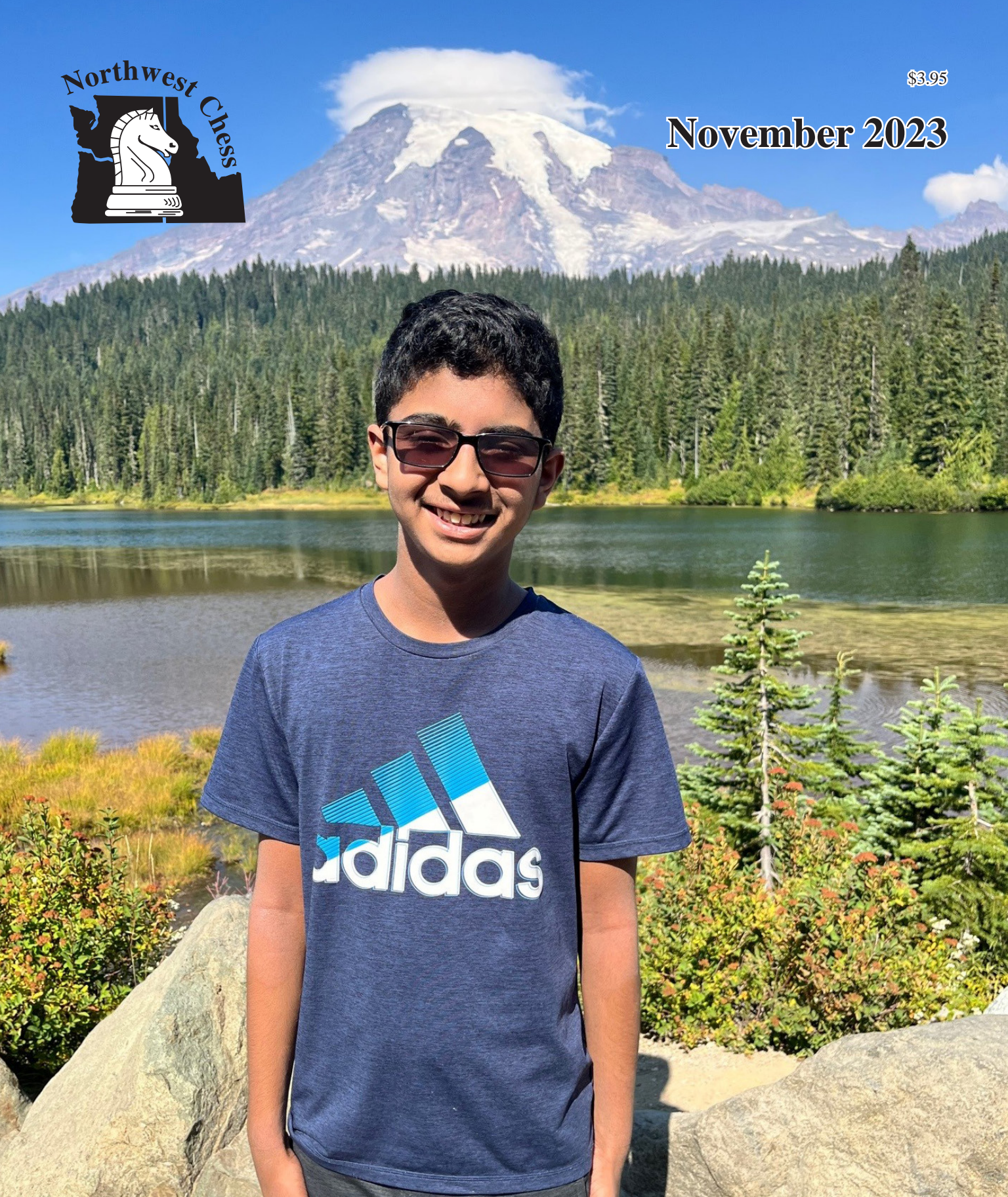




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Stephen Willy (co-champion at 2023 Oregon Open 2000+
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On the back cover:

Vikram Srivastava (co-champion at 2023 Oregon Open
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Chess In A Nutshell

By Glen O'Harra

*A turbaned shah sits in Iran, as chessboard he surveys,
Eunuchs wave a feathered fan, bare bellied dancers sway.*

*The king astride his royal square, vizier by his side,
Next to her court fool of yore, miter will wear with pride!*

*On his steed leaps valiant knight, will deftly fork the foe!
Mideast Persian "rocks" sit tight, to sturdy rooks will grow!*

*Foot soldiers stand in place, pawns alert through time,
Game from Iran will trace, it's way through desert clime.*

*Contest produced chess master, sadly some play while blind!
Will grow profuse and faster, madly men lose their mind!*

*One learns circumspection, as battlefield surveys,
And stern concentration, to focus like x-ray!*

*Keen foresight is needed, to ponder moves ahead!
Care and insight heeded, beware of where you tread!*

*Keep hope and perseverance, though position bleak!
Don't forget reconnaissance, discern the forces weak!*

*Know your rich recourses, to formulate a plan,
Take stock of resources, know what you have at hand!*

*Patience is a virtue, don't make moves in haste!
Take heart, plan pursue, and learn from past mistakes!!!*

2023 Oregon Open

Wilson Gibbins



(L-R) Grisha Alpernas, Cesareo "Trey" Tongco III after winning the U1100 section, Wilson Gibbins. Photo credit: Bob Tongco.

The 2023 Oregon Open established that the chess boom is not limited to Seattle, the chess city of the year. Our attendance increased to 224 in 2023 from 175 in 2022. While we benefited from the number of Washington players jumping from 66 to 84 in 2023, Oregon's boost from 82 to 128 accounted for most of the difference. The prize fund was based on 150 players, and since I am not a math major, we rounded up to an even 50% increase in prizes. This resulted in the 2000+ first prize becoming \$2,325, and all the other top section prizes \$750.

Players from the Seattle area took the top three places in the 2000+ section. Stephen Willy and Vikram Srivastava tied for first in the Open section with five wins and one draw, earning them \$2100 each. Stephen beat last year's champion Matt Zavortink with the black pieces in round six. Siddarth Sundaram, the man featured on the cover of the October edition of *Northwest Chess*, started slowly with a first round loss to the dangerous Ted Wang. It looked like *Northwest Chess* might have a jinx effect just like [Sports Illustrated](#), but he recovered by winning five games, finishing clear third, and taking \$1,350 in prize money. (Your author did not recover from his loss to the dangerous Ted Wang in round two 😞) Dangerous Ted finished 4-2, losing only to the two winners. James Wei won the \$600 under 2150 prize with 4.5 points.

Jerry Sherrard and Christos Boulis scored five points out of six to tie for first in the Under 2000 section, winning \$675 each. Jerry survived two difficult positions in the Tarkatover Variation of the Caro-Kann. There's a lesson here kids: (1) never give up, and (2) never disrespect the Caro-Kann. Eric Erard, William Nobles, and Darsh Verma

combined the third-place prize with some U1850 money to take home \$500 each.

Rohan Vora took first with 5.5 points to win \$750 in the U1700 section. Emel Bayrambeyli and Enjie Qiao won \$600 each by combining the second-place overall and first-place U1550 money.

Shaayan Sinha took first in the U1400 section with five points for the \$750 first prize. Five players tied for second with 4.5 points and four of them (Liam Han Priest, Haituka Anandkumar, Advait Krishnan, Zachary Charles Daugherty) received \$262.50. Karthik Bimod also finished with 4.5 points, but his starting rating allowed him to win the U1250 prize of \$600. Four of the six top prize winners took the Swiss gambit approach of drawing their first round.

Cesareo (Trey) Tongco was the only player in the tournament with a perfect 6-0 score. As you can see from his game below, he was willing to play for the win in the final round when he only needed a draw to clinch the \$750 first prize. Jacob Holland and Vihaan Pai both finished with five points to win \$525. Misha Von Dassow won the \$600 U950 prize.

James Wei won the Open Blitz Championship with 7.5 out of eight points. Neevan Reddy Saddi won the U1550 Blitz Championship with 7.5 points. 1429 rated Leonardo Wang scored 4.0/4 to win the Open rapid tournament over players rated as much as 600 points higher. Varun Venkat and Iyengar Moses and Mascolo Jr. tied for first in the U1550 Rapid event, both with perfect 4.0/4 scores.

Thanks to Dave Murray for organizing this event, including the setup and teardown of the tournament infrastructure, with help from Sanjay Nair, Mike Morris, Jon Strohbehn, Robert Hecht, Denise Rios, and Heidi Murray. Thanks to Chief TD Grisha Alpernas for directing and managing the thousand and one surprises that tournaments like these provide, including a man running into the main tournament room during round three to toss two cups of water in the air. Thanks to Lilly Tang, Sanjay Nair, Mike Morris, and Mike Janniro for helping Grisha direct the tournament. Thanks to Dave and Mike Janniro for directing the blitz tournament. Thanks to Mike Morris for running the rapid. Thanks to Greg Markowski and Eric Holcomb for managing OCF memberships, a process that is sorely in need of automation support. Finally, thanks to Roshen Nair,

Northwest Chess



*Wilson Gibbins (R) handing Jerry Sherrard his check for a first-place tie in the U2000 section.
Photo credit: Erin Jones.*

Lilly Tang, and Chad Lykins for running numerous events for scholastic players providing young players the tournament chess experience and confidence to play in high profile events like the Oregon Open.

We hope to see everyone again next year. But if you can't wait that long, we would be happy to see you at the Oregon Class Championships on November 4-5.

November 2023

**Nathan L. Zhou (1898) –
Stephen Willy (2100) [B28]**
2023 Oregon Open 2000+
Portland (R1), September 2, 2023
[Stephen Willy]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 a6

Time to make things imbalanced!

3.c4

Note for future opponents: I know how to

Page 5

play vs this now. When I had played ...a6, I had forgotten about c4, probably due to fatigue. And I had tried to review this line a bit, but could not find a clear line for Black; I already knew I was in some trouble here as I did not know how to play these structures.

3...Nc6 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nxd4 g6

Going for the Dragon was a big mistake psychologically as I did not follow up with the typical Dragon setup. 5...e5 has some interesting variations; 5...e6 I also knew some stuff about this position but without ...a6; 5...Nf6; 5...d6.

6.Nc3 Bg7 7.Be3 e6!?



Position after 7...e6

I knew this was terrible objectively because of all my dark-squared weaknesses, but he probably knew what he was doing in the mainline Dragon, and I was facing a Maroczy structure with no clue what to do, so I thought why not play ...e6 and try and make him have to use actual skill as now my plan is rather simple. If you give Black a few tempos, Black will play ...Nge7, ...0-0, and ...d5 (I even had some ideas of ...f5).

8.Nxc6!

This move is necessary at some point or else White has no advantage (At the time I thought this move didn't make sense as I had ...bxc6 and some attempts at tactics on b2, but when I analyzed I realized that I am one tempo too short for any tactics on b2 to work.

8...bxc6 9.Qd2

There is a problem here—that is the dark squares—which I knew would be a big problem, but I underestimated how big of a problem it is, and once I actually analyzed, I realized that it's almost impossible to get castled, as during the game I thought on ...Nf6 he can play Bh6 and I am just suffering. However, if I don't play ...Nf6, then I will never be developed—so I have to just suffer. I

was thinking after ...Nf6 Bh6 I can play ...Bxh6 Qxh6 Qb6 with some attempts at counterplay but it probably didn't work.

9...Nf6 10.Bc5



Position after 10.Bc5

Oh wait, why did I not think about this ...Qa5 doesn't work due to b4; Gotta break out with ...d5 I guess. 10.Bh6 Bxh6 (10...0-0 11.h4) 11.Qxh6 Qb6 12.Qg7 (12.Be2; 12.0-0-0) 12...Qxb2 13.Qxh8+ Ke7.

10...d5 11.exd5 exd5 12.cxd5?!

I wasn't sure why he didn't just play Be2 and simply target my pawn, but ok.

12.Be2

12...Nxd5!

12...cxd5, and I just lose the pawn at some point and still have no castling. This move is typical in the normal Dragon, and I thought why not try it here (if you have seen my game against Erin in the state championship this is actually the same type of structure, just I am not castled. 12...cxd5 13.Be2

13.Ne4?

One bad move comes after another. This move is good in mainline theory (like in my game against Erin), however here the difference is I am not castled and White should castle and try and mate me. 13.Bc4! and I am just lost. I have no clue how I would have made counterplay here.

13...Rb8!



Position after 13...Rb8

I don't care about my king being on d7 as it's actually safer there than on e8, and now my counterplay on b2 actually exists.

14.Nd6+ Kd7 15.Nc4??

You need to just play 15.Ba3 and defend the pawn properly because of my next move.

15...Rxb2!!



Position after 15...Rxb2

Not the most pleasant thing to see at the board.

16.Qd3?!

I thought he should take on b2 and accept being down a queen and a pawn for a rook and a bishop and try and use my king on d7 for some counterplay. This makes the conversion relatively easy.

16...Re8+ 17.Kd1 Rb5 18.Rc1 Rxc5 19.Ne5+ Rxe5 20.Rxc5 Kc7 21.Rc4 Ne3+

21...Bf5 is probably slightly better.

0-1

**Ted Wang (1976) –
Stephen Willy (2100) [B15]**
2023 Oregon Open 2000+
Portland (R3), September 3, 2023
[Stephen Willy]

1.e4

Ted was going to be a hard challenge. Despite already being really strong, he had started off the tournament with wins against a 2500 and a 2200.

1...c6

I was preparing for Ted and noticed he played into the Tartakower, which despite not playing, I knew some theory and ideas.

2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Nf6 5.Nxf6+ exf6 6.c3 Bd6 7.Bd3 0-0 8.Qc2 Re8+ 9.Ne2 h5 10.Be3

I think 10.0-0 is best for White, as in the

mainline, White does not get an easy attack.

