



# Washington *versus* British Columbia



## Northwest Chess

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### NWC Staff

Editor: Jeffrey Roland, [jeffreyroland9@gmail.com](mailto:jeffreyroland9@gmail.com)  
Games Editor: Ralph Dubisch, [chesscoaching@gmail.com](mailto:chesscoaching@gmail.com)  
Publisher: Duane Polich, [publisher@nwchess.com](mailto:publisher@nwchess.com)  
Business Manager: [businessmanager@nwchess.com](mailto:businessmanager@nwchess.com)

### Board Representatives

Aniruddha Barua, Alex Machin, Duane Polich, Ralph Dubisch,  
Jeffrey Roland, Josh Sinanan, Wilson Gibbins, Eric Holcomb.

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### On the front cover:

Team Washington (top): Top Row (L-R) Josh Sinanan,  
Austin Liu, David Paez, Hayk Margaryan. Front Row: Ted  
Wang, Nikhil Ramkumar, Mike Tie, Kate Wong, Michael  
Xiong, Yiding Lu. Photo credit: Haiyong Wang.

Team British Columbia (bottom): Back Row: Ashton  
Taylor, Joe Roback, Ivan Petrov, Matthew He, James Kerry,  
Neil Doknjas, Paul Leblanc (organizer). Front Row: Henry  
Yang, Ryan Yang, Zachary Liu, Ethan Song, Joyce Zhang,  
Gillian Mok. Photo credit: Victoria Doknjas.

### On the back cover:

Team WA Captain Josh Sinanan just before the start of  
his round four against NM Neil Doknjas.

Photo Credit: Haiyong Wang.

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**1514 S. Longmont Ave.**

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## Answers to the puzzles (from page 19) in last month's issue.

Sample solutions to problems (provided by coach Valentin Razmov:  
[https://www.chess.com/member/coach\\_valentin](https://www.chess.com/member/coach_valentin))

**Puzzle #1:** Q: White to move and mate in 1. A: 1.Qa3#

**Puzzle #2:** White to move and mate in 2. A: 1.Rd8, to be followed by 2.Qg7#

**Puzzle #3:** Q: Black to move and win. A: 1...Ng4! (followed by 2...hxg4# or 2...Nf2#)

**Puzzle #4:** Q: Black to move and mate in 3. A: 1...Rb6+ 2.Ka7 Ra8+!! 3.Kxa8 Ra6#

**Puzzle #5:** Q: Black to move and win material. A: 1...Bxf3 2.Bxf3 (2.Bxf6 Nxf6) 2...Ne5 3.Qe2 Nxf3+ 4.Qxf3 Bxb2 wins a piece

**Puzzle #6:** Q: Black to move and win. A: 1...Nc4+! 2.Bxc4 Qa3+ 3.Kb1 Ra8!, with checkmate to follow soon.

**Puzzle #7:** Q: What move and idea offers Black best chances to avoid a loss? Explain briefly. A: 1...Be5! 2.Qxe5 (or 2.Bc5 Bxf4+ 3.Rxf4 g5 4.d8=Q gxf4 5.Qe7+) 2...Qxf2+, leading to perpetual check in all cases.

**Puzzle #8:** Q: What is White's best chance here? A: 1.Rf6+!! Kxf6 2.Rd6#

**Puzzle #9:** Q: What move and idea gives White best chances in the coming middlegame? Explain. A: 1.e4 - White needs to gain better control over the center and on the light squares before Black asserts dominance there. Otherwise, e.g., 1.h3 Nc5 or 1.Rd1 Qe7 2.e4 Nc5, etc.

**Puzzle #10:** Q: Black to play and win. A: 1...b3! 2.Nf6 Ba3! 3.Ne4 Bxb2 4.Nd2 Bxd4 5.Nxb3 Bxf2, and Black has gained two extra pawns in the endgame.

**Puzzle #11:** Q: White to move and win. A: 1.Qb6! — unpinning White's dark-squared bishop, while threatening Black's Rc7 and also threatening a Bg3 fork to win material.

**Puzzle #12:** Q: Which move and idea gives Black best chances? Explain briefly. A: 1...Bd3 (threatening White's back rank, while preparing to trap White's Rg7 via Bd3-Bg6) 2.h4 Bg6 3.Rxg6 hxg6, and

the endgame is roughly equal. An alternative idea is 1...h6 (attempting to trap White's rook via Bc4-Be6), with a sample line (best according to engines) 2.h3 Be6 3.Rc7 Qxc7 4.Qxc7 Kxg7, and Black may be able to hold the endgame, but it'll take considerably more effort and time than in the case after 1...Bd3. This second idea, if properly explained, earns 0.5 points — it is good, though clearly not "best", as the question asks.

**Puzzle #13:** Q: Black to move. Which side is better? What is Black's best move? Explain briefly. A: Black is better, with active pieces and no weaknesses, despite temporary some spacial disadvantage. For example, 1...a5! (disrupting White's queen-side pawn chains, and preparing to unleash the rooks on the future open c-file) 2.cxb6 (or 2.bxa5 bxc5) 2...Nxb6 3.bxa5 Nc4 4.Nxc4 Rxc4, etc.

**Puzzle #14:** Q: Which move and idea gives White best chances to play for a win? Explain briefly. A: Black's queen is trapped, e.g., 1.Rhg1 h6 (or 1...Qxf3 2.Rde1!, with Re1-Re3 coming next) 2.Rg3 Bxc3 3.bxc3 Qxg3 4.hxg3 hxg5 5.Qxg5, and White has won material (Q+P for Black's R+N).

**Puzzle #15:** Q: Which of the following 3 move options gives White best chances — 1.f6, 1.Ra7, or 1.Rb8+? Explain briefly. A: 1.Ra7 puts Black in zugzwang, and after 1...Rh2 (other moves are worse) 2.f6+ wins, since Black no longer has sufficient checking distance with their rook. Note that 1.Rb8+ and other rook moves along the 7th rank preserve White's winning chances, but to actually lead to a win White must return to the above winning plan, potentially after some repeated moves. Hence 1.Rb8+ is a technically incorrect answer to the question, yet if the provided answer contains an explanation of the zugzwang idea attainable through bringing the White rook to a7, the participant will receive 0.5 points.

**Puzzle #16:** Q: How can Black successfully defend in this endgame? Explain briefly. A: Black can build an unlikely fortress. 1...e4! clears the path of the bishop and frees up the e5-square for Black's knight — a key square from where that knight will guard key pathways toward Black's king. White cannot make progress (their king cannot approach) once Black's knight lands on e5.



*Fred Bartell at the 2013 Idaho Closed in Twin Falls. Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.*

## Fred Bartell

### July 27, 1930 - April 24, 2023

Fred was an awesome teacher, tough competitor, and ferocious smack-talker. He excelled at a game where he could use combinations that stunned his prey, but was always willing to teach the new player his tricks and treats. My children grew up and developed at the Magic Valley Chess Club, Barnes & Noble, in Twin Falls. He was 92 years old. We will miss him.—Adam Porth.



# Fred Bartell Memorial

David Zaklan

## Letter To Editor

July 2, 2023

Hello Jeff,

Upon the suggestion of Barry Eacker, I am sending the enclosed regarding the recent Fred Bartell Memorial Chess Tournament.

I read the eulogy between rounds, when with Fred's son and lady friends, we recalled great moments of our life together.

The tournament was visited by chess royalty, as both recent co-victors of the Idaho Senior Championship, John Glenn and Christopher Pentico, competed.

As a long-time friend of Fred, I was as happy as can be to win.

Your friend,

Dave Zaklan

## Fred Bartell

When I moved back to Twin Falls ten years ago, I met Fred at the local club, and we started playing two to five times a week. At first our games were five-minute games, as the years rolled by, we were finally using a 20-minute time control. In my many years of playing chess, I've played more games with Fred than any other opponent.

The thing I liked the most about these games was how Fred—at least every other game—would say, “Dave you are the greatest player I've come up against in my entire life.”

Fred was truly one of the greatest players I've ever come up against, the constant challenge and a similar lust for the game led to a lot of great chess, a game we both loved.

Fred was a retired technical editor and plied his editorial skills on articles I

wrote for *Northwest Chess* magazine. He always managed to clarify my befuddled scratching.

As he and I played chess for hours on my patio, he would always help my wife with her fresh fruit pie, cookie, and sweet bread surplus. All the while his little gray dog, Chewy, lay at our feet. Whoever won claimed him as mascot and loser cursed him as traitor.

In between games one day, I told him that I had been long waiting youth to come back. He cast a pained look in my direction and said, “Once it's gone it's gone, and it does not come back.”

Goodbye my friend.



*David Zaklan in 2015.  
Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.*

## Fred Bartell Memorial - Twin Falls, Idaho, July 1, 2023

#	Place	Name	ID	Rating	Rd1	Rd2	Rd3	Rd4	Total	T-Solk	T-Buch	T-Op C	T-Med
1	1	David Allen Zaklan	12683798	1277	W11	W5	D7	W2	3.5	8.5	4.5	24	7.5
2	2-3	Darren Su	16623630	1360	W12	W3	W4	L1	3	10	5.5	25.5	9
3		Caleb Kiel Willmore	31323804	unr.	W9	L2	W8	W7	3	9	4	24.5	7
4	4-6	Christopher Pentico	12513987	1377	W13	W8	L2	D5	2.5	8.5	4.5	21.5	7.5
5		John Glenn	12512837	1600	W14	L1	W11	D4	2.5	7	3.5	19.5	7
6		Barry D Eacker	12537076	1679	H---	L7	W14	W9	2.5	4	4	10.5	4
7	7-10	Peter Boyce Clark	12620510	1256	H---	W6	D1	L3	2	9	5.5	20.5	5
8		Layne Keith James Pickering	31091161	698p	W10	L4	L3	W11	2	8.5	4.5	21.5	4.5
9		Orion Lee Peterson	30832056	793p	L3	W12	W10	L6	2	8.5	4.5	17.5	4.5
10		Rylan Moses	31323013	unr.	L8	W13	L9	W12	2	6	3	13	3
11	11-13	Rachel Su	16985603	105p	L1	W14	L5	L8	1	8	4.5	20.5	4.5
12		Jax Campbell	30941700	316p	L2	L9	W13	L10	1	8	4	19	5
13		Lydia Isobel Clark	16318051	399	L4	L10	L12	W14	1	5.5	3	13.5	3
14	14	Lucy Elizabeth Clark	16318072	465	L5	L11	L6	L13	0	7	3.5	15	4.5

Sponsoring Affiliate: Robert Stuart Competitive Chess. Tournament Director: Peter Clark.

# First SCC Invitational Tournament of 2022 Champions

Fred Kleist and John Selsky

The Seattle Chess Club conducts a tournament each month on Friday nights. It's generally a four-round Swiss, and each month's tournament has a name that goes back at least 15 years, such as January Thaw and November Rains. The winner of each monthly tournament is proclaimed and awarded the "President's Prize" — a finely crafted, locally produced Theo dark chocolate bar. This past Spring the SCC Board decided to invite the winners and co-winners of the 12 monthly tournaments in 2022 for a special tournament of Friday night champions.

Invitations went out to the 14 eligible players, and 11 accepted the challenge: Henry Adams (February and September), Chad Boey (June), Ishan Joshi (March), Jeff Keurian (January), Devin McPoland (March), Erin Mazurek (June), John Selsky (September), Nikhil Shankar (October), Jackson Subcleff (July), Michael Tang (August), Matthew van Eerde (April and November); Emerson Wong-Godfrey (May), Kaung Zaw (June) and Michelle Zhang (September) declined. [Note: There was no winner declared in December.]

The rounds were held on alternate Fridays between March 31 and May 12, and were played concurrently with the regular Friday night game. The time control was the standard Friday controls — 40 moves in 90 minutes, then 30/60 and continuing. A \$50 prize for the winner was offered by the SCC Board.

Chad Boey, eight-year club member and former Board member, won the tournament handily with four wins in the four-round event. Jackson Subcleff came in second with 3.0.

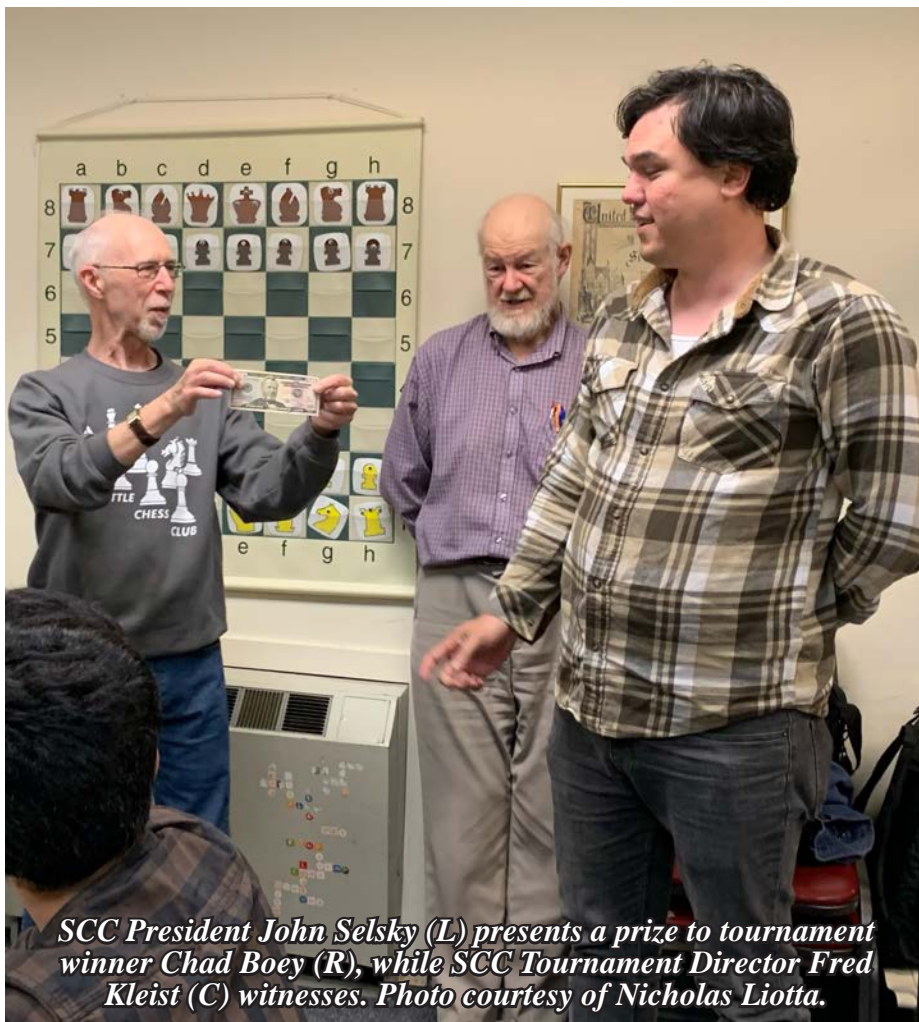
The SCC Board hopes to make the Friday night Tournament of Champions an annual event.

