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Did someone say...

“Bughouse!”?

Gimme a knight!



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Front Cover

Michael Omori (L) passes a knight to his bughouse partner, Siva Sankrithi, at the Washington Summer Bughouse Championship. Omori won multiple national scholastic bughouse titles while attending Lakeside under Sankrithi's guidance. Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.

Back Cover

Riaan Babbar contemplates his next move at the Seattle Seafair Open. Photo credit: Tanya Atikankhotchasee.

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Answers to the puzzles (from page 21) in last month's issue.

(Puzzles designed and compiled by Valentin Razmov, https://www.chess.com/member/coach_valentin)

Puzzle #1: Q: "White to move and mate in 1."
A: 1.Bc5#

Puzzle #2: Q: "White to move and mate in 2."
A: 1.Re8+! Kxe8 2.Qe7#

Puzzle #3: Q: "Black to move and mate in 3."
A: 1...Qd2+ 2.Kf1 Bc4+ 3.Ne2 Qe1#

Puzzle #4: Q: "Black to move and win."
A: 1...Rxf3! 2.Qxf3 Qd5! 3.Qxd5 Nf2#

Puzzle #5: Q: "White to move and win material."
A: 1.Qa3 Bd2 2.Qd3+ Kh8 3.Qxd2

Puzzle #6: Q: "Black is under attack. How to defend?"
A: 1...Qxf6! 2.exf6 Nxh5 — winning material.

Puzzle #7: Q: "White to move and win material."
A: 1.Ng6 fxe6 (1...Qe8 2.Nxf8) 2.d6+

Puzzle #8: Q: "White to move and win. Explain."
A: 1.Qe4+ Kf7 (1...Kd8 2.Qd8#) 2.Qf4+ — White is able to trade queens and promote their a-pawn, or else deliver checkmate.

Puzzle #9: Q: "The White king faces mating threats. What is White's best chance to survive? Explain."
A: 1.Rh8+! Kxh8 2.Qf8+ Kh7 3.Qf5+ — White is able to force a perpetual check, which Black cannot avoid due to being down on material.

Puzzle #10: Q: "White has weaknesses on the king-side. Black to move. How to use the opportunity?"
A: 1...g5! 2.Bxg5 Nxg5 3.Qxg5 Bh6

Puzzle #11: Q: "Black to move. What idea gives Black best chances to draw? Explain briefly."
A: 1...Ra4+ 2.Kb1 Rb4+ 3.Kc1 (2.Ka1 Ra4+) 3...Rf4! — Black can give perpetual check or else win White's f-pawn on the threat of checkmate; in both cases the result is a draw.

Puzzle #12: Q: "White has sacrificed material for an attack on Black's king. How to continue as Black?"
A: 1...Qb6! 2.Qd6+ Kg7 — the double attack (on g1 and b2) by Black forces White into concessions.

Puzzle #13: Q: "Both kings look exposed. White to move. Should White attack or defend?"
A: 1.Qf2! (not 1.Qf1? Rxh2+ and 2...Qh5+) 1...Rxh2+ 2.Qxh2 Rxe8 3.Qxh7+ Kf8 4.Qh8+ — Black's backrank weaknesses prove fatal.

Puzzle #14: Q: "All of White's pieces are active and aimed at Black's king. White to move and win."
A: 1.Qg7 d6 2.Rxd6+! cxd6 3.Bb6+, leading to checkmate soon.

Puzzle #15: Q: "White's pieces surround Black's king from all sides. Show the winning idea. Explain."
A: 1.Qa8! Ke5 2.Re1+ Kf4 3.Qg8! Qd5+ 4.Kh2 — weaving a sophisticated mating net via quiet moves, driving the Black king away from its surrounding defenders.

Puzzle #16: Q: "White's f-pawn is almost promoting. Which two moves give Black best chances? Which option is the best of all? Explain briefly."
A: 1...Nd7 and 1...Nh5! are the best options, of which only 1...Nh5 reliably draws — combining perpetual check ideas (...Nf4+, ...Nh3+, and ...Nh5+) with the threat of winning White's only pawn.

Remember to play in the 41st Annual Reno Western Open

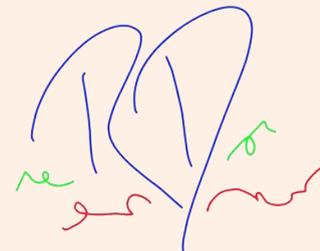
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Coaching Corner

Washington Open Games of Degenbaev

FM Ralph Dubisch



Over the last two issues of *Northwest Chess* we saw extensive coverage of the 2024 Washington Open, from crosstables to side events to photos to puzzle-solving competitions. What we didn't see was any games played by the actual winner of the main event! So to rectify that omission, I present all six games by NM Aziz Degenbaev, clear winner of the 2024 Washington Open.

To win an event of this kind, or really any chess tournament, you need significant skill, excellent nerves, and at least a little luck. The Washington Open was no exception. In the first round Aziz dispatched a lower-rated player, who chose a bit of an unrealistic attacking plan that helped his opponent's pieces to infiltrate.

William Wachira (1876) –

Aziz Degenbaev (2301) [A65]

2024 Washington Open, Open section
Redmond, WA (R1), May 25, 2024

[Ralph Dubisch]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.f3 0-0 5.e4 d6 6.Be3 c5 7.d5 e6 8.Qd2 exd5 9.cxd5 Re8 10.Bb5?!



Position after 10.Bb5

The problem with this is White will, to avoid loss of time, soon choose to exchange the bishop for a knight on d7. 10.Nge2 is still theory.

10...Nbd7 11.a4 a6 12.Bxd7 Bxd7

12...Nxd7! 13.Nge2 Ne5

13.Nge2 b5 14.0-0 b4 15.Nd1 a5 16.Nf2 Bc8 17.Kh1 Ba6 18.Rg1?!



Position after 18.Rg1

This is the beginning of a misguided kingside attack that ultimately weakens the white center. A little better is 18.Rfe1, though Black retains the initiative.

18...Rc8 19.g4? Nd7 20.f4 Nb6 21.b3 c4



Position after 21...c4

Of course Black doesn't want to exchange the excellent dark-square bishop for a mere rook on a1, but it is possible to win material with 21...Bxe2 22.Qxe2 Nxd5! 23.exd5 Bd4, since any defense of e3, such as Rg3 or Nd1, hangs the a1-rook.

22.Nd4 cxb3 23.Nxb3

23.Nc6 Rxc6 24.dxc6 Bc3 25.Qd1 b2 26.Rb1 Nc4+

23...Nc4 24.Qe1 Nxe3 25.Qxe3 Rc3 26.Qa7 Rxb3 27.Qxa6 Bxa1 28.Rxa1 Qf6

0-1

In round two, however, our hero played himself into a spot of trouble, hoping to avoid main-line theory. This was his luckiest escape of the event, though as we see even in top-player games, class often generates its own luck. Confidence is worth the exchange, perhaps?

Aziz Degenbaev (2301) –
David Paez (1993) [C15]

2024 Washington Open, Open section
Redmond, WA (R2), May 25, 2024

[Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Qd3?!

This is an unusual move, presumably essayed to avoid theory. The queen seems slightly misplaced, however. For those seeking something offbeat on which to do some home cooking, it might be worth looking into 4.Qg4!? Nf6 (4...dxe4 5.Qxg7 Qf6 6.Qg3!? Qxd4?! 7.Nge2±) 5.Qxg7 Rg8 6.Qh6 dxe4 (6...Rg6 7.Qe3 c5!?!∞) 7.Nge2±

4...Ne7 5.Bd2 0-0

5...b6!?

6.Nf3

6.0-0-0 b6 seems reasonable for both sides.

6...c5 7.a3

7.dxc5

7...Bxc3

7...c4!? 8.Qe2 Ba5

8.Bxc3 b6 9.0-0-0 c4 10.Qe2?!

10.Qe3 seems less obstructive.

10...a5 11.h4 b5 12.Bd2 Nbc6

12...b4!?

13.Rh3 c3!

13...b4!

14.Bf4

14.Bxc3 b4 opens lines against the white king.

14...e5

It seems simpler to charge ahead with 14...cxb2+ 15.Kxb2 (15.Kb1 b4 isn't an improvement for White.) 15...b4 16.a4 Ba6 17.Qe3 Bxf1 18.Rxf1 dxe4 19.Qxe4 Rc8

15.dxe5 Bxb3 16.gxh3 cxb2+ 17.Kxb2 d4! 18.h5 a4 19.Qd2

19.Be3 b4 20.Nxd4 bxa3+ 21.Kxa3 Qc7 22.e6 (22.f4 Nxd4 23.Bxd4 Rfd8) 22...Nxd4 23.exf7+ Rxf7 24.Bxd4 probably favors Black, but there's a lot going on and an unclear material imbalance.

19...b4

19...Qb6! first is harder to meet. 20.Nxd4 b4 21.Nxc6 Nxc6 with attack.



Position after 19...b4

20.Nxd4?

20.axb4! Nxb4 (20...a3+ 21.Ka1 Qb6 22.b5 when anything can happen.) 21.Qxb4 Rb8 22.Bb5 Nc6 23.Qxa4 Qb6 24.Kc1 Qxb5 25.Qxb5 Rxb5 26.Nxd4 Nxd4 27.Rxd4 with three (albeit structurally damaged) pawns for the exchange.

20...bxa3+

20...Qb6!

21.Kxa3 Qxd4?

The exposed white king is far more vulnerable with queens on the board. 21...Qb6

22.Qxd4 Nxd4 23.Rxd4 Rfc8 24.c4?

On c4, the pawn interferes with both bishop and rook while potentially reducing king safety by uncovering b3. Although the general rule suggests White should not exchange rooks when down the exchange, here it is best: 24.Rc4! Nc6 25.h6 Na5 26.Rxc8+ Rxc8 27.Bd3 and

White's bishops nicely protect all of the weak pawns.

24...Rcb8 25.Rd6 Rb3+ 26.Ka2 Rab8 27.Rd2



Position after 27.Rd2

27...a3?

Black should bring up the last reserves, 27...Nc6, with at least some advantage. A sample line: 28.e6 R8b7 29.c5 Nb4+ 30.Ka1 Ra3+ 31.Kb2 Ra2+ 32.Kc3 Rxd2 33.exf7+ Kxf7 34.Bc4+ Ke7 35.Bxd2 a3

28.e6 Rb2+ 29.Kxa3 Rxd2?!

29...R8b3+ 30.Ka4 fxe6 (Obviously Black can take a draw right away with 30...Rb4+ 31.Ka3 R4b3+, since 31.Ka5 walks into mate in two.) 31.Rxb2 Rxb2

30.exf7+ Kxf7 31.Bxd2 Ke6 32.f4±

Now the white pawns become menacing.

32...Nc6 33.c5 Nd4 34.Ka4

34.Bc4+ Kd7 35.Bd5

34...Kd7 35.Bc3 Ne6

First swinging the rook behind the pawns gives better chances to hold. 35...Rb1±

36.Bb5+ Ke7 37.c6



Position after 37.c6

37...Nc5+?

37...Ra8+ 38.Kb4 Nxf4 39.Be5 Nxh3 40.c7 Ng5 41.Bc6 Rg8 42.Kb5 Ne6 and there's still something for White to prove.

38.Ka5 Nb3+?!

With 38...Nxe4 39.Be5 Ra8+ 40.Kb6 Nd6 41.Ba6 the outlook is similarly grim.

39.Kb4 Nc1 40.Bxg7

40.c7 Nd3+ 41.Kc4 Rc8 42.Kxd3 Rxc7 43.f5+- is also possible.

40...Nd3+ 41.Kc4 Nxf4 42.Be5 Rf8 43.Bxf4 Rxf4 44.c7 Rf1 45.Kd5 Rd1+

45...Rc1 46.Bc6

46.Kc6

1-0

Strong expert Vidip Kona is the foil in the third round, creating complications but falling just short of finding a sufficient plan, occasionally appearing to play move by move. Here it starts to become clear that Aziz thrives in complexity and revels in the attack.

Vidip Kona (2075) –

Aziz Degenbaev (2301) [A15]

2024 Washington Open, Open section
Redmond, WA (R3), May 26, 2024

[Ralph Dubisch]

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.b4 Bg7 4.Bb2 0-0 5.g3 d6 6.Bg2 e5 7.d3 Re8 8.0-0 Nbd7 9.Nbd2 Rb8 10.Qc2 b6 11.e3 Bb7



Position after 11...Bb7

12.d4

If you compare the position after Black's move 11 with the position after Black's 14th, you'll see the white d-pawn and black c-pawns removed, the black queen developed to e7, and the bishop moved from b7 to c6. Although none of the next three moves is a blunder for White, and the position at the end is not at all calamitous, it feels as though the plan of spending these three moves exchanging center pawn for wing pawn and helping Black develop is likely not ideal.

How about 12.b5, intending a4-a5, as a plan more in tune with the position? Black should counter in the center:

12...e4, and after 13.dxe4 Nxe4 14.Bxg7 Kxg7 15.Nb3∞ White has chances to use the c6–square.

12...Qe7 13.d5 c6 14.dxc6 Bxc6

Black's d6–pawn is, indeed, backward on a half-open file, but White's c4–pawn is similarly weakened, thanks to move three. White takes steps to lock down the d-pawn.

15.e4 Rbc8 16.Qd3 Red8 17.Rfd1 Nf8

Both sides appear to have adequate defenses for their weaknesses, so it's time to find another way to progress. The d5 and d4 squares beckon knights.

18.Ne1 Ba4 19.Rdc1 Ne6 20.Nc2 h5 21.Ne3 h4 22.Nd5



Position after 22.Nd5

22...Qe8

Stockfish suggests some striking clearance ideas to justify taking on d5 here. 22...Nxd5 23.exd5 (Just to present one line with the other pawn capture: 23.cxd5 Nd4 24.Bh3 Bb5 25.Nc4 Bh6 26.Bxc8 Bxc1 27.Rxc1 Rxc8 28.Bxd4 exd4 29.Qxd4 Qc7 30.gxh4 Bxc4♣ and the extra piece should be good for something. There are many fancy branches, but all appear to favor Black to some extent.) 23...e4! 24.Qa3 Nd4! and we're deep in the weeds, with knight forks and the ...e3 break acting as fertilizer.

The rest of this analysis kind of demonstrates one of the traps annotators can fall into using computers. It's easy to go on and on, adding move after move, going so far afield that the result literally could not ever have happened in the actual game. Why then did I do this, and present it here? Because I felt like it. I offer no other apology.

Likely best for White is 25.Qxa4 (25.Re1 Nc2 26.Qxa4 Nxe1 27.Rxe1 Bxb2♣; 25.Kf1 Bc2 26.Re1 Qg5 27.Nxe4 Qf5 28.Qc3 h3 29.Bh1 b5!♣; 25.Kh1 b5! 26.Bxe4 Re8 with more than sufficient dynamic compensation for Black.) 25...Ne2+ 26.Kf1 e3! (26...Bxb2 27.Kxe2∞) 27.Bxg7 (27.fxe3 Nxc3+ 28.hxc3 Bxb2♣ White's king is exposed and pieces are lacking coordination.) 27...exd2 (27...Nxc1 28.fxe3 29.Qd1! Qd3+ 30.Kf2 Kxc7 31.Rxc1 Qd4+ 32.Kf1 Re8∞ though Black seems better coordinated again.) 28.Rd1 Kxc7 29.Qc2! White must be precise to avoid losing the c4–pawn. (29.Rxd2 Qf6 30.Qd1 Nc3 31.Qf3 Rxc4.) 29...Nd4 (29...Qe5 30.Qxd2 Nc3 31.Re1 Qf6 32.Qd3 b5∞) 30.Qd3 Qf6 31.Rab1 Nf5 (31...b5!?!∞) 32.Kg1 (32.Rxd2? Rxc4♣ 33.Qxc4?? Ne3+) 32...Rd7 White is finally prepared to take off the thorn on d2, so Black begins to pressure c4, planning to break with ...b5, using the pin along the c-file. 33.Rxd2 Rdc7 34.Rc1 b5 35.c5 dxc5 36.d6 (36.Qxb5 c4!) 36...c4 37.Qf3 Rd7 38.Bh3∞ So, yes, we got way off the actual game here, and the variations are at best fantasy lines. Clearly Black has lots of activity, and the knight on d4 is stylistically Degenbaev (see his game against Bindi Cheng for confirmation). White may well survive with highly accurate play, but in this kind of battle, it helps to thrive in the complications.

23.Qa3 b5! 24.cxb5 Bxb5 25.Qxa7

White grabs a pawn for clarity, but once again Black has plenty of activity to compensate.

25...Nxd5

Stockfish suggests 25...Rxc1+ 26.Rxc1 first, then 26...Nxd5 27.exd5 Nd4, since the rook is well-placed on a1 to support a2–a4 or defend a2 against attack along the a-file. The difference, however, appears small.

26.exd5

26.Rxc8 Rxc8 27.exd5 Nd4

26...Nd4



Position after 26...Nd4

27.Bxd4?!

I'm not a fan of this capture. Suddenly Black has a passed d-pawn and the bishop-pair to support it. 27.Rxc8 Rxc8 28.a4∞ and while Black still has activity, the a-pawn is beginning to look more dangerous.

27...exd4 28.Re1 Be2! 29.Be4 Qb5 30.a4

Now tactics rule, and Black's advantage becomes decisive. 30.Rab1 Ra8♣

30...Qxb4! 31.Rxe2 d3! 32.Bxd3 Bxa1 33.Nf1?!

33.Kg2

33...Ra8 34.Qe7 Qxa4

34...hxc3 35.hxc3 Qxa4

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35.Re4 Qd1 36.Rf4

36.Be2 Qc2 (36...Qxd5? 37.Bc4 Qf5 38.Rf4) 37.Bf3 Qc3 38.Rf4 Qg7

36...Rf8 37.Be4 hgx3 38.hgx3 Be5 39.Rh4 Ra1 40.Bg2 Ra2 41.Qg5 Rb8 42.Rh2

42.Qe3 Qe2

42...Rxf2! 43.Qh4

43.Kxf2 Bd4+ 44.Ne3 Rb2#

43...Rxf1+ 44.Bxf1 Bd4+ 45.Rf2 Rb2

0-1

My first attempt at commenting the fourth round game against NM Vikram Srivastava found me apologizing to the reader, as I had included no substantive annotations before move forty! Perhaps fortunately, though I assure you it did not feel particularly fortuitous at the time, my game file got corrupted and I lost all my notes to all six games. During the redo, I was in a different mood.

In a sense, this game represents a little more luck on the path to victory, but again, chess requires mistakes; just keep pushing and asking questions until something gives. Time control mistakes count, too.

Aziz Degenbaev (2301) –

Vikram Srivastava (2267) [B90]

2024 Washington Open, Open section

Redmond, WA (R4), May 26, 2024

[Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bd3

Once again Aziz chooses an uncommon and slightly passive move, presumably to avoid main-line theory. There are four bishop moves more aggressive

and more popular than this: the modern Kasparov-style 6.Be3, the old main line 6.Bg5, Fischer's Sozin-like 6.Bc4, and the Karpovian 6.Be2. There are also a handful of pawn moves that are more common, including 6.f4, 6.f3, 6.h3, 6.g3, and 6.a4.

My suggestion for an off-beat alternative is the queen move, 6.Qf3, adding support if the d4-knight wants to jump to f5, as well as suggesting kingside pawn expansion with h3/g4. 6...g6 (6...Bg4 7.Qg3 e5 8.Nf5; 6...e5 7.Nf5 Be6 8.Bg5; 6...e6 7.g4 Nc6 8.Nxc6 bxc6 9.g5; 6...Nbd7 7.h3 Qb6 8.Nb3; 6...Nc6 7.Nxc6 bxc6 8.e5 dxe5 9.Qxc6+ Bd7 10.Qb7) 7.h3 Bg7 8.Be3 0-0 9.0-0

6...e5 7.Nde2 Be7 8.0-0 0-0 9.Ng3 Re8 10.f4

Committal. White opens the f-file and recaptures on f4 with the bishop gaining time. However, it weakens e4 and gives Black the e5-square for a knight. f4 is sometimes played a move earlier, which might allow a recapture on f4 with the knight aiming to occupy d5.

The backward and isolated pawns on d6 and e4 are clearly well-defended at this time, so any weaknesses there are more theoretical and long-term.

10...exf4 11.Bxf4 Nc6

11...Qb6+ 12.Kh1 Qxb2 misplaces the queen for minimal material gain. 13.Nd5 Nxd5 14.exd5 Nd7 15.Nf5 looks good for White.

12.Kh1 Ne5 13.Qd2 Be6 14.Rae1 Qa5 15.h3 Rac8 16.Bg5 Nxd3 17.cxd3 Nh5! 18.Nxh5 Qxg5 19.Nf4

Bishops should be somewhat advantageous in an ending after 19.Qxg5 Bxg5.

19...Bf6 20.Qf2 Be5 21.Nfe2 Qh5 22.d4 Bf6 23.Ng3 Qh4 24.e5 dxe5 25.dxe5

25.Re4 Qh6 26.d5 (26.dxe5 Bd8.) 26...Rxc3! (26...Bd7 27.Rb4 b5 28.Nce4±) 27.bxc3 Bxd5 28.Nf5 when Black should offer a repetition with 28...Qh5 29.Ng3 Qh6, and probably White should, objectively, take it.

25...Be7 26.Re4

26.Nce4!?

26...Qg5 27.Nge2 Red8 28.Nf4 Bf5

28...Bc4 29.Rfe1 b5 It's just a little bit harder to play with knights against the bishop-pair.

29.Ree1 Bb4 30.Re3 Bxc3

30...Bc5 31.Rg3 Qe7 32.Qe1

31.bxc3 Rc6 32.Ne2 Be6 33.Nd4

It seems clear that after the exchange on c3, White is no longer in danger. Now he starts maneuvering for tactics.

33...Rc7 34.Rg3 Qe7 35.Qf4 Kh8 36.Rgf3

36.Nxe6 fxe6! (36...Qxe6? 37.Rxg7 Kxg7 38.Qg5+±)

36...h6 37.Qg3 Qg5 38.Qe1 Qe7 39.Rg3 Rd5 40.Qe3



Position after 40.Qe3

40...Rcc5??

I don't have clock times for this game, but this looks very much like a classic "last move before time control" error. White's

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main threat is Rf6, which in turn both pressures the bishop on e6 and threatens checkmate starting with Qxh6+. To avoid problems, Black must meet both threats with something like 40...Bc8 41.Rf6 Qf8, removing the e6-target and covering g7 and h6 along the diagonal. Now further direct attack appears to only draw with best play: 42.Qf3 Rdc5 43.e6 Rxc3 44.Rxh6+ gxh6 45.Qf6+ Kh7 46.Qf5+ (46.e7?! Rc1+ 47.Kh2 Rxe7 48.Nf5 Rc6! 49.Qxe7 Qxe7 50.Nxe7 Rc5 51.Nxc8 Rxc8 and White would need to defend the pawn-down rook ending.) 46...Kh8 47.Qf6+ with perpetual check.

41.Rf6! Kh7

41...Qf8 42.Nxe6 Rxe5 43.Qf4 Rxe6 44.Rxe6+-

42.Rxg7+

42.Qe4+ Kh8 43.Qh4 is even stronger.

42...Kxg7 43.Qxh6+ Kg8 44.Qg5+ Kf8 45.Nxe6+ Ke8

Black's only remaining hope is to defend the rooks versus queen ending, but the extra white pawns will tell eventually. 45...Qxe6 46.Rxe6 fxe6 47.Qf6+ Ke8 48.Qxe6+ Kd8 49.Qf7 Rxe5 50.Qxb7

46.Qg8+ Kd7 47.Nxc5+ Qxc5 48.Rxf7+ Kc6 49.Qc8+

1-0

Whether or not round five versus IM Bindi Cheng counts as luck or not I will let you decide. The higher-rated IM made one seemingly small misjudgment in the opening, allowing Black to insert a powerful knight in the center, and from there it was pretty smooth sailing.

Bindi Cheng (2499) – Aziz Degenbaev (2301) [E61]
2024 Washington Open, Open section
Redmond, WA (R5), May 27, 2024
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.d4 0-0 5.Bf4

Unusual. The most well-worn paths in the King's Indian start 5.e4 d6 6.Be2 e5.

5...d6 6.e3 Nc6 7.h3 h6

The idea behind this modest pawn push becomes clear in a few moves. The more natural 7...Nd7 8.Be2 e5 9.Bh2 and now something like ...f5 sets up an interesting contest.

8.Be2 Nh7 9.Bh2 e5 10.0-0

White should deal with the central tension now, for reasons we will see in the game. 10.d5 Ne7 11.c5 f5, or 10.dxe5 Nxe5 11.Nd4.

10...Re8



Position after 10...Re8

11.a3?!

White can still avoid trouble with 11.dxe5 dxe5 (11...Nxe5 12.c5!±) 12.Qb3± when White is first to the d-file and it isn't clear where Black's kingside pieces are heading.

11...exd4! 12.exd4

12.Nxd4 may be an improvement,

taking away the hook for the h7-knight to exploit while offering to exchange the c6-knight that plays a critical role for the rest of the game.

12...Ng5!

Here we see the point. Black undermines support for d4, and soon sinks a knight into a key central square.

13.d5 Nxf3+ 14.Bxf3 Nd4! 15.Be4 b6 16.Re1 Qg5 17.Kh1 Bf5 18.g4?!

White gambles, weakening the structure around his king in hopes of gaining an initiative. It isn't easy to play against the superior dark-square bishop and centralized knight.

18...Bxe4+ 19.Nxe4 Qh4 20.Kg2 f5! 21.Bg3 Qe7 22.Nc3 Qf6 23.gxf5?

Pitching an exchange, but 23.Qd3 f4 certainly favors Black as well.

23...Rxe1 24.Qxe1 Nc2



Position after 24...Nc2

25.Qd1

Here the computer suggests White's best chance is to give up a whole rook for a couple of pawns with 25.Qe6+ Qxe6 26.fxe6 Nxa1 27.Nb5, but it's hard to believe it leads to much: 27...Bf8 shuts down any hope of promotion for that e-pawn.

25...Nxa1 26.fxg6 Rf8 27.Qxa1 Qf3+

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28.Kg1 Bd4

Smooth.

0-1

Finally, NM Daniel He, the Washington State Champion. White builds a nice positional edge in the opening, with space and better control of the open c-file. With the tournament on the line, a draw is agreed.

**Aziz Degenbaev (2301) –
Daniel He (2361) [E84]**

2024 Washington Open, Open section
Redmond, WA (R6), May 27, 2024
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 g6 3.e4 d6 4.d4 Bg7 5.f3

The Samisch. David Bronstein would not approve.

5...0-0 6.Be3 a6 7.Qd2 Nc6 8.Nge2 Bd7 9.Rc1

9.Nc1 e5 10.Nb3 is also known here.

9...Rb8 10.Nd1 b5 11.c5 e6

[Diagram top of next column]



Position after 11...e6

12.g3

12.Nf2 b4 13.g3 Ne7 is still theory. Each player has made half a dozen pawn moves out of the first 13 moves of the game. If you are a beginner, do not learn openings from this example.

12...b4 13.Bg2

13.Nf2 Ne7 transposes back into the line mentioned above.

13...Rb5 14.cxd6 cxd6 15.b3 e5 16.0-0

16.d5

16...Qe7

Black's last chance to mix it up: 16...d5 with complications. 17.dxe5 (17.Rxc6!?)

Bxc6 18.dxe5 introduces a wild mess as well.) 17...Nxe5 18.f4 Neg4 19.e5 Ne4 20.Bxe4 dxe4 21.Bc5 appears dangerous for both sides.

17.d5 Na5 18.Nb2 Rfb8



Position after 18...Rfb8

White stands clearly better here with play on the open file. But it's hard to fault the decision to split the point. 5.5/6.0, clear first. Aziz Degenbaev, Washington Open Champion.

½-½

Very impressive indeed. I expect we will see quite a bit more from Aziz Degenbaev. Congratulations.

Monroe National Chess Day Rapid Championship



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2024

MONROE COMMUNITY SENIOR CENTER

276 SKY RIVER PKWY, MONROE, WA 98272

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

Rekha Sagar, WCF VP, 425-496-9160, Rekha4Chess@gmail.com

Registration: Online at nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration. Registration and payment **deadline Fri. 10/11** @ 5pm or register at-site.

Eligibility: Open to all juniors + adults.

Schedule: At-site registration: Sat. 8:00-8:45am. Rds. @ 9am, 10:30am, Lunch, 12:30pm, 1:45pm, 3pm. Awards ~ 4:30pm

WA State Elementary Qualifier!

Format: A 5-round G/25; +5 Swiss tournament in three sections. Sections with <6 players may be merged.

- **Megan Lee Championship**
- **Josh Sinanan U1300**
- **Jim McCormick U700**

Prizes: \$1,500 for 60 paid entries.

Lee: \$200-150-100-75.

Sinanan: \$150-100-80-60.

McCormick: \$150-100-80-60.

Special Prizes (per section): Biggest Upset Win: \$5/rd., Best Dressed: \$10, Best Female Player: \$10, Best Senior Player: \$10, Kindness/Spreading Joy: \$10.

Entry Fee: \$50 by 10/5, \$60 after. Seniors 65+ receive a \$25 discount. Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs, WIMs, or US Chess 2000+. Players rated 1200+ & 600+ in both USCF & NWSRS may play up 1 section into the Lee & Sinanan sections, respectively. Maximum of 85 players total and 30 players per section, please register early.

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

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

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

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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/60; +30 Swiss.
Dual NWSRS + US Chess rated. K-12
sections also FIDE rated.

Rounds: Sat: 10am, 1:30pm. Sun: 10am,
1:30pm, 5pm. Awards ~ Sun 8:30pm.

1-day Scholastic Sections (Sat-only)

K-1 U700 **K-3 Open**

2-3 U700 **4-6 Open**

4-6 U700 **7-12 Open**

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

Rounds: Sat: 9am, 10:45am, 12:15pm,
1:30pm, 2:45pm. Awards ~ 4:30pm.

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

Hotel Information: Hilton Bellevue for \$179/\$199 (1 King/2
Queen) per night, address above. Phone: 425.455.1300, request
WA Chess Federation room block. Group Code: 905.

[Booking link](#) for online hotel reservations. Cut-off date for
discounted hotel reservations is October 4, 2024.

WA State Elementary Qualifier!