10...Nd7 11.0-0-0 Nf8 12.Ng3?!



Position after 12.Ng3

I noticed Ted had played this in a previous tournament game, and it's not really that accurate. 12.c4 is better. It is played with Kb1, and both can be played on move 12; 12.Kb1

12...g6

I remembered preparing this move, and while it is also fine for Black, I think ...Be6 is more accurate.

12...Be6

13.Ne4 Be7

This was the end of my prep. I knew Black tries to go for ...Be6 ...b5 etc. etc. in these positions.

14.c4 Be6

Preparing ...b5, as ...b5 right away is a free pawn. White needs to do something or else he is blown off the board in these types of positions. Sometimes d5 is an idea against ...b5 (and maybe even without ...b5 in some scenarios). White would also like to have h3, g4 ideas, but I think this Ng3, Ne4 maneuver makes that plan too slow. 14...b5 15.cxb5

15.Nc3 Qa5

The idea of ...Qa5 is to pressure a2 and

also to play b5, and after cxb5 cxb5 Bxb5 I can move my rook to c8.

16.Kb1

16.Qa4 Stockfish likes trading the queens at this point.

16...b5 17.cxb5

17.d5 cxd5 18.cxb5. Apparently, this is a thing too.

17...cxb5 18.d5 Bd7 19.Ne4

I thought this was a good move to get away from any ideas of ...b4 with tempo.

19...f5

I wanted to get the knight out before Bd4 butchered me. I did not like ...Rc8 ideas because of Qd2.

19...Rac8 20.Qd2

20.Nc5

During the game I thought 20.Qc3 was interesting for him.

20...Rac8 21.Nb3

Stockfish tries to say White is fine after 21.Rc1, but this looks tedious for White.

21...Qa4!

Now if Qd2, just ...Bb4 and ...f4 win the piece, so he has to go to e2 right away.

22.Qe2 f4!

I was hesitant to play this move as I couldn't see a forcing variation that worked, but I just felt that the forcing move that forces his pieces back must be good, and I was right.

23.Bc1

23.Bd4??

23...Bf6

23...Bb4?!

I was not happy with any Qd2 ideas so I tried to stop it however Bg5 allowing it

but protecting f4 is better (stopping Qf3) as I had the right idea (I was thinking Qf1 Re5) but this is the idea on Bg5 Qd2/Qf1. 23...Bg5 24.Qf1 (24.Qd2 Re5) 24...Re5

24.Qf3!



Position after 24.Qf3

I don't know why I overlooked this, and for a moment, I was considering taking the exchange. But it felt wrong, as he gets a bishop and a pawn as well as freeing his pieces up; I thought he had compensation, and I was right, so here I played the forcing move. 24.Qf1 Re5 was my idea.

24...Bd6

Protecting f4 and threatening to trap the queen.

25.h3! Nh7

Trying to win the queen. I thought here he should try to play g4 and use this opportunity to try and attack me.

26.g3?

26.g4 Ng5! 27.Qg2 f3 28.Qg1 Ne4 29.gxh5 Bf5, White has no more attack, but a better try.

26...Ng5!

And here comes a set of forcing moves that keeps away the queen and the attack for White.

27.Qg2 f3! 28.Qf1! Ne4! 29.Ka1?

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He is just moving into the attack.



Position after 29.Ka1

29...Be5?!

Stockfish has a rather nice idea here. 29...Nc3!! 30.bxc3 Rxc3 31.Kb1 Only move to get out of losing a piece 31...Rxd3! This is the point and White's king is too weak.

30.Re1?

Now it's just dead lost. He needed to take the knight and try and trade the queens, but that is rather unpleasant. 30.Bxe4 Qxe4 31.Qd3.

30...Nc3!

I almost missed this but then saw it. Now the game is over.

31.Bb1 Bf5 32.bxc3 Bxc3+ 33.Bb2 Rxe1 34.Qxe1 Bxe1 35.Rxe1 Bxb1 36.Rxb1 Qe4 37.Rd1 Qe2 38.Rc1 Rxc1+ 39.Bxc1 Qxf2 40.d6 Qb6 41.Bf4 f2 42.Nd2 g5 43.Be5 Qe3 44.d7 Qxd2 45.d8R+ Qxd8 0-1

**Stephen Willy (2100) –
Steven Breckenridge (2293) [C47]**
2023 Oregon Open 2000+
Portland (R4), September 3, 2023
[Stephen Willy]

1.e4 e5

I had no clue what I wanted to play as I had no time to prepare, so I almost went for something dubious before backing out by the possibility of him knowing it and going for the Scotch instead.

2.d4 exd4 3.Nf3 Nc6 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3

For higher rated players, this line is annoying as it's hard to play for advantage, so he went for something different than the mainline with ...Bb4.

5...Bc5!?

Unfortunately for him, a GM had played this line a few weeks before this game, and after getting destroyed, I analyzed

what was best. 5...Bb4 Even though it's drawish, I think it's less hope chess of a move.

6.Be3 Bb6 7.Nf5!

White will get a strong control over the d5 square. 7.Nxc6 bxc6 8.Bxb6 axb6. I played like this vs the GM and lost.

7...0-0 8.Bxb6 axb6 9.Ne3 Re8 10.Bc4 Ne5

10...b5 Apparently some thematic move we didn't know.

11.Be2?!

Against ...d6 and ...Ng4 at some point, but rather passive and runs into some problems. 11.Bb3 b5 (11...d6)

11...Ng6 12.f3 c6

Preparing ...d5

13.Qd4?

Protecting my knight against ...d5, which somehow can still be played with a combination of ...b5 too.

13...Nf4

13...d5 14.exd5 b5

14.e5?

14.Qd6 I should just block the d-pawn.

14...N6h5

14...Nxe2 I think this is also pretty strong 15.Nxe2 (15.Kxe2 c5 Black is better) 15...c5 16.Qc3 d5 17.exd6 Qxd6 I have some structural compensation. I guess, but I have to play Kf2 and stuff.

15.0-0-0

My idea against ...Rxa2 was Kb1 Ra8 Bc4, but this is refuted by ...b5 and ...Qa5.

15...Qg5?



Position after 15...Qg5

While this looks good, I am lucky that his pieces are too tangled to win the e5-pawn. 15...Rxa2 16.Kb1 Ra8 17.Bc4 b5! 18.Bb3 Qa5!

16.Bf1!

I must protect g2.

16...b5

16...Qxe5 17.Qxe5 Rxe5 18.Nc4; 16...Rxe5 17.Ne4! 17...Qe7 18.g3 His pieces are too tangled to take on e5.

17.g3! Ne6

He probably missed my next move.

18.f4! Nxd4 19.fxg5

He has problems in this position, as his c8-bishop is out of play, and his d4-knight is hanging, while I have ideas to try and win his h5-knight (he is pretty much lost already).



Position after 19.fxg5

19...c5

19...Ne6 20.Be2 g6 21.Bxh5 gxh5 22.Ne4

20.Bxb5

His c8-bishop is a problem in many lines as well as his h5-knight in a few others.

20...Rxe5 21.Nc4 Re6 22.Rhe1 d5 23.Nb6 Ra5 24.Nxc8 Nxb5 25.Nxd5 g6 26.g4 Rxe1 27.Rxe1 Ng7 28.Nf6+ Kh8 29.Re7 Ra8 30.Nb6 Rd8 31.Nbd7 Nd4 32.c3

32.Ne5 Never too late to blunder mate. 32...Ne2+ 33.Kb1 Rd1#

32...Nc6 33.Rxf7 c4 34.h4 Ra8 35.h5 Rg8 36.h6 Nd8 37.hxg7+

He grabbed his knight to take the rook, but then put it back.

37...Rxc7 38.Rf8+ Rg8 39.Rxc8#

1-0

**Matt Zavortink (2286) –
Stephen Willy (2100) [A37]**
2023 Oregon Open 2000+
Portland (R6), September 4, 2023
[Stephen Willy]

1.Nf3 c5

Thanks to Ted, I knew that he played the Reti, so rather than playing what I normally play, I wanted to play against him getting any setups with d4 that he might be comfortable with (here I was hoping he did not go into a Sicilian, as I was not sure what I was going to do).

2.g3

2.e4

2...Nc6

Trying to go for e5.

3.Bg2 e5 4.c4

Now it's like an English.

4...d6 5.Nc3 Nge7

Trying to stop him from putting a knight on d5 too easily.

6.0-0

My coach suggested 6.d3 saying that this move order with ...Nge7 doesn't work for Black, however, I have an idea that happens in a few openings that allows this to work. 6...g6 7.Bg5 Bg7 8.Nd5. This is the point. Now the knight is strong, and White goes after the f6-square. However, 8...h6 9.Bf6 Bxf6 10.Nxf6+ Kf8 I just give him the f6-square and go to g7, and in fact I am perfectly fine here.

6...g6

Because of thinking about ...Be6 and ...f6 for so long, I am about 30–40 minutes behind (I don't remember exactly how much). 6...Be6 7.d3 f6 I was so tempted to do this, but in my mind I knew it had to be bad (it is because Nd2 and then White has the d5-square and the long diagonal) but it's not nearly as bad as I thought.

7.a3

7.d3 makes more sense to me.

7...Bg7 8.b4

He told me after the game that this is a thematic idea that normally Black should not allow, however it's hard to see what this actually does to Black. If I just ignore it (I think the only prospect of the b4-pawn is to take on c5 at some point when White wants to), delaying d3 clearly has a toll for a bit.

8...0-0 9.Rb1

9.d3 e4 would be bad for him.

9...f5

He still can't play d3 because of ...e4.

10.Nd5

This is an interesting move. Normally playing Nd5 when you can only take back with the pawn is bad, but I thought if I took, then after he takes back, he blocks up my pieces, and it's hard for me to move. I always have the choice of e4 here, but I don't know, I like being flexible and not having the prospect of being undermined.

10...h6 11.d3

Initially, I wanted ideas like ...g5, but I realized that doesn't work here (Nxc5 followed by b5 is good for White). So instead, I decided to go for ...Be6 since he can't play Ng5 anymore.

11...Be6

Here I thought it made sense for him to go Nd2 and keep the knight strong on d5 (as is good in many of these positions). Also, apparently b5 is a line because if ...Nd4 then Nd2, and I have to give my knight room.

12.bxc5



Position after 12.bxc5

Here I initially planned to play ...dxc5 and hold everything together because his knight on d5 is under attack. And if he takes on e7 with check, I just play ...Qxe7 and defend my pawn, but then I realized that after Nxd5 cxd5 Bxd5 cxd6 rather than having to take on d6 right away I can just play ...Rb8 and then take on d6 and be fine. 12.b5 Nd4 13.Nd2 f4 14.e3 fxe3 15.fxe3 Ndf5; 12.Nd2

12...Nxd5

12...dxc5 13.Nxe7+ Qxe7

13.cxd5 Bxd5 14.Rxb7

14.cxd6 Rb8 (14...Qxd6 15.Rxb7)

14...dxc5 15.Qa4?

He loses any advantage he has here because he missed something a bit subtle about the variation with ...e4. 15.Rb5 He should just be annoying and go after my c-pawn.

15...e4!

I realized the variation that he played in the game is best for him quite fast however he spent quite a big amount of time on his next moves.

16.dxe4 fxe4 17.Nd2 Nd4!

Here he missed Rd7 is met by ...Qe8.

18.Rxg7+

He must play this for any hope of compensation but now he has about 20 minutes. 18.Rd7 Qe8

18...Kxg7 19.Bb2

Now he attacks my e4-pawn and threatens to play e3 and win my knight here I considered offering a draw but then I took a quick look the game between Vikram and Ted, and even though it looked like it was headed towards a draw, Vikram had some chances to win as it was a knight endgame with equal pawns, but he has a sneaky passed b-pawn which might give him some chances, so I decided not to offer a draw.

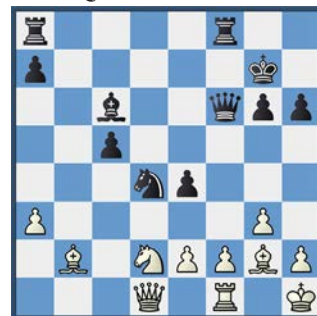
19...Qf6

Threatening ...Nxe2+ or if e3 Ne2+ still.

20.Kh1

Avoiding check and I had calculated this variation from when I played ...e4, however here I did not know what to do, but then I saw an interesting idea to play ...Bc6 and then ...e3 if he allows me. 20.e3 Ne2+

20...Bc6 21.Qd1



Position after 21.Qd1

Uh oh, I missed that and now he is threatening e3 and ...e3 doesn't work for me (Qa5/Qc4 attacking c5 was better, but yeah he didn't play that). Here I was quite nervous with the entire tournament on the line I needed to find a way to not lose two pieces for the rook and be worse, so I spent some time calculating and at first, I was calculating ...Rae8 e3 Bb5 Nxe4 Rxe4 Bxf1 Qxf1 Qxf2 Qxf2 Bc3 and thought I couldn't avoid exd4,

so I discarded that variation and started to think of ways to sacrifice the knight after like $Rae8$ $e3$ move something $exd4$ and $exd4$ but that didn't seem like it would help. Then, somehow I came back to the variation I did before and saw that at the end of that line I have $...Re2!$ after $Bc3$, and if he takes the knight I take his bishop so, I played $...Rae8$. 21.Qa5; 21.Qc4

21...Rae8 22.e3 Bb5! 23.Re1?!

$Rg1$ and $Qc1$ was needed for Black to not have some advantage apparently. 23. $Rg1$ $Qxf2$ 24. $Qc1$

23...Qxf2 24.Ba1??