Below, Chad Boey annotates his final win against Matt van Eerde.

**Chad Boey (1587) –  
Matt van Eerde (1732)**  
SCC Tournament of 2022 Champions  
(R4), May 12, 2023  
[Chad Boey]

"Keeping the Faith"

This was the fourth and final round of a Swiss. I had a one-point lead over three other players; so, if I drew this game, I would win the tournament. A loss would mean going to tiebreaks. I briefly considered trying to force a draw as quickly as possible, but I was advised



*SCC President John Selsky (L) presents a prize to tournament winner Chad Boey (R), while SCC Tournament Director Fred Kleist (C) witnesses. Photo courtesy of Nicholas Liotta.*

by better players that playing for a draw would not suit me and my game could fall flat and collapse. So I had to treat this like any other game where I play for a win.

“To play for a draw, at any rate with White, is to some degree a crime against chess.”— Mikhail Tal

### 1.e4 c5

Here I had to think for a few minutes and choose which way to go. My first thought was 2.Nf3 for flexibility and wait for black to show his hand. My recent adventures in the closed Sicilian have been mediocre and unsatisfying. I opted for a combative path and the one I'm most familiar with: the Matulovic gambit.

### 2.d4 cxd4 3.c3 dxc3

The challenge is accepted. Black has an extra pawn and White's pieces are free flowing.

### 4.Nxc3 e6 5.Nf3 a6 6.Bc4 Ne7

An unusual move order, but the ideas are familiar.

### 7.Bg5 f6

I believe Black's idea is correct, because this gives the black king some important space.

### 8.Be3

Placing the bishop on its optimal square where it can be most influential.

### 8...Nbc6 9.0-0 Ng6?

I think this move is premature and Black should instead take space on the queenside with 9...b5. Black needs some way to let his pieces play. Regardless, I had to take a long think here to find my best plan.

### 10.Bb3

This is a quiet move but it is not a waiting move. The bishop was loose on c4. On b3, the bishop stands just as effective and will be defended in the skirmish to follow.

### 10...Be7



Position after 10...Be7

This is the last slow move that I can allow. I have sacrificed a pawn for my accelerated piece development, and now it's time to prove my compensation. Black is one move away from castling and winning in the center with a pawn majority. It's time to go all-in and test myself and my opponent. There can be no further delay.

### 11.Nd5

11.Na4 was also considered.

### 11...exd5

Accepting the sacrifice is the only move that makes sense. If 11...O-O, then 12.Bb6 Qe8 13.Nc7.

### 12.exd5

Opening the e-file and the a2–g8 diagonal all at once.



Position after 12.exd5

### 12...Nce5

If 12...Na5 then the point of 10.Bb3 is validated since it saves a tempo and White has time for 13.d6.

*[Nevertheless, 12...Na5 13.d6 was the way to go, e.g., 13...Nxb3 14.axb3 (14.dxe7 Qxe7 15.Qxb3 d6 is less convincing for White.) 14...Bxd6 15.Qxd6 Qe7, intending 16...d6, if White's queen retreats on the d-file or goes to c7, and 16...d5, if the queen lands on b6, thus freeing the light square bishop. White would still retain a decent edge, though. —Fred Kleist]*

### 13.Nxe5 fxe5

I expected 13...Nxe5, but, in any case, ...d5–d6 is coming next.

### 14.d6 Bxd6

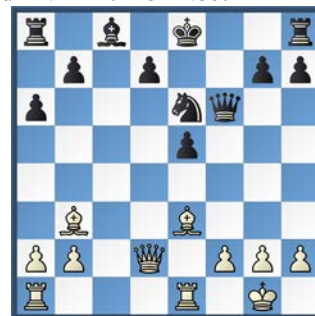
Giving back the piece makes sense here because of moves like 14...Bf6 15.Qd5 Rf8 16.f4 exf4 17.Rae1!

### 15.Qxd6 Qf6

Another long think is required here. I feel I have an advantage here, but how do I keep pressing? With many options to

calculate, I settled on Qd2 for the tempo.

### 16.Qd2 Nf4 17.Rfe1 Ne6!



Position after 17...Ne6

The last long think of the game. Black seems to have solved the light-square problem; so it's time to move on to creating a dark-square problem.

### 18.Bxe6 Qxe6

I expected 18...dxe6 instead, freeing the light-square-bishop and possibly the a8–rook later.

### 19.Bc5

The only move that keeps the advantage.

### 19...Kf7 20.Bd6 Re8 21.Rxe5 Qf6



Position after 21...Qf6

Now the attack flows naturally.

### 22.Rxe8 Kxe8 23.Re1+ Kf7

If 23...Kd8 then 24.Qa5+ b6 25.Qxb6 mate.

### 24.Re3 Kg6

If 24...Kg8 then 25.Qd5+ and Black must give up the queen or else Re8#.

### 25.Rg3+ Kh5 26.Qe2+ Kh6 27.Rh3+ Kg5 28.Qh5#

1–0





# Koma Kulshan Chess Club

Ani Barua

About three months ago, Mr. Donald Pollock and “DJ the Doctor” were driving around Mount Vernon, Washington, looking for a senior center to play Pinochle.

When they finally had found some players, they realized that they had forgotten their card decks but did have a chess board they used to play chess with occasionally. From there an idea was born to start a chess club at the Mount Vernon Senior Center.

Today the “Koma Kulshan” (meaning Mount Baker in native American language) chess club meets and play chess with an average attendance of 15 to 20 players per week. The players range from seniors to veterans and anyone who

wants to play and learn how to play.

The club reached out to Washington Chess Federation for chess set donation to get the club going. WCF gladly donated 25 chess sets along with past issues of *Northwest Chess* magazines which were delivered by WCF’s Member-at-Large Ani Barua at Mount Vernon Senior center. To make the event even more memorable for the club members, I decided to give a chess simultaneous exhibition to the club members there.

This is according to DJ the Doctor about the simultaneous chess exhibition: “The members of the Koma Kulshan chess club that meet at the Mount Vernon senior center each afternoon at 2:00 PM on Wednesdays were excited to participate in a demonstration put on by

Ani Barua from the Washington Chess Federation. There was almost complete silence for an hour and a half as they focused intensely trying to outmaneuver the champion chess representative. In the end they were very grateful that he made the trip up from Seattle and everyone had a great time.”

I’m no chess champion but I’m glad everyone had a great time. WCF wishes all the success to Koma Kulshan Chess Club.



*Ani Barua (R) presenting the chess sets to the club co-founder Mr. Donald Pollock. Photo credit is Andre Pollock.*



*Ani Barua (center with hat) with the club members that showed up that day. Photo credit is Andre Pollock.*



# More Games from the Washington Open

## The Players (Annotators)

**Kyle Haining (2287) –  
Nicholas Whale (1990) [C60]**  
Washington Open (Open)  
Redmond, WA (R1), May 27, 2023  
[Kyle Haining]

### 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 g6

Fianchetto Defense. An uncommon move, one which I've never faced in a tournament game. I faced it in a blitz game before, and my opponent afterwards explained what to do as White. So, I tried hard to remember what I could and work things out over the board.

### 4.d4 exd4

Ideas came back to me.

### 5.Bg5

Natural looking play is not very impressive... 5.Nxd4 Bg7 6.Be3 Nf6 7.Nc3 0-0 8.0-0 Ne7 preparing d5, Black is doing fine.

### 5...Be7

If 5...f6 either option is good for White here 6.Bf4 (6.Bh4 h5 7.Bg3 Bc5 8.0-0 a6 9.Ba4 d6 10.c3 dxc3 11.Nxc3±) 6...Bg7 7.0-0 Nge7 8.Nxd4 f5 9.e5±; 5...Bb4+ 6.c3 dxc3 7.Nxc3 does not actually help Black.

### 6.Bxe7 Qxe7 7.0-0 Qb4 8.Bxc6



Position after 8.Bxc6

### 8...dxc6

I was hoping my opponent would go for

8...Qxb2? This wins material but White gets some serious initiative 9.Bd5 Qxa1 10.c3! I didn't have this line completely worked out over the board, but I think c3 was one of the moves I was considering here. White's attack is promising. 10...Qb2 11.Qxd4 f6 12.Bb3! d6 13.Qc4 Kd8 14.Qf7 Ne7 15.Qxf6 Re8 16.e5 d5 17.Bxd5+–

### 9.Qxd4 Qxd4 10.Nxd4 Bd7 11.Nc3 0-0-0 12.Rad1 Ne7 13.f4

13.b4!? is an interesting idea, since Black has not played c5.

### 13...f5

A good practical decision by my opponent. Black gives White a passed pawn, but in return gains activity and a strong blockade.

### 14.e5

Normally White should be hesitant to exchange the e-pawn for the f-pawn, but White has an opportunity to activate the knight. Stronger was 14.Nf3 fxe4 15.Ne5! Be6 (15...Bf5 16.Rxd8+ Rxd8 17.g4 Be6 18.Nxe4 Bxa2 19.b3 Nd5 20.Nc4 Re8 21.Ncd2±) 16.Nxe4 Rxd1 17.Rxd1 Nd5 18.g3±

### 14...c5



Position after 14...c5

### 15.Nf3

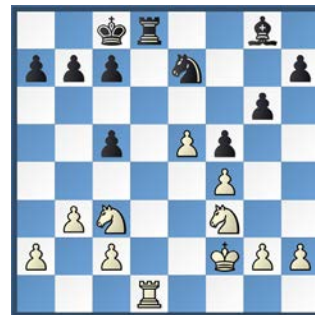
In the game, I regretted not playing 15.Nb3 instead, thinking that I could

attack the pawn and gain time to double rooks. But this is actually not a good plan. A sample line is 15...b6 16.Rf2 Bc6 17.Rfd2 Rde8! White is missing pieces on the kingside. 18.Nc1 g5! 19.fxg5 Rhg8 20.Nd3 Rxg5±

### 15...Be6 16.Kf2 Bc4

I was scared of this line 16...Nd5 17.Nxd5 Bxd5 I thought Black might gain domination on the light squares, but even worst case scenario, White is fine 18.a3 Be4 19.c3 Bd3 20.Rfe1 Rd5?! 21.Rd2 (White has 21.e6 but for demonstration let's consider something else) 21...Rhd8 22.Red1 c4 23.Ke3 c5 24.Ne1± White breaks the blockade.

### 17.Rfe1 Rxd1 18.Rxd1 Rd8 19.b3 Bg8



Position after 19...Bg8

### 20.Rxd8+

To keep greater winning chances, White should probably keep the rook on and play 20.Rc1! preparing an eventual c2–c4.

### 20...Kxd8 21.h3 Nc6

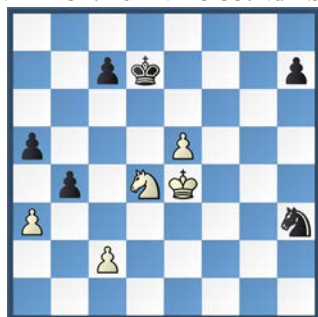
I was hoping my opponent would play this move somewhere around here 21...h5? 22.Kg3! Ke8 23.Kh4 Kf8 24.Kg5 White activates the king.

22.a3 a5 23.g4 c4 24.bxc4 Bxc4 25.gxf5 gxf5 26.Ke3 Kd7 27.Ne2 Bxe2 28.Kxe2 b5 29.Kd3 Ne7 30.Nd4 Nd5 31.Nxf5?!

I wanted to win, so I took this risk. White

gives up two pawns but in return gains a strong passer. Objectively this should still be equal, but practically this should favor Black.

**31...Nxf4+ 32.Ke4 Nxb3 33.Nd4 b4**



*Position after 33...b4*

**34.axb4?**

34.a4 was necessary.

**34...axb4?**

34...a4!-+ would've been winning. Both my opponent and I missed this move. Material is equal, but Black has the outside passers. 35.c4 a3 36.Kd3 a2 37.Nc2 Ke6 38.Kc3 Kxe5 39.Kb2 Nf4 40.Kxa2 h5 41.Kb3 Ke4 42.b5 h4 43.c5 Nd5

**35.Kf5 c5 36.e6+ Ke7 37.Nc6+ Ke8 38.Ne5 h6**

If 38...Nf2 White would still need to show some precision 39.Nd7 c4 40.Nf6+ Kd8 41.Ke5! threatening Kd6 41...Ke7 42.Nd5+ Ke8 43.Nxb4

**39.Nd3 Ke7 40.Nxc5 Ng5 41.Nd3 Nxe6 42.Kg6 Nd4 43.Nxb4 Nxc2 44.Nxc2 Kd6 45.Kxh6**

Congrats to Nicholas on a hard-fought and well-played game.

1/2-1/2

**Valentin Razmov (1805) – Fritz Scholz (1952) [A43]**  
Washington Open (Open)  
Redmond, WA (R6), May 29, 2023  
[Valentin Razmov]

**1.d4 c5**

I was hoping to play for a win in the last round after a couple of solid draws, so this opening direction by my opponent came as welcome news.

