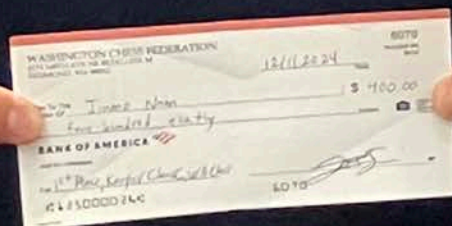


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Ads and submissions must be received by the fifth of the
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**February 5 for the March issue;
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**Judged Best Magazine/Newsletter for 2009 and
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Front Cover

Jinmo Nam of Issaquah, the first-place winner in the
Karpov (Class C) section of the
2024 Washington Class Championships.
Photo credit: Josh Sinanan.

Back Cover

Christian Jordan of Edgewood won the
Fischer (Class D) section of the
2024 Washington Class Championships.
Photo credit: Josh Sinanan.

Submissions

Submissions of games (PGN format is preferable for
games), stories, photos, art, and other **original** chess-
related content are encouraged! Multiple submissions are
acceptable; please indicate if material is non-exclusive. All
submissions are subject to editing or revision. Send via
U.S. Mail to:

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Table Of Contents

Jinmo Nam Josh Sinanan	Front Cover	Eastside Open (Ad) Bellevue, Washington March 1-2	33
Monroe Rapid Knights Challenge (Ad) Monroe, Washington February 1	3	Oregon Junior Closed Wilson Gibbins	34
Washington Class Championships Josh Sinanan	4	From Pawns To Queens Fundraising Gala (Ad) Bellevue, Washington March 21	40
The Inland Classic (Ad) Rathdrum, Idaho February 22-23	22	Washington State Barber/Rockefeller Open (Ad) Bellevue, Washington March 23	41
Presidential Scholastic (Ad) Bellevue, Washington February 17	25	Western States Regional for Girls & Women (Ad) Redmond, Washington April 12-13	42
Veterans Day Scholastic Josh Sinanan	26	US Senior Women's Chess Championship Mary Kuhner	43
Challenger's Cup Scholastic Josh Sinanan	28	Seattle Chess Club (Ad) Seattle, Washington	46
Saint Anne Celtic Challenge Fall 2024 Josh Sinanan	30	12th Annual Reno Larry Evans Memorial Open (Ad) Reno, Nevada April 18-20 or April 19-20	47
Washington Spring Fling Rapid Scholastic Cup (Ad) Bellevue, Washington March 1	32	Christian Jordan Josh Sinanan	Back Cover

Monroe Rapid Knights Challenge



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1ST, 2025
MONROE COMMUNITY SENIOR CENTER
276 SKY RIVER PKWY, MONROE, WA 98272

CO-HOSTED BY WASHINGTON CHESS FEDERATION AND MONROE CHESS CLUB

Info/Entries: Rekha Sagar, WCF VP,
425-496-9160,
Rekha4Chess@gmail.com

Registration: Online at
nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration.

Pay by
Debit/Credit/PayPal/SettleKing.
Registration and payment **deadline**
Fri. Jan. 31 @ 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.

- **Orlov Championship**
- **Sankrithi U1300**
- **Dorfner U700**

Prizes:

Orlov: 1st – 4th: \$200-150-100-75.

Sankrithi/Dorfner: Trophies awarded
to players scoring 3 points or more.

Special Prizes (per section):

Biggest Upset Win: \$5/rd., Best
Dressed: \$10, Best Female Player: \$10,
Best Senior Player: \$10, Best
Sportsmanship: \$10,
Kindness/Spreading Joy: \$10.

Entry Fee: \$50 by 1/25, \$60 after. Seniors 65+
receive a \$25 discount. Monroe Chess Club
Players receive 50% 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 Orlov & Sankrithi
sections, respectively. Max of 90 players total and
30 players per section, please register early.

Rating: Dual US Chess and NWSRS rated. Highest
of Feb. 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.

Washington Class Championships

Josh Sinanan

The 2024 Washington Class Championships were held over Thanksgiving weekend, November 29–December 1, at the Redmond Marriott. Located in the festive holiday mecca known as the Redmond Town Center, the Redmond Marriott has become WCF's favorite venue to host large-scale events such as the Washington Class and Washington Open due to its convenient proximity to many fine eateries and retail outlets.