This loses the game. 24. $Bc3$ $Kh7$ 25. $Nxe4$ $Rxe4$ 26. $Bxe4$ $Be2$ 27. $Qd2$ and Black is only about -0.60/0.

24...Kh7! 25.exd4 e3 26.Ne4 Rxe4 27.Bxe4 e2 28.Rxe2 Bxe2

White loses on time.

0-1

**Vikram Srivastava (2177) –
Derek Heath (1865) [B01]**
2023 Oregon Open 2000+
(R2), September 2, 2023
[Wilson Gibbins]

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Nf6

This move appears to avoid losing time by capturing with the queen. But jump ahead to Black's move four for a counterargument. The most popular line is 2... $Qxd5$ It allows White to gain time for development with 3. $Nc3$ but the line is perfectly playable, even at the top levels. It was good enough for Larsen to beat Karpov at Montreal in 1979.

3.Nf3

This natural developing move is a good way to pursue an edge while avoiding Black's tricky theoretical lines. In Kaufman's *New Reprtoire for Black and White* the author says "I would choose 3.d4 for correspondence games or when fully prepared, 3. $Nf3$ otherwise." 3.d4 $Bg4$ is the tricky Portuguese Gambit.; Attempting to keep the extra pawn with 3.c4 usually backfires 3... $c6$ (3... $e6!$? 4. $dxe6$ $Bxe6$ is the Icelandic Gambit) 4. $dx6$?! (4.d4 $cxd5$ 5. $Nc3$ transposes to the Caro-Kann, Panov-Botvinnik variation.) 4... $Nxc6$ 5. $Nf3$ $e5$ and Black has more than a pawn's worth of compensation.

3...Bg4 4.Be2

4. $Bb5+$ is a more complex path to an advantage. Vikram continues his "safety first" policy.

4...Qxd5



Position after 4... $Qxd5$

We teach beginners not to bring their queen out early in the game, but this is the best move in this position. Real chess doesn't always follow the beginner guidelines.

4... $Nxd5$ 5.d4 $e6$ 6.c4±

5.d4 Nc6 6.Be3 e6

The second most popular choice. 6...0-0-0 is the most popular move. Players who love sharp games find it hard to resist opposite sides castling. But the third most popular move 6... $e5$ might be Black's best shot at equality.

7.Nbd2±

White is solid, has a little more space, and a few more plans. Nothing concrete, but White's position has more promise.

7...Rd8 8.c3 Be7 9.h3 Bh5 10.0-0 0-0 11.Re1 Rfe8 12.Qa4 a6 13.Rac1 Qd7 14.Qb3 Qc8 15.c4 Nb8

Black undevelops his knight to allow a pawn break in the center. White has stopped the other central pawn break 15... $e5$.



Position after 15... $Nb8$

16.Nf1

Seems logical, as the knight wasn't doing much on d2, but Stockfish says it gives

away White's edge. Stockfish bravely suggests 16.g4 $Bg6$ 17. $Ne5$ ± but it is a lot easier to tell other players to weaken their king's pawn cover than to do it yourself. Especially when you know that Black is about to open the center with 17... $c5$

16...c5 17.dxc5 Nbd7= 18.c6 Qxc6 19.Nd4 Qc7 20.Bxh5 Nxh5 21.Red1 Nc5 22.Qc2 Nf4

Black's knights are threatening, but they don't have stable support squares. Both sides will need to be careful.

23.Ng3

23. $Rd2$ =

23...h6

23... $Ncd3!$? 24. $Rxd3$? (24. $Rb1$ ±) 24... $Nxd3$ 25. $Qxd3$ $e5$ ±

24.Rd2 Bf6 25.Rcd1 Be5?

Black has been playing steady chess, but his minor pieces do not have safe anchors, resulting in a position where it is easy to make a mistake.

25... $Bg5$ =

26.b4!± Nd7 27.Nf3 Ng6 28.Ne4 Bf4 29.Bxf4 Nxf4 30.Nd6 Rf8?

30... $Re7$ prevents White's game continuation by indirectly protecting Black's queen on c7 31. $Qe4$?! $Nd5!$ ± 32. $cxd5$ $Nf6$ 33. $Qc4$ $Rxd6$

31.Qe4! Ng6

31... $Nd5$ 32. $cxd5$ $Nf6$ (32... $Qxd6$ 33. $dxe6$ $Qxe6$ 34. $Qxe6$ $fxe6$ 35. $Rxd7$) 33. $Qc4$ $Qxd6$ 34. $dxe6$

32.Qxb7 Qb6 33.c5 Qxb7 34.Nxb7

1-0

**Jerry Sherrard (1900) –
Jonathan Disenhof (1646) [B15]**
2023 Oregon Open U2000
(R2), September 2, 2023
[Chessify Cloud Stockfish (8m)]

Annotations by Chessify Cloud Stockfish (8m), unless explicitly indicated by WG (Wilson Gibbins)

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Nf6 5.Nxf6+ exf6 6.c3 Bd6 7.Bd3 0-0 8.Qc2 Re8+ 9.Ne2 h5 10.0-0 h4 11.h3 Nd7 12.Kh1 Nf8 13.Ngl Be6

Last book move

14.Bd2 Qd7

14... $c5$ 15. $dx6$ $Bxc5$ 16.b4=

15.Rae1

15.f4 f5=

15...Rac8

15...Bxa2? 16.b3+-

16.c4 Bb8 17.Bc3 Qd6

17...Ng6 18.Re3=

18.f4

18.Nf3 Ng6=

18...Bd7 19.c5 Qc7 20.b4

20.Bd2 Be6=

20...Be6

20...Rcd8 21.Rxe8 Rxe8 22.Bd2=

21.Bf5

21.Nf3!?=

21...Rcd8. 22.Bxe6

22.Bd3 Bd5

22...Nxe6

22...fxe6?! 23.Rb1=

23.Re4

23.Ne2 Qd7

23...f5 24.Re3??

24.Re5 g6 25.Nf3

24...Nxf4+- 25.Re5

25.Rxe8+ Rxe8 26.Nf3+-

25...Rxe5

25...Nh5 26.Rfe1 Ng3+ 27.Kh2 Ne4+-

26.dxe5 Nd5

26...Nh5!? 27.Kh2 Rd5 28.Nf3

27.Re1 Re8

27...Nxc3!? 28.Qxc3 Qe7

28.Nf3=



Position after 28.Nf3

WG — Jerry has survived the worst.

28...Qe7

28...Nxc3 29.Qxc3 Qd8 30.Qc1=

29.Bd2 f4

29...Qd7 30.Qd3=

30.a3 Bc7 31.Qf5

White prepares e6.

31...g6 32.Qg4 Bd8 33.e6 Kg7 34.exf7 Qxf7 35.Rxe8 Qxe8 36.Bxf4 Nxf4 37.Qxf4 Bf6

1/2-1/2

**Jerry Sherrard (1900) –
David Edward Murray (1825) [B15]**
2023 Oregon Open U2000
(R5), September 4, 2023
[Chessify Cloud Stockfish (8m)]

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Nf6 5.Nxf6+ exf6 6.c3 Bd6 7.Bd3 0-0 8.Qc2 Re8+ 9.Ne2 h5 10.0-0 h4 11.h3 Nd7 12.Bd2 Nf8 13.Rae1 g6

Last book move

14.Kh1

14.Nf4 Rxe1 15.Rxe1 a6=

14...f5

14...Bc7 15.b3=

15.Qc1 Nh7

15...Be6 16.c4=

16.Ng1± Be6 17.Nf3

17.c4 Be7 18.Nf3 Bf6±

17...Bd5= 18.Rxe8+ Qxe8 19.Nxh4 Be7

19...Qe7 20.Nf3=

20.Nxf5

20.Nf3 Bxf3 21.gxf3 Qd7=

20...gxf5= 21.Qb1

21.Bxf5 Be6 (21...Bxa2? 22.Qc2 Nf6 23.b3+-) 22.Bc2 Qd7= (22...Bxa2? 23.b3+-)

21...Kh8

21...Bg5 22.Bxg5 Nxg5 23.Re1

22.Bxf5

22.c4 Be4=

22...Qg8 23.Be4 Be6

23...Nf6 24.Bxd5 cxd5

24.f4

24.Bf4!?=

24...Nf6 25.f5

25.b3!?

25...Nxe4+ 26.Qxe4 Bd5 27.Qe2 Qh7 28.Kh2 Rg8 29.g3?

29.g4 Bd6+ 30.Bf4 Bxf4+ 31.Rxf4+-

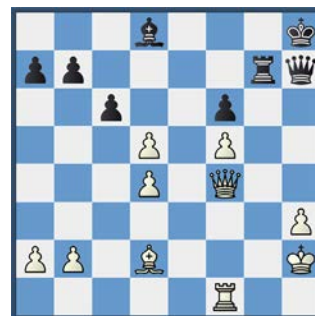
29...Bd8

29...Rxc3! 30.Qe5+ Rg7+-

30.c4=

WG — Jerry survives another Tartakover Caro-Kann.

30...Rxc3 31.Qe5+ Rg7 32.cxd5 f6 33.Qf4



Position after 33.Qf4

(Here, my opponent grabbed his bishop to play ...Bc7, then set it back down, so he had to move it!—Jerry Sherrard) 33.Qe6 Qh4 34.Bf4=

33...Bb6??

33...cxd5 34.Bb4=

34.Qh6

34.d6 Qh5 35.Re1+-

34...Bc7+

34...cxd5 35.Re1 Qxh6 36.Bxh6=

35.Kh1± Qxh6

35...cxd5!? 36.Rc1 Kg8 37.Qxh7+ Rxh7±

36.Bxh6± Rg3 37.Bf4 Bxf4 38.Rxf4 cxd5??

38...Rxh3+ 39.Kg2 Rh7±

39.Rh4+! Kg7 40.Rg4+! Rxc4 41.hxc4

WG — A winning pawn-up ending.

41...Kh6 42.Kg2 Kg5 43.Kf3 b6

43...Kh4 44.Kf4 a6 45.a3 a5 46.a4 b6 47.b3 Kh3 48.g5

44.b3 a6

44...Kh6 45.Kf4 b5 46.b4 Kg7 47.g5

45.a3 a5

45...Kh4 46.Kf4 Kh3 47.g5

46.a4 Kh6 47.Kf4 Kg7 48.g5 Kf7 49.gxf6 Kxf6 50.Kg4

50.Kg4 Kf7 51.Kg5 Kg7 52.f6+ Kf7 53.Kf5 Ke8 54.Ke6

1-0

**Andrew Rankin (1776) –
Jerry Sherrard (1900) [D05]**
2023 Oregon Open U2000
(R6), September 4, 2023
[Chessify Cloud Stockfish (8m)]

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.e3 e6 4.Bd3 Bd6
5.b3 b6 6.Bb2 Bb7 7.0-0 0-0 8.Nbd2 c5
9.Ne5 Nc6 10.a3 Ne7 11.f4 Ne4 12.Nxe4
dxe4 13.Bc4

Last book move

13...Nd5

13...Nf5 14.Qe2

14.Bxd5

14.Ng4 Kh8=

14...exd5

≤14...Bxd5 15.c4 Bb7 16.dxc5 bxc5
17.Qg4

15.Qg4 Bc8

15...Qc8 16.Qg3 f6 17.dxc5 bxc5
18.Ng4

16.Qg3

16.Qh5 Bb7

16...f6. 17.dxc5 bxc5 18.Ng4 Bxg4

18...Be6!?

19.Qxg4= Qe7 20.Rfd1 Rad8 21.Rxd5

21.Qe2 Qe6=

21...Bxf4!

WG — Black would be lost without this
resource, but now stands better.

22.Rad1?

22.Rxd8!? Bxe3+ 23.Kf1 Rxd8 24.Re1

22...Bxe3+ 23.Kh1

23.Kf1 Bd4! 24.Rxd8 Rxd8 (≤24...Qxd8
25.c3±)

23...Bd4! 24.Rxd8

24.Bxd4 cxd4 discovered attack
(24...Rxd5 interception decoy)

24...Rxd8 25.c3?

25.Bc1!? f5! 26.Qe2 h6

25...Be5

25...Bf2 26.Rxd8+ Qxd8+

26.Re1?

26.Bc1 f5 27.Qe2 f4 28.Rxd8+ Qxd8+

26...Qd7

26...f5 27.Qh3 g6+

27.Qxe4 Qd2

27...Qd3 28.Qxd3 Rxd3 29.Kg1

28.Ba1 h6 29.Rf1?

29.b4 Qd1!

29...Qd3

29...Qd1 30.Qf3 Qxb3 31.c4 Qxf3
32.gxf3+

30.Qe1

30.Qxd3 Rxd3 31.Kg1 Kf7

30...Qc2 31.Kg1??

31.Qe3

31...Rd2+

31...Rd2 32.Rf2 Bxh2+ (WG — or
32...Rd1 33.Rxc2 Rxe1+ 34.Kf2 Rxa1)
33.Kxh2 Rxf2 34.Qe6+ Kh7 35.Qg4 f5
36.Qh3 Rf1 wins the hapless bishop.

0-1

**Rohan Vora (1501) –
Vihari Narasimhaviha Vemuri (1659)**
[B08]

2023 Oregon Open U1700
(R6), September 4, 2023
[Rohan Vora]

1.e4 d6 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6 4.Bc4 Bg7
5.d4 0-0 6.h3 Nbd7 7.Be3 e5 8.d5 a5
9.a4 Ne8 10.g4 Nc5 11.Qd2 Bd7 12.b3
f5 13.Bxc5 fxe4

Starting to set up the discovery check.