Entry Fees: (by Oct. 3 | Oct. 4 - 18 | Oct. 19 or after)

- 2-Day Championship Sections EF: \$85 | \$100 | \$120
- 1-Day Scholastic Sections (Sat-only) EF: \$50 | \$65 | \$85

Registration & Payment: **Registration and payment deadline**
Fri 10/25 @ 5pm at [chessreg.com](#) (pay by credit/debit/PayPal).

Fun Side Events!

SPFNO Puzzle Solving Competition: Sat @ 5:30-6pm.
EF: \$25 by 10/18, \$40 after.

SPFNO Blitz Championship: Sat @ 6:30-9pm.
EF: \$25 by 10/18, \$40 after.

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

GM Susan Polgar Simul: Sun @ 1-4pm.
EF: \$60 by 10/18, \$80 after. Max 20 players.

Parents and Coaches Seminar: Sat @ 9:30-10:30am.

SPFNO Girls Workshop: Sat @ 11:30-12:30pm.

GM Susan Polgar Book Sale & Signing: Sat @ 1:30-2:30pm.

FM Megan Lee Game Analysis: Sat @ 2:30-3:30pm.

All-Comers Blitz with FM Megan Lee: Sat @ 3:30-4:30pm.

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

2024 Oregon Class Championships

November 2-3, 2024, Daylight Saving Time Weekend in Portland, Oregon

\$5600 total prize fund based on 100 players.

FORMAT: The tournament is a 5-round Swiss paired event with three rounds on Saturday and two rounds on Sunday and is open to everyone, regardless of residency or age. Up to two half point byes are available if requested before round one.

SECTIONS: There are seven sections, **Master/Expert** (2000+), **Class A** (1800-1999), **Class B** (1600-1799), **Class C** (1400-1599), **Class D** (1200-1399), **Class E** (1000-1199), and **Class F and below** (U1000). Players may play up one section for a \$35 play-up fee (can't play up more than one section). The official November US Chess over-the-board regular ratings are generally used for section eligibility and pairings. An unofficial US Chess over-the-board regular rating based on at least four games, US Chess online regular rating, or converted foreign rating is used for players with no official US Chess over-the-board regular rating.

TIME CONTROL: G/90;+10 (ninety minutes per player with ten seconds added for each move). **PLAYERS MUST SUPPLY THEIR OWN BOARD, SET, AND INCREMENT CAPABLE DIGITAL CLOCK FOR TOURNAMENT PLAY.** A limited number of sets and boards will be available to purchase at the tournament. Players are responsible for knowing how to set their clock.

SCHEDULE: A players meeting is at 9:45am on Saturday (there is no need for registered players to "check-in" prior to round 1). The rounds start at 10am, 2:15pm, and 6:30pm on Saturday and 10am and 2:15pm on Sunday. Remember to set your clocks back an hour on Sunday morning for the end of daylight saving time.

RATED: All sections are US Chess regular rated.

ENTRY FEE: \$80 if registered by Friday, October 11 \$90 from October 12 until Friday, November 1 at noon. Free entry for GMs and IMs with up to \$80 deducted from a prize won. US Chess membership is required for all players. Oregon Chess Federation membership is required for Oregon residents. See [the OCF Membership page](#) for instructions on obtaining an OCF membership.

PRIZES: \$5600 total prize fund based on 100 players. The prize fund is adjusted proportionally if there are a different number of players except \$2800 is guaranteed. Each section has the following overall prizes: 1ST-\$400, 2ND-\$250, 3RD-\$150. Unrated players are eligible for all the prizes in their section. Prizes are combined and/or split if there is a tie. Prizes are paid via check or PayPal.

QUALIFIERS: The Master/Expert section is a qualifier for both the Championship and Challengers sections of the Oregon Closed. All sections are qualifiers for the Oregon Scholastic Chess Federation (OSCF) State Championship.

LOCATION: Lloyd Center DoubleTree Hotel, 1000 NE Multnomah St, Portland, OR 97232. **The tournament this year is in the Cascade and Willamette ballrooms.** There is free parking in the hotel parking garage (parking passes to be able to leave the parking garage for free will be available at the tournament). Hotel rooms for any of the nights of November 1-3 are available at a special chess rate that will be posted on the OCF website (<https://oregonchessfed.org/>)

REGISTRATION: Register online at onlineregistration.cc (no mailed or on-site entries are allowed). **The deadline to register is Friday, November 1 at noon.** If you encounter any issues while trying to register online, need to modify or withdraw your registration, or are unable to pay the entry fee online via credit card, debit card, or PayPal, send email to support@oregonchessfed.org

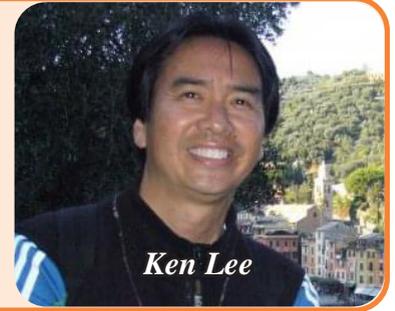
TOURNAMENT RULES: US Chess rules are used. The following apply to all sections: **1) You must let the tournament staff know at least thirty minutes prior to the start time of the next round if you decide to withdraw from the tournament or skip that round. 2) Players are not allowed to have a phone or other electronic device capable of chess analysis or communication on their person during their games.** Any such device a player has with them must be turned off and stored in the player's bag (backpack, chess bag, etc.). The penalty for possessing such a device is at the discretion of the chief tournament director. **3) As a courtesy to your opponents, please show up on time for the rounds. A player will be forfeited for a no-show one hour after the round has started.**

QUESTIONS: Email support@oregonchessfed.org. During the tournament, if you decide to withdraw or skip a round and are not on-site, send us an email via this address letting us know.

Sponsored by the Oregon Chess Federation (OCF). Any updates to tournament information will be posted on the OCF website - <https://oregonchessfed.org/>

Interview with Michael Omori

Ken Lee



Michael Omori is a newly minted National Master chess player and native of Seattle.

He has been playing chess since he was five years old and is now applying his passions of chess and game theory to pursue his PhD in the field of AI and chess.

Ken: When did you first start playing chess?

Michael: I first started playing chess at Wedgwood elementary school when I was five. My dad taught me the basic chess moves and was my first coach.

Ken: When did you first enter the tournament world?

Michael: As a member of our school chess club, I was encouraged to enter chess tournaments right away.

Ken: What was most helpful to you in those early years?

Michael: I was fortunate to have several coaches through the years. My first official coach at Wedgwood was Fred Kleist of the Seattle Chess Club. I've also had the pleasure to work with David Roper and Georgi Orlov.

Ken: Did you find early in your career that your work ethic and the habits that you developed through chess influenced

your academics, sports or other interests?

Michael: I definitely found that learning how to improve at chess or actually any specific activity is useful in learning how to get better at other endeavors.

For example, I believe that I excelled in tennis because I learned how to learn to make incremental improvements. Chess teaches you to develop a passion for learning.

I eventually became tennis team captain in high school. I believe part of the reason for that was that I developed a curiosity towards life in general. I was always asking myself: "What can I do to get a little bit better?"

Ken: Did you continue to play chess in middle school and high school?

Michael: Yes, I continued to play chess and joined the chess club at Lakeside.

But I stopped playing chess when I got to university. I completely stopped for four years because my undergrad years were very busy at UW.

Ken: Now, you are in grad school at OSU. What are you studying?

Michael: I went back to school to pursue my PhD in artificial intelligence and machine learning. This year, I've been

doing research into games, specifically chess.

This has been a lot of fun because I have been playing chess all my life.

Ken: What is the emphasis of your research?

Michael: Way back in 1997, Deep Blue was created by IBM. That early AI was able to beat the world champion, Garry Kasparov.

There is plenty of research on building increasingly sophisticated chess engines but my research, I believe, is pursuing a more subtle goal: using AI to improve the chess playing experience for people!

Ken: What do you specifically mean by that?

Michael: I'm interested in AI that will play and adjust to each individual player's ability.

What I'm working on right now is the estimation of the chess player's skill in their game on a move-by-move basis. In other words, AI would be able to estimate how good each individual move is during a game for each individual position.

Ken: What would be one of the benefits of this kind of individualized AI system?



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Michael: First, this type of AI could develop a customizable system that can easily scaffold to each individual player.

Second, an AI system that can adjust and evaluate individual play, move by move, would be helpful in detecting any anomalies in fair play.

Ken: Do you have a title for your dissertation yet?

Michael: Haha, not yet, but I'll let you know when it comes out.

Ken: What are the potential applications for your work with AI beyond chess and game theory?

Michael: There are many historical examples of AI that start off being used in like games like chess and being applied to other areas of research.

For example, Alpha Zero used deep learning technique that was initially applied to chess.

Then the algorithms were used to work on other games such as Go, Shogi and StarCraft.

Eventually, the work was applied to biology that led to breakthroughs in protein folding, facial recognition and self-driving cars.

I would say there's a lot of good cross-pollination these days between different fields.

Ken: I understand that you recently reached 2200 US Chess to become a National Master.

Michael: Yes, I finally achieved it. When I was in high school, I almost achieved my NM rating but, honestly, I

wasn't that motivated by my ELO back then.

During Covid, I wound up getting back into chess and I saw a lot of companies doing remarkable work in chess. Obviously, companies like Chess.com and also Google were pouring a great deal of money into chess research.

So, I was thinking, perhaps I'm not good enough to make a living playing competitive chess, but I could apply my dual interests in chess and machine learning to create a path for myself.

I thought I should become a stronger player to help me with my new academic career path. I finally obtained my NM rating at the age of 29.

Ken: What do you think about the future of chess?

Michael: Well, I remember back when chess wasn't nearly as popular as it is today.

Now, I feel like everyone knows how to play chess and it's crazy. I think the popularity of chess is definitely a really good thing. There are now unique ways to make a living outside of competitive chess including streaming, publishing, journalism, programming and more.

There are amazing online courses like Chessable that have been great for spreading the knowledge of world class players like Magnus Carlsen.

Ken: Do you have any concerns about the current state of chess?

Michael: I know a lot of tournament

chess players have a strong focus on ratings and tournament results, which is fine, but I would say that for some, the pressure to perform might be too much.

Another problem with the influx of strong chess engines and AI is the prospect of cheating in tournaments. That makes me concerned about the state of fair play in chess. I certainly don't want to see a world where people are just using chess engines to outperform each other.

I feel the main focus should be on enjoying the game. Through chess, you can enjoy all the human aspects of the game. You can make friends, travel, and build good habits that will help you in all your endeavors.

“Chess teaches you to develop a passion for learning.”



Michael Omori at the 2024 World Open Chess Tournament. Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.

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WCF Father's Day Weekend Chess Festival

Josh Sinanan

The 2024 Seattle Summer Bughouse Championship, Seattle Father's Day Open, and Seattle Father's Day Blitz tournaments took place at Lakeside Upper School in Seattle on Father's Day weekend June 15-16.

Players hailing from multiple municipalities throughout Washington state were represented in the two-day chess fest, including the cities of Sammamish, Mill Creek, Seattle, Kirkland, Bellevue, Snoqualmie, Covington, Bothell, Olympia, Corvallis, Shoreline, Redmond, Issaquah, Lake Forest Park, Puyallup, Snohomish, Brier, Renton, Mercer Island, Duvall, Mountlake Terrace, Seatac, and Lynnwood!

The busy slate of events was orchestrated by WCF Tournament Coordinator Valentin Razmov, chess advisor Siva Sankrithi, and WCF President Josh Sinanan. WCF Co-Scholastic Director Allen Messenger and Member-at-Large Ani Barua served as the chief tournament directors.

Washington Summer Bughouse Championship

First up was the Washington Summer Bughouse Championship, a rare bughouse tournament open to both junior and adult players that offered cash prizes! Though some purists may view bughouse as the "junk food of chess," bughouse continues to be a popular chess variant loved by many for its unique set of openings, tactics, and strategies that make for many exciting and complex battles!

Originally planned to be a two-section, five-round Double Swiss tournament, the format was reduced to a single section due to a lack of adult teams registered in the Mishra Open. With the two sections combined, there was plenty of competition for all 17 teams registered, including two powerhouse teams: FM Megan Lee (2356) + NM Paul Linuma (2256) and multiple-time national bughouse champion and newly minted NM Michael Omori (2188) + former Lakeside Chess Director and chess dad Siva Sankrithi (1400).

When the dust had settled a five rough-and-tumbly double rounds of bughouse chess, the two ratings favorites prevailed, with the teams of Megan Lee/ Paul Linuma (Avg. rating: 2306) and Michael Omori/Siva Sankrithi (1794) finishing tied for first place, each with an impressive nine points from ten games. Both teams got off to a hot start with a perfect six points from six games after the first three rounds, which set up an exciting fourth round showdown.

The two heavy weights split their mini-match 1-1 after two hard-fought games played at lightning-fast speed, which is typical of bughouse. Two teams shared third place honors in the Mishra Open section with six-points apiece: Cedric Davies/Weston Hughes (1463) and Edward Chang/Gavin Shi (1780).

The Tang K-6 Scholastic prizes were awarded to the top teams three who bravely fought against their fellow scholastic competitors but also had to face several experienced teams consisting of adult players. Sharing first place honors in the Tang K-6 Scholastic category

2024 Washington Summer Bughouse Championship

#	Place	Team Players	Avg Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	Rd 8	Rd 9	Rd 10	Total	Prize
1	1-2	Megan Lee and Paul Linuma	2306	W12	W12	W5	W5	W3	W3	D2	D2	W4	W4	9	=1st/2nd Mishra
2		Michael Omori and Siva Sankrithi	1794	W13	W13	W6	W6	W4	W4	D1	D1	W3	W3	9	=1st/2nd Mishra
3	3-6	Edward Cheng and Gavin Shi	1780	W11	W11	W9	W9	L1	L1	W5	W5	L2	L2	6	=3rd Mishra
4		Neevan Reddy Saddi and Selina Cheng	1682	W16	W16	W7	W7	L2	L2	W6	W6	L1	L1	6	=1st/2nd Tang
5		Odbayar Yondon and Sarang Sankrithi	1632	W10	W10	L1	L1	W12	W12	L3	L3	W7	W7	6	=1st/2nd Tang
6		Cedric Davies and Weston Hughes	1463	W17	W17	L2	L2	W11	W11	L4	L4	W13	W13	6	=3rd Mishra
7	7-8	Arihant Chaudhuri and Vivaan Sankrithi	1124	W14	W14	L4	L4	W8	D8	W9*	W9*	L5	L5	5.5	=3rd Tang + Biggest Upset
8		Suhaas Meka and Edmund Bao	474	L9	L9	W16	W16	L7	D7	D12	D12	W15	W15	5.5	=3rd Tang
9	9-11	Samarth Bharadwaj and Bharadwaj Janarathanan	1408	W8	W8	L3	L3	W14	W14	L7	L7	D10	D10	5	
10		Ruichen Wu and Steven Luo	581	L5	L5	D13	D13	W16	W16	D15	D15	D9	D9	5	
11		Damien Davies and Ryker Lechner	769	L3	L3	W17	W17	L6	L6	D14	D14	B---	B---	5	
12	12-16	Ziliang Ma and Charan Prasanna	1100	L1	L1	W15	W15	L5	L5	D8	D8	D14	D14	4	
13		Bright Weng and Teimuun Bilguun	975	L2	L2	D10	D10	D15	D15	W17	W17	L6	L6	4	
14		Zachary Li and Shawn Wang	201	L7	L7	B---	B---	L9	L9	D11	D11	D12	D12	4	
15		Lance Hughes and Jin-Ah Park	143	B---	B---	L12	L12	D13	D13	D10	D10	L8	L8	4	
16		Clayton Lawardy and Lucas Shing	661	L4	L4	L8	L8	L10	L10	B---	B---	W17	W17	4	
17	17	Vaibhava Venkat and Veer Dhillon	489	L6	L6	L11	L11	B---	B---	L13	L13	L16	L16	2	



Megan Lee (L) and Paul Inuma vs. Charan Prasanna and Ziliang Ma during their first-round encounter at the Washington Summer Bughouse Championship. Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.

were two teams, each of whom scored an impressive six points from 10 games: Odbayar Yondon/Sarang Sankrithi (1632) and Neevan R. Saddi/Selina Cheng (1682).

Two teams of up-and-coming juniors finished a half-point back to claim the Tang K-6 Scholastic third-place honors:

Arihant Chaudhuri/Vivaan Sankrithi (1124) and Suhaas Meka/Edmund Bao (474). In addition to the overall prizes, there were also several special prizes up for grabs.

The Best Dressed prizes were awarded to Damien Davies and Vivaan Sankrithi, the Biggest Upset Win



Bughouse guru Siva Sankrithi goes over the bughouse rules with an attentive group of players before the start of the first round. Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.



Bughouse partners Zachary Li (L) and Shawn Wang whisper secret strategies during their game. Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.

was achieved by the team of Arihant Chaudhuri/Vivaan Sankrithi, the Best Team Names were concocted by Selina Cheng/Neevan R. Saddi and Ruichen Wu/Steven Luo, and the Best Sportsmanship prize went to the always upbeat Valentin Razmov and Jin-Ah Park.

Congratulations to the winners!



Valentin Razmov (L) and his partner Sarang Sankrithi strategize during the Washington Summer Bughouse Championship. Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.

Seattle Father's Day Open

The inaugural Seattle Father's Day Open was held on Father's Day Sunday, June 16, and attracted 51 players in two sections, the Vader Open and the Skywalker U1400. The fun five-round format with a G/25; +5 second increment time control offered players of all ages and levels the opportunity to play in a one-day dual US Chess regular and quick rated tournament that ran on a schedule like most scholastic events, with the first round beginning at 9:00 AM and the last round concluding around 4:30 PM.

The event offered two sections parsed by rating, the Vader Open and the Skywalker U1400, to appeal to chess Jedis and Padawans alike!

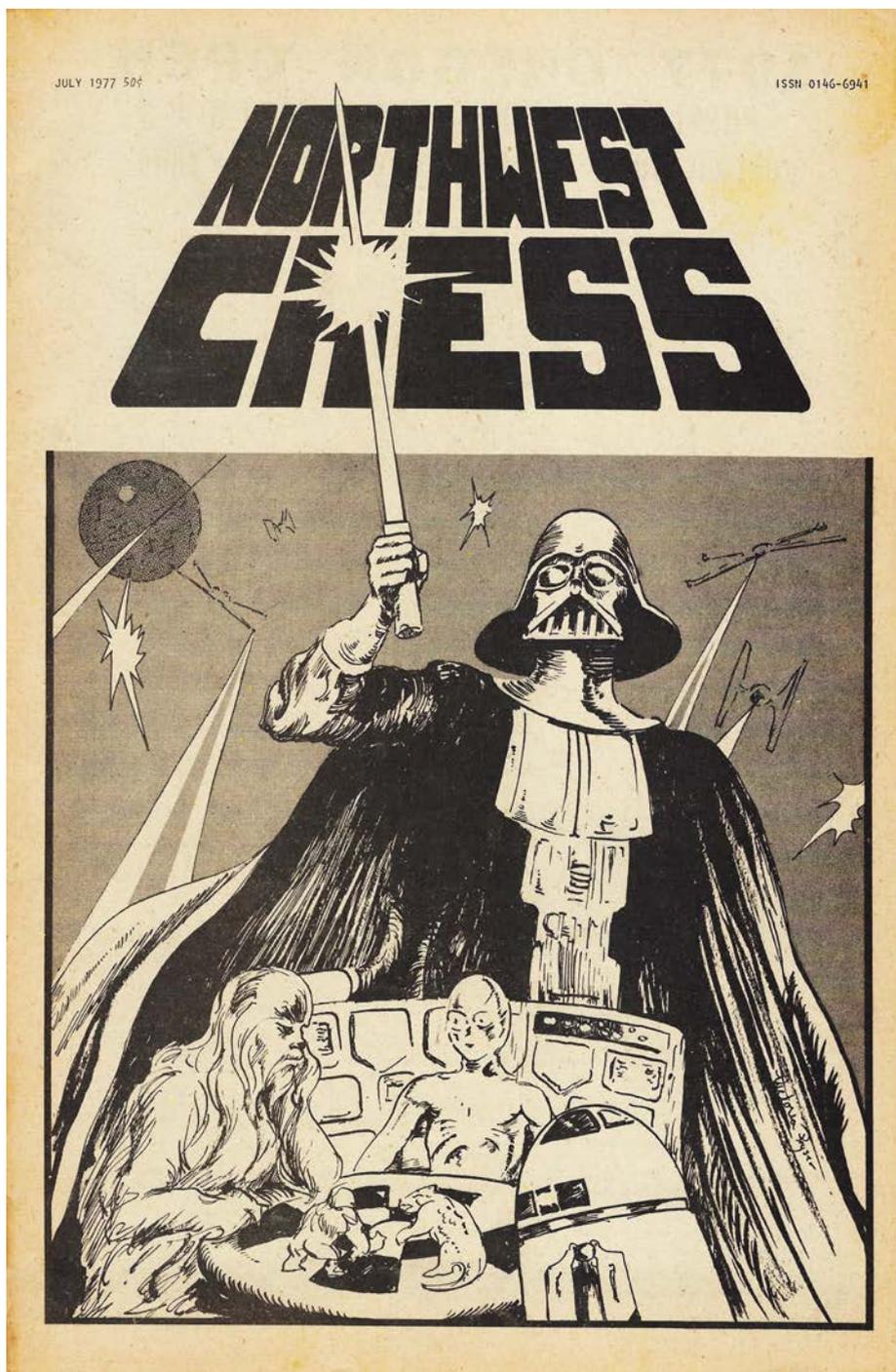
Four members of the rebel alliance emerged victorious, each with an impressive four points from five games: NM Nikash Vemparala of Redmond, NM Advait Vijayakumar of Bothell, newly minted FM Aziz Degenbaev of Seattle, and 2024 Washington State Girls Champion Selina Cheng of Seattle!

For Selina, this sensational result was the result of hard work, perseverance, and perhaps a few Jedi mind tricks, as she bounced back after a second-round loss against Vijayakumar with clutch wins against Sith apprentices Saddi (1705) and Merriman (1680) in the last two rounds. These mini upset victories enabled Selina to catch the group of titled storm troopers Vemparala, Vijayakumar, and Degenbaev, each of whom allowed two draws along the way.

With the shorter time control, edges can be more difficult to convert, which makes for more split points in time pressure. Chess dad and popular chess coach Walter Guity of Shoreline joined the resistance and earned the U1600 prize with an even 2.5-point score.

The following players were each awarded a special prize for becoming one with the Chess Force: Biggest Upset Win – Aarav B. Mohan (474 points), Best Female Player – Selina Cheng, Best Dads – Ryan Porter + Leonid Gavrysh, Best Dressed – Andrew Goupinets.

In the Skywalker U1400 section, two chess Jedis-in-training, Andrew Johnson of Bellingham and Jack Cook of Seattle, topped the 28-player field each with an impressive 4.5 points from five games. The unrated Cook resisted the temptation



Cover of July 1977 issue of Northwest Chess. Kennedy (Kip) Poyser, Editor.
Art by NWC Art Editor Vicki Poyser.

to join the dark side by withdrawing from the Vader Open after the first round and switching into the Skywalker U1400, which turned out to be a good decision, as he went on to win his next four games!

Just like Luke Skywalker received advanced Jedi training in the ways of the Force under Master Yoda on the remote swamp world of Dagobah in *The Empire Strikes Back*, Cook will soon be ready

2024 Seattle Fathers Day Open: VADER OPEN

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total pts	Prize
1	1-4	NM Nikash Vemparala	2237	W10	W8	W6	D5	D2	4	=1st/2nd/3rd/U1800
2		NM Advaith Vijayakumar	2201	W9	W4	D3	W14	D1	4	=1st/2nd/3rd/U1800
3		NM Aziz Degenbaev	2332	W15	W7	D2	D6	W5	4	=1st/2nd/3rd/U1800
4		Selina Cheng	1660	W24	L2	W16	W7	W8	4	=1st/2nd/3rd/U1800 + Best Female
5	5-6	FM Ryan W Porter	2295	W13	W11	W14	D1	L3	3.5	= Best Dad
6		Leonid Gavrysh	2065	W12	W22	L1	D3	W13	3.5	= Best Dad
7	7-10	Neevan Reddy Saddi	1705	W21	L3	W9	L4	W18	3	
8		Dann Merriman	1680	W19	L1	W12	W11	L4	3	
9		Gavin Shi	1614	L2	W19	L7	W16	W15	3	
10		Aarav Bharathy Mohan	1637	L1	W21	L11	W19	W14*	3	Biggest Upset Win
11	11-13	Nikhil Ramkumar	1808	W20	L5	W10	L8	D12	2.5	
12		Walter Guity	1547	L6	W15	L8	W17	D11	2.5	1st U1600
13		Benjamin Frederick	1652	L5	D20	W22	W18	L6	2.5	
14	14-18	CM Timothy Moroney	2111	W23	W16	L5	L2	L10	2	
15		Evan Cen	1657	L3	L12	W20	W23	L9	2	
16		Ziliang Ma	1434	W17	L14	L4	L9	B---	2	
17		Nihanth Tatikonda	1696	L16	W23	L18	L12	W20	2	
18		Andrew Goupinets	1476	H---	H---	W17	L13	L7	2	Best Dressed
19	19-23	Vihaan Pai	1365	L8	L9	B---	L10	D23	1.5	
20		Balbir Singh	1496	L11	D13	L15	W22	L17	1.5	
21		David Hirschowitz	1492	L7	L10	L23	B---	D22	1.5	
22		Vishnu Mohan	1341	B---	L6	L13	L20	D21	1.5	
23		Terrick Evin	1557	L14	L17	W21	L15	D19	1.5	
24	24	Jack Cook	unr.	L4	U---	U---	U---	U---	0	

to jump back into the Open section after fine-tuning his grasp of the Force in the Skywalker section.

For Johnson, the trip down from Bellingham proved useful, as he was able to work on establishing a US Chess regular and quick rating, while testing his skills against other “chess wookies.” Rudran Srimurugan of Redmond and Issam Rifai of Corvallis shared Third Place honors a half-point back with four points apiece.

Seattle’s Nicholas Truong captured the first U1200 prize with an impressive



Charles (L) and Eugene Chou, winners of the best father/son team at the Seattle Father’s Day Open. Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.

3.5-point score. The first U1000 prize was split between three up-and-coming chess Jedis: Natalie Xu of Issaquah, Rahul Sreraman of Sammamish, and Abhishek Gopal of Bothell.

Several special prizes were also awarded to those who helped good prevail in the chess galaxy: Best Upset Win – Eugene Chou (408 points), Best Female Player – Natalie Xu, Best Dad – Shane Groff, Best Dressed – Nicholas Truong, Best Father/Son Team – Charles + Eugene Chou, Best Father/Daughter Team – Ajay Sundaresh + Aria Ajay.

Congratulations to the winners!



Colin O’Sullivan (L) vs Kenan Katib during their first-round game at the Seattle Father’s Day Open. Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.

Seattle Father’s Day Blitz

The Seattle Father’s Day Blitz tournament took place on the evening of Father’s Day, Sunday June 16, shortly after the conclusion of the Seattle Father’s Day Open. A diverse mix of dads, daughters, sons, grandpas, and future dads were represented in the 20-player field. The seven-round Single Swiss tournament lasted just over two hours and featured players with ratings ranging from unrated to master level. The chess action was swift but measured, with the G/5; +3 time control allowing for a “leisurely” blitz pace, and several endgames being played-out and decided by position rather than by time.

Redmond chess phenom and 2024 National K-8 Middle School Co-Champion NM Nikash Vemparala put

2024 Seattle Fathers Day Open: SKYWALKER U1400

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total pts	Prize
1	1-2	Andrew Johnson	1016	W4	W17	W3	D5	W7	4.5	=1st/2nd
2		Jack Cook	unr.	H---	W22	W6	W8	W5	4.5	=1st/2nd
3	3-4	Rudran Srimurugan	1259	W25	W16	L1	W9	W11	4	=3rd/1st Unrated
4		Issam Rifai	unr.	L1	W24	W18	W16	W8	4	=3rd/1st Unrated
5	5-6	Nicholas Truong	1026	X29	W10	W9	D1	L2	3.5	1st U1200 + Best Dressed
6		Jie Shan	unr.	H---	W14	L2	W22	W17	3.5	
7	7-13	Alan Cheng	1292	L8	W15	W12	W13	L1	3	
8		Natalie Xu	920	W7	W18	W23	L2	L4	3	=1st U1000 + Best Female
9		Jai Mukherjee	unr.	W12	W19	L5	L3	W16	3	
10		Leonid Zandanov	1345	W13	L5	W20	L11	W14	3	
11		Charles Chou	unr.	L16	W25	W19	W10	L3	3	Best Father/Son
12		Rahul Sreraman	981	L9	W26	L7	W18	W19	3	=1st U1000
13		Abhishekh Gopal	960	L10	W28	W17	L7	W22	3	=1st U1000
14	14-15	Tyler Gleasman	unr.	D22	L6	W15	W23	L10	2.5	
15		John Koster	690	D20	L7	L14	W24	W23	2.5	
16	16-21	Noam Baruch	964	W11	L3	W27	L4	L9	2	
17		Kenan Khatib	1254	W24	L1	L13	W20	L6	2	
18		Samuel Acevedo	1181	W28	L8	L4	L12	W26	2	
19		Shane L Groff	1158	W21	L9	L11	W26	L12	2	Best Dad
20		Rohit Sreraman	1101	D15	D23	L10	L17	W24	2	
21		Aria Ajay	743	L19	L27	L24	B---	W25	2	Best Father/Daughter
22	22-23	Rishuraj Kumar	976	D14	L2	W25	L6	L13	1.5	
23		Eugene Chou	858	W27*	D20	L8	L14	L15	1.5	Biggest Upset Win + Best Father/Son
24	24-27	Colin O'Sullivan	767	L17	L4	W21	L15	L20	1	
25		Denis Mazalov	786	L3	L11	L22	W28	L21	1	
26		Ajay Sundaresh	unr.	U---	L12	W28	L19	L18	1	Best Father/Daughter
27		Vidur Ganesan	1266	L23	W21	L16	U---	U---	1	
28	28-29	Chad Foster	757	L18	L13	L26	L25	U---	0	
29		Pavithran Vinoth Ganapath	667	F5	U---	U---	U---	U---	0	

on a master class and topped the field with an undefeated six points from seven games, allowing only two draws against Harishkumar Karthikeyan and Edward Cheng along the way. Fellow Redmonder CM Vignesh Anand captured Second Place honors a half-point back with 5.5 points. Based on the top-scoring players, one would have thought that this tournament took place in Redmond, as yet another Redmond fellow Harishkumar Karthikeyan claimed the Third Place Prize with five points.