**2.d5 d6 3.c4 g6 4.Nc3 Bg7 5.Qc2**

There are other ways to play here. My goal was to play active moves, to avoid mainlines, and to be flexible in meeting various opening line transpositions (Benoni, Modern, Pterodactyl, King's Indian, Pirc, etc.) that the opponent might have prepared.

**5...a6 6.e4 e5?N**

A novelty, but a suspicious one - Black closes the center and their own dark-squared bishop in exchange for unclear benefits. 6...Nf6

**7.Bd3 Ne7 8.f4!?**

8.Bd2 Nd7 9.h4 Nf6 10.f3 0-0 11.Nge2± would be a more conventional treatment, which looks promising for White.

**8...f5?!**

While it's clear that this move is part of Black's plans, it's not urgent here—in fact, it's better to prepare it: 8...Nd7 9.Nf3 f5 10.Ng5 Nf6 11.fxe5 dxe5 12.0-0±

**9.fxe5 Bxe5 10.Nf3**

Gaining a valuable tempo in development.

**10...Bg7?!**

10...f4 11.Nxe5 dxe5 12.Qf2±

**11.0-0**

Even stronger is 11.exf5 Bxf5 12.Bxf5 Nxf5 13.Bg5 Qb6 (13...Bf6 14.Qe2+ Kf7

15.Bxf6 Kxf6 (15...Qxf6 16.Ne4 Qe7 17.0-0) 16.g4) 14.Qa4+ Kf7 15.0-0+- Black's position is very unstable and undeveloped, while White's is highly promising.

**11...0-0**

By this point Black had spent all of four minutes on their moves, while White had thought for over 40 minutes altogether. Considering the position on the board, that additional time investment was well worth it.

**12.Bd2**

A bit of a shy move; White had more ambitious options available, though I did not want to open up the position or cause trades just yet. 12.Bg5 h6 13.Bxe7 Qxe7 14.exf5 Bxf5 15.Bxf5 Rxf5 16.Rae1±; 12.exf5 Nxf5 13.Bg5 Qc7 14.Rae1±

**12...fxe4?!**

This move seems rushed, only helping White in their central control. 12...Nd7 13.Rae1 Ne5 14.Nxe5 Bxe5 15.Bh6 Rf7 16.Qd2±

**13.Nxe4 Bg4**


13...Nf5 14.Bg5 Qb6 15.Rae1±



*Position after 13...Bg4*

**14.Nfg5!**

Going after the weakened light squares in Black's position...



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14...Bf5

14...Nd7

15.Rae1 h6 16.Nf3?!

Backing off for a moment after not seeing a clear path forward. That path existed nonetheless: 16.Ne6! Bxe6 17.dxe6 Nbc6 18.Rxf8+ Qxf8 19.Rf1 Qc8 20.Nf6+± and White's position looks nearly winning.

16...Bg4 17.Ng3 Bxf3 18.Rxf3?!

Ironically, now was a moment for White to hold off on extra trades. 18.gxf3 Nd7 19.Bxg6 Nxe6 20.Qxg6 Ne5 21.Qe6+ Kh7 22.f4 Ng6 23.f5 Ne5 24.Ne4+- All of White's pieces are actively involved, while Black struggles to give their pieces good employment.

18...Rxf3 19.gxf3 Nd7 20.Bxg6 Ne5?!

Allowing White's light-squared bishop to maintain control over that b1–h7 diagonal ultimately led to more troubles for Black. It was better for Black to exchange that bishop while still possible. 20...Nxe6 21.Qxg6 Qf6 22.Qxf6 Bxf6 23.b3 b5 24.Ne4± The position is much simplified yet Black continues to experience problems due to their many weaknesses.

21.Be4

21.Bh5!?

21...Qd7 22.Kg2 b5 23.b3 bxc4 24.bxc4 Rb8 25.Nh5 Bh8 26.Nf4 Bf6



Position after 26...Bf6

27.Kh1!

Improving two worst-placed pieces at the same time—extra safety for the White king and an open file for White's heavy pieces.

27...Kh8 28.Ne6?!

A move that looks tempting at a glance (occupying a juicy outpost while opening an attack on the h6–pawn), but it lacks compelling continuations. White had five minutes left for the 13 moves till the time control; in turn, Black had 72 minutes! 28.Bc3 Qe8 29.Qg2 Qg8 30.Qh3 Qg5

31.Nh5 Qh4 32.Qxh4 Bxh4 33.Rg1+-; 28.Rg1 Rg8 29.Rg3 Rxe3 30.hxg3 Bg5 31.Kg2+-

28...Ng8?!

Defends the h6–pawn but reduces Black's knight to passive defense-only. 28...Qe8!? It's easy to suggest sacrificing other people's pawns, yet after 29.Bxh6 Qh5 30.Bf4 Rg8 31.Qe2± Black has at least some (perceived) initiative in exchange for the missing material.

29.Rg1 Qf7 30.f4

Even stronger is 30.Qc1! Qh5 31.Nf4 Qh4 32.Be1+- (32.Rg4 in both cases trapping the Black queen or else winning that h6–pawn.)

30...Nd7 31.Bg6 Qe7 32.Re1

With one minute left (plus increment) and nine moves to complete, White sets up a discovered attack.

32...Rb2 33.Qd3

Although this move is fine, it has a hidden tactical problem in the way White plans to use it... Stronger is 33.Qc1 Rxa2 34.Bb1 Rb2 35.Nxc5+-

33...Rxa2



Position after 33...Rxa2

34.Nxc5??

Finally, drama arrives. Instead of finishing things smoothly, White rushes and accidentally offers Black a surprising chance to fully get back into the game. 34.Bc3

34...Ra1?

Black misses their chance. In retrospect, Black made the practical mistake of playing for White's time deficit, rather than carefully looking for what might be served on the platter. 34...Nxc5! 35.Rxe7 Nxe7! Suddenly the White queen is overloaded 36.Qe3 Nxe6 37.f5 Nf8 38.Qe8 Kg7∞

35.Ne6!

Promptly closing the door on the opportunity that Black could have used.

35...Rxe1+ 36.Bxe1 Nc5 37.Qe2 a5?!

Unnecessarily impulsive, likely playing for White's time trouble. 37...Nxe6 38.dxe6 Qg7 39.Bc2! Preparing a battery along the diagonal while keeping an eye on that a-pawn. 39...Bd4 40.Bg3± (40.Qg2)

38.Bxa5 Qa7 39.Be1 Qa1 40.Kg2

Time control successfully reached. White's position remains winning.

40...Bh4??

Curiously, with 68 minutes on the clock, Black played this move instantly, greatly accelerating the end of this interesting game. 40...Nxe6 41.dxe6 Qd4 42.Be4 Be7 43.Qd3+- White should be able to convert from here due to their active bishops, two extra pawns, and advanced passed pawns.

41.Bxh4

1–0

Cedric Davies (1636) –  
David Merrikin (1731) [B13]

Washington Open (Premier)  
Redmond, WA (R3), May 28, 2023  
[Cedric Davies]



1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.Bd3 Nc6 5.c3 Nf6 6.Bf4



Position after 6.Bf4

### 6...Qb6

He thought a long time on this move. I haven't seen anyone play it this way. Usually, Black plays ...Bg4, which I follow with Qb3. This ruins my Qb3 plans unless I want to trade queens.

### 7.Qc2 Bg4 8.Nd2 Rc8

...Nxd4! is the strong threat.

### 9.Ngf3

White is slightly better.

### 9...Nd7 10.a3

Prevents ...Nb4

### 10...g6 11.0-0 Bxf3

11...Bg7± feels stronger. 12.h3 Bxf3 13.Nxf3 winning the d-pawn does not help Black 13...Nxd4 14.Nxd4 Bxd4 15.Qa4 Bf6 16.Bb5±

### 12.Nxf3± Bg7



Position after 12...Bg7

### 13.Qe2

Computer prefers 13.Qd2. I played the game move because my focus was on controlling e5.

### 13...0-0 14.Rfe1

White has an iron grip on e5 and plans to use it to build a kingside attack.

### 14...a6

Not very constructive. My thought in the game was, is Black out of ideas? Computer likes 14...Rfe8=

### 15.h4

The start of softening up Black's kingside. White is gaining the initiative.

### 15...Nf6?!

The knight moves back to f6 to prevent h5. The knight has spent three moves to go g8-f6-d7-f6. 15...e5= remains equal. 16.dxe5 (16.Nxe5 Ndx5 17.dxe5 Rfe8=) 16...Rfe8

### 16.Ne5±

With the knight moved away from d7, the e5-square is very juicy and so I hop right in. Black doesn't want to capture as a pawn on e5 drives away the f6-knight and cramps Black's entire kingside.

### 16...e6 17.Rab1 Rfe8 18.Qf3

Bg5 is now looking unpleasant which probably led to Black's decision to chop the e5-knight. But it's replacement, a pawn on e5 is also unpleasant.

### 18...Nxe5 19.dxe5

And not 19.Bxe5?! Nd7=

### 19...Nd7 20.Re2

Aimed to double rooks, overprotecting e5 ala Nimzovich. Computer prefers 20.h5!±

### 20...Qc7

20...d4!± would have been an interesting try instead of staying passive as in the game.

### 21.Rbe1 h5?

This move doesn't make a lot of sense to me. As I can follow-up with g4, it seems to only hasten the weakening of Black's kingside. 21...Nc5±

### 22.g4+- hxg4 23.Qxg4 Nf8 24.Re3

The Rook lift! The Rook can now swing

to g3 or h3 as needed. I'm carefully building the pressure rather than rushing the attack. My king can go to either g2 or h2 so the other Rook can also swing into the attack.

### 24...Re7 25.h5 gxh5 26.Qxh5 Rd7 27.Bg5

Threatening mate with Bf6. I want to plant my bishop on f6 where it holds back the f-pawn and any chance Black has of defending his second rank laterally.

### 27...d4

Black starts looking for counterplay...

### 28.Rg3



Position after 28.Rg3

White wants to mate with Bf6. I thought a lot about Rh3 here. If I can land my bishop on f6, then there will be a strong mate threat on h8. But I was worried here that Black might play ...f6 or ...f5, and in that case, figured my Rook was better on g3. I wasn't worried about ...dxc3 as the follow-up Bf6 was looking winning. 28.Rh3! dxc3? ( 28...f5 29.exf6 I couldn't see clearly in my head how this would turn out. The computer says White can mate in 14 moves. At the board I took the safer practical approach of playing 28.Rg3.) 29.Bf6 Ng6 30.Qh7+ Kf8 31.Qxg7+ Ke8 32.Rh8+ Nxh8 33.Qxh8#

### 28...dxc3 29.Bf6

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Continuing to ignore Black's moves as I set up my attack. Now that my bishop is on f6 it feels like the end is near.

### 29...Ng6 30.Rh3

Now with the bishop on f6, my rook moves to the open h-file, which is what I had wanted to do on move 28 (see the notes to that move). I'm a move behind though, and Black ruins the mate I had calculated by sacrificing the exchange.

### 30...Rxd3!?

Interesting is 30...Bxf6 31.exf6 Rxd3 32.Qh7+ Kf8 33.Qh8+! Nxh8 34.Rxh8#

### 31.Qh7+ Kf8 32.Qxg7+ Ke8



Position after 32...Ke8

### 33.Rxd3

Better than the game is Qg8. I didn't see at the board that Black can't block with the knight 33.Qg8+ Kd7 (33...Nf8 34.Qxf8+!! Kxf8 35.Rh8#) 34.Qxf7+ Kc6 35.Qxe6+ Kb5 36.Qb3+ Kc6 37.Rxd3+- White is clearly better than in the game. The computer claims mate in 12.

### 33...cxb2

I am up a whole rook, but Black has a dangerous passed pawn, so I need to be careful. I see that there is a potential mate on d8 with my rooks doubled so I do that. I was in slight time pressure at this point.

### 34.Red1 Qc1



Black played this move quickly, slamming the piece down. I think he thought he had won the game. It looks like Black is about to queen, and the mate on d8 doesn't work because the d1-rook is pinned, but...

### 35.Qg8+

And not 35.Rd7? Qxd1+! 36.Rxd1 Rc1#; And obviously not 35.Rd8+?? Rxd8+ The white rook is pinned and can't deliver mate on d8. White loses.

### 35...Nf8 36.Kg2

I simply move my king breaking the pin and renewing the mate threat. Now Black can queen their pawn but then they are mated. The queen has to retreat to the defense.

### 36...Qc6+ 37.Kg3 Qc7



Position after 37...Qc7

Black is immobilized to the defense of d8. At the same time my attacking pieces are positioned excellently. I just need another piece to throw into the attack, and there is such a piece my king! I saw this idea years ago while reading a chess book that had the famous king-walk of the Nigel Short-Timman 1991 game. My plan is to walk my king to g7 where it adds into the attack of the pinned knight. I need to be careful of checks though. My next move f4 is aimed at blocking checks along the fourth rank.

### 38.f4!

38.Kg4? Qc4+  
 39.Kg5 Qxd3!  
 40.Rxd3 b1Q+-

### 38...a5

Black admits he has no moves.

### 39.Kg4 b1Q

Black decides to not wait for White's plan to come to fruition. Instead, he mixes it up by giving up

his passed pawn to temporarily break the coordination of White's rooks.

### 40.Rxb1 Qc2 41.Rbb3

Better is 41.Rbd1 Qg2+ 42.Kh5 (42.Rg3 Qe2+ 43.Kg5 Qxd1+/-

### 41...Qg2+ 42.Rg3 Qc2 43.Kg5 Qf5+ 44.Kh6 Kd7

Instead of waiting for Kg7 and Qxf8+, Black runs in desperation.

### 45.Qxf7+ Kc6 46.Qxb7+ Kc5 47.Qxc8+ Kd5 48.Rbd3+

If Black doesn't give up his queen he is mated next move. Black resigns.