14.Ng5 Rf4 15.Ne6 Bxe6 16.dxe6 e3



Position after 16...e3

Missed e7+. I didn't see the continuation
after ...Kh8, but it's simply Qd5 and
Black can't really defend. I also missed
the straight forward Bxe3, consolidating
and up a minor piece. Instead went for
the questionable fxe3, hoping to keep e7+
ideas alive later on.

17.fxe3 Qh4+ 18.Kd1 Rf2 19.Qd5 c6
20.Qd3 dxc5 21.Ne4 Kh8

Now that the pin on the king is gone,
White doesn't have e7+. This means the
problem of ...Rd8 pinning the queen has
to be solved. Queen doesn't have any



Rohan Vora.

good squares to go to, and Kc1 allows
...Rd8 followed by ...Rdd2 which feels
really bad. I thought for a long time and
found g5 here, which I was really happy
with. The pawn is protected by the knight,
and between the knight and pawn Blacks
queen is really limited. During the game
I thought this was the only move that
continued, but engine doesn't mind Nxf2
and getting both rooks for the queen after
Rd8, which seems a lot harder to play out
in practice, especially with the white king
in the middle of the board.

22.g5 Rf8 23.e7 Rf5 24.Rf1 Qxh3
25.Rxf5 gxf5 26.Qd8 Qh5+ 27.Be2
Qh1+ 28.Kd2 Qxe4 29.Qxa8 Qd5+
30.Kc1 Qh1+ 31.Bd1 h6 32.Qxe8+ Kh7
33.g6#

1-0

**Ethan Tammar (1798) –
Enjie Qiao (1491) [D00]**
2023 Oregon Open U1700
(R6), September 4, 2023
[Wilson Gibbins]

1.d4 d5 2.Bf4

The London is still a fearsome weapon,
but it is no longer a surprise weapon.
Most of us have some idea of how to
survive this opening these days.

2...Nf6 3.e3 Bf5 4.Bd3 Bg6 5.Bxg6 hxg6
6.h3 e6 7.Nf3 Nc6 8.Qe2 a6 9.Nbd2 Bd6
10.Ne5 Bxe5 11.Bxe5 Nxe5 12.dxe5 Nd7
13.f4 Qh4+

Younger players no longer fear endgames.

14.Qf2 Qxf2+ 15.Kxf2 g5 16.b3 0-0-0

This takes the king away from the action on the kingside and center, where it could defend Black's pawns on the kingside and center, and perhaps support a central advance. Nothing interesting could ever happen on the queenside, right? Skip ahead to move 38 if you want to find out.

17.Nf3 gxf4 18.exf4 f6 19.exf6 gxf6

Perhaps younger players no longer fear endgames because they have discovered ways of unbalancing them to create winning chances. Will White's outside passed pawns win the race, or will Black central pawns decide the game?

20.Rhe1 Rde8 21.Re2 e5 22.b4 e4 23.Nd4 Reg8 24.Rh1 Rh4 25.g3 Rh5 26.f5

Grabbing the e6-square for White's knight but giving up the e5-square to Black's knight. A clear example of Bobby Fischer's maxim — "To get squares, you gotta give squares."

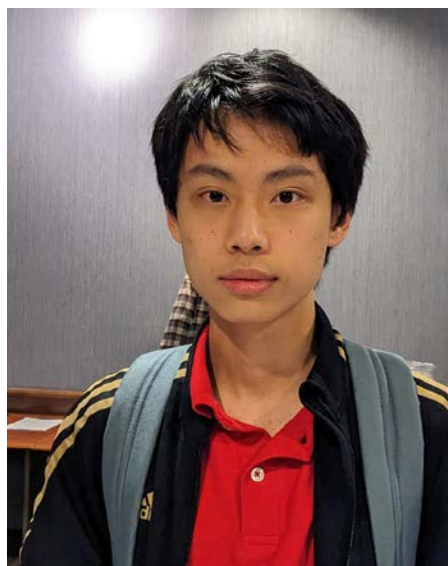
26...b6

Preparing the central pawn advance ...c7-c5, but White manages to distract Black from this goal.

27.Kg2 Ne5

27...c5 28.bxc5 bxc5 looks a little loose for Black, with White's knight jumping into e6 or c6, and the white rook swinging over to the b-file.

28.Rf1 Rgh8 29.h4 Kd7 30.a4 Rg8 31.Kh3 Kd6 32.b5



Enjie Qiao.

Stopping Black's central pawn advance. Both White's and Black's pawns looked so menacing on move 20 but are now both blocked.

32...axb5 33.axb5 Kc5 34.c3 Rh7 35.Ra1 Kd6 36.Rea2

White takes over the only open file, but Black has sufficient counterplay.

36...Rhg7 37.Ne2 Kc5!

I did not foresee this king raid when Black castled queenside on move 16.

38.Ra8

38.Rb1 White could try to use his rook for passive defense, but using rooks generally look better on offense than defense. 38...Nc4 threatens 39...Nd6 attacking the pawns on f5 and b5.

38...Kxb5 39.Rxg8 Rxg8 40.Nd4+ Kc4 41.Ne6 e3 42.Re1 Kd3 43.Nf4+ Ke4 44.Nxd5 Kxd5 45.Rxe3 c5 46.Re2 Kc4 47.Rb2 b5 48.h5 Rg5 49.Kh4 Nf3+ 50.Kh3 Rxh5+ 51.Kg4

Does White regain the piece with this king fork?

51...Rh2

Nope. Very clever.

52.Rb1 Ne5+ 53.Kf4 Rf2+ 54.Ke4 b4 55.cxb4 cxb4 56.Rc1+ Kb3 57.Rc8 Rc2 58.Rf8 Rc6 59.Rxf6 Rxf6 60.Kxe5 Rf8 61.f6 Ka2 62.g4 b3 63.g5 b2 64.g6 b1Q 65.g7 Rg8 66.f7 Qb2+ 67.Ke6 Qxg7

0-1

Vihari Narasimhaviha Vemuri (1659)
– **Emel Bayrambeyli (1503) [E12]**
2023 Oregon Open U1700
(R6), September 4, 2023
[Wilson Gibbins]

Emel plays a steady game in the last round to tie for second in the U1700 section. Another young player disproves the notion that "kids can't play endings."

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 d5 3.c4 e6 4.Nc3 Be7 5.Bg5 0-0 6.e3 b6

Most players play 6...h6 7.Bh4 before playing 7...b6 leading to the main lines of the Tartakover variation of the Queens Gambit Declined — repertoire books have Black playing 6...h6 or even 5...h6 without comment. But is it really inaccurate for Black to omit ...h6? The conventional wisdom is that it removes the h-pawn from a potential attack if White lines up with Bd3 and Qc2. But

as John Watson points out in *Mastering the Chess Openings, Volume 2* — "On the flip side, Black makes a weakness when he plays ...h6 and you never know how that might end up hurting him" (or in this game, her). Stockfish does not find much of a difference between 6...b6 and 6...h6 7.Bh4 b6. Brick by brick the edifice of conventional opening wisdom crumbles.

7.Be2

One way to try to exploit the missing ...h7-h6 move is to play 7.cxd5 Nxd5 8.Bxe7 Qxe7 9.Nxd5 exd5 10.Bd3 c5 11.Qc2, but Stockfish says Black is fine. 11...h6= (Or more speculatively — 11...Nc6!? 12.dxc5 bxc5 13.Bxh7+ Kh8 14.Bd3 Nb4 15.Qd1 d4)

7...dxc4 8.Bxc4 Bb7 9.0-0 Nbd7 10.Be2 c5 11.Qa4 Nd5 12.Bxe7 Qxe7= 13.Ne5?

This is a step towards an inferior ending.

13...Nxe5 14.dxe5 Nxc3 15.bxc3 Qg5!

Winning a pawn.

16.Qg4 Qxe5 17.Rad1 Rfd8

17...Qxc3 seems unnecessarily greedy, given Black is already a pawn up.

18.Qh4 f6 19.Qf4 Qxf4 20.exf4 Kf7 21.Bd3 g6 22.f3 Ke7 23.Rfe1 Rd6 24.Bc4 Rad8

Gives back the extra pawn, but in the resulting endgame Black will still be effectively up a pawn, as Black has a working 3-2 queenside while White's majority on the kingside is crippled by the doubled pawns. 24...Rxd1 25.Rxd1



Emel Bayrambeyli.

keeps the extra pawn but makes it hard to oppose rooks on the open d-file. Stockfish spots a tricky maneuver 25...Bd5 26.Bxd5 exd5 27.Rxd5 Rd8 leading to a won king and pawn ending.

25.Rxe6+ Rxe6 26.Rxd8 Kxd8 27.Bxe6

Black is still much better.

27...Ke7 28.Bg8?

28.Bc4?

28...Bc8! 29.g4

29.Bxh7? Kf7 traps and wins White's bishop.

29...h5 30.f5 hxg4 31.fxg6 f5?

31...Kf8?

32.Kf2 Kf6 33.Bf7 b5 34.fxg4 fxg4 35.Ke3 Bf5 36.Kf4 a5 37.g7? Kxf7 38.Kxf5 Kxg7 39.Ke4

39.Kxg4 looks like White is better with the outside passed h-pawn, but Black's distant majority rules the day. 39...b4 40.cxb4 cxb4 41.Kf4 a4 42.Ke3 a3 43.Kd3 b3 Black promotes the a-pawn.

39...Kg6 40.Kd5 b4 41.cxb4 cxb4 42.Kc4 Kg5 43.Kb5 Kh4 44.Kxa5 Kh3 45.Kxb4 Kxh2

0-1

**Cesareo Tongco (1096) –
Andrew Carson (979) [B07]**

2023 Oregon Open U1100
(R6), September 4, 2023

[*Cesareo Tongco and Wilson Gibbins*]

Comments marked "CT" come from Cesareo Tongco. Comments marked "WG" come from Wilson Gibbins.

1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6 4.h3

CT — In this game, I knew that I just needed a draw to win the tournament, but I still wanted to win. Because of this, I played an obscure line against the Pirc I had seen in my GothamChess e4 course.

WG — The line may be obscure, but it is very flexible. White might be preparing to transpose into any of these more mainstream lines: 1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6 4.Nf3 Bg7 5.h3 0-0 6.Be3 or 1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6 4.Be3 c6 5.h3 Nbd7 (Chapter 9 of Marin's *The Pirc Defense*). White can play either 6.g4 (the Archbishop Attack) or 6.f4, which leads into a line that Marin covered in New In Chess Yearbook 73 with the title "Can White Refute the Pirc with moves like h3 and a3?!" White might even try an "exaggerated

fianchetto" approach. Instead of playing g3, Bg2, h3, and then a later g4 to attack, just play h3, g4, and Bg2, saving a tempo. White's move 4.h3 keeps Black guessing about his true intentions. Note that Black plays 4...Bg7 and 5...0-0 in some of the lines above but plays 4...c6 and 5...Nbd7 in others, delaying developing the dark-squared Bishop and avoiding castling into an attack. But after 4.h3, how can Black determine which approach is correct?

4...Bg7 5.g4

WG — My ChessBase Reference tab gives this move an exclamation mark, noting that it has been played by Nakamura.

5...c6 6.Bg2

WG — White might still play 7.Nge2 and 8.0-0 with an "exaggerated fianchetto."

6...Na6

WG — Black is carefully delaying castling kingside into the attack.

7.Be3 Nc7 8.Nge2 d5

WG — a mistake, giving White a space advantage on the kingside. If Black wants to continue delaying castling into a kingside attack, perhaps 8...b5 will remind White that castling queenside will entail some risks.

9.e5 Nd7 10.f4 e6 11.Qd3 b6 12.0-0-0 Ba6 13.Qd2 Bxe2

WG — Black is cramped, so it seems logical to trade his bad bishop for a knight.

14.Qxe2 b5

WG — Maybe Black can keep his king safe behind the blocked center pawns, and successfully launch a queenside attack against White's king? Black's decision not to castle kingside certainly looks correct.

15.f5 Nb6

WG — 15...gxf5 16.gxf5 exf5 17.Qh5 Qe7 18.Ne2 0-0-0 19.Ng3. Black's king is safe, but his game is in tatters.

16.f6 Bf8 17.h4 Bb4 18.h5

WG — White should not allow Black to open lines around his king. 18.Qd3; and 18.Nb1 are safer.

18...Bxc3 19.bxc3 Kd7

WG — Black finds a way to get his king to safety, but White still has a space advantage.

20.hxg6 hxg6 21.Rxh8 Qxh8 22.Rh1

Qg8 23.Rh6 Nc4 24.Bg5

WG — Black has played his way back into the game.

24...Na6

WG — The move 24...Qf8 allows Black to initiate a counterattack against White's queenside, and the outcome of the game is still in question.

25.Qf3 b4

WG — This appears to be opening lines against White's king, but White has everything under control. Stockfish says Black gets more counterplay after 25...c5 26.Bf1 Rc8; Stockfish also approves 25...Kc7.

26.Qh3 bxc3 27.Qxc3

CT — I moved my queen to h3 and then moved it again to take the c3-pawn. I had originally moved my queen to play Rh7 and Rg7, but I wanted to move my queen to the queenside so that it could stop any potential counterplay.

27...Qf8 28.Bf1 Nb4 29.Bxc4 dxc4 30.Qxc4 Rb8 31.Rh7 Nd5 32.Qc5



Position after 32.Qc5

CT — I had a strong feeling that I was going to win the game. I played this move because I knew that if he traded queens, I would be in a winning endgame. He would not be able to defend the f7-pawn because after Ke8 there would be a skewer after Rh8+. I also knew that if he moved his queen away like he did in the game, I would be able to infiltrate with the queen on the weak dark squares.