A total of 208 chess players from throughout North America, including parts of Washington (195), Oregon (eight), and British Columbia (five), were represented in the three-day chess extravaganza. The event was hosted by Washington Chess Federation, directed by FIDE Arbiter Jacob Mayer, WCF Scholastic Director Allen Messenger, WCF co-VP Rekha Sagar, and WCF Member-at-Large Ani Barua, and organized by WCF President Josh Sinanan. WCF Treasurer Robert Allen, WCF Tournament Coordinator Valentin Razmov, and WCF Photographer

extraordinaire Meiling Cheng assisted in running the event.

Due to the strong turnout, a generous prize fund of \$16,500 was paid out across the eight class sections, which were named in honor of the World Chess Champions. The Gukesh Thanksgiving Scholastic, which attracted 86 scholastic players on Black Friday November 29, was held alongside the Washington Class in Salon three of the Grand Ballroom!

Oodles of fun side events including the Adult Novice Swiss, Fischer Chess960 Rapid, Robson Puzzle Solving, Workshop for Girls and Women, August Piper Memorial Adult Swiss, Casablanca Rapid, Firouzja Bullet, Carlsen Rapid, Kiyonaga Memorial Bughouse, and "Knight-Time" Blitz immensely enhanced the busy "eat-sleep-play chess" schedule!

Five intrepid chess warriors emerged victorious in the closely contested, 18-player Carlsen 2200+ section: FM Tian Sang (2319 → 2322, 4.5) of Redmond, NM Ted Wang (2171 → 2194, 4.5) of

Medina, Ananth Gottumukkala (2170 → 2170, 4.5) of Sammamish, WFM Erin Bian (2114 → 2169, 4.5) of Shoreline, and Bertrand Wan (2097 → 2149, 4.5) of Redmond. The complete standings and prize winners are listed below.

Four ferocious chess fighters—Shuyi Han (1878 → 1900, 4.0) of Bellevue, Miles Kuipers (1877 → 1901, 4.0) of Bellevue, Harrison Toppen-Ryan (1879 → 1899, 4.0) of Kirkland, and Neevan Reddy Saddi (1885 → 1909, 4.0) of Issaquah—topped the 19-player Anand 2000-2199 section. A trio of chess troopers shared second U2100 honors a half-point back: FM Paul Bartron (2026 → 2014, 3.5) of Tacoma, Vijay Patankar (1887 → 1900, 3.5) of Remond and Karthik Bimod (1851 → 1875, 4.5) of Portland.

In the 18-player Kramnik 1800-1999 section, Abhinav Mishra (1704 → 1839, 5.5) of Redmond stood alone at the top with an undefeated five wins and one draw from six games, conceding only a single half-point to Alberto Infante in the third round. Redmond chess sensation Akim

Washington Class Championship 2024: Carlsen (Master) 2200+

#	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Total pts	Prize
1	FM Sang, Tian	2334	H---	W10	W5	D2	D3	W7	4.5	Shared 1st/2nd/3rd/1st U2300/2nd U2300
2	WFM Bian, Erin	2186	H---	W7	W14	D1	H---	W13	4.5	Shared 1st/2nd/3rd/1st U2300/2nd U2300
3	Gottumukkala, Ananth *R/E**	2179	W12	W18	B---	D6	D1	D5	4.5	Shared 1st/2nd/3rd/1st U2300/2nd U2300
4	NM Wang, Ted	2169	D7	H---	W17	W16	W6	H---	4.5	Shared 1st/2nd/3rd/1st U2300/2nd U2300
5	Wan, Bertrand	2087	B---	W8	L1	W13	W12	D3	4.5	Shared 1st/2nd/3rd/1st U2300/2nd U2300
6	Kodarapu, Ishaan	2133	W14	W11	W13	D3	L4	U---	3.5	
7	Zhu, Jamie	2027	D4	L2	B---	W9	W8	L1	3.5	
8	NM Liu, Austin	2197	W9	L5	W10	H---	L7	D11	3	
9	Whale, Nicholas	2087	L8	B---	D15	L7	W16	D14	3	
10	Gavrysh, Leonid	2041	W19	L1	L8	D14	D15	W17	3	
11	Karthikeyan, Harishkumar	2001	B---	L6	L16	D15	W17	D8	3	
12	FM Porter, Ryan W	2285	L3	B---	W18	H---	L5	U---	2.5	
13	FM Readey, John L	2276	W15	W16	L6	L5	D14	L2	2.5	
14	NM Kona, Vidip	2209	L6	W19	L2	D10	D13	D9	2.5	
15	NM Min, Ryan	2140	L13	D17	D9	D11	D10	U---	2	
16	Zhang, Brendan	2097	W17	L13	W11	L4	L9	U---	2	
17	NM Pupols, Viktors	2200	L16	D15	L4	B---	L11	L10	1.5	
18	NM Jiang, Brandon	2235	H---	L3	L12	U---	U---	U---	0.5	
19	Gottumukkala, Ananth	2179	L10	L14	U---	U---	U---	U---	0	