1-0

**Gabriel Razmov (1589) – Benjamin Frederick (1501) [C54]**  
 Washington Open (Premier)  
 Redmond, WA (R3), May 28, 2023  
*[Gabriel Razmov]*

### 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.c3 Nf6 5.d4

An alternative to the normal Italian setups, this system called the Center Attack is a bit sharper to begin with. However, if Black knows it, the position can quickly dry out. Little did White know, Black had gone over how to play this exact line with his coach the previous day, and his coach also plays this line for White!

### 5...exd4 6.e5 d5! 7.Bb5 Ne4 8.cxd4 Bb6 9.Nc3 Bg4 10.Be3 0-0 11.Be2

11.h3 is okay here. Play might continue 11...Bh5 12.Qc2 Nxc3 13.bxc3 f6! when White maintains a slight edge.

### 11...f6!

Black shows great understanding of these positions—clearly frustrating for White, who was looking for an opening edge in a potentially less well-known line.

### 12.exf6 Nxf6 13.0-0 Qd6 14.a3 a5?!N

An interesting, yet slightly inaccurate novelty. During the game, White was definitely surprised by this move, as it doesn't accomplish much. Black might have been trying to retreat the dark-squared bishop to safety or be safe against 15.Na4, but it turns out that this move was somewhat time-wasting. A much better choice would be simply 14...Rae8 15.h3 Bh5 16.Na4 Na5 17.Nxb6 axb6 18.Qc2 Nc4! with a strong knight. White must now play for equality with 19.Bxc4 Bxf3.

### 15.Qd3 Rae8 16.Rad1 Ne4 17.Qc2??

A very sophisticated mistake. White, undoubtedly not having a clear middlegame plan, opts for a cheeky trap via 18.Nxd5, but Black can throw an unpleasant surprise there. 17.Qb5 maintains equality with pressure on the center. Black might try 17...Kh8 18.Na4 (18.Qxd5?? Nxc3 is a classic tactic that White shouldn't fall for) 18...Ba7 19.Qxb7 Bxf3 20.Bxf3 Rxf3 21.gxf3 Qg6+ 22.Kh1 Qh5. Black has an obvious draw in hand and no clear way to play for a win, so they might take it.

### 17...Qg6?

A natural move, but now Black loses their winning advantage and only has a slight edge. 17...Bxf3 18.Bxf3 and now the classical 18...Rxf3! would have won directly. White can try 19.Nxe4 but then (19.gxf3 Qg6+ 20.Kh1 Ng3+ 21.hxg3 Qxc2+ wins as well) 19...Qg6! with some beautiful geometry. However, this is difficult to see and calculate despite being only two moves deep into the line, as the positions arising in these lines are sharp and with many possibilities. 20.Kh1 Rff8+

### 18.Nh4!

White finds the only, yet sufficient defense. However, Black had a shocking way to stay slightly better.

### 18...Qh5?

Now, the position has equalized again, and White was definitely relieved to survive this scare. 18...Nxc3! was briefly considered by White but tossed away. However, it is surprisingly good! 19.Qxc3 (19.Nxg6 is natural, but 19...Nxe2+ 20.Kh1 hxg6 21.f3 Rxe3 22.fxg4? Black retains some advantage.) 19...Qh5 20.Bxg4 Qxg4 21.g3? with a much better variation than the game.

### 19.Bxg4 Qxg4 20.g3 Nxc3?!

Maybe Black suddenly saw after their 18th move that 18...Nxc3! was good, and tried to transpose, but now White can solidify their center and play on with a still complex position. 20...Qd7 21.Qb3 Rf7! would have been a more fitting plan for Black.

### 21.bxc3 Qe4 22.Qd2?!

In a critical position, White chooses a passive approach yet he had a strong move in the style of GM Levon Aronian. 22.Qa2! maintains activity via central pressure. 22...Nb8 23.Rde1 and White is to be preferred.

### 22...Ne7 23.Bf4 Nf5

Seemingly falling into a queen trap, yet a brilliant defensive concept. White was obviously surprised, yet after composing himself he decided that he would have some decent advantage in the resulting endgame after the many trades.

### 24.Rfe1 Nxe4 25.Rxe4 Nf3+ 26.Kg2 Nxd2 27.Rxe8 Rxe8 28.Bxd2 Kf7 29.Kf3 Kf6?!



Position after 29...Kf6

Black is still okay, but he now begins an ill-fated plan of passive defense, which cannot work out as White can easily stop all queenside activity and then make a passer to win on the kingside. 29...a4 is a strong defensive idea to untangle the b6-bishop. 30.Rb1 can still be tried, though 30...Ke6 31.Bf4 g6 32.Be5 Kd7 and Black can hold.

### 30.Rb1!

Now, Black's pieces on the queenside are quite tied up.

### 30...h6?

Slipping even further—though not inherently a mistake, it shows that Black doesn't really have a plan or else doesn't sense trouble approaching. 30...a4 still had to be tried.

### 31.Be3?

Rather inactive—it was time for action on the kingside now. White must have been afraid about rook invasions by Black after the king moves away from f3. 31.h4 was a better plan, with ideas of progressing on the kingside.

### 31...Rd8?

Again very passive—perhaps Black really didn't know what to do in this position. Now, White plays precisely and decisively activate all of his pieces and grow his advantage. 31...a4 is about the last chance Black will get to try to free up his position.

### 32.Bf4! Re8?! 33.Be5++-

Now White is close to winning and converts easily.

### 33...Kg6 34.Kg4?!

34.a4! is slightly better—no counterplay for Black!

### 34...Rf8

34...Re6 35.Rb5 also wins.

### 35.f4 Rf7 36.h3 h5+ 37.Kf3 Kf5 38.g4+

Black is clearly in huge trouble.

### 38...hxg4+ 39.hxg4+ Kg6



Position after 39...Kg6

### 40.Rh1!

Now White can finally free his rook and use it to finish things off, as Black still cannot catch their breath due to White's strong initiative.

### 40...Rf8 41.f5+ Kf7 42.Rh7 Rg8 43.g5 Kf8 44.f6 g6 45.f7 c6 46.fxg8Q+?!

46.Bd6# mates immediately

### 46...Kxg8 47.Rxb7 Bxd4 48.Bxd4 c5 49.Bxc5 a4 50.Rb4 Kf7 51.Rxa4 Ke6 52.Ra6+ Kd7 53.Rxg6 Kc7 54.Rd6 d4 55.cxd4 Kb7 56.g6 Kc7 57.g7 Kb7 58.g8Q Kc7 59.Qd8+ Kb7 60.Qb6+ Kc8 61.Rd8#

Black played a strong opening and showed solid understanding of the system which White wasn't ready for. Then the middlegame was messy and sharp, with chances for both sides. Eventually, White was able to liquidate into a slightly better endgame that still held plenty of winning chances. At that juncture, Black defended too passively and White got all the time he needed to create an advanced passed pawn on the kingside, after which Black's position collapsed. This was a very interesting and instructive game, also crucial for the standings as White moved to 2.5/3 to maintain chances of playing for top prizes in the section.

1-0



# Washington Open Interview

Ani Barua

I want to give a big thank you to all the players who agreed to the interview. To watch video of the interview, please click on the links following the interview below. Or go to <https://www.instagram.com/wachessfed/>

“Hi, my name is Andra, and I’ve been playing chess here for couple of years. What got me into it was, trying to find a new hobby during the pandemic and I could no longer play Magic the gathering so I wanted to pickup something like I could go to tournaments for and I picked up chess. And I’m really enjoying (Washington Open) so far. This tournament has been great. I’m playing in the U1800 section which I was really nervous about cause it’s the highest section I’ve been in and I’m actually doing really well. I got three wins out of five so far, and I’m excited to play the last round.”

– Andra Marinescu

[Washington Chess Federation \(@wachessfed\) | Instagram](#)

“Hi, I’m Dilan. I’ve been interested in chess since I was six years old. My dad taught me how to play and I really love this tournament, it’s really challenging and I’m looking forward to coming more.”

– Dilan Ozusta

[Washington Chess Federation \(@wachessfed\) | Instagram](#)

“My name is Amanda, I got into chess because my little nephew wanted to play games and he taught me how to play. What I think about Washington Open is it’s a fun tournament, I really like that there is lots of side events, especially the adult side tournament and that they arranged it so you could do multiple events at the same time.”

– Amanda Panell

[Washington Chess Federation \(@wachessfed\) | Instagram](#)

“Hi, my name is Kyle Haining, I’m a National Master in chess. I got into chess because I picked up a book at my school

library when I was a kid and brought it home and my dad decided to teach me how to play chess cause that’s what the book was about. The Washington Open so far has been really great, so cool to see so many players this year lots of activities and lots of great games”

– NM Kyle Haining

[Washington Chess Federation \(@wachessfed\) | Instagram](#)

“Hi, my name is Balbir Singh, I got into chess fairly young competing in scholastic tournaments. My experience in Washington Open has been very very great. I’ve made lots of friends and I’m very happy with the staff members. They have done a great job. Thank you!”

– Balbir Singh

[Washington Chess Federation \(@wachessfed\) | Instagram](#)

“My name is Candidate Master Nikash Vemparrala, what got me into chess was when I was young I didn’t had much to do during my spare time so my parents signed me up for some extra curricular classes and one of them was chess. And the way that my school taught it was really interesting to me and from there I slowly picked up interest and that is basically what made me what I am today. This tournament is really really well organized, players have good amount of spaces between the boards , there have been no issues with pairings, the rounds have all been on time.”

– CM Nikash Vemparrala

[Washington Chess Federation \(@wachessfed\) | Instagram](#)

“My name is Audrie Gordon, and I got into chess thanks to covid, I had some free time to learn it and this is my second tournament and I loved every minute of it even though I didn’t win but I learned so much and I meet some amazing people. So this are the kind of things I wanna keep doing.”

– Audrie Gordon.

[Washington Chess Federation \(@wachessfed\) | Instagram](#)

“Hi, my name is Aaryan Deshpande and I’m a National Master in chess and I’ve been playing chess since I was five years old. What got me into chess is mainly I guess I was interested in how the pieces moves but as I got to learn more I was so amazed about everything about chess. Like there are so many aspect of chess that you would not think of from beginner to advance level, there is so much to learn, it’s been a great experience for me. I’m playing in the Washington Open this year and it’s organized by the Washington Chess Federation. It’s a great event and there is about 240 participates which is one of the highest turnouts I believe at this event and it’s great to see everyone playing chess and collaborating and I’m very happy for this event and I hope it continues for years to come.”

– NM Aaryan Deshpande.

[Washington Chess Federation \(@wachessfed\) | Instagram](#)

“Hey, my name is Oscar, when I got into chess is because the public library I was going had a chess club and I started playing people there and got hooked. I stayed with it (chess) cause I made many friends, nice atmosphere and good community. And this tournament, I like a lot. It’s nice to have these strong tournaments. Haven’t played in any of them in Seattle before not of this magnitude so it’s very nice to play.”

– Oscar Sprumont

[Washington Chess Federation \(@wachessfed\) | Instagram](#)

“Hi, my name is Timur Aliyev, I’m a National Master. I’m originally from Baku, Azerbaijan. What got me into chess was world champion Garry Kasparov when he became the champion I started studying chess. I just finished the Washington Open, it was a great tournament, lots of participants and very competitive. Thank you so much.”

– NM Timur Aliyev

[Washington Chess Federation \(@wachessfed\) | Instagram](#)

# SEATTLE CHESS CLASSIC



FRI-SUN, AUGUST 18-20, 2023

ORLOV CHESS ACADEMY - SEATTLE

7212 WOODLAWN AVE NE, SEATTLE, WA 98115

**Format:** A 7-round Swiss in two sections: Open and Reserve U1600. Maximum of 30 players.

**Time Control:** G/90; +30 sec increment.

**Schedule:** Rd. 1 – Fri 6pm, Rd. 2 – Sat 9am, Rd. 3 – Sat 2pm, Rd. 4 – Sat 7pm, Rd. 5 – Sun 9am, Rd. 6 – Sun 2pm, Rd. 7 – Sun 7pm.

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

**Prize Fund:** \$2,000 (based on 30 paid entries)

**Open:** 1<sup>st</sup> \$300, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$220  
1<sup>st</sup> U2100/U1900/U1700: \$130

**Reserve:** 1<sup>st</sup> \$200, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$150  
1<sup>st</sup> U1500/U1300/U1100: \$130  
1<sup>st</sup> Unrated \$100.

**Special Prizes (per section):**

Biggest Upset win: \$10 per round  
Best Female Player (by TPR, provided at least 3 qualifying players): \$25.  
Best Dressed: \$10/day

**Entry Fees:** Must be paid by Aug 17<sup>th</sup>: **no late or on-site registrations or payments.** \$125 by Aug 11, \$150 after. \$50 play-up fee if rated U1600 and playing in Open section. Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs, WIMs, or US Chess 2400+.

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

**Rating:** Dual US Chess and NWSRS Rated. Open section also FIDE Rated. Highest of current NWSRS, or US Chess Regular August 2023 supplement rating will be used to determine section, pairings, and prizes.

**Registration:** Online at [nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration](https://nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration) **Registration + payment deadline: Thu, Aug 17 @ 5pm.**

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

**Info:** Josh Sinanan, WCF President,  
206.769.3757,  
[washingtonchessfederation@gmail.com](mailto:washingtonchessfederation@gmail.com)

**Health/Safety Protocols:** Face masks optional for players and spectators. If interested, please bring your own mask.



# 73<sup>rd</sup> Oregon Open: September 2-4, 2023

## \$13,000 prize fund based on 150 players

Sponsored by the Oregon Chess Federation and Portland Chess Club

**FORMAT:** 6-round US Chess rated Swiss in five sections, 2000+, U2000, U1700, U1400 and U1200. Players may play up a maximum of one section for a \$25 fee. The official September US Chess OTB regular ratings are generally used for section eligibility, pairings, and prize eligibility. Unofficial US Chess OTB regular ratings or alternate ratings (with adjustment if necessary) are generally used for players with no official US Chess OTB regular rating. Up to two half point byes are available if requested before round one.