32...Qg8 33.Qd6+ Kc8 34.Qxc6+ Nc7 35.Qh1 Qd8 36.Rxf7 Qxd4 37.Rf8+ Kd7 38.Rxb8 Qa1+ 39.Rb1 Qxe5 40.Qd1+ Kc6 41.Qf3+ Nd5 42.Bd2 Qxf6 43.Qxf6 Nxf6 44.Rb4 Nd5 45.Re4 Kd6 46.c4 Nf6 47.Bb4+ Kd7 48.Rf4 Ne8 49.Rf7+ Kc6 50.Rxa7

CT — In this position, my opponent resigned.

1-0



Inaugural Veteran's Day Open



Saturday, November 11, 2023

El Centro de la Raza: Centilia Cultural Center

1660 S Roberto Maestas Festival St., Seattle, WA 98144



Format: A 5-round Swiss tournament in three sections: **Open** (1400+), **Reserve** U1400, and **Rising** (unrated). Sections may be combined if under 12 players.

Entry fee: Open to all adults 18+. Adult non-Veterans: \$35. College students: \$20. Free entry for Veterans! Maximum of 100 players, please register early to reserve your spot!

Schedule: Registration & Check-in: 9:00 - 9:45am. Rounds (5): 10am, 11:15am, Lunch Break, 1:15pm, 2:30pm, 3:45pm. Closing Ceremony ~ 5:00pm or asap.

Time Control: G/15; +10 sec. increment per move starting from move 1.

Byes: Up to 2 half - point byes available if requested before the end of round 2.

Prize Fund: \$5,400 Guaranteed!

Open: 1st \$600, 2nd \$500, 3rd \$400, 1st U1700/U1500 \$200

Reserve U1400: 1st \$400, 2nd \$350, 3rd \$300, 1st U1300/U1100 \$200

Rising (unrated): 1st \$400, 2nd \$325, 3rd \$275, 4th \$225, 5th \$150

Special Prizes (per section): Top three scoring Veterans: 1st - Premium Custom Wood Board, 2nd - Chess Set, 3rd - Chess Set. Courtesy of [ChessHouse.com](https://www.chesshouse.com)

Biggest Upset Win/Best Female Player (by TPR)/Best Dressed: 1st \$50, 2nd \$25.

Registration: Online at nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration. Online registration + payment deadline: **Fri, Nov 10 @ 5pm**. Unpaid players will be removed from the roster after the deadline and players from the waitlist will be offered a spot. At-site registration: 9:00 - 9:45am. On-site payment available by cash, check made out to "WCF", PayPal to PayPal.me/WAChess, or Venmo (@WAChess).

Rating: Open & Reserve U1400 sections will be US Chess Quick Rated. Rising section is unrated. Higher of November 2023 US Chess Regular or Quick Rating will be used to determine section, pairings, and prizes.

Memberships: US Chess membership required for Open and Reserve U1400 sections; no membership required for Rising section.

Free Blitz Tournament: Time: 5-7pm (after rd. 5 of main tournament). Format: A 7-Round Single Swiss in one section, 2 half-point byes available. US Chess Blitz rated. TC: G/5; +0. On-site registration: 4:00-4:45pm. Rds. @ 5pm, 5:15, 5:30, 5:45, 6, 6:15, 6:30. Closing Ceremony ~ 6:45pm or asap. Current US Chess membership required. Higher of Nov 2023 US Chess Blitz or Regular ratings used to determine pairings and prizes.

Prize Fund: \$700 Gtd. 1st \$160, 2nd \$120, 3rd \$80, 1st U1900/U1700/U1500/U1300/U1100/Unrated: \$50. Biggest upset win: \$40.

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

Questions: Josh Sinanan, WCF President, 206-769-3757, WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com



Washington Class Championships

Fri-Sun, November 24-26, 2023

Hyatt Regency Bellevue

900 Bellevue Way NE, Bellevue, WA 98004

\$13,000 Prize Fund

(based on 160 paid entries)

Format: A 6-round Swiss event in 7 class sections. Sections with <12 players may be combined.

Entry Fees (EF) (by Oct 27 / Nov 10 / on-site) & **Prizes** per section:

- **Master (2200+)** EF: \$170 / \$180 / \$190
Prizes: \$700, \$450, \$350; U2300 \$250, \$200
- **Expert (2000-2199)** EF: \$160 / \$170 / \$180
Prizes: \$600, \$350, \$250; U2100 \$200, \$150
- **Class A (1800-1999)** EF: \$150 / \$160 / \$170
Prizes: \$500, \$300, \$200; U1900 \$170, \$125
- **Class B (1600-1799)** EF: \$150 / \$160 / \$170
Prizes: \$500, \$300, \$200; U1700 \$170, \$125
- **Class C (1400-1599)** EF: \$150 / \$160 / \$170
Prizes: \$500, \$300, \$200; U1500 \$170, \$125
- **Class D (1200-1399)** EF: \$150 / \$160 / \$170
Prizes: \$500, \$300, \$200; U1300 \$170, \$125
- **Class E (1199 & Under)** EF: \$150 / \$160 / \$170
Prizes: \$500, \$300, \$200; U1000 \$170, \$125; U800 \$100, \$50; Unrated \$100

Seeds: Highest finishing WA resident in Master, Expert, Class A, Class B, and Class C sections seeded into the 2024 WA State Championship, in the Championship, Premier, Invitational, Challengers, and Rising Stars sections, respectively.

Mixed Doubles Prizes: Best male-female 2-player team's combined score across all sections: 1st \$300, 2nd \$200, 3rd \$100. Avg team rating must be under 2000; may play in different sections. Register (at no extra charge) before both players begin round 2. Awarded in addition to other prizes.

Special Prizes (per class section):

Highest (USCF) Rating Gain: \$100. Requires an established (non-provisional) rating. Awarded to a player who does not already win a higher prize.

Fair-Play, Kindness, Spreading Joy: \$50. Please share your nominations.

Best Female Player: \$50. Awarded to the best performing female (by TPR) who does not win a higher prize. Min 3 qualifying players per section.

Biggest Upset Win: \$50.

Best Annotated Game: 1st \$50, 2nd \$25. Submit one annotated game from the event that you consider to be interesting or well-played.

Best Dressed: \$10/day. May not win repeatedly.

Hotel Info: Hyatt Regency Bellevue (address above): \$189/night, one King or two Queen beds, single or double occupancy. Call 425-462-1234 to request the Washington Chess Federation room block. Group Booking Code: G-WACH. Online booking [link](#). Cut-off date for discounted reservations is Nov 10, 2023.

Main Event

Note: The overall schedule is designed so you can play in the Main Event *and* in several of the Side Events (see next page) with minimum or no half-point byes!

Info: Josh Sinanan, WCF President, 206-769-3757, WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com

Registration & Payment:

Before event: nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration (pay by credit / debit / PayPal) or write a check to Washington Chess Federation.

On-site: Fri 9-10am for 3-day schedule, or 4-5pm if entering with 1 half-point bye. Sat 8-8:30am for 2-day schedule, or 9-9:30am if entering 3-day schedule with 2 half-point byes. *Late registrations receive a half-point bye for round 1.*

Entry Fee Adjustments: Rated players who wish to play up one class section, please add \$85 (to the EF on the left). (Playing up two classes is not permitted.) Seniors (age 50+), please subtract \$50. Free entry to GMs, IMs, WGMs, and WIMs. Reentry for 1/2 of original entry fee. Canadians may pay CAD\$ at par.

Byes: Two half-point byes available; if interested, request before end of round 2. (Play any 2 of the 3 days and take a day off, if using 2 half-point byes.)

Rating: Dual rated US Chess and NWSRS. Master / Expert / Class A / Class B sections also FIDE rated (except any G/55 games). Highest of Nov 2023 US Chess, FIDE, and current NWSRS ratings used to determine class sections, pairings, and prizes. Higher of US Chess and foreign ratings used at TD discretion; foreign ratings used for players with no US Chess rating. Unrated players eligible only for 1st / 2nd / 3rd prizes in Master section or the Unrated prize in Class E section.

Rounds: 3-day schedule: Fri 11am & 6pm; Sat 10am & 6pm; Sun 10am & 4pm.

2-day schedule: Sat 9am, 11:45am, 2:30pm, then joining the 3-day schedule from round 4 at 6pm.

Time Controls: 3-day schedule: 40/100, SD/30 with a 30-second increment. Late default: 60 minutes.

2-day schedule: G/55 with a 15-second increment (rounds 1-3); rounds 4-6 same as 3-day schedule.

Miscellaneous: Current US Chess membership and WCF/OCF/ICA membership required. Other states accepted. Memberships may be paid at the time of registration. Wheelchair accessible. Please bring a digital clock, if available.

Procedures & Protocols: Pairings will be posted near the playing hall before each round. Face masks are optional. If interested, please bring your own mask.

Washington Class Championships, Nov 24-26 (cont'd)

Fun Side Events!

(many run *between rounds* of the Main Event)

Thanksgiving Scholastic

This year please consider the co-located 1-day or 2-day scholastic tournaments (on Fri-Sat, Nov 24-25) at the Susan Polgar Foundation National Open for Girls & Boys ([SPFNO](#)).

Puzzle Solving Competition

This year please consider the co-located scholastic puzzle solving event (on Fri, Nov 24) at [SPFNO](#).

Annual Chess Workshop for Girls & Women

This year please consider the co-located event for girls & women (on Fri, Nov 24) at [SPFNO](#).

WA Class SCC Adult Swiss

Sponsored by the Seattle Chess Club (SCC), with generous support from Henry Yan.

Fri-Sun, 11/24-26 at 11am & 4pm (during all rounds)

Format: A 6-round Swiss in one section.

Time control: G/90; +30.

Entry fee: \$60 online (by Thu, 11/23 @ 5pm) or \$70 on-site.

Waived for new unrated players who purchase memberships. US Chess and WCF / OCF / ICA memberships required.

Registration: Fri 10-10:30am (unless entering with half-point byes).

Rounds: Fri / Sat / Sun @ 11am and 4pm.

Byes: 2 half-point byes available; request by end of round 2.

Rating: US Chess rated only. Nov 2023 US Chess ratings used to determine pairings and prizes.

Prize fund: \$1,000 (guaranteed): 1st \$200, 2nd \$150, 3rd \$110, 1st U2000 / U1700 / U1400 / U1100 or Unrated \$90, Biggest Upset Win \$90, Best Female Player (by TPR) \$90.

WA Class "WaldowChess" Championship

With generous support from Mark Waldow.

Fri, 11/24 at 3pm-5:30pm (between rounds 1 & 2)

Description: Play begins with White to move having already played e4 & d4. In return, Black receives draw odds and is allowed to swap his king and queen after White's next move.

Format: A 6-round Single Swiss in one section.

Time control: G/8; +3.

Entry fee: Free! No memberships required.

Registration: Online (by Thu, 11/23) or on-site (Fri 2-2:45pm). Check-in by 2:45pm required, including for online registrants.

Rounds: 3:00pm, 3:25, 3:50, 4:15, 4:40, and 5:05pm.

Byes: 2 half-point byes available; request by end of round 2.

Rating: Unrated. Highest of Nov 2023 US Chess and current NWSRS ratings used to determine pairings and prizes.

Prize fund: \$2,000: 1st \$450, 2nd \$350, 3rd \$250; 1st U2000 / U1700 / U1400 / U1100 / Unrated \$100; 2nd U2000 / U1700 / U1400 / U1100 / Unrated \$50; Best Female Player (by TPR) \$100; Biggest Upset Win \$100.

WA Class Rapid Championship

Sat, 11/25 at 2pm-5:40pm (between rounds 3 & 4)

Format: A 5-Round Swiss in two sections: Open & Premier (U1600). If either section has <10 players, the two sections may be merged.

Time control: G/15; +5.

Entry fee: \$35 online (by Fri, 11/24) or \$40 on-site. Players rated 1400+ may play up into Open section for a \$10 fee.

Current US Chess and WCF/OCF/ICA memberships required.

Registration: 1-1:45pm.

Rounds: 2:00pm, 2:45, 3:30, 4:15, and 5:00pm.

Byes: 2 half-point byes available; request by end of round 2.

Rating: US Chess Quick rated. Open section also FIDE Rapid rated. Highest of Nov 2023 US Chess Quick, FIDE Rapid, and current NWSRS ratings used for sections, pairings, and prizes.

Prize fund: \$660 (based on 25 paid entries).

Open section: 1st \$100, 2nd \$80, 3rd \$60, 1st U2000 / U1700 \$35, Biggest Upset Win \$20.

Premier section: 1st \$90, 2nd \$70, 3rd \$50, 1st U1400 / U1100 \$35, 1st Unrated \$30, Biggest Upset Win \$20.

WA Class Chess960 (Fischer Random) Rapid

Sun, 11/26 at 2pm-4pm (between rounds 5 & 6)

Format: A 4-round Swiss in one section.

Time control: G/10; +3.

Entry fee: \$20. No memberships required.

Registration: 1-1:45pm.

Rounds: 2:00pm, 2:30, 3:00, and 3:30pm.

Byes: 1 half-point bye available; request by end of round 2.

Rating: Unrated. Higher of Nov 2023 US Chess and current NWSRS ratings used to determine pairings and prizes.

Prize fund: \$300 (based on 20 paid entries): 1st \$80, 2nd \$60, 3rd \$40, 1st U2000 / U1700 / U1400 / Unrated \$30.

WA Class "Knight-Time" Blitz

Sun, 11/26 at 8:30pm-10:15pm (after round 6)

Format: A 7-round Single Swiss in two sections: Open and Premier (U1600). If either section has <10 players, the two sections may be merged.

Time control: G/5; +2.

Entry fee: \$30 online (by Sat, 11/25) or \$35 on-site. Players rated 1400+ may play up into Open section for a \$10 fee.

Current US Chess and WCF/OCF/ICA memberships required.

Registration: 7:30-8:15pm.