Three chess musketeers shared the first U2000 prize with 4.5 points apiece: Edward Cheng of Seattle, Rafael Palathingal of Bothell, and Gabriel Razmov of Seattle. A trio of chess warriors – Ziliang Ma of Seattle, Nathan Zhang of Shoreline, and Naaditha Nawagamudewage – won the combined first U1800/U1600/U1400 prize with a solid “plus one” score.

Inura Nawagamudewage, Naaditha’s brother, earned the first U1200 prize with an even 3.5 points for his efforts. Newcomer Danny Franklin of Seattle won the first Unrated prize by virtue of his fourth-round victory over his friend and partner in crime, Andrew Bieber, who is rumored to be a distant cousin of Justin Bieber!

To complement to overall and class prizes, several special prizes were awarded to enhance the enchanting chess evening: Best Dad – Valentin Razmov, Best Female Player – Selina Cheng, and Best Dressed – Andrew Goupinets. The



Vignesh Anand. Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.

Biggest Upset Prizes were awarded in all seven rounds as follows: Round One – Naaditha Nawagamudewage, Round Two – Neevan Reddy Saddi, Round Three – Selina Cheng, Round Four – Naaditha

Nawagamudewage, Round Five – N/A, Round Six – Naaditha Nawagamudewage, Round Seven – Nathan Zhang.

Many thanks to the players who came out and competed in these fun events!



Seattle Father’s Day Blitz players in action during the third round. Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.

2024 Fathers Day Blitz

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	Total pts
1	1	NM Nikash Vemparala	2237	W15	W5	D3	W2	W13	W7	D4	6
2	2	CM Vignesh Anand	2083	X21	W6	W11	L1	W3	W5	D7	5.5
3	3	Harishkumar Karthikeyan	1983	W16	W12	D1	W14	L2	W13	D5	5
4	4-6	Edward Cheng	1947	W8	L11	L14	W12	W16	W15	D1	4.5
5		Rafael Palathingal	1838	W18	L1	W8	W11	W6	L2	D3	4.5
6		Gabriel Razmov	1829	W9	L2	W17	D7	L5	W16	W11	4.5
7	7-10	Odbayar Yondon	1819	D10	W15	D13	D6	W14	L1	D2	4
8		Ziliang Ma	1434	L4	W9	L5	L10	W12	W18	W14	4
9		Nathan Zhang	1118	L6	L8	W22	W17	L15	W19	W13	4
10		Naaditha Nawagamudewage	927	D7	L16	D12	W8	L11	W17	W15	4
11	11-12	Neevan Reddy Saddi	1705	W19	W4	L2	L5	W10	D14	L6	3.5
12		Inura Nawagamudewage	835	B---	L3	D10	L4	L8	W22	W19	3.5
13	13-17	Valentin Razmov	1878	W17	D14	D7	W16	L1	L3	L9	3
14		Selina Cheng	1660	W22	D13	W4	L3	L7	D11	L8	3
15		Benjamin Frederick	1652	L1	L7	W19	W18	W9	L4	L10	3
16		Andrew Goupinets	1476	L3	W10	W18	L13	L4	L6	W22	3
17		Owen Odegard	1389	L13	W22	L6	L9	W19	L10	W18	3
18	18	Vyom Joshi	1322	L5	W19	L16	L15	W22	L8	L17	2
19	19	Danny Franklin	unr.	L11	L18	L15	W22	L17	L9	L12	1
20	20-22	Aziz Degenbaev	2332	U---	0						
21		Rian Raja	1508	F2	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	0
22		Andrew Bieber	unr.	L14	L17	L9	L19	L18	L12	L16	0

CHALLENGERS CUP SCHOLASTIC

CHESS TOURNAMENT

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2024

CHINOOK MIDDLE SCHOOL

2001 98TH AVE NE, BELLEVUE, WA 98004



DUAL FORMAT ***ENTRY FEE***

Rapid Sections

A 6-round, G/25; +5 Swiss in 3 sections:

Kindergarten

1-3 U800

4-6 U1000

Schedule:

Rd. 1 – 9:00am

Rd. 2 – 10:30am

Lunch Time

Rd. 3 – 12:30pm

Rd. 4 – 1:45pm

Rd. 5 – 3:00pm

Rd. 6 – 4:15pm

Awards ~ 5:30pm

Classical Sections

A 3-round, G/50; +10 Swiss in 2 sections:

K-5 Open

6-12 Open

Schedule:

Rd. 1 – 9:00am

Lunch Time

Rd. 2 – 12:30pm

Rd. 3 – 3:00pm

Awards ~ 5:30pm

\$50 by 11/3, \$60 after.

Room for 200 players.

AWARDS

Section Prizes: Amazon Gift Cards awarded in each section: 1st – 5th: \$60–55–50–45–40.

Special Prizes (per section): Medals for first-time players, best female player, best dressed, and biggest upset win. ***Top player (by TPR) in each of the K-5 Open and 6-12 Open sections wins free entry into the 2024 WA Class Championships!***

RATING

Dual NWSRS and US Chess rated, with **US Chess membership required in all sections.** Establish or update your national rating! Higher of current NWSRS or US Chess regular rating will be used to determine section and pairings.

ELIGIBILITY

Open to all students in grades K-12 as of the 2024-25 school year. Out-of-state players welcome!

CLOCKS + NOTATION

Chess clocks will be used from the beginning in all games. Chess notation required in all sections except for Kindergarten and 1-3 U800. All equipment is provided courtesy of WCF.

REGISTRATION

Register online at NWchess.com/OnlineRegistration/ Pay by Credit/Debit/PayPal/SettleKing. **100% pre-registered, no on-site entries or payments. Entry + payment deadline Sat November 9 @ 5:00pm.** No registrations accepted or refunds offered after the deadline.

CONCESSIONS

Lunch and refreshments will be available for purchase on-site.

WA State Elementary Qualifier!

Questions?

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

Vidip Kona, New National Master!

By Josh Sinanan

Congratulations to Vidip Kona of Redmond, Washington, who recently became Washington state's newest National Master!

Vidip achieved a US Chess rating of 2201 as a result of winning Second Place in the 74th Oregon Open, held in Portland August 31—September 2, 2024.

Along the way, Vidip scored clutch wins against Oregon's Jason Cigan (2175) and Washington's Vikram Srivastava (2241).



Two photos of Kona Vidip. Both photos courtesy of Dilip Kona.

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- For a membership application or more information visit our website at www.serverchess.com or send an email to cclatreasurer22@gmail.com.

**Vidip Kona (2179) –
Vikram Srivastava (2241) [A14]**
74th Oregon Open
Portland (R6), September 1, 2024
[Vidip Kumar Kona]

I was at 4.0/5 in the Oregon Open, and it was the last round with high stakes. Winning this round could secure me second place in the Oregon Open, push my rating past 2200, and earn me the title of National Master. I need to use all my skills to win this game; otherwise, I'll have to wait for another tournament to cross the 2200 threshold. My opponent is very strong, and precision will be key to securing a victory.

**1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 c6 3.g3 d5 4.Bg2 e6 5.b3
Be7 6.0-0 0-0 7.e3**

This is the first move that we are out of book.

**7...Nbd7 8.Bb2 a5 9.Nc3 Nc5 10.d4
Nce4 11.Nd2 Nxc3 12.Bxc3 b5 13.a4
bxc4 14.bxc4 Ba6 15.Re1**

A small inaccuracy by me. I should have played Qf3 instead of Re1.

**15...Bb4 16.Bxb4 axb4 17.Qb3 Rb8
18.Rec1 Qe7 19.cxd5 cxd5 20.Rc6 Bc8**



Position after 20...Bc8

A mistake. After 21.a5, White has a clear advantage in the position.

**21.a5 Qa7 22.Bf1 Bd7 23.Rc5 e5
24.Rac1 exd4 25.exd4 Be6 26.a6!**

The a-pawn is just too far down the board for Black to stop.

**26...Nd7 27.Rc7 Qxd4 28.Qe3 Qb2
29.a7 d4 30.Qf4 Ra8 31.Rb1 Qa2
32.Qxd4 Qa5 33.Rb7 Rfd8 34.R1xb4
Nf8 35.Qe3 Rxd2**

The game is lost for Black now.

**36.Qxd2 Rxa7 37.Rb8 Ra8 38.Qd6
Rxb8 39.Rxb8**

And Black resigned.

1-0

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WASHINGTON CHALLENGER'S CUP



SUN-MON, NOVEMBER 10-11, 2024

CHINOOK MIDDLE SCHOOL

2001 98TH AVE NE, BELLEVUE, WA 98004

Highest finishing Washington residents in the Open and Reserve sections seeded into the 2025 Washington State Championship + Rising Stars sections, respectively.

Format: A 5-round Swiss in two sections:

Gukesh Open - NW, US Chess & FIDE tri-rated.

Praggnanandhaa U1700 - NW & US Chess dual-rated.

In case of a tie for 1st place, a future playoff match will determine the seed for the Championship or Rising Stars section of the 2025 Washington State Championship.

Schedule: Sunday 9 AM, 1 PM, 5 PM; Monday 10 AM, 3 PM. Closing Ceremony: Monday ~ 7pm or asap. Players whose games run long may request a late start for the next round.

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

Prize Fund: \$2,300 (based on 60 paid entries)

Gukesh Open: 1st \$400, 2nd \$280, 3rd \$200
1st U2100/U1900: \$120

Praggnanandhaa U1700: 1st \$280, 2nd \$200, 3rd \$120
1st U1500/U1300/U1100: \$100; 1st Unrated: \$100

Special Prizes (per section): Biggest Upset Win: \$40, Best Female Player (by TPR): \$40, Best Dressed: \$10/day.

Entry Fee: \$70 by 11/3, \$80 after. Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs & WIMs. \$40 play-up fee if rated 1500-1700 in both NWSRS + USCF and playing in Gukesh Open. Maximum of 150 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.

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

Rating: US Chess and NWSRS Rated. Gukesh Open section is also FIDE Rated. Highest of current NWSRS, Nov. US Chess Regular, and Nov. FIDE 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: Sat. 11/9 @ 5pm.** Payment via SettleKing, Zelle/PayPal (ID: WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com) or Venmo (ID: @WChess) 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

Phone: 206-769-3757

Email: WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com

Seattle Seafair Open

Josh Sinanan

The 2024 Seattle Seafair Open, Seafair “Hand and Brain” Blitz, and Seattle Seafair Blitz tournaments took place at Lakeside Upper School in Seattle on the weekend of July 13-14. Players from throughout the Pacific Northwest were represented in the two-day chess extravaganza, including the cities of Spokane, Bellevue, Seattle, Sammamish, Bothell, Woodinville, Redmond, Portland, Lynnwood, Bainbridge Island, Puyallup, Snoqualmie, Issaquah, Edmonds, Snohomish, Brier, Bellingham, Shoreline, Kirkland, Stanwood, Mercer Island, Spring (Texas), Medina, Vancouver (BC), Napavine, Everett, Arlington, Richmond (BC), Camas, Mineral, Kent, Renton, Duvall, Gig Harbor, Mill Creek, Maple Valley, Kailua (Hawaii), Kingston, University Place, Enumclaw, Mukilteo, Winthrop, Fall City, and Poulsbo!

The busy slate of events was orchestrated by Seattle Chess Club board member Nicholas Liotta, Seattle Chess Club President John Selsky, WCF Member-at-Large Ani Barua, WFM Tanya Atikankhotchasee, WCF Tournament Coordinator Valentin Razmov, and WCF President Josh Sinanan.

Seattle Seafair Open

First up was the Seattle Seafair Open, Seattle Chess Club’s flagship tournament and traditionally their largest event of the year. To accommodate as many players as possible, SCC and WCF teamed up to co-host the event at Lakeside’s Wright Community Center, a beautiful and spacious venue that was fortunately available during the summer months. This decision worked out well, as the tournament attracted 123 players, a Seafair record!

As is the tradition, the tournament was conducted as a five-round Swiss in one single Open section, which made for

many imbalanced pairings and set the stage for several upsets in each round. A star-studded field of titled players headlined the field, with such notables as NM Siddarth M. Sundaram, FM Aziz Degenbaev, IM Ray Kaufman, NM Ted Wang, NM Advait Vijayakumar, LM Viktors Pupols, NM Yu-Cheng Liang, FM Salvador Infante, NM Gerald Larson, WCM Mary Kuhner, and NM David Arganian. A trio of tournament directors ran the massive event, with Nicholas Liotta handling the pairings, Ani Barua running the floor, and Tanya Atikankhotchasee compiling the games pgn.

After five swashbuckling rounds of Seafair chess, only two “chess pirates” remained unscathed, each scoring a perfect five wins from five games: FM Aziz Degenbaev (5.0, 2360 → 2367) of Seattle and IM Ray Kaufman (5.0, 2307 → 2315) of Vancouver B.C. Aziz, who is

originally from Kyrgyzstan, has been on a tear recently, coming off a big win at the recent Washington Open.

For Kaufman, the Seafair served as a warmup for a tournament in Taiwan to which he was invited and worked out well logistically since he was flying out of SeaTac the following Monday!

A pair of Indian chess cannons – “Super NM” Siddarth M. Sundaram of Bellevue and future NM Vidip Kona of Redmond – shared third/fourth place honors a half-point back after drawing against each other in the fourth round. The shared fifth/sixth/first U2100 prize was split evenly between eight chess legionaries: NM Ted Wang (4.0, 2211 → 2209) of Medina, NM Advait Vijayakumar (4.0, 2204 → 2202) of Bothell, NM Yu-Cheng Liang (4.0, 2165 → 2149) of Camas, Brian Lee (4.0, 2035 → 2024) of Napavine, Pratik Thorwe (4.0, 1981 → 1967) of Seattle, Ryan



IM Ray Kaufman, originally from Maryland and now based in Vancouver, B.C., was one of this year’s Seattle Seafair co-champions. Photo credit: Tanya Atikankhotchasee.

Leong (4.0, 1927 → 1938) of Richmond, B.C., Chad Boey (4.0, 1922 → 1928) of Seattle, and Emerson Wong-Godfrey (4.0, 1903 → 1908) of Capitol Hill. Fall City footman Leonardo Wang (4.0, 1836 → 1843) captured the first U1900 prize, dropping only a single point to Sundaram in in the third round.

A quintuplet of chess raiders shared the first U1700 prize, each with a solid “plus two” score: Neevan R. Saddi (3.5, 1675 → 1732) of Issaquah, Saiya Karamali (3.5, 1626 → 1621) of Seattle, Nola Fung (3.5, 1603 → 1621) of Bellevue, David Hirschowitz (3.5, 1606 → 1560) of Mercer Island, and Drew Bunch (3.5, 1557 → 1549) of Bainbridge Island. Seven chess servicemen – Devansh Sharma (3.0, 1476 → 1525) of Redmond, David Marcelia (3.0, 1557 → 1573) of Issaquah, Andrei Gaivoronski (3.0, 1418 → 1533) of Bellevue, Evan Cen (3.0, 1391 → 1351) of Bellevue, Patrick Perry (3.0, 1353 → 1365) of Kailua (Hawaii), Kenneth Yuodelis (3.0, 1337 → 1320) of Bellevue, and Aiden Zhu (3.0, 1319 → 1326) of Camas – distributed the first U1500 loot and booty equally amongst themselves.

A trio of intrepid troopers shared the first U1300 prize, each with an impressive “plus one” score: Daniel Yates (3.0, 1271 → 1273) of Seattle, Luke Dale (3.0, 1342 → 1386) of Snoqualmie, and Imai Maharaja (3.0, 1164 → 1183) of Redmond. Four fearsome fighters – Rithvik Bharath (2.5, 1096 → 1193) of Woodinville, Nicolas Infante (2.5, 1083 → 1149) of Spring (Texas), Vishnu Mohan (2.5, 1209 → 1322) of Bothell, and Rian Babbar (2.5, 990 → 1149) of Sammamish – claimed first U1100 honors with an even 2.5 points apiece.

Shoreline swashbuckler Nathan Zhang (2.5, 668 → 903) won the first U900 prize with an impressive 2.5 points, which included three draws against higher-rated players! New chess recruit Nathan Page (4.0, 1578 → 1698) of Maple Valley, who was provisionally rated based on nine games, won the first Unrated prize with a whopping four points!

The biggest upset wins were achieved by the following chess buccaneers: Lucas Suave (Round One: 866 points) of Enumclaw, Bhavik Bharath (Round Two: 745 points) of Woodinville, Max Cao (Round Three: 490 points) of Bellevue, Luke Dale (Round Four: 326 points) of Snoqualmie, and Kyle Jiang (Round Five:

353 points) of Medina. Chess mermaids Te Wei (TPR: 1811) of Kirkland and Stella Cluff (TPR: 1696) of Puyallup each outperformed their rating and won the best female player prizes.

Two senior chess servicemen, LM Viktors Pupols (TPR: 1919) of Kingston and FM Salvador Infante (TPR: 1844) of Spring (Texas) won the best senior prizes for their efforts. A pair of classy chess cavaliers – Gabriel Razmov (Saturday) of Seattle and Te Wei (Sunday) of Kirkland – won the daily best dressed prizes for their on-fleek attire.

Congratulations to the winners!



Seattle Seafair co-champion
FM Aziz Degenbaev.
Photo credit: Tanya Atikankhotchasee.

**Aziz Degenbaev (2350) –
Advaith Vijayakumar (2208) [C70]**
2024 Seattle Seafair Open
Seattle (R5), July 15, 2024
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nge7

4...Nf6 is a couple orders of magnitude more common.

5.0-0 Ng6

With the g8-knight developed to e7, it's normal to fianchetto with 5...g6 6.c3 Bg7 7.d4.

6.c3 d5

Or 6...d6 7.d4 Bd7, reaching a slightly more popular line by transposition. White has choices here: 8.Re1 (8.Be3 Be7 9.Nbd2 0-0 10.Re1; 8.d5 Nb8 9.Bxd7+ Nxd7 10.c4) 8...Be7 9.Nbd2 0-0 10.Nf1

7.exd5 Qxd5 8.Bb3 Qd8?!



Position after 8...Qd8

8...Qd3 9.Bc2 (9.Ng5?! Be7 when incursions into f7 lead to material loss for White.) 9...Qd6 10.d4 Be6 11.Be3 0-0-0 looks fine for Black. If 8...Qd6 directly 9.Ng5 could be a bit awkward to meet: 9...Nd8 10.d4 Be7 11.Nd2 exd4 12.Nde4 Qd7 13.cxd4 h6 14.Nh3±

9.d4± Be7 10.Nxe5 Ngxe5 11.dxe5 Qxd1 12.Rxd1 Nxe5 13.Bf4 f6 14.Bxe5 fxe5 15.Re1 Bd6

The bishop may prove to be an extra target on d6. 15...Bf6 at least avoids that problem.

16.Nd2

It's too weakening to work the pin to win the e-pawn. After 16.f4? Rf8 17.fxe5 Bc5+ 18.Kh1 Rf2 Black has more than enough activity.

16...Rf8 17.Nc4 Rf5 18.Rad1 Ke7 19.Ne3 Rh5 20.Nd5+ Kf8 21.Nb6! Rb8 22.Nc4 Ke7 23.f4!

Correct only now that Black's pieces have been misplaced. Black will lose a pawn.

23...Be6 24.Nxe5 Bxe5 25.Bxe6 Kxe6

The next sequence is really clever.



Position after 25...Kxe6

26.g4!! Rh4 27.Rxe5+ Kf6 28.h3!

Elegant, but 28.Rf5+ Ke6 29.Re1+ Kd6 30.Rg5 also works, and Stockfish actually prefers this method.

28...h5

The tactical point is 28...Rxb3?? 29.Kg2 Rh4 30.Kg3 and the rook is trapped.

29.Rf5+ Ke6 30.Re1+ Kd6 31.Rxb5 Rxb5 32.gxh5 Rf8 33.Re4 Rf5 34.Kg2

With the black king cut off from the kingside action along the e-file, the rook endings are completely lost.

34...Rxb5 35.Kg3 Ra5 36.a3 g5 37.h4 gxh4+ 38.Kxh4 Rf5 39.Kg4 Rf8 40.f5 Kd5 41.Re2 Kc4 42.Kg5

1-0

Seafair “Hand and Brain” Blitz

On Saturday evening while a few games in the main tournament were still finishing up in the playing hall, fourteen creative players faced off in the nearby fireplace room for four rounds of a fun new variant called “Hand and Brain” chess! In “Hand and Brain” chess, each color is played by two people – one acting as the “hand” and the other acting as the “brain.”

At the start of each turn, the “brain” player announces one of the six pieces, and the “hand” player must move any one of the named pieces on the board that can legally move. However, the “brain” cannot specify which piece or where to move it – that is for the “hand” to try to figure out! This variant is a popular “party game” often played between pairs of players of different levels. For instance, a grandmaster might pair up with a businessman at a fundraising gala and play against a fellow grandmaster and businessman, making for a fun and entertaining guessing game for all parties involved!

With seven teams in the mix featuring average ratings ranging from 1219 to 1954, plus a fun time-control of G/5; +2, there was no shortage of fun and excitement to be had. Once the teams were assembled and the players all accounted for, tournament director Ani Barua kicked off the fun side event shortly after 8:00 PM.

After four rounds of topsy-turvy “hand and brain” action, rating favorites Jamie Zhu (1980) of Sammamish and Ryan Leong (1927) of Richmond prevailed with an undefeated 3.5 points from four games, allowing only a single draw against the team of Neevan R. Saddi

and Janardhan Bharadwaj in the final round.

Two teams shared second/third place honors a half-point back: the father-son team of Valentin (1878) and Gabriel (1840) Razmov of Seattle and Patrick Perry (1394) of Kailua (Hawaii) and Drew Bunch (1691) of Bainbridge Island.

The team of Neevan R. Saddi (1715) of Issaquah and Janardhan Bharadwaj (1372) of Sammamish captured first U1800 honors a half-point back. A team composed of two friends and chess rivals – Edgar Li (1405) of Bellevue and Samarth Bharadwaj (1444) of Sammamish – earned the first U1500 prize with an even two-points. Youngsters Eliot Amalo (1266) of Woodinville and Saarth Bhargava (1188) of Kirkland took home the first U1200 prize for their efforts.

Several fun “special” prizes were also awarded to the following players and teams: Edgar Li (Happiest Teammate), Eliot Amalo (Most Patient Teammate), Jamie Zhu (Brainiest Player), Gabriel Razmov (Most Dexterous Player), Patrick Perry and Drew Bunch (Best Dressed Team), and Valentin Razmov (Best Teamwork).

Seattle Seafair Blitz

The Seattle Seafair Blitz tournament took place on Sunday evening, shortly after the end of the main Seafair Open. A total of thirty dedicated chess soldiers participated in the seven-round Single Swiss tournament, which was directed by WCF ironman Ani Barua. The event lasted just over an hour and featured players with ratings ranging from unrated to 2350. The pace of play was lickety-split, with the G/3;+2 time control setting the stage for wild and energetic time scrambles that were decided as much by the clock as by the position on the board.

With limited time on the clock, players were forced to rely more on intuition rather than calculation, which seemed to favor the strategists over the tacticians. Nevertheless, zeitnot reared its ugly head in several endgames, in which a few players fell victim to blunders in time pressure.

Kyrgyzstani chess warrior FM Aziz Degenbaev (6.5, 2329 → 2338), a college student currently studying in Seattle, continued his winning ways and dominated the field with an impressive 6.5 points from seven games, allowing only

a single draw against soon-to-be master Vidip Kona in the fourth round. Bothell chess guerrilla NM Advait Vijayakumar (6.0, 2016 → 2045) claimed second place honors a half-point back, dropping only a single point to Degenbaev in the third round before winning his last four games in a row.

A duo of chess dragoons shared third place honors with five points apiece: Jamie Zhu (5.0, 1655 → 1764) of Sammamish and NM Ted Wang (5.0, 1909 → 1897) of Medina. Duvall chess archer Dann Merriman (4.5, 1447 → 1509) claimed first U1900 honors a half-point back.

Woodinville warhorse Rithvik Bharath (4.0, 1306 → 1346) earned the first U1700 prize with an impressive “plus one” score. Patrick Perry (3.5, 1220 → 1316), a college student originally from Hawaii now studying in Washington, won the first U1500 prize with an even score. Three chess musketeers – Aakash Mishra (3.0, unrated → 1127) of Redmond and siblings Inura (3.0, 1040 → 1037) and Naaditha (3.0, 1204 → 1168) Nawagamudewage of Lynnwood – split the =first U1300/U1100 prizes with three points apiece. Two fearless chess grunts shared the first unrated prize thanks to their determination and perseverance: Oscar Isackson (1.0, unrated → 850), an exchange student from France currently residing in Seattle and Zander Chim (1.0, unrated → 592) of Seattle.

Several biggest upset win prizes were also up for grabs and won by the following frontiersmen: Bhavik Bharath (Round One: 761 points), Inura Nawagamudewage (Round Two: 592 points), Jamie Zhu (Round Three: 231 points), Patrick Perry (Round Four: 528 points), Owen Scollon (Round Five: 460 points), Aakash Mishra (Round Six: 589 points), and Walter Guity (Round Seven: 319 points).

In terms of style and class, there were none who came close to FM Bill Schill of Seattle, who was awarded the best dressed prize for his fashionable attire.

Just like a good bottle of Caribbean rum, some things just seem to get better with age. Such was the case for Seattle chess connoisseur and popular chess coach Valentin Razmov, who won the Best Senior Player prize for his elderly efforts.

Many thanks to the players who came out and competed in the Seafair events!

2024 Seattle Seafair Open (part one)

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total pts	Prizes
1	1-2	FM Degenbaev, Aziz	2350	W77 (w)	W37 (b)	W20 (w)	W10 (b)	W6 (w)	5	Shared 1st / 2nd: \$660
2		IM Kaufman, Ray	2307	W56 (b)	W24 (w)	W19 (b)	W11 (w)	W5 (b)	5	Shared 1st / 2nd: \$660
3	3-4	NM Sundaram, Siddarth Meenakshi	2430	W76 (b)	W36 (w)	W13 (b)	D4 (w)	W23 (b)	4.5	Shared 3rd / 4th: \$450
4		Kona, Vidip Kumar	2056	W61 (w)	W41 (b)	W34 (w)	D3 (b)	W18 (w)	4.5	Shared 3rd / 4th: \$450
5	5-14	NM Wang, Ted	2211	W57 (w)	W50 (b)	W29 (w)	W12 (b)	L2 (w)	4	Shared 5th / 6th / 1st U2100: \$106.50
6		NM Vijayakumar, Advait	2208	W96 (b)	W25 (w)	W31 (b)	W33 (w)	L1 (b)	4	Shared 5th / 6th / 1st U2100: \$106.50
7		NM Liang, Yu-Cheng	2165	W97 (b)	W38 (w)	L33 (b)	X39	W32 (w)	4	Shared 5th / 6th / 1st U2100: \$106.50
8		Lee, Brian	2036	W80 (b)	W70 (w)	L35 (b)	W40 (w)	W31 (b)	4	Shared 5th / 6th / 1st U2100: \$106.50
9		Thorwe, Pratik	1997	W62 (b)	D51 (w)	D40 (b)	W72 (w)	W33 (b)	4	Shared 5th / 6th / 1st U2100: \$106.50
10		Leong, Ryan James	1927	W81 (w)	W54 (b)	W52 (w)	L1 (w)	W35 (b)	4	Shared 5th / 6th / 1st U2100: \$106.50
11		Boey, Chad	1922	W83 (w)	W45 (b)	W42 (w)	L2 (b)	W36 (w)	4	Shared 5th / 6th / 1st U2100: \$106.50
12		Wong-Godfrey, Emerson P	1905	W64 (b)	W53 (w)	W73 (b)	L5 (w)	W37 (b)	4	Shared 5th / 6th / 1st U2100: \$106.50
13		Wang, Leonardo	1880	W65 (w)	W55 (b)	L3 (w)	W42 (b)	W48 (w)	4	1st U1900: \$192
14		Page, Nathan	unr.	W43 (b)	L35 (w)	W96 (b)	W70 (w)	W29 (w)	4	1st Unrated: \$192
15	15-27	NM Pupols, Viktors	2200	W48 (w)	W27 (b)	D23 (w)	D32 (b)	D22 (w)	3.5	
16		FM Infante, Salvador	2123	L58 (w)	W87 (b)	H---	W60 (w)	W51 (b)	3.5	
17		NM Larson, Gerald A	2063	L59 (b)	W110 (w)	H---	W63 (b)	W52 (w)	3.5	
18		Gavrysh, Leonid	2059	D60 (b)	W112 (w)	W51 (b)	W35 (w)	L4 (b)	3.5	
19		Razmov, Gabriel	1825	W122 (w)	W58 (b)	L2 (w)	W55 (b)	H---	3.5	
20		Bhaskaran, Siddharth	1817	W84 (b)	W44 (w)	L1 (b)	W73 (w)	D25 (b)	3.5	
21		Zhang, Michelle	1776	D85 (w)	W63 (b)	W105 (w)	H---	H---	3.5	
22		WCM Kuhner, Mary K	1708	D67 (w)	W98 (b)	H---	W46 (w)	D15 (b)	3.5	
23		Saddi, Neevan Reddy	1683	W110 (b)	W78 (w)	D15 (b)	W28 (b)	L3 (w)	3.5	Shared 1st U1700: \$38.50
24		Karamali, Saiya	1626	W100 (w)	L2 (b)	D61 (w)	W98 (b)	W59 (w)	3.5	Shared 1st U1700: \$38.50
25		Fung, Nola Sinclair	1614	W119 (w)	L6 (b)	W49 (w)	W57 (b)	D20 (w)	3.5	Shared 1st U1700: \$38.50
26		Hirschowitz, David	1605p	D102 (b)	D79 (w)	D59 (b)	W65 (w)	W64 (b)	3.5	Shared 1st U1700: \$38.50
27		Bunch, Drew	1557	W91 (b)	L15 (w)	W62 (b)	D64 (w)	W67 (b)	3.5	Shared 1st U1700: \$38.50
28	28-49	Patankar, Vijay	1925	W82 (b)	D40 (w)	W68 (b)	L23 (w)	D41 (b)	3	
29		Garine, Ujwal	1775	W86 (b)	W46 (w)	L5 (b)	W44 (w)	L14 (b)	3	
30		Dorofeeva, Nurguiaana	1765p	L66 (w)	L88 (b)	W120 (b)	W84 (w)	W76 (b)	3	
31		Zhou, Yuchen	1709	W87 (b)	W59 (w)	L6 (w)	W77 (b)	L8 (w)	3	
32		Merriman, Dann Hu	1704	H---	W102 (w)	W69 (b)	D15 (w)	L7 (b)	3	
33		Cao, Max	1675	W88 (w)	W66 (b)	W7 (w)	L6 (b)	L9 (w)	3	
34		Briggs, Mark Steven	1669	W89 (b)	W117 (w)	L4 (b)	H---	H---	3	
35		Wei, Te	1667	W99 (w)	W14 (b)	W8 (w)	L18 (b)	L10 (w)	3	
36		Bharathy Mohan, Aarav Sai	1657	W90 (b)	L3 (b)	W58 (w)	W76 (w)	L11 (b)	3	
37		Bimod, Karthik	1622	W101 (b)	L1 (w)	W78 (b)	W80 (w)	L12 (w)	3	
38		Periard, David Arvid	1591p	W103 (w)	L7 (b)	W81 (w)	L48 (b)	W77 (w)	3	
39		Manzon, Pablo, Jr	1500	D68 (w)	W85 (b)	H---	F7	W78 (w)	3	
40		Sharma, Devansh	1476	W113 (w)	D28 (b)	D9 (w)	L8 (b)	W79 (w)	3	Shared 1st U1500: \$27.50
41		Marcelia, David	1461	W114 (b)	L4 (w)	W82 (b)	H---	D28 (w)	3	Shared 1st U1500: \$27.50
42		Gaivoronski, Andrei	1417p	X---	W109 (w)	L11 (b)	L13 (w)	W80 (b)	3	Shared 1st U1500: \$27.50
43		Cen, Evan	1391	L14 (w)	L99 (b)	W113 (w)	W103 (b)	X81	3	Shared 1st U1500: \$27.50
44		Perry, Patrick	1353	W106 (w)	L20 (b)	W86 (w)	L29 (b)	W83 (w)	3	Shared 1st U1500: \$27.50
45		Yuodelis, Kenneth	1337	W107 (b)	L11 (w)	L67 (b)	W101 (w)	W82 (b)	3	Shared 1st U1500: \$27.50
46		Zhu, Aiden	1319	W118 (w)	L29 (b)	W103 (w)	L22 (b)	W88 (w)	3	Shared 1st U1500: \$27.50
47		Yates, Daniel	1271	H---	L105 (b)	H---	W91 (w)	W70 (b)	3	Shared 1st U1300: \$64
48		Dale, Luke Jordan	1265	L15 (b)	W91 (w)	W106 (b)	W38 (w)	L13 (b)	3	Shared 1st U1300: \$64
49		Maharaja, Imai Subramonia	1164	L109 (b)	W115 (w)	L25 (b)	W117 (w)	W74 (b)	3	Shared 1st U1300: \$64
50	50-69	Ren, Aaron Song	1568	W104 (b)	L5 (w)	L80 (b)	W86 (b)	D57 (w)	2.5	
51		Cluff, Stella A	1502	W92 (w)	D9 (b)	L18 (w)	W66 (b)	L16 (w)	2.5	
52		Ayalew, Brook	1501p	W111 (b)	W108 (w)	L10 (b)	D67 (w)	L17 (b)	2.5	
53		Devadithya, Hiruna	1429	W93 (w)	L12 (b)	D66 (w)	H---	H---	2.5	
54		Hoyt, Coleman Arthur	1386	W71 (b)	L10 (w)	L64 (b)	W87 (w)	D62 (b)	2.5	
55		Evin, Terrick	1311	W123 (b)	L13 (w)	W111 (b)	L19 (w)	D68 (b)	2.5	
56		Goupinets, Andrew	1286	L2 (w)	D100 (b)	W85 (w)	H---	H---	2.5	
57		Sharma, Soham	1282	L5 (b)	W104 (w)	W117 (b)	L25 (w)	D50 (b)	2.5	
58		Sauve, Lucas W	1257	W16 (b)	L19 (w)	L36 (b)	W111 (w)	H---	2.5	
59		Janardhan, Bharadwaj	1231p	W17 (w)	L31 (b)	D26 (w)	W105 (b)	L24 (b)	2.5	
60		Hildenbrand, Blane	1221	D18 (w)	L69 (b)	W100 (w)	L16 (b)	W99 (w)	2.5	
61		Shinkarev, Slava Sergeivich	1211	L4 (b)	W114 (w)	D24 (b)	W69 (w)	U---	2.5	
62		Pai, Vihaan	1151	L9 (w)	W113 (b)	L27 (w)	W116 (b)	D54 (w)	2.5	

2024 Seattle Seafair Open (part two)

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total pts	Prizes
63		Noursalehi, Saeed	1142	H---	L21 (w)	W102 (b)	L17 (w)	W100 (b)	2.5	
64		Bharath, Rithvik	1096	L12 (w)	W116 (b)	W54 (w)	D27 (b)	L26 (w)	2.5	Shared 1st U1100: \$48
65		Infante, Nicolas M	1083p	L13 (b)	W123 (w)	H---	L26 (b)	W105 (w)	2.5	Shared 1st U1100: \$48
66		Mohan, Vishnu	1052	W30 (b)	L33 (w)	D53 (b)	L51 (w)	W96 (b)	2.5	Shared 1st U1100: \$48
67		Babbar, Riaan	1037	D22 (b)	H---	W45 (w)	D52 (b)	L27 (w)	2.5	Shared 1st U1100: \$48
68		Zhang, Nathan	668p	D39 (b)	W75 (w)	L28 (w)	D79 (b)	D55 (w)	2.5	1st U900: \$192
69		Strauss, Madison Lati	unr.	D75 (b)	W60 (w)	L32 (w)	L61 (b)	W98 (w)	2.5	
70	70-94	Scollon, Owen	1562	W120 (w)	L8 (b)	W83 (w)	L14 (b)	L47 (w)	2	
71		Norland, David S	1539p	L54 (w)	L81 (b)	D92 (w)	H--	X111	2	
72		Hamlett, James Morrison, IV	1400	D79 (b)	H---	W99 (w)	L9 (b)	U---	2	
73		Wentz, Austin	1398	W116 (w)	W95 (b)	L12 (w)	L20 (b)	U---	2	
74		Infante, Salvador A	1398p	L117 (b)	W89 (w)	H---	D88 (b)	L49 (w)	2	
75		Louie, Henry	1310	D69 (w)	L68 (b)	L98 (w)	W94 (b)	D85 (w)	2	
76		Bharadwaj, Samarth Ram	1294	L3 (w)	W90 (b)	W94 (w)	L36 (b)	L30 (w)	2	
77		Ao, Ethan	1289p	L1 (b)	W101 (w)	W112 (b)	L31 (w)	L38 (b)	2	
78		Witmer, Braden Michael	1256p	W94 (b)	L23 (b)	L37 (w)	W112 (w)	L39 (b)	2	
79		Jolly, Tristan	1228	D72 (w)	D26 (b)	H---	D68 (w)	L40 (b)	2	
80		Li, Edgar	1202	L8 (w)	W92 (b)	W50 (w)	L37 (b)	L42 (w)	2	
81		Weng, Bright T	1147	L10 (b)	W71 (w)	L38 (b)	W107 (w)	F43	2	
82		Gao, Ziqian	1143	L28 (w)	W93 (b)	L41 (w)	W118 (b)	L45 (w)	2	
83		Das, Sambuddha Sekhar	1116	L11 (b)	W107 (w)	L70 (b)	W106 (w)	L44 (b)	2	
84		Sriram, Aahan	1065	L20 (w)	L106 (b)	W114 (w)	L30 (b)	W112 (b)	2	
85		Wu, Harry	1064	D21 (b)	L39 (w)	L56 (b)	W104 (w)	D75 (b)	2	
86		Chabot, Troy	1059	L29 (w)	W122 (b)	L44 (b)	L50 (w)	W114 (b)	2	
87		Miskelly, Sachin	1043p	L31 (w)	L16 (w)	W115 (b)	L54 (b)	W113 (w)	2	
88		Bharath, Bhavik Bharath	1020p	L33 (b)	W30 (w)	H---	D74 (w)	L46 (b)	2	
89		Raj, Skandha	1018	L34 (w)	L74 (b)	L116 (w)	W122 (b)	W117 (w)	2	
90		Herrera, Elijah	1003p	L36 (w)	L76 (w)	L107 (b)	W123 (b)	W116 (w)	2	
91		Choi, Hunter	737p	L27 (w)	L48 (b)	W123 (w)	L47 (b)	W118 (w)	2	
92		De, Rishik	720	L51 (b)	L80 (w)	D71 (b)	W110 (w)	H---	2	
93		Huang, Clora	551	L53 (b)	L82 (w)	W110 (b)	H---	H---	2	
94		Jiang, Kyle	524	L78 (w)	B---	L76 (b)	L75 (w)	W119 (b)	2	
95	95-107	Ackerman, Ryan	1850	W115 (b)	L73 (w)	H---	U---	U---	1.5	
96		Leonard, Robert M	1267	L6 (w)	W119 (b)	L14 (w)	D99 (b)	L66 (w)	1.5	
97		Dhawan, Viraj	1259	L7 (w)	L103 (b)	H---	W119 (w)	U---	1.5	
98		Leonard, Bobby	1139	H---	L22 (w)	W75 (b)	L24 (w)	L69 (b)	1.5	
99		Nerella, Abhiram	1010	L35 (b)	W43 (w)	L72 (b)	D96 (w)	L60 (b)	1.5	
100		Thanikonda, Kruti	959	L24 (b)	D56 (w)	L60 (b)	W120 (w)	L63 (w)	1.5	
101		Rachiba, Alisa	902	L37 (w)	L77 (b)	W122 (w)	L45 (b)	D106 (w)	1.5	
102		Sembium, Aditi	873	D26 (w)	L32 (b)	L63 (w)	H---	H---	1.5	
103		Khatib, Kenan	791	L38 (b)	W97 (w)	L46 (b)	L43 (w)	D107 (b)	1.5	
104		Infante, Juan P	771p	L50 (w)	L57 (b)	H---	L85 (b)	W120 (w)	1.5	
105		Liang, Zheng Andy	unr.	H---	W47 (w)	L21 (b)	L59 (w)	L65 (b)	1.5	
106		Simmons, Zachary	unr.	L44 (b)	W84 (w)	L48 (w)	L83 (b)	D101 (b)	1.5	
107		Infortuno, Joey	unr.	L45 (w)	L83 (b)	W90 (w)	L81 (b)	D103 (w)	1.5	
108	108-118	Chang, Eddie	2061	W121 (w)	L52 (b)	U---	U---	U---	1	
109		NM Arganian, David G	2020	W49 (w)	L42 (b)	U---	U---	U---	1	
110		Wu, Shanna	1035	L23 (w)	L17 (b)	L93 (w)	L92 (b)	W122 (w)	1	
111		Zhang, Harvey	671p	L52 (w)	W121 (b)	L55 (w)	L58 (b)	F71	1	
112		Foster, Chad	626	X---	L18 (b)	L77 (w)	L78 (b)	L84 (w)	1	
113		Berjis, Adrina	594	L40 (b)	L62 (w)	L43 (b)	W115 (w)	L87 (b)	1	
114		Tsay, Elon	586p	L41 (w)	L61 (b)	L84 (b)	B---	L86 (w)	1	
115		Steenerson, Benjamin	unr.	L95 (w)	L49 (b)	L87 (w)	L113 (b)	W123 (w)	1	
116		Isackson, Oscar	unr.	L73 (b)	L64 (w)	W89 (b)	L62 (w)	L90 (b)	1	
117		Chim, Zander	unr.	W74 (w)	L34 (b)	L57 (w)	L49 (b)	L89 (b)	1	
118		Mittertreiner, Gwen	unr.	L46 (b)	H---	H---	L82 (w)	L91 (b)	1	
119	119-120	Mishra, Aakash	877	L25 (b)	L96 (w)	H---	L97 (b)	L94 (w)	0.5	
120		Wang, Hengsheen	762	L70 (b)	H---	L30 (w)	L100 (b)	L104 (b)	0.5	
121	121-123	Messenger, Allen	1228	L108 (b)	L111 (w)	U---	U---	U---	0	
122		Steenerson, Justin	unr.	L19 (b)	L86 (w)	L101 (b)	L89 (w)	L110 (b)	0	
123		Nagda, Ruhain	unr.	L55 (w)	L65 (b)	L91 (b)	L90 (w)	L115 (b)	0	



Washington Class Championships

Fri-Sun, Nov 29-Dec 01, 2024

Redmond Marriott: 7401 164th Ave NE, Redmond, WA 98052

\$16,500 Prize Fund

(based on 200 paid entries)

Format: A 6-round Swiss event in 8 class sections. Sections with <12 players may be combined.

Entry Fees (EF) (by Nov 01 / Nov 15 / on-site) & **Prizes** per section:

- **Carlsen (2200+)** EF: \$170 / \$180 / \$190
Prizes: \$800, \$600, \$400; U2300 \$250, \$200
- **Anand (2000-2199)** EF: \$160 / \$170 / \$180
Prizes: \$600, \$400, \$300; U2100 \$200, \$150
- **Kramnik (1800-1999)** EF: \$150 / \$160 / \$170
Prizes: \$500, \$350, \$250; U1900 \$170, \$130
- **Kasparov (1600-1799)** EF: \$150 / \$160 / \$170
Prizes: \$400, \$300, \$200; U1700 \$170, \$130
- **Karpov (1400-1599)** EF: \$150 / \$160 / \$170
Prizes: \$400, \$300, \$200; U1500 \$170, \$130
- **Fischer (1200-1399)** EF: \$150 / \$160 / \$170
Prizes: \$400, \$300, \$200; U1300 \$170, \$130
- **Spassky (1000-1199)** EF: \$150 / \$160 / \$170
Prizes: \$400, \$300, \$200; U1100 \$170, \$130
- **Petrosian (under 1000)** EF: \$150 / \$160 / \$170
Prizes: \$400, \$300, \$200; U800 \$170, \$130; U600 \$100, \$50; Unrated \$100, \$50

Seeds: Highest finishing WA resident in Carlsen, Anand, Kramnik, Kasparov, and Karpov sections seeded in the 2025 WA State Championship: Championship, Premier, Invitational, Challengers, and Rising Stars sections, respectively. Ties for a seed to be resolved by post-event playoff games.

Mixed Doubles Prizes: Best male-female two-player team's combined score: 1st \$200, 2nd \$150, 3rd \$100. Avg team rating must be <2000; may play in different sections. Register (no extra fee) before rd 3. Awarded in addition to other prizes.

Special Prizes (per class section):

- **Best Female Player***** (by TPR): \$50.
- **Best Senior (50+) Player***** (by TPR): \$50.
- **Highest (USCF) Rating Gain***: 1st \$50, 2nd \$25. Requires established (non-provisional) rating. May not be combined with Biggest Upset Win.
- **Biggest Upset Win (per round)*****: \$25.
- **Fair-Play, Kindness, Spreading Joy**: \$25.
- **Best Dressed (per day)*****: \$25.
- **Best Annotated Game**: 1st \$75, 2nd \$50.

Notes: * = May not combine with higher prizes.

** = Requires a minimum of 3 eligible players.

*** = Player may not win this prize repeatedly.

Hotel Info: Redmond Marriott (address above): \$129/night + tax. Call (800) 228-9290 to request the WA Chess Federation room block, or use the online [reservation](#). Group codes: WCNWCNQ or WCNWCNR. Cut-off date for discounts: Fri, Nov 01, 2024.

Main Event

Note: We encourage you to play in the Main Event *and* take part in side events too (see next page). Our schedule permits this w/ minimum or no half-point byes!

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

Registration & Payment:

Before event: (by Thu, Nov 28 @ 5pm) NWchess.com/OnlineRegistration (pay by credit / debit / PayPal / Zelle / SettleKing) or write a check to Washington Chess Federation. For credit, debit, and PayPal payments, a processing fee of 4% will be added on, so consider saving by using Zelle or SettleKing instead.

On-site: Fri 8:30-9:30am for 3-day schedule, or 4:30-5:15pm 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.*

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

Rating: Dual rated US Chess and NWSRS. Carlsen / Anand / Kramnik / Kasparov sections also FIDE rated (except any G/55 games). Highest of Nov 2024 US Chess, Nov 2024 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 are eligible only for 1st / 2nd / 3rd prizes in Carlsen section or the Unrated prizes in Petrosian section.

Entry Fee Adjustments: Playing up into a higher section is allowed (for \$85 extra) if the player's USCF rating is within 200 points of that section's lower limit (e.g., min USCF 1600 for the 1800-1999 section). Seniors (age 50+) may subtract \$50. Free entry to GMs, IMs, WGMs, and WIMs. Reentry for 1/2 of original entry fee. Canadians may pay CAD\$ at par.

Rounds: 3-day schedule: Fri @ 10am & 6pm; Sat @ 10am & 6pm; Sun 10am & 4:30pm.

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

Time Controls: 3-day schedule: 30/90, SD/30; +30. Late default: 60 minutes.

2-day schedule: G/55; +15 (rounds 1-3); rounds 4-6 same as for 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: Pairings posted near the playing hall and online approx. 20 mins before each round. If withdrawing or skipping a round, please inform organizers at least 30 mins before the start of the round.

Washington Class Championships, Nov 29-Dec 01 (cont.)

Fun Side Events!

(many run between rounds of the Main Event)

WA Class Gukesh Thanksgiving Scholastic

Fri, 11/29 @ 9 AM – 4 PM (during round 1)

Open to K-12 students. Dual sections: Open and Challengers:

- **Open:** A 4-round G/40;+5 Swiss in two sections: **K-3 Open** and **4-12 Open**. For intermediate to advanced players. Dual NWSRS and USCF rated. US Chess membership req'd. Clocks & notation req'd. Rounds: 9:15am, 10:45, lunch, 12:45, 2:15pm. Awards: 4pm.

- **Challengers:** A 5-round G/30 Swiss in two sections: **K-3 U800** and **4-8 U900**. For novice to low-intermediate players. Dual NWSRS and USCF rated. US Chess membership req'd. No clocks used at the start, but a G/10;+5 clock placed in unfinished games after 35 mins of play. Rounds: 9:15am, 10:30, lunch, 12, 1:15, 2:30pm. Awards: 4pm.

Entry fee: \$50 by Fri, 11/22; \$60 after. Room for up to 132 players.

Awards (per section):

- 1st-5th place: \$65-\$60-\$55-\$50-\$45 (in Amazon e-gift cards).
- Medals for first-timers, best female player, & biggest upset win.
- Top performing player (by TPR) in Open sections earns free entry into the 2-day Washington Class (Main Event); see previous page.

Rating: Higher of Nov 2024 USCF or current NWSRS ratings used for sections & pairings.

Registration: NWchess.com/OnlineRegistration/ - pay by credit / debit / PayPal / Zelle / SettleKing); no on-site entries or payments. For credit, debit, and PayPal payments, a processing fee of 4% will be added on. Registration & payment deadline: Wed, 11/27 @ 5pm. Players unpaid by the deadline receive a zero-point bye in round 1.

WA Class Adult Novice Swiss

Fri, 11/29 @ 11 AM – 4 PM (during round 1)

A 4-round Swiss in one section. 1 half-point bye available. For U1100 or unrated adults (18+). EF: \$25. Unrated. No memberships. TC: G/30;+5. Register: 10-10:45am. Rounds: 11am, 12:15, 1:30, 2:45pm. Prizes: \$400/b20. 1st-3rd: \$150-\$100-\$60; 1st U900/U700/Unrated \$30.

WA Class Chess960 Fischer Rapid

Fri, 11/29 @ 2:15 PM – 4:30 PM (between rounds 1 & 2)

A 4-round Swiss in one section, 1 half-point bye available. Unrated. TC: G/10;+3. EF: \$20. No memberships. Register: 1:30-2pm. Rounds: 2:15pm, 2:50, 3:25, 4pm. Higher of Nov 2024 USCF and current NWSRS used for pairings & prizes. A new (randomized) opening position in each round. Players will have 2 mins before clocks start to examine the opening position. Prize fund: \$300/b20. 1st \$80, 2nd \$60, 3rd \$40, 1st U2000 / U1700 / U1400 / Unrated \$30.

WA Class Robson Puzzle Solving

Fri, 11/29 @ 4:45 PM – 5:30 PM (between rounds 1 & 2)

Solving 15 chess puzzles in 45 mins, on paper. Evaluation based on accuracy and completeness. EF: \$15. Register: 3:45-4:30pm. No memberships. Prize fund: \$250/b30. 1st \$60, 2nd \$45, 3rd \$25, 1st U2000 / U1700 / U1400 / U1100 / U800 / Unrated \$20.

WA Class Workshop for Girls & Women

Fri, 11/29 @ 6 PM – 8 PM (during round 2)

A workshop led by WFM Chouchan Airapetian (chornyaa@msn.com, 206-914-4252), experienced chess coach, organizer, promoter, former US Women's Championship contender, WCF Girls' & Women's Chess Director. EF: Free! Register: 5:45-6pm. Schedule: 6-7pm: "How to develop & cultivate girls' and women's chess." 7-8 pm: Q&A, complimentary pizza & refreshments, and ladies' bughouse.

WA Class Piper Memorial Adult Swiss

Sat-Sun, 11/30-12/01 @ 11 AM and 4:30 PM (during rounds 3-6)

Sponsored by *Seattle Chess Club* in memory of August Piper (1944-

2024; SCC President 2002-2021), with generous support from Henry Yan. A 4-round Swiss in two sections: Botvinnik (Open) and Korchnoi (U1500); may be merged based on entries. 1 half-point bye available. USCF rated only. TC: G/120;+30. EF: \$50 online (by Fri, 11/29 @ 5pm) or \$60 on-site; \$10 discount for SCC members. EF waived for unrated players who purchase memberships. Register: Sat, 11/30 @ 10-10:30am (unless starting with a half-point bye). Current US Chess and WCF/OCF/ICA memberships req'd. Nov 2024 USCF ratings used for sections, pairings, & prizes. Guaranteed prize fund: \$1,000. Botvinnik: 1st \$240, 2nd \$150, 3rd \$120, 1st U1650 \$80; Korchnoi: 1st \$120, 2nd \$100, 3rd \$80, 1st U1300 \$60, 1st Unrated \$50.

WA Class Casablanca Rapid

Sat, 11/30 @ 2 PM – 5 PM (between rounds 3 & 4)

A 4-round Swiss in one section. 1 half-point bye available. Unrated. TC: G/15;+5. EF: \$30. No memberships. Register: 1-1:45pm. Rounds: 2pm, 2:45, 3:30, 4:15pm. Higher of Nov 2024 USCF Quick and current NWSRS ratings used for pairings & prizes. Each round starts in a new middlegame position from a historical game. Players will have 2 mins before clocks start to examine initial positions. Prize fund: \$400/b20. 1st \$110, 2nd \$85, 3rd \$60, 1st U2000 \$50, 1st U1700 \$40, 1st U1400 \$30, Biggest Upset Win: \$25.

WA Class Firouzja Bullet

Sat, 11/30 @ 5 PM – 6 PM (between rounds 3 & 4)

A 5-round Swiss in one section. 2 half-point byes available. Unrated. TC: G/2;+1. EF: \$10. No memberships. Register: 4:15-4:50pm. Rounds: 5pm, 5:10, 5:20, 5:30, 5:40pm. Higher of Nov 2024 USCF Blitz and current NWSRS rating used for pairings & prizes. Prize fund: \$200/b20. 1st-3rd: \$50-\$40-\$30; 1st U2000/U1600/U1200/Unrated \$20.

WA Class Carlsen Rapid Championship

Sun, 12/01 @ 2 PM – 4:30 PM (between rounds 5 & 6)

A 4-round Swiss in two sections: Kasparov and Anand (U1600); may be merged based on entries. 1 half-point bye available. USCF Quick rated. TC: G/12;+3. EF: \$35. Players rated 1400+ may play up for a \$10 fee. Current US Chess and WCF/OCF/ICA memberships req'd. Register: 1-1:45pm. Rounds: 2pm, 2:35, 3:10, 3:45pm. Higher of Nov 2024 USCF Quick and current NWSRS ratings used for sections, pairings, & prizes. Prize fund: \$600/b30. Kasparov: 1st \$85, 2nd \$70, 3rd \$55, 1st U2000 / U1700 \$40; Anand: 1st \$70, 2nd \$55, 3rd \$40, 1st U1400 / U1100 / Unrated \$35; Biggest Upset Win (in each section): \$20.

WA Class Kiyonaga Memorial Bughouse

Sun, 12/01 @ 3 PM – 4:15 PM (between rounds 5 & 6)

A 7-round Single Swiss in one section. 2 half-point byes available. Max avg team rating: 1800. Unrated. TC: G/3;+0. EF: \$20/player. No memberships. Register: 2:15-2:45pm. Rounds: 3pm, 3:10, 3:20, 3:30, 3:40, 3:50, 4pm. Higher of Nov 2024 USCF Blitz and current NWSRS ratings (if unrated, up to 1300 based on age) used for pairings & prizes. Team prizes: \$400 (based on 20 teams). 1st-3rd: \$100-\$70-\$50; 1st-3rd K-6: \$50-\$40-\$30; Biggest Upset Win: \$30; Sportsmanship: \$30.

WA Class "Knight-Time" Blitz

Sun, 12/01 @ 8:30 PM – 10:45 PM (after round 6)

A 7-round Swiss in two sections: Nakamura and Tal (U1600); may be merged based on entries. 3 half-point byes available. USCF Blitz rated. TC: G/5;+2. EF: \$30. Players rated 1400+ may play up for a \$10 fee. Current US Chess and WCF/OCF/ICA memberships req'd. Register: 7:30-8:15pm. Rounds: 8:30pm, 8:50, 9:10, 9:30, 9:50, 10:10, 10:30pm. Higher of Nov 2024 USCF Blitz and current NWSRS ratings used for sections, pairings, & prizes. Prize fund: \$550/b25. Nakamura: 1st \$100, 2nd \$80, 3rd \$50, 1st U2000 / U1700 \$35; Tal: 1st \$70, 2nd \$50, 3rd \$40, 1st U1400 / U1100 / Unrated \$30.

TOURNAMENTS



Venue

**7212 Woodlawn Ave NE
Seattle, WA 98115**

Info & events calendar
www.seattlechess.club

Addresses for entries
SCC Tournament Director
same address as above
- or -
contact@seattlechess.club

Entry fees

We accept Paypal, cash and check for tournament entry fees. No credit cards, sorry.
Paypal: <https://paypal.me/seattlechess>.

October 12

Format: 3-RR. 4-player sections by close rating. **TC:** Game/100 + 15 sec. increment. **EF:** \$15 (+\$10 day membership for non-SCC). **Prizes:** winner of each 4-player quad wins free entry to next Quads played within 3 months. **Registration:** 9:15-9:45am. **Rounds:** 10am, 2:15 & 6:30pm. **Byes:** 0. US Chess membership req'd.

Saturday Quads

October 26-27

See below.

Autumn Adult Swiss

October 4, 11, 18, 25

4-round, US Chess-rated tnmt., 1 round each Friday. 7:30pm start time. **TC:** 40 moves in 90 mins., followed by sudden death 60 mins. w/10 sec. increment throughout. Free for SCC members, \$5/night others. Drop in for any round! US Chess membership req'd.

Autumn Leaves



Autumn Adult Swiss October 26 - 27, 2024



A 4-round Swiss with time control of Game 120 mins. with 30-sec. increment.
Open to players born before 10/26/2006.

Prize fund: \$310 guaranteed

First	\$100	Second	\$70	U1800	\$50
U1600	\$ 40	U1400	\$30	U1200/unr	\$20

Entry fees: Free for SCC members, \$16 others.

Registration: 10:15-10:45am. **Rounds:** 11am & 4:30pm both days.

Byes: 1 half-point bye available. Commit at registration for Sunday rounds.

26 seats max. Sign up at contact@seattlechess.club. US Chess membership required.

~ generously sponsored by Henry Yan ~

VETERANS DAY SCHOLASTIC

CHESS TOURNAMENT

VETERANS DAY MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2024

CHINOOK MIDDLE SCHOOL

2001 98TH AVE NE, BELLEVUE, WA 98004



FORMAT

A 5-round, G/25; +5
Swiss tournament in five
sections:

K-2 U700

K-2 Open

3-6 U800

3-6 Open

7-12 Open

SCHEDULE

Rd. 1 – 9:00am

Rd. 2 – 10:30am

Lunch Time

Rd. 3 – 12:30pm

Rd. 4 – 1:45pm

Rd. 5 – 3:00pm

Awards ~ 4:30pm

ELIGIBILITY

Open to all students in
grades K-12 as of the
2024-25 school year. Out-
of-state players welcome!

ENTRY FEE

\$50 by 11/4, \$60 after.
Room for 200 players.

AWARDS

Section Prizes: Amazon Gift Cards
awarded in each section:

1st – 5th: \$60–55–50–45–40.

Team Prizes: Amazon Gift Cards
awarded to the top 4 players from the
top 5 finishing teams (top 4 scores
from same school comprise team
score) across all sections:

1st – 5th: \$30–25–20–15–10.

Special Prizes (per section): Medals
for first-time players, best female
player, best dressed, and biggest
upset win.

RATING

Dual NWSRS and US Chess rated,
with **US Chess membership
required in all sections.** Establish
or update your national rating!
Higher of current NWSRS or US
Chess regular rating will be used to
determine section and pairings.

CLOCKS + NOTATION

Chess clocks set to G/25; +5 will be used
from the beginning in all games. Chess
notation required in all sections except for
K-2 U700 and 3-6 U800. All equipment is
provided courtesy of WCF.

REGISTRATION

Register online at

NWchess.com/OnlineRegistration/

Pay by Credit/Debit/PayPal/SettleKing.

**100% pre-registered, no on-site entries or
payments. Entry + payment deadline Sun
November 10 @ 5:00pm.** No registrations
accepted or refunds offered after the
deadline.

PROCEDURE

Pairings will be posted in the hallway near
the parent waiting area.

CONCESSIONS

Lunch and refreshments will be available for
purchase on-site.

WA State Elementary Qualifier!

Questions?

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