**TIME CONTROL:** G/100; inc30 (one-hour forty minutes per player with a thirty second increment added for each move). **Please bring an increment capable digital clock, (sets and boards are supplied).**

**SCHEDULE:** A players' meeting is at 9:45am on Saturday. The rounds are at 10am and 3:30pm each day.

**RATED:** All sections are US Chess regular rated. The 2000+ and U2000 sections are also FIDE standard rated.

**ENTRY FEE:** \$130 if you pre-register by the end of the day on Friday, August 11, \$140 from August 12 to Friday, September 1st at noon. Free entry for GM's and IM's if pre-registered by September 2 (\$130 is deducted from any prize won). US Chess membership is required for all players. Oregon Chess Federation membership is required for Oregon residents.

**REGISTRATION: Online only (no mailed or on-site registrations are allowed).** Register online at <https://onlineregistration.cc>; search for "oregon chess federation". Email [support@oregonchessfed.org](mailto:support@oregonchessfed.org) if you encounter any issues trying to register online.

### 2000+ SECTION PRIZES:

1<sup>ST</sup>, 2<sup>ND</sup>, 3<sup>RD</sup>: \$1550-1250-900; **U2150:** \$400-300-200

### U2000 SECTION PRIZES:

1<sup>ST</sup>, 2<sup>ND</sup>, 3<sup>RD</sup>: \$500-400-300; **U1850:** \$400-300-200

### U1700 SECTION PRIZES:

1<sup>ST</sup>, 2<sup>ND</sup>, 3<sup>RD</sup>: \$500-400-300; **U1550:** \$400-300-200

### U1400 SECTION PRIZES:

1<sup>ST</sup>, 2<sup>ND</sup>, 3<sup>RD</sup>: \$500-400-300; **U1250:** \$400-300-200

### U1100 SECTION PRIZES:

1<sup>ST</sup>, 2<sup>ND</sup>, 3<sup>RD</sup>: \$500-400-300; **U950:** \$400-300-200

Unrated players are eligible for all the prizes in their section except the U950 prizes in the U1100 section. Prizes are combined and/or split if there is a tie. Players winning \$600 or more must complete an IRS form with SSN before payment. Foreign players may be subject to withholding taxes. Prizes are paid via check or PayPal.

**OTHER:** The tournament is a qualifier for the Championship and Challengers sections of the Oregon Closed and a qualifier for the OSCF State Championship. Send an email to [support@oregonchessfed.org](mailto:support@oregonchessfed.org) if you have any questions or need to withdraw during the event.

**SIDE EVENTS: Rapid-**starts at 8:30pm on Saturday, September 2. G/6;inc6, US Chess rapid rated, 4-round single Swiss in two sections, Open and U1550 **Blitz-**starts at 8:30pm on Sunday, September 3. G/3;inc3, US Chess blitz rated, 8-round single Swiss in two sections, Open and U1550. Both events: \$25 entry fee, prize fund: \$435 based on 30 players. **Open section:** 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, \$85, \$65 U2050-\$50, U1800-\$40; **U1550 section:** 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>-\$70, \$55, U1300-\$40, U1050-\$30. Unrated players are eligible for all the prizes in the section they play in. Onsite registration until 8:15pm on the day of each event.

**LOCATION:** Lloyd Center DoubleTree Hotel, 1000 NE Multnomah St, Portland, OR 97232. There is free parking in the hotel parking garage. A limited number of hotel rooms are available at a special chess rate of \$149 plus tax for either a room with one queen bed or two queen beds. **The rate lasts until the block of rooms sell out or until August 3, whichever comes first.** Call 1-800-996-0510 to reserve a room.

**TOURNAMENT RULES:** The FIDE rules are used in the 2000+ and U2000 sections while the US Chess rules are used in the U1700, U1400, and U1100 sections. The following applies to all sections: 1) Players are not allowed to have a phone or other electronic device capable of chess analysis or communication on their person during their games. 2) You must let the tournament staff know at least thirty minutes prior to the start time of the next round if you decide to withdraw from the tournament or skip that round. 3) As a courtesy to your opponents, please show up on time for the rounds.

# WCF Father's Day Weekend Chess Festival

Josh Sinanan

The 2023 Seattle Summer G/10, Rapid, and Blitz Championships took place at Lakeside School in Seattle on Father's Day weekend June 17-18. Players hailing from multiple municipalities throughout Washington State were represented, including the cities of Redmond, Seattle, Shoreline, Bothell, Issaquah, Lake Forest Park, Olympia, Sammamish, Brier, Vashon, and Milton! The busy slate of events was orchestrated by WCF Tournament Coordinator Valentin Razmov and WCF President Josh Sinanan. WCF co-Vice President Rekha Sagar directed all the events with assistance from WCF Member-at-Large Ani Barua and Redmond Chess stud Vignesh Anand.

## Seattle Summer G/10 Championship

First up was the Seattle Summer G/10 Championship, a one-section, seven-round Swiss tournament which occurred on Saturday evening and attracted 11 players. The field featured an experience-heavy mix of seven adults and just four scholastic chess players.

US Chess Expert Vignesh Anand from Redmond emerged victorious with an impressive six points from seven games! After beginning the tournament red-hot with four wins in his first four games, Anand's streak was ended by the young up-and-comer Nehanraj Ramesh in round four. Undeterred, Anand finished the tournament strongly with victories against Ani Barua and Gavin Shi in the final two rounds. Nehanraj Ramesh from Bothell finished in second place a half-point back.

Two Seattle chess kings, Valentin Razmov and Chad Boey, shared third/first U2000 honors with five points apiece. WCF Member-at-Large Ani Barua from Capitol Hill captured the first U1800 prize with four points. Siva Sankrithi, former head of the Lakeside Chess Team and now a dedicated chess dad living in Lake Forest Park, won the first U1600 prize with and even score of 3.5 points. Redmond chess stud Aavir Singh earned the first U1400 prize with one point. Ramesh Saddi, a chess dad from Issaquah, claimed the first Unrated prize with 1.5 points. Congratulations to the winners!

## Seattle Summer Rapid Championship

The Seattle Summer Rapid Championship was held on Father's Day Sunday, June 18. A total of 13 chess warriors competed in the five-round US Chess Quick Rated tournament. The format consisted of a single Open section featuring a diverse roster of players ranging in level from unrated to FIDE Master.

Seattle Chess Club board member Chad Boey, rated only 1635, was the surprise winner of the tournament with an astounding 5-0 score! Along the way, Chad vanquished four higher-rated speed chess titans: Peter Yu (2128), Valentin Razmov (1899), Leonid Gavrysh (2026), and Vignesh Anand (2130)! Clearly Chad's recent training with his online IM coach is working well! Leonid Gavrysh from Brier finished in second place a full point back. CM Vignesh Anand from Redmond and FM Peter Yu from Bothell shared third place honors with three points apiece.

WCF Tournament Coordinator Valentin Razmov from Seattle earned the U2000 prize, also with three points. Shoreline chess wizard Walter Guity won the U1800 prize with the same score as Razmov. Laurelhurst chess prodigy Benjamin Frederick won the U1600 prize with an even 2.5-point score. Stephen Belgau from Olympia and Alan Cheng from Bellevue shared the U1400 prize a half-point back. The Best Female Award and first U1200 prize was won by Hana Mullen, who travelled all the way to Seattle from Vashon Island! Newcomer Noah Foxman won his last-round game

### Seattle Summer G/10 Championship: Open

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	Total pts
1	1	Vignesh Anand	2130	W6	W4	W3	W8	L2	W5	W7	6
2	2	Nehanraj Ramesh	1995	D9	W6	L4	W5	W1	W11	W3	5.5
3	3-4	Valentin Razmov	1899	W5	W7	L1	W4	W8	W10	L2	5
4		Chad Boey	1635	W11	L1	W2	L3	W7	W6	W10	5
5	5	Aniruddha Barua	1400	L3	W9	W7	L2	W10	L1	W11	4
6	6	Siva Sankrithi	1501	L1	L2	W9	D10	W11	L4	W8	3.5
7	7	Gavin Shi	1592	W10	L3	L5	W11	L4	W8	L1	3
8	8	Neevan Reddy Saddi	1579	H---	H---	W10	L1	L3	L7	L6	2
9	9-10	James Hamlett	1499	D2	L5	L6	B---	U---	U---	U---	1.5
10		Ramesh Saddi	unr.	L7	W11	L8	D6	L5	L3	L4	1.5
11	11	Aavir Singh	1066	L4	L10	B---	L7	L6	L2	L5	1



## Seattle Summer Rapid Championship: Open

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total pts
1	1	Chad Boey	1635	W10	W4	W5	W2	W3	5
2	2	Leonid Gavrysh	2026	W9	W6	W3	L1	W4	4
3	3-6	Vignesh Anand	2130	W7	W5	L2	W6	L1	3
4		Peter Yu	2128	W8	L1	W7	W10	L2	3
5		Valentin Razmov	1899	W13	L3	L1	W9	W8	3
6		Walter Guity	1557	W12	L2	W8	L3	W10	3
7	7	Benjamin Frederick	1539	L3	W11	L4	W13	H---	2.5
8	8-11	Stephen Belgau	1326	L4	W9	L6	W11	L5	2
9		Alan Cheng	1201	L2	L8	W11	L5	B---	2
10		Hana Mullen	937	L1	W13	W12	L4	L6	2
11		Noah Foxman	unr.	B---	L7	L9	L8	W13	2
12	12	Niko Elmieh	888	L6	B---	L10	H---	U---	1.5
13	13	Patrick Yu	1182	L5	L10	B---	L7	L11	1

to claim the first Unrated prize with two points.

Congratulations to the winners!

### Seattle Summer Blitz Championship

The Seattle Summer Blitz Championship took place on the evening of Father's Day, Sunday June 18, shortly after the conclusion of the Seattle Summer Rapid Championship. A diverse mix of dads, sons, grandpas, and future dads were represented in the 15-player field.

The nine-round Single Swiss tournament lasted just over three hours and featured players with ratings ranging from unrated to expert level. The chess action was wild and crazy, with numerous exciting and unpredictable time scrambles throughout the evening!

Seattle speedster, popular chess coach, chess dad, and WCF Tournament Coordinator Valentin Razmov topped the field, with an impressive eight points from nine games. Razmov allowed only two draws against the young up-and-coming powerhouses Nehanraj Ramesh

and Vignesh Anand in the third and fourth rounds, respectively, before finishing strongly with five wins in a row! Vignesh Anand from Redmond and Nehanraj Ramesh from Bothell tied for second/third place a full point back after splitting the point against each other in the sixth round. Seattle chess enthusiast Gavin Shi won the U2000 prize a half-point back with 6.5 points. Emerson Wong-Godfrey of Seattle claimed the U1800 prize with 5.5 points. Olympia chess oracle Stephen Belgau scored five points and correctly prophesized himself winning the U1600 prize. Aavir Singh from Redmond captured the U1400 prize with 3.5 points. Youthful Seattle chess 'ironman' Vayu Kakkad, who has played by far the most Northwest Rated games for any kid his age, won the U1200 prize with three points. Noah Foxman from Issaquah earned the first place unrated prize also with three points.

Honorary chess medal prizes were awarded to all the dads who came out and played blitz to celebrate Father's Day. Many thanks to the players who came out and competed in these fun events!

## Seattle Summer Blitz Championship: Open

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	Rd 8	Rd 9	Total pts
1	1	Valentin Razmov	1899	W7	W4	D3	D2	W5	W8	W6	W10	W9	8
2	2-3	Vignesh Anand	2130	W14	L5	W9	D1	W6	D3	W4	W7	W10	7
3		Nehanraj Ramesh	1995	W9	W6	D1	W5	D4	D2	D8	W11	W13	7
4	4	Gavin Shi	1592	W11	L1	W12	W10	D3	W5	L2	W8	W14	6.5
5	5	Jamie Zhu	1878	W12	W2	W8	L3	L1	L4	W14	W15	W11	6
6	6	Emerson Wong-Godfrey	1785	W15	L3	W7	D8	L2	W10	L1	W14	W12	5.5
7	7	Stephen Belgau	1326	L1	W13	L6	W11	L8	W12	W9	L2	W15	5
8	8-9	Benjamin Frederick	1539	H---	W10	L5	D6	W7	L1	D3	L4	B---	4.5
9		Siva Sankrithi	1501	L3	W15	L2	W12	D10	W13	L7	B---	L1	4.5
10	10-11	Evan Takayoshi	1551	W13	L8	W11	L4	D9	L6	B---	L1	L2	3.5
11		Aavir Singh	1066	L4	B---	L10	L7	W14	W15	D13	L3	L5	3.5
12	12-13	Vayu Kakkad	1185	L5	W14	L4	L9	B---	L7	L15	W13	L6	3
13		Noah Foxman	unr.	L10	L7	B---	D14	W15	L9	D11	L12	L3	3
14	14	Balbir Singh	1524	L2	L12	W15	D13	L11	B---	L5	L6	L4	2.5
15	15	Ravi Kakkad	1155	L6	L9	L14	B---	L13	L11	W12	L5	L7	2

# 2023 Mid-Year Scholastic Cup

Josh Sinanan

The second annual Mid-Year Scholastic Cup was held on Father's Day weekend June 17-18 at Lakeside Upper School in Seattle. The purpose of these events, as originally envisioned by Mid-Year Scholastic Cup founder and WCF Tournament Coordinator Valentin Razmov, is to provide strong Northwest junior players with opportunities to develop their chess skills, especially as they transition to longer time controls. Chess players from throughout the greater Seattle region were represented in the 22-player field from towns including Duvall, Bellevue, Seattle, Sammamish, Redmond, Bothell, Issaquah, and Fall City!

The event was hosted by Washington Chess Federation, directed by WCF co-Vice President Rekha Sagar, and organized by WCF Tournament Coordinator Valentin Razmov. The six-round Swiss over two days was split between the three sections: Rising (1200-1399), Challengers (1400-1599), and Premier (1600+). Many thanks to Meiling Cheng, Ani Barua, Rekha Sagar, and Valentin Razmov, our wonderful photographers, for taking pictures throughout the weekend.

As usual in these prestigious junior events, the stakes were quite high. The highest finishing Washington player in the Premier 1600+ section earned a free entry into the 2024 Washington Championship, Challenger's section, the highest finishing Washington player in the Challengers section earned free entry into the 2023 Washington Class Championships, and the highest finishing Washington player in the Rising section earned a free entry into the 2023 Susan Polgar Foundation National Open for Girls & Boys.

In the Premier (1600+), Abhinav Mishra from Redmond was crowned the champion with 4.5 points from six games. Second and third place honors were shared by Bohan Zhang from Redmond and Gabriel Razmov from Seattle, each

of whom finished a half-point back. Bellevue chess star Aaron Ren captured the first U1700 prize with 3.5 points. In the Challengers (1400-1599), Redmond chess wizard Rhadean Rubaiyat emerged victorious with an impressive 5.5 points from six games, allowing a single draw

against the runner up Saddi. Neevan Reddy Saddi from Issaquah earned second place honors a point-and-a-half back with four points. Bellevue chess aficionado Evan Cen was awarded the third-place prize with a 'plus one' score of 3.5 points.



*Bohan Zhang (Premier section). Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.*



S a m m a m i s h chess prince Mike Tie managed to draw his last round game with Saddi, which earned him the first U1500 prize. Two up-and-coming Eastside Chess stars – Viraj Dhawan from Sammamish and Rishi Ramaswamy from Bellevue – each scored 4.5 points from six games to top the seven-player Rising (1200-1399) section. Aditya Karri from Redmond and Neil Kossuri from Bothell shared third/first U1300 honors a half-point back. While it may not be possible to always be sharp on the chess board, several players chose to dress sharp in the hopes of winning one of the coveted Best Dressed Prizes.

The classiest players who won the Best Dressed Prizes were Sid Siddem and Albert Eksarevskiy (Premier), Pranav Kokati and Mike Tie (Challengers), and Emmett Bates-Callaghan and Aneesh Vashisht (Rising). Congratulations to the winners, and many thanks to all who contributed to this amazing event!



*Emily Huang (Rising section). Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.*

### 2023 Mid-Year Scholastic Cup: Premier (1600+)

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Total pts
1	1	Abhinav Mishra	1685	D3	L7	W10	W9	W2	W8	4.5
2	2-3	Bohan Zhang	1676	W10	D5	W8	W3	L1	H---	4
3		Gabriel Razmov	1613	D1	W4	W6	L2	W5	D7	4
4	4-5	Albert Eksarevskiy	1744	D8	L3	W9	D5	W7	D6	3.5
5		Aaron Ren	1669	W6	D2	D7	D4	L3	W10	3.5
6	6-7	Atharva Joshi	1842	L5	W10	L3	D7	W8	D4	3
7		Leonardo Wang	1663	D9	W1	D5	D6	L4	D3	3
8	8	Michael Lin	1667	D4	W9	L2	H---	L6	L1	2
9	9-10	Sid Siddem	1716	D7	L8	L4	L1	L10	B---	1.5
10		Selina Cheng	1560	L2	L6	L1	H---	W9	L5	1.5

### 2023 Mid-Year Scholastic Cup: Challengers (1400-1599)

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Total pts
1	1	Rhadean Rubaiyat	1343	W4	W2	W3	W5	D2	B---	5.5
2	2	Neevan Reddy Saddi	1579	W3	L1	W5	B---	D1	D4	4
3	3	Evan Cen	1442	L2	B---	L1	W4	W5	D5	3.5
4	4-5	Pranav Kokati	1577	L1	L5	B---	L3	B---	D2	2.5
5		Mike Tie	1282	B---	W4	L2	L1	L3	D3	2.5

### 2023 Mid-Year Scholastic Cup: Rising (1200-1399)

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Total pts
1	1-2	Rishi Ramaswamy	1325	W7	L2	W3	D6	B---	W4	4.5
2		Viraj Dhawan	1286	W3	W1	W5	H---	W7	L6	4.5
3	3-4	Aditya Karri	1336	L2	W6	L1	B---	W5	W7	4
4		Neil Kossuri	1236	B---	L5	W7	W2	W6	L1	4
5	5	Emily Huang	1381	D6	W4	L2	W7	L3	B---	3.5
6	6	Aneesh Vashisht	1288	D5	L3	B---	D1	L4	W2	3
7	7	Emmett Bates-Callaghan	1253	L1	B---	L4	L5	L2	L3	1



*Selina Cheng (Premier section). Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.*

**Gabriel Razmov (1613) –  
Atharva Joshi (1842) [A47]**  
Mid-Year Scholastic Cup 2023  
(Premier 16) Lakeside School  
Seattle, WA (R3), June 17, 2023  
[Gabriel Razmov]

# **1.d4 Nf6 2.Bf4**

The London System served me quite well in this event, gaining two good positions out of the opening.

# **2...e6 3.e3 c5 4.c3 b6 5.Nf3 Bb7 6.Be2 Be7 7.Nbd2 0-0 8.0-0?!**

White's first small slip, allowing Black to gain the two bishops. 8.h3 saves the bishop, while castling comes next move. 8...d5 9.0-0 Bd6 10.Re1

# **8...d6?!±**

8...Nh5 would imbalance the game slightly, though Black's edge is minimal. 9.Bg3 Nxc3 10.hxc3.

# **9.Qb3?!**

Allowing the same imbalances, which Black again passes over. 9.h3 still works, as usual. 9...d5 10.Bd3

# **9...Nbd7**

9...Nh5 was the aforementioned other option for Black.

# **10.Rad1?!± Qc7**

10...Nh5! is the alternative 11.Nc4 (11.Bg3 a6) 11...Bd5 and White is faced with unsatisfactorily placed pieces.

# **11.Nc4?!±**

11.h3

# **11...Rad8?!**

11...Nh5

# **12.Rc1?!±**

Realizing that the rook was misplaced on d1, but still allowing Black to gain the two bishops. 12.h3

# **12...Nh5 13.Bg3?!±**

Yet another suspicious choice—White should've instead focused on their main plan of controlling the center and possibly pushing through the queenside. 13.Nfd2 is more natural. 13...Nxf4 looks bad for White due to the doubled pawns but 14.exf4 e5 is the best Black can do, when White is relieved of their doubled pawns. 15.dxe5 dxe5 16.fxe5 Nxe5 17.Rcd1.

# **13...Nxc3 14.hxc3 Nf6?!**

Unclear what Black might do with that knight. Planting it on e4 doesn't really

do much, so instead, Black could look to take over the center. 14...e5! opens up Black's rooks and claims an initiative in the center. 15.Nfd2 e4 16.Na3 a6±

# **15.Rfd1 Ne4?!**

Continuing with the plan, but now ...e5 is not in Black's cards for some time. 15...g6 16.Na3 a6 17.c4 Kg7 at least improves Black's king position.

# **16.Ncd2 d5?!±**

Encouraging White to exchange, which would lead to positional problems for Black. 16...Nf6 isn't what Black wanted, but it's about the best after 17.c4 h5.

# **17.Nxe4! dxe4 18.Nd2 Kh8 19.Qc2 f5 20.Qb3**

Now White has provoked some central weaknesses and strives to make the best of them.

# **20...Rf6?!**

Going for a non-existent kingside attack, or otherwise simply making a defensive move, but it blocks Black's pieces and allows White more play. 20...Bd5! tries to fix the central weakness, and after 21.Bc4 h5 22.Bxd5 exd5 23.c4 cxd4 24.exd4 Qd7± Black is completely fine with no real issues.

# **21.Kf1?!**



Position after 21.Kf1

Objectively wrong, as nothing will happen on the kingside, but an inventive and provocative idea. From here on, even engines seem to have difficulty evaluating the best moves for either color; the position has gotten quite unusual and complex. In fact, the Chess.com engine thinks that this move is not as bad, but Lichess deems it losing; however even Lichess can't find a clear win. The game becomes very sharp. 21.dxc5 Bxc5 22.Qa4 is more sane and natural.

# **21...Rh6 22.Ke1 Bg5?!±**

Misplacing the bishop as it creates no real

threats. Black hopes to sacrifice on e3 and then open the king, but it doesn't quite work in practice. 22...Rh1+ 23.Nf1 Bd5 24.Bc4 Qd6±

# **23.Nf1!**

Making space for the king to continue its journey.

# **23...Rh1?±**

While not objectively losing, this move does not accomplish what Black hopes, and it hangs a key pawn. Above all, Black's potential attack evaporates. 23...Rb8 24.Rc2 Be7± still keeps an edge.

# **24.Qxe6**

24.dxc5! would be even better! After 24...Rd5 25.Rxd5 Bxd5 26.Qa4! g6 27.Qd4+ Kg8 28.c4 Bc6± Black's position is still quite promising.

# **24...Bc8 25.Qe5 Qc6?+-**



Position after 25...Qc6

Allowing a straightforward combination. Black may have still been under the illusion of a continuing attack, rather than looking for ways to stabilize the position. 25...Qf7! would hold better, though White maintains an advantage after 26.dxc5 Re8 27.Qd4 bxc5 28.Qxc5 Be6±

# **26.dxc5! Re8 27.Qd5**

27.Qd6 keeps an eye on the king via defending g3. 27...Qxc5 28.Qxc5 bxc5 29.Rd5+- Black is now in clear trouble.

# **27...Qh6?**

Once again, likely the result of misevaluating the position. Black should be looking to limit White's pressure, not to go for an all-out attack.

# **28.c6 Bxc3?**

In a nearly losing position, Black chooses to go for chaos/counterplay, which White somehow believed and thus avoided simple material gains. 28...Be6 29.Qe5+-

# **29.Qd8?!**

Still maintaining a winning advantage



and putting clear pressure on Black, but making it more difficult, objectively. 29.fxe3 Qxe3 30.Qe5!+- is a strong defensive resource that ends all Black threats.

**29...Qg6 30.c7! Bxf2+ 31.Kd2?**

This is still good for White, but there was a direct win that White missed: 31.Kxf2 e3+ and here White forgot about 32.Nxe3+-

**31...e3+ 32.Kc2 f4+ 33.Kb3**

The White king continues its enterprising journey from g1 all the way to the wide-open queenside, where it will be surprisingly safe. From there, White should win.

**33...Be6+ 34.c4 Rg8?**

34...b5

**35.Qe7 b5**

Trying for some counterplay, which White calculated to not exist. 35...Qf6

is objectively best, though 36.Qxf6 gxf6 37.Rd8 is still completely winning.

**36.Rd8 bxc4+ 37.Bxc4 Bxc4+ 38.Rxc4 Qb6+ 39.Rb4**

Black resigned, ending this tough and complex battle with many chances for both sides. After this game, White was tied for the lead in the section and kept their chances for a tournament win until the very last round.

**1-0**



Gabriel Razmov (in Premier section) focusing intensely on his game from round one.  
Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.

# Washington vs British Columbia Challenge Match

Josh Sinanan, Team Washington Captain

Round	BC	WA
1	8	4
2	8	4
3	8	4
4	5	7
5	7.5	4.5
Total	36.5	23.5

The seventh annual Washington vs British Columbia Challenge Match ended in a convincing 36.5 - 23.5 victory for Team British Columbia! As has been the custom since 2019, the match was once again run as a single 12-player Team Swiss rather than multiple Scheveningen team matches, which are challenging to organize on many levels. The players from both teams played creative, original chess and created an exciting match, now in its seventh straight year since the match was revived in 2017! With the match victory, Team British Columbia now leads the series five to two and is on a five-year winning streak. Team Washington will have to train hard in the off-season and return stronger next year!

Team British Columbia gained a modest lead by winning the first three rounds by a score of eight to four each

round. That is, until Team Washington unleashed the beast in round four with a sensational seven to five round win led by victories from Austin Liu, Yiding Lu, Ted Wang, David Paez, Jamie Zhu, and Michael Xiong! Team British Columbia's NM Neil Doknjas, the youngest of the three accomplished Doknjas brothers, was an absolute wrecking ball, scoring an amazing 4.5 points from five games to lead Team British Columbia to victory. The junior players from both teams were especially impressive, many of whom have improved tremendously in recent years.

Truth be told, the Team Washington players played with heart and courage throughout the match, with many games being decided in nervous time scrambles! Despite Team Washington's lineup of numerous underrated juniors, the average rating advantage proved a decisive

advantage for Team British Columbia once again. Players from both teams displayed exemplary sportsmanship and many games were much closer than the final score would indicate.

It was a pleasure for Paul Leblanc, Stephen Wright, Murray Chu, and yours truly to organize this match once again. Congratulations to the British Columbia Team players and organizers on a well played match! Special thanks to Van City Chess for providing the equipment and providing superb playing conditions in which games always started on time and the tournament ran very smoothly. We would also like to thank our sponsors Sridhar Seshadri, Washington Chess Federation, and British Columbia Chess Federation. Thank you also to all the players and parents who braved the trip to Richmond and invested considerable time, money, and energy to make this match possible. We look forward to continuing this great tradition for many years to come!

Neil Doknjas (BC) (2270) –  
Yiding Lu (WA) (2181) [E45]  
BC-WA in Richmond  
(R5), July 3, 2023  
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3

Allowing the Nimzo-Indian Defense.

3...Bb4

Challenge accepted.

4.e3 b6 5.Nge2 Ba6 6.Qa4

Two moves are much more common here, 6.a3 and 6.Ng3.

6.a3 Bxc3+ (6...Be7 7.Nf4 d5) 7.Nxc3 d5 — we're starting to notice a theme for Black on move seven...; 6.Ng3 Bxc3+ (6...0-0 7.e4, and even here 7...d5 is possible.) 7.bxc3 d5, and here



Ashton Taylor (L) and Hayk Margaryan prepare for their first round game at the 2023 WA vs BC Match as TD Murray Chu makes the announcements. Photo Credit: Haiyong Wang.