Rounds: 8:30pm, 8:45, 9:00, 9:15, 9:30, 9:45, and 10:00pm.

Byes: 2 half-point byes available; request by end of round 2.

Rating: US Chess Blitz rated. Open section also FIDE Blitz rated. Highest of Nov 2023 US Chess Blitz, FIDE Blitz, and current NWSRS ratings used for sections, pairings, and prizes.

Prize fund: \$550 (based on 25 paid entries).

Open section: 1st \$90, 2nd \$70, 3rd \$55, 1st U2000 / U1700 \$30. Premier section: 1st \$80, 2nd \$60, 3rd \$45, 1st U1400 / U1100 / Unrated \$30.

Jeremy Silman

August 28, 1954 — September 21, 2023

John Donaldson

Jeremy Silman (August 28, 1954 – September 21, 2023) lived almost all of his life in California, but for a couple of years in the mid-1980s, the Northwest was his home. Sometime in early 1984 he moved to Ashland, Oregon, and soon after to Eugene. There he not only played in events in Grants Pass and Portland but also wrote a number of opening pamphlets for the Texas based publisher Chess Digest on the Caro-Kann, Accelerated Dragon and Nimzo-Indian. These were among the first books Silman wrote, long before he was a well-known author.

It was in Eugene that Jeremy took one of his rare non-chess playing jobs, signing up to work at Genesis Juice Company (now owned by Toby's Family Foods). Jeremy loved the company's products but the early morning start was too much for the late rising chess pro. He quit after two days.

Jeremy travelled back to Berkeley to lecture at the US Championship in August of 1984, but not long after moved to Seattle. There he found a place to stay at the Chess Center, a short-lived full-time

chess facility across the street from the Woodlawn Park Zoo (809 N. 50th street). Jeremy would try to do what was near impossible at the time – survive as a full-time chess professional in the Northwest.

To do this he taught and wrote for magazines (*Northwest Chess* and *Players Chess News*), but for the most part he played. Jeremy wasn't picky. He played almost every weekend in events big and small from Portland to Vancouver. In so doing he competed in close to 30 tournaments from April 1984 to January 1986, playing nearly 150 games.

As one might imagine, this was not conducive to playing well and Jeremy's USCF rating plummeted from 2500 to below 2420 during his sojourn in the Northwest. He did, however, have some decent results, tying for first in the 1984 Paul Keres Memorial, the 1984 Oregon Open and the 1985 Washington Championship. He also tied for second in the 1984 Portland Futurity won by Eric Tangborn, the first FIDE rated event held in Oregon.

All of the above pales in comparison to his most important contribution to

chess while living in the Northwest — he wrote what would become *Reassess Your Chess* during his time in Seattle. The first edition of what would become one of the best-selling instructional works of all time for club players (roughly 1400 to 2200 USCF) attracted a publisher (Bob Long of Thinkers Press), but one who was strapped for cash. It was Stephen Christopher, one of the patron saints of chess in the Northwest, who encouraged Jeremy to write the book and advanced the needed funds to get it published. Thanks to Stephen, *Reassess Your Chess* saw the light of day, something Jeremy was eternally grateful for. Later editions of this book are dedicated to Mr. Christopher's memory.

Jeremy returned to California in early 1986 to take the position of editor for *Players Chess News* and *Theory and Analysis*, two bi-weekly magazines published by Rainer Rickford who had grown up in Portland before settling in the Southland.


Jeremy served as the chief commentator at the 2000, 2002 and 2003 US Championships and the 2001 USA-

chesswithryan.com

- 12 Years of Experience
- Spokane City Champion 2022
- 2032 USCF Rating
- UW Grad
- Eagle Scout



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China Summit Match, all held in Seattle. There would also be occasional visits to play in the Northwest (the 1988 Paul Keres Memorial for example), as well as stints as the lecturer at Washington Opens in the 1990s, but Jeremy would never again call the Northwest home again after 1986.

Likely the only player to win the state championships of Washington (1982) and Alaska (1992), Bill McGeary was rated around 2300 USCF at his peak. This clean victory by Silman against a strong opponent was one of his best efforts while living in Seattle.

Queen's Gambit Accepted D20
Jeremy Silman –
Bill McGeary
 King County Open Seattle (R4)
 November 25, 1984

1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4 3.e3 e5 4.Bxc4 exd4 5.exd4 Nc6?!

5...Bd6! 6.Nf3 Nf6 7.0-0 0-0 8.Nc3 Nc6 9.Bg5 h6 10.Bh4 Bg4 is the path to equality for Black according to Max Dlugy in his new book on the Queen's Gambit.

6.Nf3 Nf6 7.0-0 Be7 8.h3



Position after 8.h3

Denying ...Bg4 is critical to White's

strategy. Black seems to have an easy life in this IQP position as his queen bishop is not blocked by a pawn on e6, but in fact this piece has no good square to develop to as will soon become apparent.

8...0-0 9.Nc3 Bf5

9...h6 10.Bf4 Bd6 and now 11.Be5 or 11.Ne5 offer White a small but pleasant advantage.

10.a3

This prepares a retreat on a2 for the bishop. 10.Re1 Na5 11.Bf1 was an equally valid approach.

10...Ne4 11.Re1 Nxc3 12.bxc3 Bf6

12...Qd7 13.Bf4 Bd6 was a more solid approach.

13.Bf4 Na5 14.Ba2 c5



Position after 14...c5

Black's play looks thematic but now White's position comes alive.

15.Ne5!

The pressure against f7 now comes into play.

15...Rc8?!

15...cxd4 16.cxd4 Nc6 looks like a better try, although Stockfish 15 gives White a clear advantage after 17.Nxf7 Rxf7 18.Bxf7+ Kxf7 19.Qb3+ Kf8 20.Rad1 Ne7 21.Qxb7 Rc8 22.Qxa7 Qd5 23.Rc1

Rxc1 24.Rxc1 Be4, but Black definitely has chances.

16.Qf3 cxd4 17.cxd4 Qxd4?

The losing move. After 17...Nc6 18.Rad1 White's more active pieces give him a sizeable advantage but without an immediate knockout blow.

18.Rad1 Qa4



Position after 18...Qa4

18...Qc3 19.Re3 Qc2 20.Bb1 Qxb1 21.Rxb1 Bxb1 22.Nd7 wins.

19.Nxf7 Rxf7 20.Bxf7+ Kxf7 21.Qh5+ g6

21...Bg6 22.Qd5+ mates.

22.Qxh7+ Bg7 23.Re7+ Kxe7 24.Qxg7+ Ke6 25.Rd6#



Final Position after 25.Rd6#

1-0

Ojas A. Kandhare

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Play at the **58th American Open**

November 21-26, 2023

\$25,000 Prize Fund

US Chess Grand Prix Points: 150 (enhanced)



Schedule:

Open Section: 9-rounds, Nov 21-26 (**NORMs possible**): Starts Tuesday at 6 pm.

U2200, U2000, U1800, U1600, U1400: 8-rounds, Nov 23-26 (**4-days**): Starts Thu. at 10 am OR
Nov 24-26 (**3-days**): Starts Fri. at 11 am

Open, U2200, & U2000 are **FIDE rated also**.

Time Control: Open & 4-day: 40/90min, SD/30 +30 sec increment;

(3-day: Rounds 1-4, G/60 min; d5 & then merges with Rounds 5-8 same as 4-day schedule)

Entry Fee: \$200 by Sept 30; 220 by Oct 31; \$250 by Nov. 15 (All GMs, WGMs, Foreign IMs/WIMs: Free Entry with no deduction if registered by October 15. Play Up fee applies for US players in the open section if not FIDE rated 2200/over.) **No Onsite Registration**

Venue: **Hyatt Regency Orange County 11999 Harbor Blvd, Garden Grove, CA 92840**

- o Reduced rate of \$149/day (plus taxes and fees) until Oct. 15, 2023, or when the room block is used up; Use the group code "G-KAOC" for the group rate.
- o Near some of Southern California's major theme parks

➤ **Join the Side Events**

- o Masterclass Workshop: Tue & Wed at 10 am; for kids and adults with rating 1700 and above; Registration rate varies.
- o Blitz: Sat, Nov. 25 at 9:30 pm; \$50 by 11/15. \$60 after
- o Action: Sun, Nov. 26 at 12 pm; \$50 by 11/15. \$60 after
- o Scholastic (K-12th Grade Only): **Novice** (non-rated) Fri, **Junior Varsity** (rated) Sat or Sun, **Varsity** (2-days; rated). See the website for details on sections, schedules, trophies, entry fees, etc.

➤ **Shop at the pop-up chess store** for gifts, accessories, and books for you and for friends and family.

SCAN ME



Register online or onsite at **ChessPalace**, 5246 Lampson Ave Garden Grove, CA 92845
714-643-8828 | play@americanopen.org

Tournament Info + Registration www.americanopen.org



Scholastic TOURNAMENT

For Players in K-12th Grade
Concurrent with American Open Main Tournament

Novice

Friday, Nov. 24

Non-rated tournament

Schedule: Check ins: 9 AM
Players seated by 9:30 AM

Awards: 4 pm

Time Control: Game 15 min

Entry Fee:

\$80 by 9/30

\$90 by 10/31

\$110 by 11/20

Awards: Trophies to Top 5 players
in each section

Sections:

By Grade Level -
Kindergarten to 12th grade

Junior Varsity

US Chess Rated Tournament

Schedule: Check ins at 9 am; Round 1 at 9:30 am; Awards 6 pm

Time Control: Game 30 min/5-sec delay

Awards: Trophies to Top 10 players & Top 3 teams in each section

Saturday, Nov. 25

Sections:*

K - 2nd Under 200

K - 2nd Under 400

K - 2nd Open (400+)

K - 3rd Under 300

K - 3rd Under 500

K - 3rd Open (500+)

K - 5th Under 500

K - 5th Under 800

K - 5th Open (800+)

Entry Fee:

\$81 by 9/30

\$91 by 10/31

\$110 by 11/20

Sunday, Nov. 26

Sections:

K - 12th Open (1200+)

K - 12th Under 1200

K - 9th Open

K - 9th Under 1000

K - 6th Open (900+)

K - 6th Under 900

K - 6th Under 600

Entry Fee:

\$81 by 9/30

\$91 by 10/31

\$110 by 11/20

Bookmark

www.americanopen.org
for Details and
Registration



Hyatt Regency Orange County

11999 Harbor Blvd,
Garden Grove, CA 92840
Group Code: G-KAOC

Varsity Sat & Sun, Nov 25-26

US Chess rated tournament

Schedule: 2-days; 5-rounds; Check ins: 9 AM;

Round 1: Saturday 9:30 am; Awards: Sunday 3:30 pm

Time Control: Game 60 min / 5-sec delay

Awards: Trophies to Top 10 players & Top 3 teams in each section

Sections:

1. K - 3rd Grade

2. K - 6th Grade

3. K - 12th Grade

Entry Fee:

\$82 by 9/30

\$92 by 10/31

\$110 by 11/20

2023 Eastern Idaho Open

(Niall Wins Again)

Jay Simonson

Niall McKenzie, 2023 Idaho Open Champion, of Pocatello, Idaho, won the 2023 Eastern Idaho Open Chess Tournament, and the \$100 prize, with a perfect score of four out of four. Niall was able to claim victory in the final round by scoring a win against former Idaho State Chess Champion, Jacob Nathan. Niall won against Tilly Backstrom, of Idaho Falls, Idaho, Nobel Ang, of Pocatello, Idaho, and Gary Owen, of Preston, Idaho before facing Jacob.

Now from Farmington, Utah, Hans Morrow, another former Idaho State Chess Champion, and, at 88 years old, the tournament's oldest player, tied with Finn Belew, of Boise, Idaho for second place. With 3.5 points, Finn also won first place in Class B. Since the \$50 prize

for the top in Class B was more valuable than dividing the second-place prize of \$50 between Hans and Finn, Finn was awarded the Class B prize, and Hans was awarded the second-place prize.

There was no prize for Class A in this four-round, Swiss System tournament, but first place in each of the Classes, B, C, D, E, and Unrated earned a \$50 prize. As noted above, Finn Belew won the Class B prize. Olivia Ding, from Idaho Falls, won for Class C; Tanner Hunter, of Rexburg, Idaho, was the Class D winner; Tilly Backstrom, won Class E; and David Campbell, from Shelley, Idaho, was the Top Unrated player.

Jay Simonson, Idaho Chess Association Trustee for East Idaho, was the Chief Tournament Director (TD) and organizer/host for this field of 33 players. One player came from Seattle, Washington, one came from Rathdrum, in Northern Idaho, and two players came from Utah to play in this Eastern Idaho Open Chess Tournament.

Finn Belew (1769) –

Jeremy N. Thomas (1722) [A15]

2023 Eastern Idaho Open

Pocatello, (R4), September 23, 2023

[Ralph Dubisch]

**1.c4 Nf6 2.g3 e6 3.Bg2 Be7 4.Nc3 0-0
5.e4 e5!? 6.Nge2 Nc6 7.0-0 Rb8?! 8.a3
8.d4**

**8...a5 9.f4?! Bc5+ 10.Kh1 d6 11.h3 Nd4
12.f5**

12.d3

12...c6

12...b5!?, as 13.Nxd4 exd4 14.Nxb5 c6 forces White into contortions to attempt to extract the knight: 15.b4 Bb6 16.Nxd6

Qxd6 17.c5 Qe5 18.cxb6, and now 18...Nxe4, with our without...d3 thrown in first, seems to leave Black with the initiative.

13.d3

13.g4

13...d5?!

13...b5 starts to justify Black's earlier...Rb8.

**14.cxd5 cxd5 15.Bg5 Nxe2 16.Qxe2 d4
17.Nd5 Be7 18.Nxe7+ Qxe7 19.g4 h6?!**



Position after 19...h6

It's usually a bad idea to offer an oncoming pawn storm a hook that can be used to open attacking lines.