Pikh (1797 → 1826, 4.5), originally from Ukraine and now living in Washington, captured second place honors a half-point back. Two chess titans—Alberto R. Infante (1435 → 1649, 4.0) of Seattle and Deeksha Shankaranand (1627 → 1676, 4.0) of Redmond—shared third/first U1900 honors, each with a solid “plus two” score. Four fantastic chess fanatics split the second U1900 prize: Andrew Yin (1771 → 1795, 3.5) of Burnaby, Andrew’s twin brother Aiden Yin (1736 → 1733, 3.5) of Burnaby, Tim Campbell (1730 → 1750, 3.5) of Issaquah, and Benjamin Frederick (1625 → 1687, 3.5) of Seattle.

Redmond chess royals Vijay Nallappa (1633 → 1712, 5.0) and Ihsan Thahir (1629 → 1710, 5.0) were crowned Co-Champions in the 32-player Kasparov 1600-1799 section. Seattle chess aficionado Brandon Johnson (1711 → 1732, 4.5) captured the third place prize a half-point back. A quintuplet of chess ringers shared first/second U1700 honors with four points apiece: Tanush Bhatia (1325 → 1513, 4.0) of Sammamish, Brook Ayalew (1500 → 1574, 4.0) of Seattle, Cedric Davies (1556 → 1575, 4.0) of Bothell, Bichen Liu (1508 → 1611, 4.0) of Bothell, and William Dann (1487 → 1591, 4.0) of Kirkland.

Issaquah-based high school student Jinmo Nam (1475 → 1595, 5.5) topped the massive 53-player Karpov 1400-1599 section with an undefeated five wins and one draw, which he conceded to GM Simul expert Andra Marinescu (1420) in the third round. Aiden Chan (960 → 1325, 5.0) of Bellevue captured the second place

prize a half-point back. Five fearsome chess foragers shared third place honors, each with a “plus three” score: Derek Adair (1572 → 1573, 4.5) of Newcastle, Thrinay Subramanian (1413 → 1445, 4.5) of Bellevue, Daniel Polonsky (1306 → 1372, 4.5) of Newcastle, Advait Krishnan (1435 → 1524, 4.5) of Redmond, and Pablo Manzon Jr. (1500 → 1509, 4.5) of Kent. Three Eastside chess studs split the second U1500 prize a half-point back: Sid Siddem (1273 → 1318, 4.0) of Redmond, Alexander Lebedinsky (1101 → 1226, 4.0) of Sammamish, and young Skandha Raj (946 → 1232, 4.0) of Bellevue.

In the 22-player Fischer 1200-1399 section, Christian Jordan (1072 → 1234, 5.0) of Edgewood triumphed over his youthful rivals with an impressive 5-1 score. Three chess T-Rex’s shared =second/third/first U1300 honors a half-point back: James Stroud (1182 → 1211, 4.5) of Bellingham, Kshitij Narkhede (1059 → 1150, 4.5) of Sammamish, and Bowen Zhang (931 → 1149, 4.5) of Redmond. Lone chess ranger Aakash Mishra (935 → 1076, 4.0) of Redmond earned the second U1300 prize with a solid “plus two” score.

Mill Creek chess maniac Killian Bates (787 → 1053, 6.0) emerged victorious with an astounding six points from six games (the tournament’s only perfect score!) in the modest 16-player Spassky 1000-1199 section. Three rising chess stars—Michael M. Zhang (1177 → 1155, 4.0) of Medina, Vihaan Chaurasia (884 → 929, 4.0) of Redmond, and Elina Khudiyev (849 → 861, 4.0) of

Sammamish—shared second/third/first U1100 accolades with four points apiece. Bellevue chess believers Clora Huang (787 → 811, 3.5) and Skyler Qin (838 → 908, 3.5) split the second U1100 prize half a point back.