White generally chooses between 8.Qf3, followed by 9.cxd5 and usually 10.Bxa6, or the logical (8.Ba3, offering a pawn (temporarily?) to keep the black king in the center (temporarily?). It's all very equal/unclear, which is to say, a chess game.)

**6...c5 7.a3 Bxc3+ 8.Nxc3 Bb7**

8...0-0 9.dxc5 bxc5 10.Be2 d5 11.0-0 Qb6 12.cxd5 Bxe2 13.Nxe2 exd5 14.b4± is still known theory, though the line appears to have many potentially playable branches.

**9.Bd3**

9.Be2 offers slightly different complications after captures on g2.

**9...Bxg2 10.Rg1 Bc6**

Stockfish prefers 10...Bf3 11.Rg3 (11.Rxg7 Ng4 causes problems for White involving the trapped rook on g7 and threats (...Qh4) on the kingside.) 11...Bh5 sending the bishop to g6 (eventually) for defense.

**11.Qc2 g6 12.d5! exd5 13.cxd5 Nxd5 14.e4!**

The position becomes critical. White has sacrificed two pawns for activity.

**14...Nxc3**

Black's best chance is to give back one pawn to remove the queens from the board. After 14...Qe7!? 15.Bg5 f6 16.0-0-0 Nxc3 17.Qxc3 Qe5! 18.Bxf6 Qxc3+ 19.bxc3 (19.Bxc3 Rf8 20.f4!? Rxf4?! 21.Be5 Rf7 22.Bc4 Re7 23.Bf6 Rxe4 24.Bg8 is a computer-ish line involving White demonstrating positional compensation for three(!) pawns.) 19...Rf8 20.e5 d5 21.f4 Nd7 22.Bg5 and White maintains plenty of compensation for the pawn into the ending, with the bishop-pair and better coordination.

**15.Qxc3 f6 16.Bf4**

16.Bg5 0-0 (16...Rf8 17.Bf4±) 17.Bh6±

**16...Kf7?**

16...Bb7 17.0-0-0 Nc6 and White has tons of positional compensation, but no direct tactical win quite yet.

**17.Bc4+ Kg7**

17...d5 18.0-0-0 with massive attack.

**18.Qh3 h6 19.Rxg6+! Kxg6 20.0-0-0! d5 21.exd5 Qc8 22.Rg1+ Kf7 23.d6+ Kf8 24.Qxh6+ Rxh6 25.Rg8#**

With apologies to Glenn Kirschner for the paraphrase: ...because activity matters.

**1-0**

**Jamie Zhongyun Zhu (WA) (1858) – Ashton Taylor (BC) (1975) [A13]**  
BC-WA m Richmond  
(R4), 03.07.2023  
[Ralph Dubisch]

**1.c4 e6 2.Nf3 d5 3.e3 Nf6 4.Nc3 Be7 5.b3 0-0 6.Bb2 c5 7.cxd5 exd5 8.d4 Bg4 9.Be2 Nc6 10.0-0**

The theoretical line 10.dxc5 Bxc5 11.0-0 offers White better chances.

**10...Bxf3 11.Bxf3 cxd4 12.exd4 Bb4!? 13.Qd3 Re8 14.Rfe1 Qd7 15.a3 Bxc3 16.Bxc3 Rxe1+ 17.Rxe1 Re8 18.Rxe8+ Nxe8 19.Qe3 Qe6??**

19...Nf6

**20.Kf1?**

A missed opportunity. 20.Bxd5!!

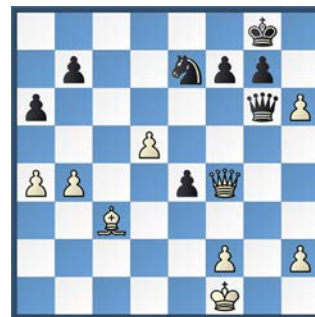
**20...Nf6 21.b4 a6 22.a4 Qf5 23.g4 Qg6?!**

A little passive. The more active 23...Qc2 seems to offer equal chances: 24.g5 (24.Bxd5 Qd1+ 25.Be1 Qxg4 26.Bg2 h6∞)

24...Ne4 25.Bxe4 dxe4 26.Kg2 (26.d5 Qd1+) 26...Ne7

**24.g5 Ne4 25.Bxe4 dxe4 26.d5 Ne7 27.Qf4 h6 28.gxh6**

28.d6!



Position after 28.gxh6

**28...Qxh6?**

Also losing is 28...Nxd5? 29.Qb8+ Kh7 30.hxg7+-; The saving idea is 28...e3!! clearing the diagonal for the black queen. 29.Qb8+ (29.d6 Qd3+ 30.Kg2

2023 BC-WA Match									
#	Name	Rating	Team	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total
1	NM Neil Doknjas	2270	BC	W13	D2	W11	W5	W7	4.5
2	Austin Liu	2174	WA	W17	D1	W12	W3	D4	4
3	Ethan Song	2256	BC	W19	W11	W7	L2	D14	3.5
4	Henry Yang	1806	BC	L11	W24	W23	W22	D2	3.5
5	LM Joshua Sinanan	2263	WA	D15	W10	D8	L1	W16	3
6	Ryan Yang	2235	BC	W14	L7	W21	L13	W20	3
7	Yiding Lu	2181	WA	W16	W6	L3	W8	L1	3
8	Matthew He	2148	BC	W20	W21	D5	L7	D13	3
9	Zachary Liu	2101	BC	D21	D14	W19	L11	W22	3
10	Joe Roback	2100	BC	W22	L5	L14	W23	W21	3
11	Ted Wang	2019	WA	W4	L3	L1	W9	W17	3
12	Ashton Taylor	1975	BC	W24	W19	L2	L14	W23	3
13	David Paez	1970	WA	L1	W18	D15	W6	D8	3
14	Jamie Zhongyun Zhu	1858	WA	L6	D9	W10	W12	D3	3
15	Ivan Petrov	1856	BC	D5	W20	D13	L21	W24	3
16	Joyce Zhang	1823	BC	L7	W23	W22	D20	L5	2.5
17	James Kerry	1812	BC	L2	W22	W24	D19	L11	2.5
18	Gillian Mok	2054	BC	W23	L13	L20	W24	L19	2
19	Nikolay Bulakh	1934	WA	L3	L12	L9	D17	W18	1.5
20	Nikhil Ramkumar	1799	WA	L8	L15	W18	D16	L6	1.5
21	Michael Xiong	1390	WA	D9	L8	L6	W15	L10	1.5
22	Kate Wong	1192	WA	L10	L17	L16	L4	L9	0
23	Mike Tie	1018	WA	L18	L16	L4	L10	L12	0
24	Hayk Margaryan	unr.	WA	L12	L4	L17	L18	L15	0



Nf5 31.hxg7 exf2 32.Kxf2 Nxd6; 29.Qxe3 Nxd5 30.Qe8+ Kh7 31.hxg7 Qd3+ 32.Kg1! Qd1+ 33.Kg2 Qg4+) 29...Kh7 30.hxg7 Qd3+ gives perpetual check.

**29.Qxh6 gxh6 30.d6! Nc6 31.b5?!**

31.d7! f5 32.Bf6 Kf7 33.d8Q Nxd8 34.Bxd8+-

**31...Nb8**

31...axb5 32.axb5 Nb8

**32.Bf6?!**

32.Ke2

**32...Nd7 33.Bc3 f5 34.Ke2 Kf7 35.f3 Ke6 36.fxe4 fxe4 37.Bb4**

37.bxa6 bxa6

**37...Kd5**

37...axb5 38.axb5 Nb6

**38.bxa6 bxa6 39.Ke3 Ne5 40.h4 h5 41.a5 Nd7**

41...Nc4+

**42.Ba3 Ne5 43.Bb4 Nd7**

43...Nc4+ 44.Kf4 Nxd6 45.Bxd6 Kxd6 46.Kxe4 Ke6

**44.Kf4 Kc4 45.Ba3 Kd3 46.Kg5 e3**

**47.Bb4 Kc4 48.Be1 Kd5 49.Bg3 Ke4 50.Kxh5 Kf5 51.Kh6 e2**

51...Kf6

**52.Kg7 Nf6 53.Kf7 Ne4 54.d7 Nxg3 55.d8Q Ke4 56.Qd2 Kf3 57.Qe1 Nh5 58.Ke7 Nf4 59.h5?**

59.Qd2 Ng2 60.h5 e1Q+ 61.Qxe1 Nxe1 62.h6+-

**59...Nxh5 60.Qh1+ Kg3?**

60...Kf2! 61.Qh2+ Kf1 62.Qh3+ Kf2 63.Qf5+ Kg2 and White's only real winning attempt is to enter the queen ending by taking the knight.

**61.Qe1+?**

61.Kd6 Nf4 (61...Kf2 62.Qxh5 e1Q 63.Qh4+) 62.Qe4!+-

**61...Kf3 62.Kd7 Nf4! 63.Kc7 Nd3**

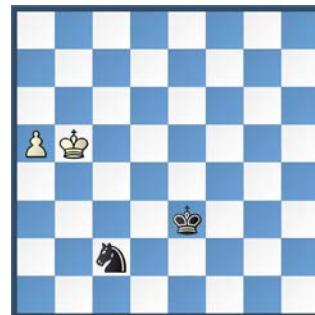
63...Ng2 64.Qc3+ Kf2 65.Qd4+ Kf1

**64.Qh1+ Ke3 65.Kb6**

65.Qh6+ Ke4 (65...Kf2?? 66.Qd2+-) 66.Qe6+ Kf3 (66...Ne5?? 67.Kd6+-) 67.Qxa6 e1Q 68.Qxd3+ Kg2 69.a6± This is probably a draw, but queen endings are crazy hard in time trouble.

**65...e1Q 66.Qxe1+ Nxe1 67.Kxa6 Nc2**

**68.Kb5**



Position after 68.Kb5

**68...Na3+??**

To draw, the knight needs to reach the a7-c8-d6-b5 circuit before the pawn reaches a7.

There is one and only one way to achieve that: 68...Nd4+! 69.Kb6 (69.Kc5 Nb3+ — Nxa5) 69...Nf5! 70.a6 Nd6! Now 71.a7 is met with 71...Nc8+ forking. On anything else, the knight moves to a safe square on the circuit, either directly occupying a7, guarding a7, or preparing a fork to remove the pawn if it advances.

**69.Kc5 Ke4 70.a6**

**1-0**

# Washington Women's Championship

**September 8 - 10, 2023**



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

**Mail To:** Washington Chess Federation  
c/o Orlov Chess Academy  
4174 148<sup>th</sup> Ave. NE  
Building I, Ste. M  
Redmond, WA 98052

**Contact:** Josh Sinanan,  
WCF President, 206-769-3757,  
washingtonchessfederation@gmail.com

**Online Registration:**  
[nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration](http://nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration)

*Highest finishing WA resident seeded into the Premier section of the 2024 WA State Championship.*

**Site:** Orlov Chess Academy – Redmond:  
4174 148<sup>th</sup> Ave. NE, Bldg. I, Ste. M, Redmond, WA 98052.

**Format:** A 5-round Swiss in one section. Open to all female chess players. Maximum of 25 players, please register early. In case of a tie for 1<sup>st</sup> place, playoff games at a later date will determine the seed for the 2024 Premier.

**Time Control:** G/90; +30. Late default: 60 min.

**Prize Fund:** \$750 (based on 25 paid entries).  
1<sup>st</sup> \$200, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$150, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$100  
1<sup>st</sup> U1800/U1600/U1400/U1200/U1000: \$60

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

**Entry Fee:** \$50 if postmarked or online by 9/3, \$60 after or at site. Free entry for WGMs, WIMs, and WFM.

**On-site Registration:** Friday 6:00-6:45 PM.

**Rounds:** Friday 7 PM; Saturday 10 AM, 3 PM; Sunday 10 AM, 3 PM.

**Rating:** Dual US Chess and NWSRS Rated. Higher of September US Chess or current NWSRS rating 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 memberships required, other states accepted.

**Procedure and Health/Safety Policy:** Pairings and standings will be posted before each round near the play area. Face masks optional for players and spectators. If interested, please bring your own mask.

# 2023 Seattle Summer Kickoff

Josh Sinanan

The Seattle Summer Kickoff chess tournament took place on Saturday, June 17, at Lakeside Upper School in Seattle. We had a magnificent turnout, with 97 scholastic chess players in grades K-12 competing across four sections parsed by grade level and rating: K-3 U600, K-5 U900, K-8 U1200, and K-12 Open. For several courageous chess gladiators, it was their first ever chess tournament!

The convenient North Seattle location made the tournament accessible to players from throughout the region, including the cities of Mercer Island, Kirkland, Mill Creek, Olympia, Bellevue, Sammamish, Seattle, Ocean Shores, Redmond, Bothell, Clyde Hill, Renton, Medina, Vancouver (WA), Lynnwood, Yarrow Point, Bainbridge Island, Grapeview, Woodinville, Camano, Marysville, Puyallup, Milton, Ravensdale, and Issaquah!

The pace of play was expeditious between the younger competitors, and studious and deliberate amongst the older ones. All players put forth their best effort and exhibited the finely tuned chess skills that many of have been developing over the course of the school year.

Each round featured surprising attacks, brilliant sacrifices, and ingenious defenses devised by the many wild characters taking part in the proceedings! As observed by tournament director Rekha Sagar, all players were respectful and demonstrated genuine sportsmanship and integrity throughout the day.

The event was co-hosted by Chess Mates Foundation and Washington Chess Federation, organized by WCF President Josh Sinanan, and directed by WCF co-Vice President Rekha Sagar with assistance from UTD chess stud Vignesh Anand, WCF Member-at-Large Ani Barua, and high school volunteer Pranav Kokati.

WCF Director of Women's and Girls Chess Chouchan Airapetian ran the concessions, which was located just next to the spacious parent waiting area in the refectory room of the Wright Community Center. Many thanks to the team of amazing volunteers that made

this fantastic event possible. We hope to establish the Seattle Summer Kickoff as an annual beginning-of-summer tradition and seek to grow it in the years to come!

*Congratulations to the winners!*

Seattle Summer Kickoff Prizes					
Individual Prizes - Amazon Gift cards awarded in each section.					
1st \$70, 2nd \$60, 3rd \$50, 4th \$40, 5th \$30.					
Section	1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place	4th Place	5th Place
K-3 U600	Alisa Rachiba	Ronen Nagpal Adrina Berjis Sahan Katipally Zayn Alnatour			
K-5 U900	Ziliang Ma	Alex Ye Arthur Deng Natalie Xu Austin Devlin			
K-8 U1200	Elijah Edwin	Lewis Ma Agnivesh Chaudhuri	Leonid Zandanov Justin Lee William Guthrie Vidur Raghunathan Harvey Zhang		
K-12 Open	Zane Wirkkala	Gavin Shi Finian Pasterczyk	Stephen Belgau	Nehanraj Ramesh Samuel Cha Niranjan Prashant Jackson Miller Ares Wang	
Special Prizes: Medals for first-timers (awarded at-site),					
best female player (by TPR), and biggest upset win.					
Section	Best Female Player		Biggest Upset Win		
K-3 U600	Evelyn Xu		Elliott Chin		
K-5 U900	Natalie Xu		Emma Zhao		
K-8 U1200	Tejal Guruswamy		Julian Schatz		
K-12 Open	Deeksha Shankaranand		Arihant Chaudhuri		

# 40th! Annual Reno Western States Open

## Oct 6-8 or Oct 7-8, 2023, 3 Day or 2 Day Schedule

US Chess  
150 GPP (Enhanced)

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**\$17,000!!** (Guaranteed)

F.I.D.E. Rated  
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6 Rd Swiss ♦ 6 Sections ♦ 40/2, Game/1 - d5 ♦ (Open Section) 40/2, Game/55 - d5 ♦ 2 Day (Rds 1-3) G/1 - d5

**Open Section (2200 & above)** EF: \$189, (2000-2199) \$250, (1999/below) \$300; GMs and IMs free but must enter by 9/8 or pay late fee at door. Guaranteed Prizes; (1-7 in Open Section plus 1/2 of all other prizes).

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

<b>Section Expert</b>	(2000-2199)	EF: \$189 (2-day EF: \$185)	\$2,000-1,000-500-300-300
<b>Section "A"</b>	(1800-1999)	EF: \$188 (2-day EF: \$185)	\$1,800-900-500-300-300
<b>Section "B"</b>	(1600-1799)	EF: \$187 (2-day EF: \$185)	\$1,700-800-400-300-300
<b>Section "C"</b>	(1400-1599)	EF: \$186 (2-day EF: \$185)	\$1,500-700-400-300-300
<b>Section "D/Under"</b>	(1399-below)	EF: \$175 (2-day EF: \$185)	\$1,000-500-300-200, (1199/below) \$300

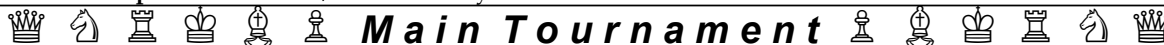
**Top Senior (65+) - \$200; Club Championship - \$600 - 300.**

**Wed. 10/4: 7:00 pm** - GM Sergey Kudrin Clock Simul w/ complete analysis of YOUR Game (Only \$30!-bring clock)

**Thursday 10/5: 6 - 7:15 pm** - Lecture by GM Nick de Firmian (FREE)

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

**Saturday 10/7: 3 - 4:30 pm** - FREE Game/Position Analysis - GM Nick de Firmian



**Registration: Thursday (10/5) 5 - 8 pm. - Friday (10/6) 9 - 10 am. - Saturday (10/7) 9 - 10 am.**

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

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

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

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

**Room Reservation: Call Circus Circus Reno, 1-800-648-5010, Group Reservation Code: SRWC23**

**\$98.34 Sun-Thu / \$200.49 Fri-Sat • Reserve by 9/20 • Hotel link: <https://book.passkey.com/go/SRWC23>**

**For TLA and to confirm receipt of entry see player list at: [www.renochess.org](http://www.renochess.org)**

**ENTRY FORM - 40th Annual Western States Open - Reno, Nevada - Oct 6-8 OR Oct 7-8, 2023**

Mail to: WEIKEL CHESS, 6578 Valley Wood Drive, Reno NV 89523

PRINT Name \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime Phone \_\_\_\_\_ USCF/FIDE Rating \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

----- OPEN SECTION -----

EXPERT "A" "B" "C" "D/Under" UNRATED

GM/IM • Masters • 2000-2199 • 1999-Below

2000-2199 1800-1999 1600-1799 1400-1599 1399-Below Free With

3-Day EF	Free	•	\$189	•	\$250	•	\$300		\$189	\$188	\$187	\$186	\$175	USCF Dues
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2-Day EF	\$185	\$185	\$185	\$185	\$185	USCF Dues
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### FEES ALSO ENCLOSED FOR:

- ☐ \$30 Wed. Clock Simul GM Kudrin
- ☐ \$20 Thu. Simul GM Khachiyani
- ☐ \$25 Thursday Blitz (G/5 d0)
- ☐ \$20 Discount - Sr 65+ Age \_\_\_\_\_

### POSTMARK BY September 8, 2023. Add \$11 after 9/8. Add \$22 on site.

Do not mail after 9/29 or email after 10/3. Make check / m.o. payable to WEIKEL CHESS or provide credit card info and signature. \$5 service

charge on credit card entries. ☐ Visa ☐ Master Card ☐ Am.Ex

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_ CVV Code \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card# \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ Check Enclosed
- ☐ Charge My Card

**TOTAL \$** \_\_\_\_\_  
**FEES:** \_\_\_\_\_



# Lakeside Summer Classic

Josh Sinanan and Valentin Razmov

The Lakeside Summer Classic was a five-round Swiss tournament that took place on Saturday, July 8 at Lakeside Upper School in Seattle! The turnout was strong considering the vacation season, with 67 scholastic chess players in grades K-12 competing across four sections parsed by grade level and rating: K-3 U500, K-5 U900, K-8 U1200, and K-12 Open. For several adventurous youngsters, this was their first ever chess tournament! The sections were well balanced, providing appropriate learning experiences for everyone who had come to play. Even the eventual winners had to fight off multiple strong challenges from their (often much lower-rated) opponents, and in several notable cases the games and the eventual section prize winners weren't decided until the final moments of their respective games.

The convenient North Seattle location made the tournament accessible to players from throughout the Pacific Northwest, including the cities of

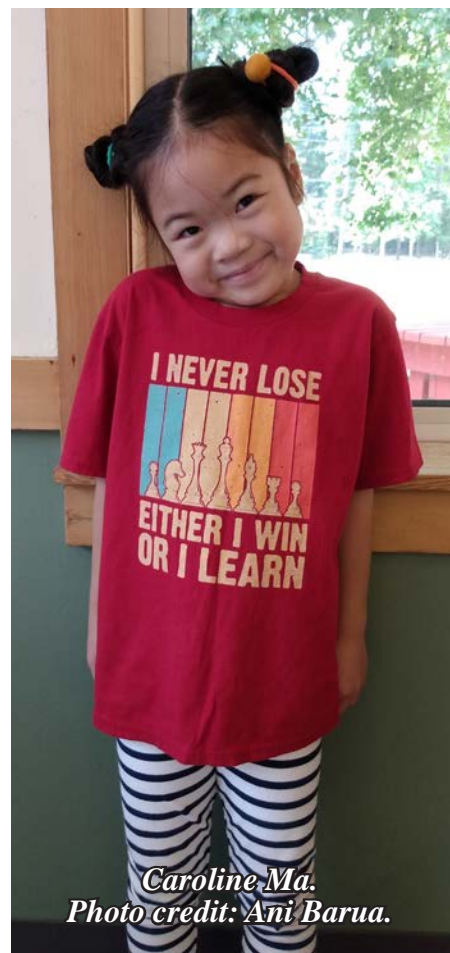
Puyallup, Olympia, Bellevue, Kirkland, Mill Creek, Bainbridge Island, Shoreline, Bothell, Sammamish, Lake Forest Park, Newcastle, Redmond, Stanwood, Lake Stevens, Mount Vernon, Snoqualmie, Milton, and Issaquah! As is typical for scholastic events, most games between the youngest players ended quickly and decisively, while many games in the higher sections (U1200 and Open) featured more balanced encounters and challenges. All players demonstrated genuine respect, sportsmanship, and integrity throughout the event.

The event was co-hosted by Lakeside Chess and Washington Chess Federation, organized by WCF President Josh Sinanan, and directed by WCF co-Vice President Rekha Sagar with assistance from WCF Member-at-Large Ani Barua, and Lakeside Captains Sophie Szeto, Rishi Lakshminarayanan, and NM Eric Zhang. Wonderful photos and video were taken throughout the day by photographers Ani Barua, Valentin Razmov, Rekha Sagar, and Rishi Lakshminarayanan! Rising

Lakeside senior Sophie Szeto and her family ran the concessions, which was adjacent to the spacious parent waiting area in the refectory room of the Wright Community Center. We'd like to thank the amazing volunteers who had come specifically to help out and who made this fantastic event the success that it was - before, during, and after its completion.

While this is a new event on the calendar, we hope to establish the Lakeside Summer Classic as an annual tradition!

Lakeside Summer Classic Prizes				
Individual Prizes - Amazon Gift Card Prizes awarded in each section.				
1st \$70, 2nd \$60, 3rd \$50				
Section	1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place	Biggest Upset Win
K-3 U500	Leonard Hoang	Siana Razmov Naveen Chenicheri		Prisha More
K-5 U900	Ravi Pillai	Felix Y Chen Hengshen Wang		Qifan Gong
K-8 U1200	Connor Chung	Alexander Lebedinsky	Leonid Zandanov Justin Lee Stas Black Matthew Kim David Trochesset Isaac Xie Killian Bates	Alexander Rogovoy
K-12 Open	Bertrand Wan	Noah Condit	Erin Bian Arjun Yadav Evan Cen Keeran Balayoghan	Yang Xu



Caroline Ma.  
Photo credit: Ani Barua.

# Corrections...

(...to the Printed Version of the July 2023 Issue)

Well, if one never does anything, then one never makes a mistake!

The 48-page July issue had three errors in the printed version that should be corrected.

These were found and corrected before the online version was published, so this affects *only* the printed version.—Editor.

## Diagram Error

The diagram (top of page 23) to the David Murray vs Davey Jones game was wrong (it was accidentally a duplication of the previous diagram). It should be:



Position after 18...Nxd4

## Captioning Errors

There were two captioning errors in Washington Open photos. The correct captions should be...

Top of page 23:



Bottom of page 25:



# Seattle Chess Club Tournaments

Address  
 7212 Woodlawn Ave NE  
 Seattle WA 98115  
 Info  
[www.seattlechess.club](http://www.seattlechess.club)  
 Addresses for Entries  
 SCC Tnmt Dir  
 2420 S 137 St  
 Seattle WA 98168  
 —or—  
[contact@seattlechess.club](mailto:contact@seattlechess.club)

**Aug 6, Sept 10 Sunday Tornado**  
**Format:** 4-SS. **TC:** G/50;+10. **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 memb. req'd. NS, NC.

**Aug 26 Note New Date, Oct 1 G/20 Hexes**  
**Format:** 5-RR in 6- or 5-player sections. **TC:** G/20;+8. **EF:** \$12 (+\$6 fee for non-SCC). **Prize Fund:** \$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 memb. req'd. NS, NC.

**Sept 2 & 30 Saturday Quads**  
**Format:** 3-RR, 4-plyr sec. by rtg. **TC:** G/100;+10. **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 memb. req'd. NS, NC.

Mondays are for casual play

**Sept 3 SCC Novice**  
**Format:** 4-SS. Open to U1200 and UNR. **TC:** G/60;+15. **EF:** \$20 (-\$2 SCC members). **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.

## Adult Swiss

August 12-13, 2023

A four-round Swiss open to those born before 8/26/2003 with a prize fund of \$320.

<b>First</b>	<b>\$100</b>
<b>Second</b>	<b>\$70</b>
<b>U1800</b>	<b>\$50</b>
<b>U1600</b>	<b>\$45</b>
<b>U1400</b>	<b>\$40</b>
<b>U1200/Unr</b>	<b>\$15</b>

**Time Control:** G/120; +30.

**Entry Fees:** Free to SCC members. \$12 for non-members.

**Registration:** Sat. 10-10:45 a.m.

**Rounds:** 11-4:30, 11-4:30.

**Byes:** 1 (Sunday rounds, commit at registration).

**Miscellaneous:** US Chess req'd. NS. NC.

*Sponsored by Henry Yan.*

## Tentative SCC Weekend Schedule, October 2023 through June 2024

**G/20 Hexes:** Oct 1, Nov 11, Dec 17, Jan 29, Mar 9, Apr 14, Jun 1.

**Novice:** Sep 3, Oct 14, Dec 3, Jan 20, Mar 3, Apr 13, May 19, Jun 29.

**Quads:** Sep 2 & 30, Oct 28, Dec 2&30, Jan 27, Mar 2 & 30, Apr 27, May 18, Jun 15.

**Tornado:** Oct 8, Nov 12, Dec 10, Jan 7, Feb 4, Mar 10, Apr 7, May 5, Jun 2.

<b>Rain City Plus-Score</b>	4-5 November	<b>SCC Insanity?</b>	31 Dec.-1 Jan.
<b>Seattle City Championship</b>	13-14 January	<b>Adult Swiss</b>	24-5 February
<b>Seattle Spring Open</b>	23-24 March	<b>Emerald City Open</b>	22-23 June