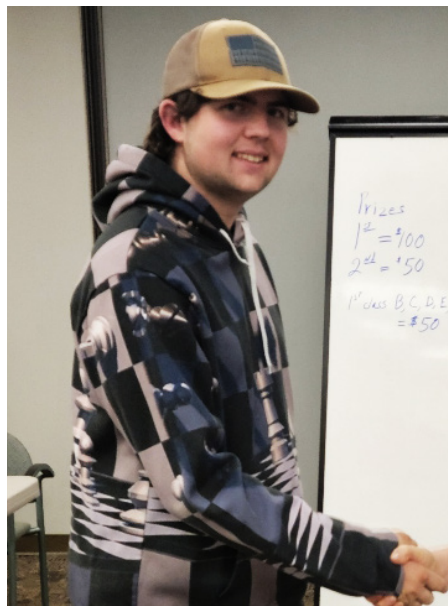
20.Bd2 Ra8 21.Rf3?!

A slightly awkward square for the rook at this point. Simply 21.g5 hxg5 22.Bxg5±, putting the bishop on f3 and rooks to the g-file, is quite hard to counter.

21...Nh7 22.Qf2 b5 23.b4 a4 24.h4 g5?!

24...g5 loses, but it's such a worthwhile idea that I can't bring myself to call it a blunder. 24...Ra6!? might offer some chances to defend, suggesting a transfer to the c-file as well as some extra protection along the sixth rank.

The idea behind...g5 is to blockade the kingside dark squares. If successful,



Niall McKenzie.

Photo credit: Tilly Backstrom.

White's attacking prospects on that wing vanish.



Position after 24...g5

25.fxg6

Strong enough, but even better is 25.hxg5! hxg5 (25...Nxg5 26.f6 is similar.) 26.f6!! Qd6 when there are several ways to win, such as the maneuver Rf1 followed by Qg3–h2–h6. Very cool, though, is 27.Bxg5!! Bxg4 (27...Nxg5 28.Qh4! Nxg3 29.Bxf3 Qxf6 30.Qxf6+-) 28.Bh6 Bh5 29.Rg1 Bg6 30.Bh3 Ra6 31.Qa2!. Now, faced with the threat of Rxg6, Black must part with his queen — although even that offers no relief from the attack. 31...Qxf6 32.Rxf6 Rxf6 33.Qd5 Re8 34.Qxb5+-

25...fxg6 26.Rxf8+?!

26.Bxh6 Rxf3 27.Bxf3±

26...Qxf8 27.Qg3 Qg7 28.g5 hxg5 29.hxg5 Nf8 30.Rc1

The last four or five moves have converted a dominating attacking position for White into a balanced, relatively lifeless technical late middlegame. White will need to win the game all over again.

30...Nd7?

30...Bd7 31.Rc5 Rc8∞; 30...Ne6, as White's attempt to win the e-pawn gives Black some chances to infiltrate. 31.Bh3 Bd7 32.Bxe6+?! Bxe6 33.Rc5?! (33.Rc6∞) 33...Rf8 34.Kg1 (34.Qxe5?? Qh7+ 35.Kg1 Qh3 36.Bf4 Qg4+ 37.Bg3 Qd1+ 38.Kh2 Qe2+ and mates, to give just one example.; 34.Rxb5?? Qf7 35.Qg2 Qh7+ 36.Kg1 Bh3+-) 34...Qf7 35.Qg2 (35.Rc1? Qf3! 36.Qxf3 Rxf3 37.Rc6 Kf7+-) 35...Qd7

31.Bh3 Nb6 32.Rc6 Qh7 33.Kg2 Bxh3+ 34.Qxh3 Nd7 35.Qe6+ Qf7 36.Qxg6+ Qxg6 37.Rxg6+ Kf7 38.Rc6 Rg8 39.Kf3 Rg6 40.Rc7

40.Rxg6 Kxg6 41.Kg4+- White attacks e5 with the bishop and creates zugswang.

40...Ke7 41.Kg4 Kd8 42.Rc1 Ke7 43.Kf5 Kf7 44.Rc7 Rd6 45.Rb7

Alternatively, 45.g6+ Kg7 46.Bg5. White can win the knight with a well-timed Be7, if nothing better turns up.

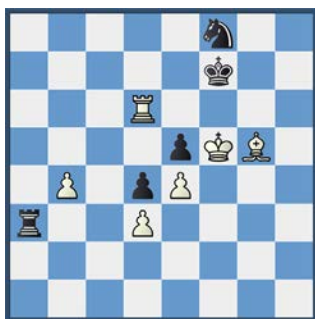
45...Ke7 46.Rxb5 Rc6 47.g6

47.Ra5

47...Rf6+ 48.Kg4?!

48.Kg5 Rf3 (48...Rf1 49.Kh6+-) 49.Kg4 Rxd3 50.Bg5+ Ke6 51.g7 Kf7 52.Rb7+-

48...Rxg6+ 49.Bg5+ Ke8 50.Ra5 Rc6 51.Rxa4 Rc3 52.Ra8+ Kf7 53.Ra7 Ke6 54.Ra6+ Kf7 55.Rd6 Nf8 56.Kf5 Rxa3



Position after 56...Rxa3

57.Kxe5?!

57.Bh6 here avoids some of the possible complications below.

57...Rxd3 58.Bh6

White avoids 58.Rxd4? Rxd4 59.Kxd4 Ne6+ with a draw.

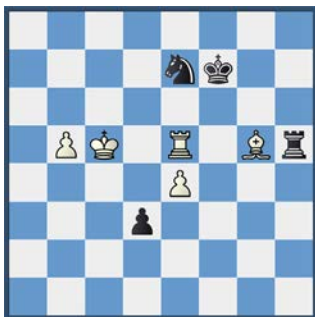
58...Ng6+ 59.Kd5 Rd1 60.b5 d3 61.Kc5 Rh1 62.Bg5

62.Bd2

62...Rh5 63.Rd5?

63.Rf6+! Kg7 64.Rf5, when 64...d2? (A sneakier try is 64...Ne7!?, when 65.Bxe7?? (The winning idea is 65.Bf6+! Kh6 66.Rxh5+ Kxh5 67.Bc3+-.) 65...Rxf5+ 66.exf5 d2 makes a black queen... though it's still a draw.) 65.Bxd2 accomplishes nothing.

63...Ne7 64.Re5



Position after 64.Re5

64...d2?

64...Kg6! is better, and just holds the game, though it isn't instantly obvious why there's such a difference. 65.Rxe7 Rxg5+ 66.Kc6 (66.e5 Rg2! 67.Rd7 Rc2+! And now: 68.Kd4 (68.Kd6 Rb2 69.Ke6 Rxb5 70.Rxd3 Kg5!; 68.Kb6 d2 69.e6 Kf6 70.e7 Kf7 71.Kb7 Ke8 72.Rd3 Kxe7 73.b6 Ke6 74.Ka7 Ra2+ 75.Kb8 Rb2 76.b7 Ke7 The famous "building a bridge" of course doesn't work here due to the black d2–pawn.) 68...d2 69.Ke3 Kf5 70.Rxd2 Rxd2 71.Kxd2 Kxe5 72.Kc3 Kd6 73.Kb4 Kc7 74.Ka5 Kb7) 66...Rg1 (Or the spectacular 66...Rd5!?, interfering on the d-file.) 67.Rd7 Rc1+! (67...Rd1? is insufficient, though it's educational: 68.Rd6+! Kg7 69.e5 d2 70.Kd7! Hiding from checks behind the rook while staying closer to the e-pawn. 70...Rb1 71.Rxd2 Rxb5 72.e6 Rb7+ The black rook needs one more file of checking distance. So ironically if the white pawn had been on a5 instead of b5, 72...Ra7+ would now be drawing. 73.Kd8 Kf6 74.e7 Rb8+ 75.Kd7 Rb7+ 76.Kd6 Rb8 (76...Rb6+ 77.Kc7 Re6 78.Kd8+-) 77.Rf2+ Kg7 78.Rb2! (78.Rf5 Ra8 79.Ra5! Rxa5 80.e8Q may be more efficient.) 78...Ra8 (78...Rxb2 79.e8Q+-, but White will need to spend some time evading checks, then regrouping, before demonstrating the non-trivial winning technique.) 79.Ra2! Rb8 80.Kc7! Rh8 81.Kd7 Kf7 82.Rf2+ Kg7 83.e8Q+-) 68.Kb7 Hiding in front of the b-pawn doesn't work out. 68...Rd1! 69.b6 d2 70.Kb8 Rb1 (70...Kf6 71.b7 Ke6 72.Rd5 Ke7) 71.Rxd2 Rxb6+ 72.Kc7 Re6 (72...Rb4) 73.Rd6 Kf7! (But not 73...Kf6?? 74.Kd7 Rxd6+ 75.Kxd6+-)

65.Rxe7+

Presumably White next plays Rd7, giving up the bishop but halting the d-pawn, then wins by advancing the b-pawn — however our scoresheet stops around here.

An amazing battle with unseen depths.

1–0





*Mary Kuhner plays her favorite Italian Opening at the Washington Women's Championship.
Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.*

Washington Women's Championship

(Airapetian, Kuhner, Deng, Zhang, and Wei Crowned Queens)

Josh Sinanan

The 2023 Washington Women's Championship took place at Lakeside Upper School in Seattle from September 8-10. The tournament was relocated from the Orlov Academy in Redmond to accommodate more players as chess continues to boom in the Pacific Northwest!

Female chess players from throughout Washington State were represented in the impressive 27-player field from cities including Mercer Island, Redmond, Sammamish, Seattle, Bellevue, Richland, Brier, Renton, Bothell, Zillah, and Medina! The event was hosted by the Washington Chess Federation and organized by President Josh Sinanan. WCF VP Rekhar Sagar, WCF Outreach Liaison and FIDE National Arbiter Suresh Balaji, and Member-at-Large Ani Barua coordinated to run the tournament over two and a half days.

As usual, the magnificent Meiling Cheng was on-site to take pictures while her daughter Selina was playing in the tournament. The tournament was Tri-Rated in FIDE, US Chess, and NWSRS and followed FIDE rules as implemented by Suresh Balaji, who recently completed his National Arbiter training in India over the summer.

The record 27-player turnout with players ranging from unrated to expert made for many interesting matchups with plenty of potential for upsets due to the high concentration of young, rapidly improving players.

In a dramatic finale, five ladies were crowned 2023 Washington State Women's Co-Champions, each scoring four points from five games: WFM Chouchan Airapetian (4.0, 1963 → 1944) of Mercer Island, Michelle Zhang (4.0, 1764 → 1755) of Medina, WCM Mary Kuhner (4.0, 1753 → 1737) of Seattle, Lily Deng (4.0, 1678 → 1667) of Richland, and Te Wei (4.0, 1565 → 1629) of Seattle. For their victories, all five chess queens

receive the title of Washington State Women's Co-Champions. A playoff conducted later will determine the seed into the Premier section of the 2024 Washington State Championship.

A shocking first-round upset win by Aashi Mathur over top seed and reigning Women's Champion Chouchan Airapetian when the latter overstepped the allotted time opened the door for Zhang, Kuhner, Deng, and Wei to make a run at the title. In fact, Te Wei was something of a wrecking ball, winning her first four games against Zoe Xu (1124), Haituka Anandkumar (1321), Selina Cheng (1417), and Michelle Zhang (1764) before being stopped by Chouchan Airapetian (1963) in the final round.

The great fighting chess displayed by all five co-champions and the other ladies was simply amazing, with only three draws in the entire tournament! Nola Fung (3.5, 1333 → 1481) of Bellevue won the First U1600 prize a half-point back and would have joined the champions circle if not for her third round draw against Saiya Karamali (1651). Jeraldin Sundar (3.0, 1273 → 1255), a freshman at the Bush School in Seattle, captured the First U1400 prize with a solid "plus one" score. A quadruplet of chess queens shared U1200/U1000 honors with two points apiece: Angela Agaian (2.0, 589 → 688) of Mercer Island, Lakshana Anand (2.0, 832 → 815) of Redmond, Alison Deng (2.0, 422 → 435) of Bellevue, and Amanda Panell (2.0, 283 → 300) of Zillah. Congratulations to the winners, and many thanks to all the wonderful ladies and girls who contributed to this special event!

**Selina Cheng (1417) –
Te Wei (1565) [B13]**

Washington Women's Championship
Seattle (R1), September 9, 2023
[Te Wei]

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.exd5 cxd5 4.c4 Nf6
5.Nc3 Nc6 6.Nf3 Bg4 7.Be2 e6 8.0-0
dxc4 9.Qa4 Bd6 10.Bg5 0-0 11.Qxc4
Bf5

h6 or Bf3 might be worth exploring.

12.d5 exd5 13.Nxd5

Qb5 and Rad1 later could be better.

13...Be6 14.Rfd1? Bxd5 15.Rxd5?
Bxh2+!!

White gave me a chance for the discovered check.

16.Kxh2 Qxd5 17.Qh4 Qe6 18.Bd3

This leads to fork for the next move.

18...Qd6+ 19.g3 Qxd3 20.Kg2

Good move to counterattack.

20...Qg6

My king needs more protection.

21.Rh1 Rfe8 22.Be3 Qe4

I want to trade pieces when I am under attack.

23.Qh2 Ne5

After this move, White did not have many options and let me break through the king side.

24.Kf1 Qxf3 25.Qh3 Rad8 26.Kg1
Rd1+ 27.Qf1 Rxf1+ 28.Kxf1 Qxh1+
29.Ke2 Rd8 30.f4 Qf3+ 31.Ke1 Rd1#

0-1



(L) Te Wei vs. Chouchan Airapetian at the start of their final round game.
Photo credit: Ani Barua.

Seattle Classic Scholastic

Josh Sinanan

The 2023 Seattle Classic Scholastic chess tournament took place on September 9-10 at Lakeside Upper School in Seattle! We had a magnificent turnout, with 66 scholastic chess players in grades K-12 competing across six sections parsed by grade level and rating: K-1 U800, 2-3 U800, K-3 Open, 4-8 U900, 4-12 Open and K-12 Open (two-day).

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 Issaquah, Snohomish, Redmond, Seattle, Mill Creek, Bothell, Gig Harbor, Kirkland, Bellevue, Sammamish, Lake Forest Park, Medina, Clyde Hill, Yarrow Point, University Place, and Shoreline!

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 during the summer months. Each round featured daring attacks, brilliant sacrifices, and ingenious defenses devised by the many tricky 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 hosted by the Washington Chess Federation and directed by WCF co-Vice President Rekha Sagar with assistance from WCF Member-at-Large Ani Barua, WCF Community Outreach Liaison Suresh Balaji, Chess Dad Siva Sankrithi, and his son Sarang Sankrithi.

Wonderful photos and videos were taken throughout the day by photographer extraordinaire Meiling Cheng! We'd also like to thank the team of amazing volunteers that made this fantastic event possible. We hope to establish the Seattle Classic Scholastic as an annual tradition and continue to grow it in years to come! Congratulations to the winners:

Seattle Classic Scholastic Prizes

Individual Prizes - Amazon Gift cards awarded in each section.

1st \$90, 2nd \$80, 3rd \$70, 4th \$60, 5th \$50.

Section	1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place	4th Place	5th Place
K-1 U800	Vivaan Sankrithi \$90	Claire Wong \$80	Kyle Jiang Siana Razmov Aria Ajay \$60/-Each		
2-3 U800	Natalie Xu \$90	Alisa Rachiba \$80	Darya Byelashova Jace Liu \$65/-Each		Abigail Lew \$50
K-3 Open	Chen Yuan \$90	Terrick Evin \$80	Sambuddha Sekhar Das \$70	Lewis Ma Felix Y Chen \$55/-Each	
4-8 U900	Nathan Zhang \$90	Emery Spearman \$80	Krishna Bondalakunta Damien Davies Ellery Ang-Lee \$60/-Each		
4-12 Open	Samuel Cha Rishi Ramaswamy \$85/-Each		Thrinay Subramanian \$70/-Each	Aahan Sriram Yang Xu Vyom Joshi Snehil Ghosh Kevin Zhang Alex Ye \$19/-Each	
K-12 Open(2-day)	Rafael Palathingal Edgar Li Kshitij Narkhede Stanley Deng Andy Chen \$70/-Each				

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-1 U800	Sofia Byelashova	Janani Ranjith
2-3 U800	Sophia Ting	Sohum Kekre
K-3 Open	Akshita Swaminath	Sambuddha Sekhar Das
4-8 U900	Lavina Abhilash	Emery Spearman
4-12 Open	Ankita Swaminath	Killian Bates
K-4 Open(2-day)	N/A	Kshitij Narkhede
5-12 Open(2-day)	N/A	Andy Chen



*A beautiful flower on display at the Seattle Classic Scholastic.
Photo credit: Rekha Sagar.*



Sambuddha Sekhar Das (L) and Bihe Liu end their game decisively with a checkmate and a handshake. Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.



*Aria Ajay (L) and Vivaan Sankrithi open their game with a French Defense.
Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.*

Washington G/15 Open

(Gavrysh Gallops to 5-0)

Josh Sinanan

The 2023 Washington G/15 Open took place at Lakeside School in Seattle on Sunday, September 10, 2023. Seven intrepid chess warriors from across Washington State were represented in the modest field, from cities including Seattle, Brier, Bothell, Bellevue, Kirkland and Redmond.

WCF Community Outreach Liaison and FIDE National Arbiter Suresh Balaji directed the event with assistance from WCF co-Vice President Rekha Sagar and WCF Member-at-Large Ani Barua. The Washington G/15 Open was both FIDE Rapid rated and US Chess Quick rated, kicking off a series of FIDE rated tournaments of different time controls hosted by WCF. With the recent addition of two new FIDE National Arbiters to the WCF board - Shri Humrudha and Suresh Balaji - WCF plans to host many more FIDE rated events going forward.

We hope to grow the Washington G/15 Open in future years and provide opportunities for more players of all ages and levels to establish FIDE ratings.

Ukrainian chess wizard Leonid Gavrysh decided to jump into the tournament at the last minute, since his wife Iryna was playing in the concurrent Washington Women's Championship at the same venue. Leonid's decision paid off, as he emerged victorious with a perfect five points from five games and taught the youngsters some lessons along the way. In fact, Leonid was the only participant in the tournament old enough to have a driver's license!

Bellevue chess stud Rishi Ramaswamy captured the second-place prize with a solid 3.5 points, recovering well after his first-round loss to Gavrysh. A trio of rising chess stars shared Third/U2000/U1800 honors with an even 2.5 points apiece: Odbayar Yondon from Redmond, Aarit Shah from Kirkland, and Rian Raja from Bothell. Another Bothell powerhouse, Rafael Palathingal, won

the first U1600 prize with two points. Congratulations to the winners and thanks to everyone who supported this amazing event!



A group photo during the Washington G/15 Open awards ceremony (L-R): Benjamin Frederick, Kai Pisan, Rafael Palathingal, Rekha Sagar, Aarya Patel, Leonid Gavrysh, Rian Raja, Rishi Ramaswamy. Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.

Washington G/15 Open									
#	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total	Prize
1	Leonid Gavrysh	2026	W2	W4	W3	W5	W6	5	1st
2	Rishi Ramaswamy	1397	L1	W7	W4	W3	D5	3.5	2nd
3	Odbayar Yondon	1715	W6	W5	L1	L2	D7	2.5	=3rd/U2000/U1800
4	Aarit Shah	1369	W7	L1	L2	D6	B---	2.5	=3rd/U2000/U1800
5	Rian Raja	1316	B---	L3	W7	L1	D2	2.5	=3rd/U2000/U1800
6	Rafael Palathingal	1392	L3	B---	H---	D4	L1	2	1st U1600
7	Benjamin Frederick	1570	L4	L2	L5	B---	D3	1.5	

Co-hosted by Washington Chess Federation & Susan Polgar Foundation



18th Susan Polgar Foundation National Open for Girls & Boys



Friday-Saturday, November 24-25th, 2023

Hyatt Regency Bellevue: 900 Bellevue Way NE, Bellevue, WA 98004

Prizes include **\$100,000** in
Scholarships to [Webster University](https://www.webster.edu/)!

Info: spfno.com Register: chessreg.com

Email: washingtonchessfederation@gmail.com

Phone: 206-769-3757

2-day Championship Sections

K-5 Open **K-5 Girls**

K-8 Open **K-8 Girls**

K-12 Open **K-12 Girls**

Format: A 5-Round, G/75; +10 Swiss.
Dual NWSRS and US Chess rated.

Rounds: Fri: 10 AM, 1:30 PM. Sat: 10 AM,
1:30 PM, 5 PM. Awards ~ Sat 8:30 PM.

1-day Scholastic Sections (Fri-only)

K-1 U800 **K-3 Open**

2-3 U800 **4-6 Open**

4-6 U900 **7-12 Open**

Format: A 5-Round, G/25; d5 Swiss.
NWSRS rated. Open sections also US Chess
rated.

Rounds: Fri: 9:00 AM, 10:45 AM, 12:15 PM,
1:30 PM, 2:45 PM. Awards ~ 4:30 PM.

WA State Elementary Qualifier!

All Sections: Trophies awarded to top-
scoring individuals and teams. Medals for
first-time players who do not earn a trophy.
Higher of November US Chess or current
NWSRS rating will be used to determine
section and pairings.

Hotel Information: Hyatt Regency Bellevue for \$189/night,
address above. Phone: 425.462.1234, request the Washington
Chess Federation Room Block. Group Code: G-WACH.

Booking link online hotel reservations. Cut-off date for
discounted hotel reservations is November 10, 2023.

Entry Fees: (by Oct. 31 | Nov. 1 - 16 | Nov. 17 or after)

- 2-Day Championship Sections EF: \$80 | \$95 | \$115
- 1-Day Scholastic Sections (Fri-only) EF: \$45 | \$60 | \$80

Registration & Payment: **Registration and payment deadline**
Thu 11/23 @ 5 PM at chessreg.com (pay by credit/debit/PayPal).

Fun Side Events!

Parents and Coaches Seminar: Fri 11/24 @ 10:30-11:30 AM.

SPFNO Girls Workshop: Fri 11/24 @ 2:00-3:00 PM.

SPFNO Puzzle Solving Competition: Fri 11/24 @ 5:30-6:00
PM. EF: \$25 by 11/16, \$40 after.

SPFNO Blitz Championship: Fri 11/24 @ 6:30-9:00 PM.
EF: \$25 by 11/16, \$40 after.

GM Liem Le Lecture + Q&A: Sat 11/25 @ 10:30-11:30 AM.

GM Liem Le Simul: Sat 11/25 @ 1:00-4:00 PM.
EF: \$60 by 11/16, \$80 after. Max 30 players.

All-Comers Blitz with GM Le + other chess masters:
Sat 11/25 @ 5:00-7:00 PM.

Special Discount: Bundle Puzzle and Blitz side events to
receive a \$10 discount.

Scholarships Available: Scholarships available for the main
competition and side events. Contact WCF for info.
Seminar, Workshop, Lecture, and All-Comers Blitz are free.

Washington Winter Classic



DECEMBER 16-17TH, 2023

LAKE SIDE UPPER SCHOOL

14050 1ST AVE NE, SEATTLE, WA 98125

Highest finishing player in the Open and Reserve sections seeded into the Premier and Challengers sections, respectively, of the 2024 WA State Championship.

Format

A five-round, G/90; +30 Swiss in two sections:

Open & Reserve U1600.

Dual NWSRS and US Chess Rated. Open section also FIDE Rated. In case of a tie for 1st place, follow-up playoff games will determine the seed for the Premier or Challengers section of the 2024 Washington State Championship.

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

Schedule: Sat @ 9 AM, 2 PM, 6 PM. Sun @ 10 AM, 3 PM.

Closing Ceremony: Sun ~ 7 PM or asap.

Games that go long may request a late start for the next round.

Byes: Two half-point byes available if requested before end of round 2.

Prize Fund: \$4,000 (based on 80 paid entries)

Open: 1st-3rd: \$600, \$450, \$350. 1st U2100/U1900/U1700: \$225

Reserve: 1st-3rd: \$300, \$250, \$200. 1st U1500/U1300/U1100: \$150; 1st Unrated: \$150.

Special Prizes (per section): Biggest Upset Win: \$80, Highest (USCF) Rating Gain: \$80, Best Female Player (by TPR): \$80, Best Dressed: \$25/day.

Entry Fee: \$100 by 12/9, \$125 after. Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs, and WIMs. Players rated 1400-1599 may play up into Open section for an additional \$50 fee. Maximum of 80 players – please register early to guarantee your spot.

Memberships: Current US Chess and WCF membership/Northwest Chess subscription required. Memberships must be paid at time of registration.

Rating: US Chess and NWSRS Rated. Open section is also FIDE Rated. Higher of December US Chess or current NWSRS rating used to determine section, pairings, and prizes. Higher of US Chess or foreign rating used at TD discretion.

Registration: Online at nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration

Registration and payment **deadline: Fri. 12/15 @ 5pm**. No registrations accepted or refunds offered after the deadline. Payment via Zelle/PayPal (ID: WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com) or Venmo (ID: @WACheck) also available.

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

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

Contact: Josh Sinanan, WCF President, 206-769-3757

Email: WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com

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

Seattle Chess Club Tournaments

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

*Wednesdays
are for casual play*

Nov 12, Dec 10

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.

Sunday Tornado

Nov 18, Dec 17

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.

G/20 Hexes

Dec 2 & 30

Format: 3-RR, 4-plyr sec. by rtg. **TC:** G/100;+15. **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.

Saturday Quads

Dec 3

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.

SCC Novice

Dec 31-Jan 1

Format: 4 or more events: *Regressive, Chess 960, Blitz, Your First Classical Game of 2024*. **Special November Pre-Details** **EF:** \$31.73 for entire event (+\$10.46 fee for non-members of SCC). A savings of at least \$10.82 over December EF. **Time Frame:** 9:30 am 12/31 — 8:00 am. All **Insanity** players still awake after the final round are invited to breakfast at a restaurant yet to be determined (free or reduced cost, depending on remaining funds & number of diners).

5th SCC Insanity

Rain City Plus-Score Swiss

November 4-5, 2023

A five-round Swiss with a time control of G/75+30 seconds per move and prizes for all scores of three or more points. Prizes based on 26 paid entries.

5.0	\$150
4.0	\$60
3.0	\$15

4.5	\$100
3.5	\$30

Entry Fees: \$35 if paid by 10/30, \$47 thereafter. SCC members —subtract \$10. Unrated players FREE with purchase of 1-yr US Chess & WCF. **Registration:** Sat. 9-9:45 am.

Rounds: Sat. 10-2-6, Sun. 11-3. **Half-Point Byes:** 2 available. Rounds 4 or 5 must commit at registration. **Misc.:** US Chess membership required. NS. NC.



\$3.95

November 2023



OREGON CHESS FEDERATION
2344 NE 27TH AVE
PORTLAND, OR 97218

2751
DATE September 4 2023

PAY TO: Vikram Srivastava \$2,100.00
Two thousand one hundred and 00/100

US BANK
200001 Tied 1st Wilson K Giblin