The brand new Petrosian U1000 section attracted 25 players and was won by three up-and-coming chess practitioners: Kaiyi Han (693 → 907, 5.0) of Bellevue, Orwin Dsa (814 → 846, 5.0) of Bellevue, and Chad Foster (689 → 888, 5.0) of Snohomish. Olympia chess queen Lashawna Covey (390 → 397, 3.0) won the first U800 prize with an even score while Seattle chess queen Olga Astafyeva (310 → 358, 2.5) collected second U800 dividends to add to the royal treasury. Seattle chess champ Zander Chim (673 → 539, 2.0) earned the first U600 prize for his efforts.

As part of the annotate games competition, several players have annotated their games for the *Northwest Chess* readers to enjoy...

Gabriel Razmov (1846) – Michelle Zhang (1822) [C45]
Washington Class (Expert 2000–2199)
Redmond, WA (R4), November 30, 2024
[Gabriel Razmov]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Nxd4 Bc5 5.Nb3

A modern sideline that aims for a white queenside castle and central/kingside play. However, Black finds a plan to avoid this and castle queenside, turning

Washington Class Championship 2024: Anand (Expert) 2000-2199										
#	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Total pts	Prize
1	Han, Shuyi	1894	W19	W18	D8	L2	W10	D3	4	Shared 1st/2nd/3rd/1st U2100
2	Kuipers, Miles	1894	D15	W13	W11	W1	L3	D4	4	Shared 1st/2nd/3rd/1st U2100
3	Toppen-Ryan, Harrison	1886	L16	W19	W15	D4	W2	D1	4	Shared 1st/2nd/3rd/1st U2100
4	Saddi, Neevan Reddy	1882	D7	W12	D10	D3	W11	D2	4	Shared 1st/2nd/3rd/1st U2100
5	FM Bartron, Paul	2026	D10	D15	H---	D7	D6	W8	3.5	Shared 2nd U2100
6	Patankar, Vijay	1932	H---	H---	D7	D13	D5	W16	3.5	Shared 2nd U2100
7	Bimod, Karthik	1817	D4	W14	D6	D5	D8	D10	3.5	Shared 2nd U2100
8	Palathingal, Rafael	1948	D11	W16	D1	D10	D7	L5	3	
9	Xu, Owen	1929	H---	L11	D16	D12	D13	W17	3	
10	Gupta, Saahil	1880	D5	W17	D4	D8	L1	D7	3	
11	Razmov, Gabriel	1860	D8	W9	L2	W16	L4	D13	3	
12	Ramkumar, Nikhil	1852	D14	L4	D17	D9	D15	B---	3	
13	Verma, Darsh	1851	D17	L2	W14	D6	D9	D11	3	
14	Razmov, Valentin	1893	D12	L7	L13	B---	D17	D15	2.5	
15	Yondon, Odbayar	1853	D2	D5	L3	D17	D12	D14	2.5	
16	Zhang, Michelle	1822	W3	L8	D9	L11	B---	L6	2.5	
17	Wang, Leonardo	1888	D13	L10	D12	D15	D14	L9	2	
18	Ackerman, Ryan	1857	B---	L1	U---	U---	U---	U---	1	
19	Boey, Chad	1856	L1	L3	U---	U---	U---	U---	0	



Gabriel Razmov (L) vs. Rafael Palathingal during the first round of the Washington Class Championships. Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.

the game into a longer, more positional battle.

5...Bb6 6.Nc3 Qf6 7.Qe2 Nge7 8.Bd2 d6 9.f4 Bd7 10.0-0-0 0-0-0 11.g3 Qg6?

Black slips here, likely judging that 12.f5 is a bad choice given that it gives away the e5-square. Unfortunately, White concurred with such an assessment and didn't find the best continuation. 11...h5 is a better plan to eventually pick apart White's slightly fragile kingside. Pawn breaks with ...h4 and ...g5 could be useful later on in the game.

12.Bg2?

12.f5 was much better, for a very concrete reason. After 12...Qf6 13.h4 h6 14.g4 g5 (White calculated up to here) 15.Kb1 and

Black's kingside pawn structure turns out to be unstable and prone to pressure. A black knight on e5 looks nice, but it wouldn't have any clear entry points into White's position.

12...f5 13.Rhe1 fxe4 14.Bxe4 Qf7 15.Be3 Kb8 16.Nd5 Nf5?!

This encourages White to exchange bishops, which they were already interested in. The black knight isn't well-placed on f5. The likely reason for Black's decision was that on e7 the knight blocks the e-file for Black's rooks and constrains Black's position somewhat. 16...Rhe8 17.Nxb6 axb6 18.Bg1 would leave the position roughly equal.

17.Bxb6 axb6 18.Qg2

18.Qc4 is another option that White barely considered, aiming for 18...Be6 19.Qc3 Nfe7 20.Nxe7 Nxe7 21.a4, where White's queen supports a4-a5 as well as potentially aiming at g7.

18...Rhe8 19.Nc3 Nfe7 20.h3 Bf5 21.Bf3 Be6 22.Kb1 d5 23.Qf2 d4?

This mistake hands White a clear advantage. Perhaps Black was trying to liquidate to an endgame, though the endgame turns out to be better for White. 23...Bxh3 instead would lead to 24.Nxd5 Nxd5 25.Rxe8 Qxe8 (25...Nc3+ 26.bxc3 Rxe8) 26.Rxd5 Rxd5 27.Bxd5 h5 with very few chances left for either side, rendering this position equal.

24.Nxd4 Nxd4 25.Rxd4 Rxd4 26.Qxd4 Nc6 27.Qf2 g5 28.Bd5?

White seems to also be interested in liquidating into a position with an f-passer, not realizing that such positions may actually not be winning for them. Black's queen and knight can slow down the passer enough such that the Black king can come and help out. 28.Bg4! is the right exchanging move. After 28...gxf4 29.gxf4 Bd7 30.Rxe8+ Bxe8 31.Qe3 White is a solid pawn up and has good winning chances.

28...gxf4?

Once again allowing White a chance, but White miscalculates and misses it. 28...Bxd5 29.Rxe8+ Qxe8 30.Nxd5 Qe6

29.gxf4?

29.Rxe6! A relatively obvious candidate-move. However, White was concerned about 29...Rxe6 30.gxf4 Ne7 31.Bxe6

Washington Class Championship 2024: Kramnik (Class A) 1800-1999

#	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Total pts	Prize
1	Mishra, Abhinav	1738	W14	W18	D3	W2	W5	W9	5.5	1st
2	Pikh, Akim	1873	D17	W7	W6	L1	W15	W3	4.5	2nd
3	Rosales Infante, Alberto	1921	D7	W4	D1	W8	W13	L2	4	Shared 3rd/1st U1900
4	Shankaranand, Deeksha	1638	B---	L3	W18	D15	W11	D5	4	Shared 3rd/1st U1900
5	Tagor, Bental	1981	L6	W17	W12	W9	L1	D4	3.5	
6	Yin, Andrew	1775	W5	D13	L2	L11	W16	W15	3.5	Shared 2nd U1900
7	Yin, Aiden	1756	D3	L2	L14	B---	W18	W13	3.5	Shared 2nd U1900
8	Campbell, Tim	1736	W15	D10	D9	L3	D12	W14	3.5	Shared 2nd U1900
9	Frederick, Benjamin	1652	X---	W11	D8	L5	W14	L1	3.5	Shared 2nd U1900
10	Reynolds, Garrett	1909	W11	D8	L15	L14	W17	D12	3	
11	Ackerman, Ryan *R/E**	1857	L10	L9	B---	W6	L4	W18	3	
12	Jones, Davey V	1700	L18	B---	L5	W16	D8	D10	3	
13	Hosford, Michael J	1952	W16	D6	H---	H---	L3	L7	2.5	
14	Edwards, Gary B	1876	L1	D16	W7	W10	L9	L8	2.5	
15	Boey, Chad *R/E**	1856	L8	B---	W10	D4	L2	L6	2.5	
16	Bharathy Mohan, Aarav	1772	L13	D14	D17	L12	L6	B---	2	
17	Zhou, Yuchen	1701	D2	L5	D16	D18	L10	H---	2	
18	Birsching, Seth	1810	W12	L1	L4	D17	L7	L11	1.5	

Qxe6 and Black seems to have pressure on the h-pawn as well as a blockade on f5. However, looking a bit beyond the end of the forced line, White's position is quite pleasant after 32.Qh4 as they retain the extra pawn and have pressure of their own on Black's h-pawn.

29...Bxd5 30.Rxe8+ Qxe8 31.Nxd5 Qh5

Black now regains their pawn. Despite this, White played on confidently, blitzing out the next few moves.

32.Ne3 Qxh3 33.a3 Qe6 34.f5 Qf7 35.f6 Ne5

A nice defensive resource. Around here White realized that a queen endgame was imminent in order to avoid the loss of the f-pawn.

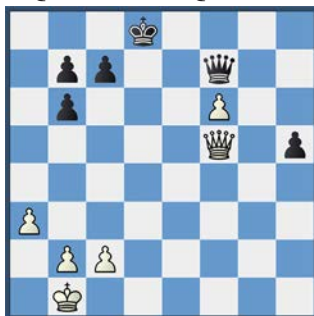
36.Qf5 Nd7 37.Ng4 h5?!

Impatience! 37...Ka7!? seems at first unintuitive—going in the opposite direction to the passer. The deeper point is that White is now restrained to the defense of their f6-pawn and Ng4–Ne5 is no longer viable, contrary to lines where Black's king remains on b8.

38.Ne5 Nxe5 39.Qxe5 Kc8!

White had foreseen up to this point from afar, but missed 39...Kc8, which stops the threat of 40.Qe7. As a result, now White would have to try grinding out an advantage in the queen endgame. Get ready for another few dozen moves of maneuvering!

40.Qg5 Kd7 41.Qf5+ Kd8 42.Qd3+ Ke8 43.Qe4+ Kd7 44.Qf5+ Kd8 45.Qd3+ Ke8 46.Qb5+ Kd8 47.Qf5



Position after 47.Qf5

Maneuvering to lose a tempo, making Black “show their cards.” Black can

make a mistake in such a situation, and indeed they do.

47...h4?

Impatience again, weakening the h-pawn and allowing a queen endgame up a pawn for White. However, White wasn't sure if this endgame was winning or drawn, not seeing that the Black king would end up stranded away from its queen-side pawns (as later happened). Thus, as neither side was confident enough to change the position, there follows a series of errors. 47...c6 48.a4 Kc7

48.Qd3+ Ke8 49.Qe4+ Kd7 50.Qf5+?

50.Qxh4 was simply best, as after 50...Ke6 51.Qe4+ Kxf6 52.Qxb7 White has a healthy extra pawn and, more importantly, Black's king is on the wrong side of the board.

50...Kd8?

50...Kd6! was the correct defense here, since after 51.Qf4+ Ke6 52.Qxh4 Qxf6 53.Qe4+ Kd7 54.Qxb7 Qf1+ Black has a perpetual check: 55.Ka2 Qc4+

51.Qg5?

Washington Class Championship 2024: Kasparov (Class B) 1600-1799

#	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Total pts	Prize
1	Nedumpurakkal Thahir, Ihsan Mo	1771	W23	W5	W20	W4	L3	W9	5	Shared 1st/2nd
2	Nallappa, Vijay	1714	W12	D13	D16	W7	W5	W3	5	Shared 1st/2nd
3	Johnson, Brandon	1669	W29	W8	W21	H---	W1	L2	4.5	3rd
4	Kuhner, Mary	1763	W24	W15	W14	L1	D9	D10	4	
5	Bhatia, Tanush	1677	W19	L1	W24	W29	L2	W16	4	Shared 1st U1700/2nd U1700
6	Ayalew, Brook	1665	W25	L14	W12	D8	D10	W18	4	Shared 1st U1700/2nd U1700
7	Davies, Cedric	1655	L20	W30	W25	L2	W29	W21	4	Shared 1st U1700/2nd U1700
8	Liu, Bichen	1648	W10	L3	W17	D6	D16	W14	4	Shared 1st U1700/2nd U1700
9	Dann, William	1583	D28	W32	W22	W14	D4	L1	4	Shared 1st U1700/2nd U1700
10	Cheng, Selina	1787	L8	D17	B---	W13	D6	D4	3.5	
11	Gadde, Arnav	1710	W30	L20	W13	D16	D18	D12	3.5	
12	Maharaja, Imai	1606	L2	W23	L6	W25	W15	D11	3.5	
13	Kodrapu, Neev	1474	W32	D2	L11	L10	W31	W22	3.5	
14	Rubaiyat, Rhadean	1725	W18	W6	L4	L9	W20	L8	3	
15	Anandkumar, Haituka	1628	W26	L4	D31	D21	L12	W30	3	
16	Iyengar, Varun	1627	D22	W28	D2	D11	D8	L5	3	
17	Cen, Evan	1623	D27	D10	L8	W26	D22	D20	3	
18	Sankrithi, Sarang	1613	L14	D26	W28	W31	D11	L6	3	
19	Arivoli, Muthukurisi	1575	L5	L24	D23	W30	H---	W29	3	
20	Mulye, Tejas	1485	W7	W11	L1	D22	L14	D17	3	
21	Syal, Yash	1602	B---	D27	L3	D15	W24	L7	3	
22	Wachira, William	1791	D16	W31	L9	D20	D17	L13	2.5	
23	Raja, Rian	1620	L1	L12	D19	D24	B---	D25	2.5	
24	Marcelais, Kai	1618	L4	W19	L5	D23	L21	W31	2.5	
25	Chang, Allen	1545	L6	B---	L7	L12	W32	D23	2.5	
26	Xu, Zoe	1459	L15	D18	W32	L17	D27	H---	2.5	
27	Pitre, H G	1748	D17	D21	L29	H---	D26	U---	2	
28	Allen, Robert J	1700	D9	L16	L18	H---	L30	B---	2	
29	Buck, Stephen J	1600	L3	B---	W27	L5	L7	L19	2	
30	Sharma, Devansh	1587	L11	L7	B---	L19	W28	L15	2	
31	Sankrithi, Siva	1400	B---	L22	D15	L18	L13	L24	1.5	
32	Stahl, Darren	1649	L13	L9	L26	B---	L25	U---	1	

51.Qd3+ The only way to win, transposing back to the position from a few moves ago.

51...Kd7?

Allowing White one more chance to get a technically winning queen endgame. 51...h3! was a tougher defense. White

thought 52.Qg7 Ke8 53.Qh8+ Qf8 54.Qxh3 Qxf6 55.Qc8+ was good in that case, but missed 55...Qd8! from afar. After 56.Qxb7 Qd1+ 57.Ka2 Qxc2 this position will end in a draw.

52.Qg4+ Kd6 53.Qxh4

Finally, White takes the chance.

53...Ke6

53...Ke5 54.Qg5+ Ke6 55.Qf4±

54.Qe4+ Kxf6 55.Qxb7 Qc4!

55...Ke6 56.Qc6+! Ke5 57.b3±

56.Qf3+!

Pushing the king away.

Washington Class Championship 2024: Karpov (Class C) 1400-1599

#	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Total pts	Prize
1	Nam, Jinmo	1569	W29	W16	D21	W6	W22	W8	5.5	1st
2	Chan, Aiden	1403	W24	W47	W5	L3	W14	W9	5	2nd
3	Adair, Derek	1599	W19	D6	W17	W2	D9	D5	4.5	Shared 3rd
4	Subramanian, Thrinay	1544	D44	L9	W38	W37	W21	W20	4.5	Shared 3rd
5	Polonsky, Daniel	1527	W45	W20	L2	B---	W12	D3	4.5	Shared 3rd
6	Krishnan, Advait	1501	W32	D3	W7	L1	W16	W18	4.5	Shared 3rd
7	Manzon Jr, Pablo	1500	W41	D13	L6	W39	W25	W22	4.5	Shared 3rd
8	Yates, Daniel	1273	W36	D14	W15	W34	W13	L1	4.5	1st U1500
9	Venkatachalam, Kedar*	1554	H---	W4	W27	W21	D3	L2	4	
10	Siddem, Sid	1476	W50	D15	D13	W33	D20	D11	4	Shared 2nd U1500
11	Lebedinsky, Alexander	1455	X---	W49	L22	H---	W34	D10	4	Shared 2nd U1500
12	Raj, Skandha	1186	W38	L34	W51	W36	L5	W24	4	Shared 2nd U1500
13	Skandann, