2 dxe5 22.Nxe7+ Kh8 and Black ends up with a powerful extra passed pawn.

19.Nb6?

19.Ne3∞ guards against ...Bg4.

19...Rbd8?

19...Bg4! is still strong, though White can introduce complications with 20.d5!?

20.Nxd7 Rxd7 21.d5?!

The black bishop gains activity. Keep the big pawn center. 21.Rcd1

21...Ne5 22.Rdd1!? Rc8??

22...Rc7.

23.Bh3

It's almost like White anticipated the blunder ...Rc8, moving that d2-rook out of the fork on f3...

23...f5 24.exf5 Bh6 25.fxg6 Bxc1 26.Rxc1 hxg6 27.Bxd7 Nxd7 28.Nf4

28.a4

28...Ne5 29.Kg2?!

29.Ne6, perhaps intending to bring the king toward the center Kf1-e2, and at the same time allowing White to reply to 29...b5 with 30.c5+.

29...b5! 30.h4 Kh7 31.Ne6 bxc4 32.bxc4 Rxc4 33.Rxc4 Nxc4 34.Nc7

34.Kf3

34...a5 35.Kf3 Kg7 36.Ke4 Kf6 37.g4

37.Ne6

37...a4?

37...g5! 38.hxg5+ (38.h5 Ne5) 38...Kxg5

38.g5+ Kf7 39.Kd4 Ne5 40.Kc3 Nf3 41.Kb4 Nxh4 42.Kxa4 Nf3 43.Kb4??

43.Kb5 Nxg5 44.a4 e5 (44...Ne4 45.a5 Nc5 46.Ne6+-) 45.a5 e4 46.Ne6! Nxe6 47.dxe6+ Ke7 (47...Kxe6 48.a6 e3 49.a7 e2 50.a8Q e1Q 51.Qe8+-) 48.Kc4+-.

Or 43.Ne6 with slightly less concrete play, but with excellent chances to convert the outside passed pawn into victory.

43...Nxg5 44.a4 Ne4 45.a5 Nc5 46.Ne6 Ke8!

Now we see key differences between 43.Kb4 and 43.Kb5. If White now plays Nxc5, the recapture is with check.

White must play a king move, and the black king enters the square and is in time to stop the a-pawn. Also, White doesn't have the blocking-out move Kb6.

47.Nxc5 dxc5+ 48.Kxc5 Kd7 49.Kd4 Kc7 50.Ke5 Kb7 51.Ke6 g5 52.Kf5 Ka6 53.Kxg5 Kxa5 54.Kf5 Kb5 55.Ke6 Kc5 56.Ke5 Kc4 57.Ke6 Kc5 58.Ke5 Kc4 59.Ke6 Kc5

1/2-1/2

Round One

Grade	Team WA (White)	NWSRS	Result	Team BC (Black)	CFC (*CMA)	Result	
K	Daniel D Yun	1026	1	Amelia Ng	349*	0	
K	Chen Yuan	519	1	Arjun Thakare	319*	0	
1	Samarth Bharadwaj	1428	0.5	Sky Cui	1135*	0.5	
1	Vayu Kakkad	1110	0	Haoming Lian	1105*	1	
2	Ted Wang	1842	1	Kai Zhang	1171*	0	
2	Michael Lin	1660	1	Youjia Ye	1028*	0	
3	Vidip Kona	1959	1	Ethan Low	1258*	0	
3	Michael Xiong	1561	1	Bowen Wu	1165*	0	
4	Lucas Liu	1574	1	Zachary Liu	1770	0	
4	Selina Cheng	1478	0	Panshul Mishra Jaiman	1208	1	
5	Yiding Lu	1964	1	Justin Gao	1493	0	
5	Alexander Yang	1839	1	Erwin Mok	1311	0	
6	Neeraj Harish	1896	1	Arya Cyrus Boroomand	1514	0	
6	Derek Heath	1728	0	Azher Hossain	1470	1	
7	Austin Liu	2054	1	Ryan Yang	1930	0	
7	Pranav Balaji	1740	0	Frank Zhou	1434	1	
8	Varin Nallabothula	1706	0.5	Nathan Ping-Yin Wu	2054	0.5	
8	Abhay Sankar	1583	1	Aiden Leong	1775	0	
9	Edward Cheng	1807	1	Veronica Guo	1833	0	
9	Daniel Wang	1644	1	Matthew He	1819	0	
10	Brandon Peng	1822	0	Andrew Qiu	1792	1	
10	Ojas Kandhare	1549	0.5	Peter Qiu	1633	0.5	
11	Anne-Marie Velea	2207	1	Patrick Huang	2240	0	
11	Kennard Hou	1665	0	Sherry Tian	2045	1	
12	George King	1753	0.5	Jungmin Shinn	2126	0.5	
12	Aditya Singh	1682	0	Isaac Trenton	1833	1	
Team WA Rd 1 Points			17	Team BC Rd 1 Points			9

Round Two

Grade	Team BC (White)	CFC (*CMA)	Result	Team WA (Black)	NWSRS	Result	
K	Arjun Thakare	319*	0	Daniel D Yun	1026	1	
K	Amelia Ng	349*	0	Chen Yuan	519	1	
1	Haoming Lian	1105*	1	Samarth Bharadwaj	1428	0	
1	Sky Cui	1135*	1	Vayu Kakkad	1110	0	
2	Youjia Ye	1028*	0	Ted Wang	1842	1	
2	Kai Zhang	1171*	0	Michael Lin	1660	1	
3	Bowen Wu	1165*	0.5	Vidip Kona	1959	0.5	
3	Ethan Low	1258*	0	Michael Xiong	1561	1	
4	Panshul Mishra Jaiman	1208	0	Lucas Liu	1574	1	
4	Zachary Liu	1770	1	Selina Cheng	1478	0	
5	Erwin Mok	1311	0	Yiding Lu	1964	1	
5	Justin Gao	1493	0	Alexander Yang	1839	1	
6	Azher Hossain	1470	1	Neeraj Harish	1896	0	
6	Arya Cyrus Boroomand	1514	0.5	Derek Heath	1728	0.5	
7	Frank Zhou	1434	0	Austin Liu	2054	1	
7	Ryan Yang	1930	1	Pranav Balaji	1740	0	
8	Aiden Leong	1775	1	Varin Nallabothula	1706	0	
8	Nathan Ping-Yin Wu	2054	0.5	Abhay Sankar	1583	0.5	
9	Matthew He	1819	0.5	Edward Cheng	1807	0.5	
9	Veronica Guo	1833	1	Daniel Wang	1644	0	
10	Peter Qiu	1633	1	Brandon Peng	1822	0	
10	Andrew Qiu	1792	1	Ojas Kandhare	1549	0	
11	Sherry Tian	2045	1	Anne-Marie Velea	2207	0	
11	Patrick Huang	2240	1	Kennard Hou	1665	0	
12	Isaac Trenton	1833	1	George King	1753	0	
12	Jungmin Shinn	2126	0	Aditya Singh	1682	1	
Team BC Rd 2 Points			14	Team WA Rd 2 Points			12
Round 1 Points			9	Rd 1 Points			17
Team BC Total			23	Team WA Total			29

2022 Washington Senior Championship

Josh Sinanan

The 2022 Washington Senior Championship took place in person at the Orlov Chess Academy in Redmond over Easter weekend April 15-17. Veteran chess warriors from throughout Washington State were represented in the modest eight-player field, from locales including Shoreline, Bellevue, Kirkland, Seattle, Mineral, and Edmonds! The event was hosted by the Washington Chess Federation and organized by President Josh Sinanan. PNWCC Board Member and Chess Dad Vijay Sankaran and WCF Vice President/Northwest Chess Publisher Duane Polich tag-teamed to direct the five-round tournament over the course of two-and-a-half days.

FM John Readey, a retired software engineer from Seattle, emerged victorious

with an undefeated 4.5 points from five games, allowing only a single draw against fellow FIDE Master William Schill in the third round. John's peak US Chess rating was well over 2400 in the mid 90's, though these days he prefers to keep his skills sharp with blitz chess! For his victory, John receives the title of 2022 Washington State Senior Champion and a \$750 travel stipend from the WCF to attend the 2022 Irwin National Tournament of Senior State Champions. Congratulations John! No doubt the strong blitz group of FM John Readey, the late FM Ignacio Perez, NM David Levine, and US Chess Expert Fritz Scholz, which has met regularly at various locations in the greater Seattle area for many years, is a major reason that they all continue to play at such a high level.

FM William Schill II from Seattle finished in second place a full point back with 3.5 points, conceding three draws in the final three rounds. Many players, including Schill, were still adjusting to the long games and wearing off the rust after more than two years of inactivity. Rich LaVoice from Kirkland captured U2000 honors with three points. For Shoreline's James Hamlett IV, it was certainly meant "to be," as he won the U1700 prize with one point! Henry Louie, originally from Sitka (Alaska) and now living in Mineral (Washington) near the Pierce/Lewis county line, won the U1400 prize thanks to a hard-fought draw against Bellevue's Paul Harwood in the fourth round. Congratulations to the winners, and many thanks to all who contributed to this fantastic event!

**David Levine (2201) –
John Readey (2277) [D02]**
Washington Senior Championship
(R2), April 16, 2022
[John Readey]

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.d4 d5 3.Bf4

Dave and I have played countless blitz games with each other, but don't remember him ever playing the London before. I guess he was looking to avoid any advance preparation.

3...c5 4.e3 Nc6 5.c3 Qb6 6.Qc1

6.Qb3 c4 7.Qc2 Bf5 8.Qc1 is seen more frequently. Black gets a tempo to play ...Bf5, but takes pressure off White's center.

6...Bf5 7.Nbd2 cxd4 8.exd4 Rc8 9.Nh4

I was expecting something like: 9.Be2 Nb4 10.0-0 Bd3 11.Qd1 Qa6 12.Bxd3 Nxd3 13.Bg5 Nxb2 14.Qb3 Na4, when it's quite complicated, but the computer evaluates as 0.0

9...Nxd4 10.Nxf5

10.Be3 Nc2+ 11.Qxc2 Qxe3+ 12.fxe3 Bxc2+

10...Nxf5

Here I thought I was just a pawn up, but White definitely has some play for the pawn.

11.Bd3 Qe6+

When I played this I thought it was to my advantage to prevent White from castling, but as we'll see, White is hardly bothered by this. 11...g6 12.0-0 e6 13.Nf3 Bd6.



*(L) Henry Louie vs Fritz Scholz during round one of the
Washington Senior Championship.
Photo Credit: Josh Sinanan.*

12.Kf1 Nd6 13.Qc2 a6

13...g6 14.Qa4+ Qd7 15.Qxa7 Bg7
16.Bxd6 Qxd6 17.Bb5+ Kf8.

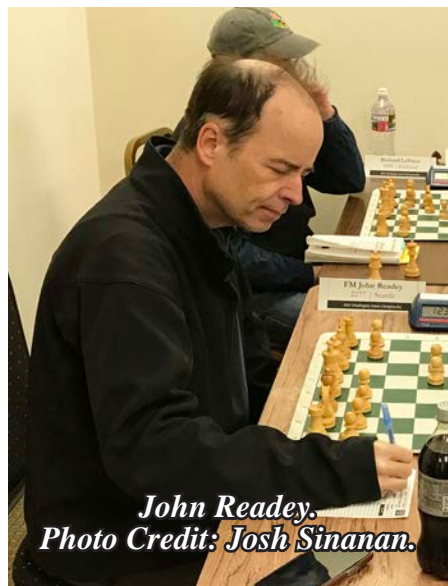
14.Re1 Qd7 15.Nf3 b5?! 16.Ne5 Qb7
17.h4



Position after 17.h4

Everyone is playing h4 these days, but here it's clearly the best way to get the rook into the action.

17...e6 18.h5 Be7 19.Rh3 Nde4 20.Qe2



John Readey.
Photo Credit: Josh Sinanan.

Final Standings. Washington Senior Championship

#	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total
1	John L Readey	2277	W6	W5	D2	W3	W8	4.5
2	William J Schill II	2277	W4	W3	D1	D5	D6	3.5
3	Fritz Scholz	2012	W8	L2	W6	L1	W4	3
4	Richard LaVoice	1889	L2	W8	W5	W7	L3	3
5	David M Levine	2201	W7	L1	L4	D2	H---	2
6	Paul Harwood	1867	L1	W7	L3	D8	D2	2
7	James Hamlett	1547	L5	L6	W8	L4	U---	1
8	Henry Louie	1300	L3	L4	L7	D6	L1	0.5

20...Bc5?!

Better is 20...Nc5 21.Be3.

21.Be3?!

Better looks: 21.Bxe4 Nxe4 22.f3 Nf6
23.h6 g6 24.Bg5 with significant pressure.

21...Bxe3 22.Qxe3 Qc7 23.Qf4 h6
24.Qh2 Nc5 25.Bb1 Ncd7 26.Nxd7
Nxd7 27.Rg3 0-0 28.Kg1 Kh8 29.Qh4
Rg8

29...Nf6 was better, but I was afraid of future exchange sacs against the knight.

30.Ree3 Nf8 31.Qd4 f5

I thought it would be useful to block out the bishop, but the pawn on e6 is unhappy now.

32.Re1 Qb7 33.Bd3

33.Rge3 Qc7 34.a4 bxa4 35.Qxa4 a5

33...Qc7

Couldn't think of a plan, so I thought to see if Dave was trying to win by attack or hold a draw. Fritz (the computer, not my round four opponent) thinks it's about equal.

34.a4

Given my out-of-play pieces, it's not easy to respond to this sudden attack on the queenside.

34...bxa4 35.Qxa4 a5 36.Rge3 Qc5 37.
Ra1 Ra8



Position after 37...Ra8

38.Ra3

38.b4 Qxc3 39.Bxf5 Qd4 40.Bh3 Rb8
41.Qxa5 (not 41.bxa5 Rb1+ 42.Kh2
Qxa1) 41...Rxb4 42.Rc1. Instead Dave
looks to guard the c3 pawn first, but...

38...g5

Thinking if hgx6ep, I could use the g-file for counterplay. For whatever that's worth it provoked a blunder on White's next move.

Dave was down to about five minutes here.

39.b4?? axb4 40.Qxa8 bxa3 41.Qe8
Qxc3 42.Re2 Qxd3

0-1

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Lakeside Team Shines at High School Nationals

Josh Sinanan, Lakeside Chess Coach

For many scholastic chess players, 2022 marked the return to in-person national events organized by US Chess. The National High School K-12 Championship held April 8-10, 2022 in Memphis, Tennessee, was first up on the docket, attracting a strong attendance of 1060 chess players in grades K-12. For me and the Lakeside team, it felt great to return to live in-person competition after two years of this event being hosted online. We (Lakeside) were fortunate to be able to send 12 players to the event, spanning grades 6-12: Arnab Bablani (Grade 6), Christopher Peng (Grade 7), Anjali Walsh (Grade 9), Stuart Bushfield (Grade 9), Daniel Wang (Grade 9), Sophie Szeto (Grade 10), Rishi Lakshminarayanan (Grade 10), Brandon Peng (Grade 10), Eric Zhang (Grade 10), Sophie Tien (Grade 11), Michael Nelson (Grade 12), and Aditya Singh (Grade 12).

The talented Lakeside team, a perennial top-ten finisher at Nationals in past years, was a bit more dispersed this year, with only two players in the ultra-competitive Championship section (Eric Z. and Sophie T.), two solid teams in the U1900 (Aditya S., Brandon P., Rishi L., Sophie S., and Michael N.) and U1600 (Daniel W., Christopher P., Stuart B., and Arnab B.) sections, as well as a free agent (Anjali W.) going solo in the U1200 division. During the Lakeside Master Sessions leading up to Nationals, players focused on solving challenging tactical puzzles, working through intricate positional and strategic exercises as a group, and of course playing countless blitz and bughouse games to sharpen their skills. The team had good momentum heading into Nationals with Lakeside having recently triumphed in the Metro League, which was held online this year.

Unlike in past years before Nationals, the team decided to skip the High School State Team Championship due to a conflict with the Spring Fling dance, Lakeside's first major dance since the pandemic shutdown all such activities in March of 2020.

When the dust settled after four days of non-stop chess, here were the results:

Bughouse:

Eric Zhang and Brandon Peng teamed up and scored a solid six points from ten games in the five-round double-Swiss event, tying for fifth place (seventh on tiebreaks).

The brother-sister team of Rishi + Kaavya Lakshminarayanan scored three points in the 22-team field and had a blast!

Blitz:

Five Lakesiders (Eric Z. – 7.5/12, Rishi L. – 7.5/12, Brandon P. – 7.0/12, Christopher P. – 6.0/12, and Arnab B. – 4.5/12) competed in the six-round double-Swiss tournament and took fifth place as a team with 26 points! Washington State's IM Anthony He won the Blitz Championship on tiebreaks with 11 points from 12 games!



The Lakeside Team at the awards ceremony of the 2022 High School Nationals. (L-R) Arnab Bablani, Christopher Peng, Rishi Lakshminarayanan, Sophie Tien, Brandon Peng, Aditya Singh, Stuart Bushfield, Daniel Wang, Sophie Szeto, Anjali Walsh, Coach Josh Sinanan.
Photo Credit: Vanessa Bablani.

K-12 U1200:

Anjali Walsh (4.0, 887 – 1001) won three, drew two, and lost two games and played some very entertaining games along the way!

K-12 U1600:

The four-player team of Daniel Wang (5.5, 1300 – 1476), Christopher Peng (5.0, 1039 – 1357), Stuart Bushfield (4.0, 1191 – 1220), and Arnav Bablani (1.0, 928 – 895) scored 15.5 points and finished in fourth place on tiebreaks!

K-12 U1900:

The powerful five-player team of Aditya Singh (5.0, 1585 – 1711), Brandon Peng (5.0, 1686 – 1714), Rishi Lakshminarayanan (5.0, 1427 – 1510), Sophie Szeto (4.0, 1506 – 1499), and Michael Nelson (4.0, 1235 – 1357) scored 19.0 points and finished in first place! Congratulations to the K-12 U1900 Championship Team! For our graduating seniors Michael N. and Aditya S., it was a great way to end their high school chess careers! We wish them the best as they both, coincidentally, head off to college at the University of Chicago next fall!

K-12 Championship:

Lakeside's two highest-rated players, NM Eric Zhang (5.5, 2204 – 2218) and Sophie Tien (4.0, 1884 – 1865) competed as a two-player army in the K-12 Championship section. We hope to build up our championship team again in future years and make a run at the title! For Eric it was a very strong tournament in which he played several brilliant games. He has generously shared them here with the *Northwest Chess* readers. Eric was just half-a-point shy of first place, which ended up in a seven-way tie this year. Washington's IM Anthony He, from Tesla STEM High School, was one of the co-champions with six points.

As always, I am humbled to coach such an incredible team of players. Many of our players developed their own unique style over the course of the pandemic and are now making adjustments and fine-tuning their game as we transition to OTB chess once again. There were many wild and entertaining games, with several clutch performances achieved by our players. Especially notable was Aditya's fantastic 5.0/6 undefeated

streak in the first six games, which set up the U1900 team in prime position to make a run at the championship heading into the final round. Brandon, Rishi, and Michael's clutch last-round wins plus Sophie's safe well-timed draw sealed the deal and earned a well-deserved championship victory for the Lakeside team. Congratulations team! Special thanks to all our players and parents for all their support and help making this incredible performance possible. We look forward to many more great experiences and continued success at High School Nationals in the years to come!

**Eric M Zhang (2204) –
Tim Shvarts (1800) [E16]**
National High School Championship
Memphis (R1), April 8, 2022

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 b6 4.g3 Bb7
5.Bg2 Bb4+ 6.Bd2 Bxd2+ 7.Qxd2 0-0
8.0-0 Ne4 9.Qc2 d5 10.Nc3 Nxc3 11.
Qxc3 Nd7 12.Rfd1 c6 13.a4 c5 14.dxc5
bxc5 15.cxd5 exd5 16.e3 Qe7 17.Nh4
Nf6 18.Rac1 Rac8 19.Nf5 Qd8



Position after 19...Qd8

20.Bxd5 Qc7 21.Bxb7 Qxb7 22.Nd6
Qa8 23.Nxc8 Rxc8 24.Qe5 Ne4 25.Qd5
Qxd5 26.Rxd5 f6 27.f3 Ng5 28.Kf2 Ne6
29.Rd7 a6 30.Rd6 Kf7 31.Rxa6 Rb8
32.Rc2 c4 33.Rc6

1-0

**Carlos De Leon (2000) –
Eric M Zhang (2204) [B80]**
National High School Championship
Memphis (R2), April 8, 2022

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6
5.Nc3 a6 6.f3 e6 7.Be3 b5 8.a3 Nbd7
9.Qd2 Bb7 10.g4 h6 11.h4 d5 12.exd5
Nxd5 13.Nxd5 Bxd5 14.Be2 Rc8
15.0-0-0 Qc7 16.Kb1 Nb6 17.g5 Nc4
18.Bxc4 Qxc4 19.b3 Qc3 20.Qxc3 Rxc3
21.Bd2 Rxf3 22.Nxf3 Bxf3 23.gxh6
Bxd1 24.Rxd1 gxh6 25.Kb2 Rg8 26.c4

bxc4 27.bxc4 Rg4 28.Kb3 Rg3+ 29.Kb2
Bxa3+ 30.Kc2 Bf8 31.Be1 Rg1 32.Rb1
Bd6 33.Rb6 Rxe1 34.Rxd6 a5 35.c5 Re5
36.c6 Rd5

0-1

**Eric M Zhang (2204) –
Sreekar Gangavarapu (1900) [E80]**
National High School Championship
Memphis (R3), April 9, 2022

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.f3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Nc3
Nbd7 6.Be3 c5 7.d5 a6 8.Qd2 h5 9.Nh3
Ne5 10.Ng5 h4 11.f4 Neg4 12.Bg1 Nh5
13.Be2 Qa5 14.Bxg4 Bxg4 15.Be3 b5
16.0-0 Bd7 17.e5 0-0 18.e6 fxe6 19.dxe6
Bxc3 20.bxc3 Bc6 21.f5 Qa4



Position after 21...Qa4

22.Nf7 Qxc4 23.Bh6 Rxf7 24.exf7+
Qxf7 25.Rae1 Re8 26.Qg5 Kh7



Position after 26...Kh7

27.Bf8 Nf6 28.Bxe7 Ne4 29.Qxh4+ Kg7
30.f6+ Kg8 31.Re3 g5 32.Qh6 Rxe7
33.fxe7 Qxe7 34.Rh3

1-0

**Arthur Guo (2400) –
Eric M Zhang (2204) [B84]**
National High School Championship
Memphis (R4), April 9, 2022

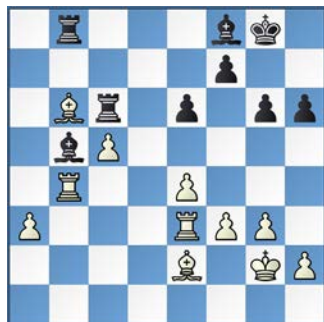
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6
5.Nc3 a6 6.Be2 e6 7.Be3 Be7 8.g4 Nc6
9.g5 Nd7 10.h4 Qc7 11.h5 b5 12.Nxc6

Qxc6 13.Qd4 Rg8 14.a4 Rb8 15.axb5
 axb5 16.Qb4 Ba6 17.Qa5 b4 18.Qxa6
 Qxa6 19.Rxa6 bxc3 20.b3 h6 21.g6 Nf6
 22.Bd3 Ng4 23.Ba7 Rb7 24.Bb6 fxc6
 25.hxg6 Bf6 26.Ra8+ Ke7 27.Rxg8 Rxb6
 28.Ke2 Ne5 29.Rg1 h5 30.f4 Nc6 31.Ra1
 Rb7 32.Raa8 h4 33.Raf8 Kd7 34.Rxf6
 gxf6 35.g7 Ne7 36.Rh8 d5 37.exd5 exd5
 38.g8Q Nxg8 39.Rxg8 Kd6

1-0

**Eric M Zhang (2204) –
 Arnab Gupta (2000) [E81]**
 National High School Championship
 Memphis (R5), April 9, 2022

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.f3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Nc3
 0-0 6.Be3 c5 7.dxc5 dxc5 8.Qxd8 Rxd8
 9.Bxc5 Nc6 10.Be3 b6 11.Rc1 Bb7 12.
 Nh3 Nd7 13.Be2 Nd4 14.b3 Nc5 15.Nf4
 e6 16.Kf2 Nc6 17.g3 h6 18.Kg2 Nb4
 19.a3 Nbd3 20.Nxd3 Nxd3 21.Rcd1 Nc5
 22.b4 Bxc3 23.bxc5 Rdc8 24.Rb1 Be6
 25.Rb3 Bg7 26.cxb6 axb6 27.Bxb6 Ba4
 28.Re3 Bf8 29.Rc1 Rc6 30.c5 Rb8 31.
 Rc4 Bb5 32.Rb4



Position after 32.Rb4

32...Bxe2 33.Rxe2 Ra8 34.Ra2 Bxc5
 35.Bxc5 Rxc5 36.a4 Rca5 37.Kf2
 Kg7 38.Ke3 Kf6 39.Kd3 h5 40.Kc3
 h4 41.Kb3 hxg3 42.hxg3 Rd8 43.Rb5
 Raa8 44.Kc4 Rd1 45.Rb6 Ke5 46.a5
 g5 47.Kb5 g4 48.fxc4 Ra7 49.a6 Rdd7

50.Ra4 Kf6 51.Rb8 Kg7 52.Kb6 Kh7
 53.Ra5 Rac7 54.Rb7 Rxb7+ 55.axb7
 Rxb7+ 56.Kxb7

1-0

**Nathaniel Shuman (2100) –
 Eric M Zhang (2204) [A45]**
 National High School Championship
 Memphis (R6), April 10, 2022

1.d4 Nf6 2.Bf4 c5 3.d5 b5 4.c4 Bb7
 5.Qc2 d6 6.e4 bxc4 7.Nf3 g6 8.Nfd2 Bg7
 9.Nc3 0-0 10.Nxc4 Nbd7 11.Be2 Ba6
 12.0-0 Bxc4 13.Bxc4 Rb8 14.Rfe1 Ng4
 15.Be2 Nge5 16.Bg3



Position after 16.Bg3

16...c4 17.f4 Nd3 18.Bxd3 cxd3 19.Qxd3
 Rxb2 20.e5 Qa5 21.Rac1 Nc5 22.Qf3



Position after 22.Qf3

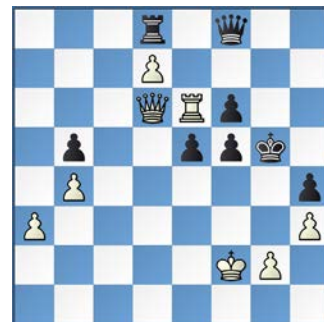
22...Rd2 23.Red1 Rxd1+ 24.Rxd1 Nd7

25.Bh4 Rc8 26.Ne4 dxe5 27.Bxe7 f5
 28.Ng5 e4 29.Qh3 Bd4+ 30.Kh1 h5
 31.Qb3 Rb8 32.Qc4 Qd2 33.d6+ Kh8
 34.Rf1 Rb2 35.Qc8+ Kg7 36.Bf6+ Nxf6
 37.Qc7+ Kh8 38.Nf7+ Kg8 39.Nh6+
 Kh8

1/2-1/2

**Eric M Zhang (2204) –
 James Oh (2100) [D38]**
 National High School Championship
 Memphis (R7), April 10, 2022

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 Bb4
 5.Bg5 h6 6.Bxf6 Qxf6 7.e3 0-0 8.Bd3
 dxc4 9.Bxc4 c5 10.0-0 cxd4 11.Nxd4
 Nc6 12.Ncb5 Nxd4 13.Nxd4 a6 14.Qa4
 Qe7 15.Rfd1 e5 16.Nf3 Bg4 17.Be2 b5
 18.Qb3 Be5 19.h3 Be6 20.Qc3 f6 21.
 Nh4 Rfc8 22.Bf3 Ra7 23.Bd5 Bxd5 24.
 Rxd5 Rac7 25.Qb3 Qf7 26.Rad1 Bf8
 27.Nf5 Re5 28.e4 Rxd5 29.exd5 Be5
 30.Qg3 Kf8 31.d6 Rd8 32.a3 h5 33.b4
 Bb6 34.Qf3 g6 35.Qc6 Bxf2+ 36.Kxf2
 gxf5 37.d7 Kg7 38.Rd6 h4 39.Qc7 Qf8
 40.Rxa6 Kg6 41.Re6 Kg5 42.Qd6



Position after 42.Qd6

42...Qf7 43.Re7 Qa2+ 44.Kg1 Qb1+
 45.Kh2 Qe1 46.Rg7+ Kf4 47.Qxf6 Qg3+
 48.Rxg3 hxg3+ 49.Kg1 Rxd7 50.Qh6+
 Ke4 51.Qc6+

1-0

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WASHINGTON STATE ELEMENTARY CHESS CHAMPIONSHIPS

2022

By WSECC Organizers

Tacoma, WA—April 30, 2022

The 2022 Washington State Elementary Chess Championships (WSECC) were held in person at the Greater Tacoma Convention Center on Saturday,

April 30. This year's event marked the first time since 2019 that the WSECC, the largest annual chess tournament in the Pacific Northwest, was conducted over-the-board after two years of being held online, first on [ChessKid.com](https://www.chesskid.com) in 2020, and then on [chess.com](https://www.chess.com) in 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Based on

the latest guidelines for large gatherings from the CDC and state and local health departments, face masks were required for everyone in attendance and proof of vaccination (or a negative PCR test) for everyone age 12 and up was required to enter the convention center. Despite the challenging circumstances, 776 players competed in the five-round Swiss tournament across 12 sections separated by grade-level and rating: Kindergarten, First Grade, Second Grade, Third Grade, Fourth Grade, Fifth Grade, Sixth Grade, Middle School U1100, Middle School U1500, Middle School Open (two-day), I Love Chess Too 9-12, and I Love Chess Too Adult.

Hosting an event of this magnitude presented many logistical challenges and ran incredibly smoothly thanks to the tremendous efforts of the WSECC Organizing Committee, Tacoma Convention Center Staff, and numerous volunteers! We would especially like to thank Chief Organizer Jacob Mayer, Pairings Chiefs Ben Radin and Todd May, Chief Tournament Director Randy Kaech, Kindergarten Section Chief Lane Van Weerdhuizen, Kindergarten Section Assistant Chief Siva Sankrithi, Help Desk

Vancouver Open

July 23 - 24, 2022

A Northwest Chess Grand Prix Event

Site: Hampton Inn & Suites, 315 SE Olympia Drive, Vancouver, WA 98684. (360) 891-3000.

HR: \$169 Standard King/Double Queen Room. Cut-off date July 8. Book a room [here](https://www.hamptoninn.com).

Format: A 5-round US Chess Rated Swiss in two sections: Open and Reserve U1700. Maximum of 70 players, please register early.

Time Control: Rd. 1: G/60; d10, Rds. 2-5: 40/120, SD/30; d10.

Prize Fund: \$2,500 (based on 60 paid entries).

Open: 1st \$400, 2nd \$300, 3rd \$225

1st U2200/U2000: \$125

Reserve: 1st \$300, 2nd \$200, 3rd \$150

1st U1600/U1400/U1200: \$125, 1st Unrated: \$100

Special Prizes (per section): Biggest Upset: \$50, Best Female Player (by TPR): \$50

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

Entry Fee: \$75 if postmarked or online by 7/16, \$85 after 7/16 or at site. \$35 play-up fee. Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs.

Registration: Saturday 9:00 - 9:30 AM.

Rounds: Saturday 10:00 AM, 12:30 PM, 6:00 PM
Sunday 10:00 AM, 3:30 PM.

Rating: US Chess Rated. US Chess July 2022 rating supplement will be used to determine pairings and prizes. Foreign ratings used for players with no US Chess rating. Higher of US Chess or foreign ratings used at TD discretion.

Memberships: US Chess and WCF/OCF/ICA membership are required, other states accepted.

Procedure and Health/Safety Policy: Pairings will be posted before each round in the hallway near the play area. All players are required to sign the [WCF Health/Safety Protocols & Waiver of Liability](https://www.uschess.org/health-safety-protocols-waiver-of-liability) form prior to the start of the event.



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

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Redmond, WA 98052

Contact: Josh Sinanan, WCF President

Phone: 206-769-3757

Email:
WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com

Registration: Online at
nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration.

Supervisor Donna May, and Chief Section TDs Norm May, Alec Beck, Derek Zhang, Kyle Haining, Tim Campbell, Brad Stensland, Rushaan Mahajan, Stone Kaech, and Chouchanik Airapetian. Chess Enrichment Association (CEA) board members Josh Sinanan, Edith Lau, and James Stripes provided additional support along with a plethora of parent volunteers including Siddharth Agrawal, Kristina Yumul-Abueg, Rajiv Aggarwal, Megha Sharma, Walter Guity, Katherine Kim, Neeti Jain, Alicia Li, Neema Chawla. High School volunteers Melina Li, Jai Obulisamy, Angela Agaian, Josiah Tiblow, Sophie Szeto were amazing, as were volunteers Duane Polich, Larry Greenawalt, Deanna Kaech, and Heather May. Two courageous ladies, Detective Denise “Cookie” Bouldin and Karen Schmidt, were in charge of securing the door to the playing hall, which only players and designated personnel were permitted to enter after the start of each round. Meiling Cheng was our official photographer once again and took many phenomenal photos (500+) over the course of the day.

Our wonderful chess vendors—John Dill from Spokane and Megan Lee from Bellevue—greatly enhanced the prestige of the event. John offered high-quality chess equipment and even brought with him medallions from last year’s online State Championship hosted by Inland Chess Academy for kids who didn’t receive one yet to pick up. Megan Lee, a two-time Washington State Chess Champion (2020, 2022) and Women’s International Master, was onsite selling t-shirts and other customized chess-themed apparel! Our other favorite vendor, Embroiderrific, unfortunately was unable to make it this year due to a last-minute emergency. Last but not least, IM Georgi Orlov was present at the Chess Mates Foundation booth analyzing games, playing blitz chess, and setting up tricky puzzles for kids to solve.

The pace of play was fast and furious amongst the younger players in the Kindergarten Section, but more deliberate and measured amongst the older sections. In fact, the entire Kindergarten tournament wrapped up just before 1:00 PM, when the rest of the older players were just about to start their third round! With many players experiencing their first OTB chess tournament ever, or at least in a few years, there were a few amusing and surprising things that happened:



*The towering 5.0 trophies were awarded to all State Champions and co-Champions in each grade level.
Photo Credit: Meiling Cheng.*

In the Kindergarten Section, one boy was playing “Teleportation Chess,” jumping his king all the way to the back rank and capturing the opponent’s pieces in one go! Needless to say, his opponents were not too thrilled about this new rule, and reported it to the judges Lane and Siva, who were able to resolve the situation!

In the Fourth Grade Section, a boy who was playing in his first-ever chess tournament reported to a judge that he had just won his chess game and he didn’t even know it! Apparently, the boy’s opponent noticed the checkmate and claimed it for him, or else the game may have continued illegally!

When the dust settled after eight hours of play, a brief awards ceremony was held around 5:30 PM to honor the top-scoring players and teams. Those with a plus score were able to pick up their point-award trophies immediately following the final round.

Congratulations to the following Washington State Elementary Champions:

Kindergarten: **Daniel D Yun** (5.0, 1183–1201)

First Grade: **Edgar Li** (5.0, 1090–1214) & **Kunal Jayadevan** (5.0, 1014–1148)

Second Grade: **Ted Wang** (5.0, 1875–1895) & **Michael Lin** (5.0, 1670–1691)

Third Grade: **Vidip Kona** (5.0, 1932–1945), **Vincent Liu** (5.0, 1470–1510) & **Bei Shih** (5.0, 1370–1453)

Fourth Grade: **Vihaan Jammalamadaka** (5.0, 1846–1866) & **Samuel Cha** (5.0, 1610–1648)

Fifth Grade: **Keshav Beegala** (5.0, 1615–1678) & **Shuyi Han** (5.0, 1413–1641)

Sixth Grade: **Stephen Willy** (5.0, 1892–1921) & **William Summerfield** (5.0, 1593–1682)

Middle School U1100: **Siddharth Yenamandra** (5.0, 984–1263)

Middle School U1500: **Karan Khanolkar** (5.0, 1406–1532)

Middle School Open: **Owen Xuan** (4.5, 1905–1932)

I Love Chess Too 9-12: **Shiv Mehrotra** (5.0, 1698–1739)

I Love Chess Too Adult: **Dmitry Zusman** (5.0, 1300–1520)

In addition to the individual trophies, plaques were awarded to the top 15 scoring teams in both the merged first—third and fourth—sixth grade level sections. Team score consisted of the top four scores from players attending the same school.

Congratulations to the chess gladiators who competed at State and many thanks to all who contributed to this fantastic event!

First—Third Grade Merged Team Standings:

Place	School Team	Score
1	Bellevue Children's Acad.-Bellevue-WA	16.5
	Lin, Michael 5.0	
	Zhou, Yuchen 4.5	
	Wong, Kate 4.0	
	Black, Stas 3.0	
2	Medina ES-Bellevue-WA	16
	Wang, Ted 5.0	
	Wang, Derek 4.0	
	Tran, Alexander 4.0	
	Zhang, Michael M 3.0	
3	Somerset ES-Bellevue-WA	14.5
	Xu, Owen 4.0	
	Vijay, Adith 4.0	
	Chen, Xinyan 3.5	
	Rao, Atharv 3.0	
4	Seattle Country Day-Seattle-WA	14.5
	Jayadevan, Kunal 5.0	
	Kim, Dylan 3.5	
	Desai, Rian 3.0	
	Wu, Dennis 3.0	
5	Rosa Parks ES-Redmond-WA	14.5
	Kona, Vidip 5.0	
	Nidamarthi, Nikhil 3.5	
	Anand, Lakshana 3.0	
	Dasigi, Abhinav 3.0	
6	Open Window School-Bellevue-WA	14
	Li, Edgar 5.0	
	Lan, Jonathan 4.0	
	Kannapiran, Arnav 3.0	
	Shrivastava, Kiran 2.0	
7	Evergreen School-Shoreline-WA	13
	Larsen, Matthew 4.0	
	Qin, Jayden 3.5	
	Wu, Aiden 3.0	
	Choi, Paige 2.5	
8	University Child Development-Sea.-WA	13
	Shih, Bei 5.0	
	Tan, Nathan 4.0	
	Chang, Caden 4.0	
9	Chestnut Hill Academy ES-Bellevue-WA	12
	Xiang, Lucas 4.0	
	Xu, Zoe 3.0	
	Xie, Leon 3.0	
	Li, Chuling 2.0	
10	Einstein ES-Redmond-WA	11
	Gadde, Arnav 4.0	
	Shah, Rajas 4.0	
	Shaikot, Sabeer 2.0	
	Karthikeyan, Arjun 1.0	
11	Ben Rush ES-Redmond-WA	11
	Avula, Guru Harshith 4.0	
	Kampati, Shriyans 3.0	
	Singh, Vedant 2.0	
	Sang, Enya 2.0	
12	Cedar Crest Academy-WA	11
	Zhang, Zhibo 3.0	
	Ge, Alex 3.0	
	Desai, Sharanam 3.0	
	Ma, Horace 2.0	
13	Canyon Creek ES-Bothell-WA	10
	Xu, Yang 3.0	
	Bondalakunta, Krishna 3.0	
	Boddapati, Mahas 2.0	
	Oruganti, Arjun 2.0	
14	Cherry Crest School-Bellevue-WA	9.5
	Dai, Alex 3.0	
	Belur, Ayush 3.0	
	Cheng, Alan 2.0	
	Annapureddy, Rohan Reddy 1.5	
15	Ella Baker ES-Redmond-WA	9.5
	Shankaranand, Deeksha 4.0	
	Mishra, Aakash 3.0	
	Ouyang, Andrew 2.5	

Fourth—Sixth Grade Merged Team Standings:

Place	School Team	Score
1	Medina ES-Bellevue-WA	16
	Urali, Sanjay 4.0	
	Zhang, Aaron 4.0	
	Huang, Emily 4.0	
	Zhang, Michelle 4.0	
2	Redmond ES-Redmond-WA	16
	Beegala, Keshav 5.0	
	Borate, Neel 4.5	
	Khandelwal, Ayush 3.5	
	Vannali, Varshith 3.0	
3	Somerset ES-Bellevue-WA	14.5
	Han, Shuyi 5.0	
	Liu, Lucas 4.0	
	Xu, Austin 3.0	
	Senthil, Dharmik 2.5	
4	Samantha Smith ES-Sammamish-WA	14
	Zhu, Jamie 4.0	
	Seela, Shashank 3.5	
	Raghavendra, Srihari 3.5	
	Wang, Eddy 3.0	
5	Open Window School-Bellevue-WA	14
	Metzmaker, Suyu 4.0	
	Song, Kevin 3.5	
	Lee, Elliot 3.5	
	Chung, Connor 3.0	
6	Redmond MS MS-Redmond-WA	14
	Nallappa, Vijay 4.0	
	Karthikeyan, Harishkumar 4.0	
	Krishnan, Advait 4.0	
	Palod, Menang 2.0	
7	Bellevue Children's Acad.-Bellevue-WA	13.5
	Jammalamadaka, Vihaan 5.0	
	Li, Yiyang 3.5	
	Chien, Jeffrey 3.0	
	Sareen, Shiv 2.0	
8	Ben Rush Elementary School ES-Redmond-WA	13
	Li, Jake C 4.0	
	Jain, Samik 3.0	
	Avula, Varshith Reddy 3.0	
	Inampudi, Tanvisree 3.0	
9	Blackwell ES-Sammamish-WA	12.5
	Chen, William 4.0	
	Wahi, Advait 3.0	
	Lekkala, Vihaan 3.0	
	Gupta, Shivam 2.5	
10	Ella Baker ES-Redmond-WA	12.5
	Nallabothula, Vineesh 4.0	
	Kocherlakota, Vihaan 3.5	
	Budhraya, Jai 3.0	
	Parthasarathy, Adithya 2.0	
11	St. Thomas ES-Medina-WA	12.5
	Cha, Samuel 5.0	
	Liu, Yuntao 4.5	
	Zhang, Ethan 3.0	
12	Evergreen MS-Redmond-WA	12
	Shah, Paras 4.0	
	Kale, Atharv 3.0	
	Narayan, Bhargav 3.0	
	Rama, Savitur 2.0	
13	Grand Ridge ES-Issaquah-WA	12
	Fudge, Alice 4.0	
	Tandon, Prajwal 3.0	
	Kedarisetty, Ishan 3.0	
	Kedarisetty, Shreyas 2.0	
14	Fernwood ES-Bothell-WA	11.5
	Nair, Ishan 3.5	
	Gulati, Naamya 3.5	
	Zhao, Zhenyu 3.0	
	Srivastava, Manya 1.5	
15	Canyon Creek ES-Bothell-WA	11.5
	Swaminath, Ankita 3.0	
	Sankar, Sneha 3.0	
	Raja, Rian 3.0	
	Chintalapudi, Srihaan 2.5	

Congratulations to the top scoring teams!

Seattle Chess Club Tournaments

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

SCC Fridays

One 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!

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.

June 4

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

June 5

Format: 5-RR in 6- or 5-player sections. **TC:** G/20;+8. **EF:** \$12 (+\$6 fee for non-SCC). **Prize Fund:** \$54 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

June 11

Format: 4-SS. Open to U1200 and UNR. **TC:** G/75; d5. **EF:** \$15 by 6/6, \$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

June 19

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, number cruncher

As I warned last month, there is little change in the standings. Just four events added since we last met, and three of those were under ten players each. The only one in double figures was the Inland Empire Open in Spokane with a total of 18 players.

May had a bit more activity and should have provided plenty of changes to the standings. Specifically, this would be because of the Washington Open, held Memorial Day weekend in Redmond. With a 5x multiplier and (probably) well over 100 entrants, it will have the biggest impact of the year. Also in May were four opportunities at the Chandra Alexis Chess Club in Boise and the Quads and Tornado at the Seattle Chess Club. All of that is in the past or soon to be so (depending on the time this issue reaches your hands), and what I really need to pump are the upcoming events in June.

Known to me here in early May are the Emerald City Open at the Seattle Chess Club on June 25-26. There are also four potential events in Boise, one each weekend, should enough players sign up. Beyond that, it is kind of a mystery. Or was, until a bit past my deadline. I guess this qualifies as "Breaking News!"

On June 4, there will be Quads at the Seattle Chess Club. On the weekend of June 18-19 you have the choice of the Rusty Miller Memorial Tournament, which is being held online at chess.com, or the SCC Tornado, which is on the 19th only. The Miller event has a twist, in that there are six rounds in the Open section, for a maximum point potential of eight, while the lower section will have twelve rounds at G/30 (the fastest time control allowed for a Grand Prix event). That gives the lower-rated players a potential of as many as 14 Grand Prix points. Ads for all these events can be found elsewhere in this magazine. (Remember, to get the completion bonus, there cannot be any Fs or Us on your schedule. You have to play all your games or pre-arrange for half-point byes.)

Looking forward a bit more, the Vancouver Open will be played at the Hampton Inn on July 23-24. This event will have a 3x multiplier. The rest of July will be discussed in my next column, I hope.

I will mention again that I am retiring from the Grand Prix at the end of this campaign, my 20th year. I do not know whether the program will continue, due to the lack of participation of the OCF or ICA, but if it does, we will need some new number cruncher to fill the gap.

Data below are current through April 30.

Northwest Chess

Washington			Idaho			Other Places						
last	first	pts.	last	first	pts	last	first	state	pts.			
Masters			Masters			Masters						
1	Pupols	Viktors	40.0			1	Donaldson	W. John	CA	21.0		
2	Levine	Joseph	14.0									
Experts			Experts			Experts						
1	Liu	Austin	22.0	1	Cambareri	Michael E	23.0					
2	Jiang	Brandon	20.0	2	Parsons	Larry R	5.5					
3	Arganian	David G	18.0									
4	Leslie	Cameron	15.0									
5	Moroney	Timothy M	6.0									
Class A			Class A			Class A						
1	Tessiore	Luca G	35.0	1	Kircher	Caleb	25.5	1	Merwin	Steven E	NV	18.0
2	Wang	Ted	34.5	2	Bodie	Brad R	6.0	2	Nazriev	Rasul	MT	15.0
3	Min	Ryan	31.0					3	Carpenter	Romie G	MT	6.0
4	Reutter	Karl	26.5					4	Aiello	Roberto	OR	5.0
5	Two Tied At		25.0									
Class B			Class B			Class B						
1	Chowdhery	Evan M	28.5	1	Herr	Griffin G	16.5	1	Rankin	Andrew J	MT	16.5
2	Corey-Derrah	Alan	25.0	1	McKenzie	Niall	16.5	2	Skovron	James J	MT	15.0
3	Willy	Stephen	21.0	3	Barrett	Evan	11.5	3	Walthall	Thomas K	MT	12.0
4	Burnett	Jeremy C	17.0	4	Presutti	Michael J	0.0	3	McCourt	Daniel	MT	12.0
4	Yan	Henry	17.0					5	Liu	Zachary H	CAN	11.0
Class C			Class C			Class C						
1	Zhang	Michelle	33.5	1	Lundy	George	35.5	1	Driscoll	Jesse	MT	15.0
2	Baker	Ted	18.0	2	Minichiello	Anthony J	16.5	2	Wagner	Eric	MT	13.5
3	Khalil	Tayseer T	15.0	3	Longhurst	Corey K	10.5	3	Moore	Sherwood	MT	12.0
3	Varner	Murlin	15.0					4	Semancik	Zackary T	MT	4.5
3	Wohl	Jeremy D	15.0					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	Widdifield	Tristen A	11.5	1	Burton	Mathias	MI	12.0
2	Han	Shuyi	27.0	2	Blue-Day	Alexander P	11.0	1	Finlay	John	MT	12.0
3	Sankar	Abhay	25.0	3	Roberts	Liam	11.0	1	Williams	Jack H	MT	12.0
4	McDevitt	Owen	22.5	4	Zhou	Angela	6.0	4	Downey	Brent	MT	9.0
5	Zhang	Michael	21.5	5	Two Tied At		5.5	4	Stredwick	James K	OR	9.0
Overall standings												
1	Pupols	Viktors	40.0	1	Lundy	George	35.5	1	Donaldson	W. John	CA	21.0
2	Tessiore	Luca G	35.0	2	Kircher	Caleb	25.5	2	Merwin	Steven E	NV	18.0
3	Wang	Ted	34.5	3	Cambareri	Michael E	23.0	3	Rankin	Andrew J	MT	16.5
4	Zhang	Michelle	33.5	4	Herr	Griffin G	16.5	4	Driscoll	Jesse	MT	15.0
5	Min	Ryan	31.0	4	McKenzie	Niall	16.5	4	Nazriev	Rasul	MT	15.0
6	Vijeyanandh	Vishnu	30.0	4	Minichiello	Anthony J	16.5	4	Skovron	James J	MT	15.0
7	Chowdhery	Evan M	28.5	7	Barrett	Evan	11.5	7	Wagner	Eric	MT	13.5
8	Han	Shuyi	27.0	7	Widdifield	Tristen A	11.5	8	Burton	Mathias	MT	12.0
9	Reutter	Karl	26.5	9	Blue-Day	Alexander P	11.0	8	Finlay	John	MT	12.0
10	Corey-Derrah	Alan	25.0	9	Roberts	Liam	11.0	8	McCourt	Daniel	MT	12.0
10	Lee	Brian	25.0	11	Longhurst	Corey K	10.5	8	Moore	Sherwood	MT	12.0
10	Rowles	David	25.0	12	Bodie	Brad R	6.0	8	Walthall	Thomas K	MT	12.0
10	Sankar	Abhay	25.0	12	Zhou	Angela	6.0	8	Williams	Jack H	MI	12.0
14	McDevitt	Owen	22.5	14	Forster	Manfred	5.5	14	Liu	Zachary H	CAN	11.0
15	Liu	Austin	22.0	14	Marino	Joshua	5.5	15	Leong	Aiden	CAN	10.0
				14	Parsons	Larry R	5.5					

June 2022

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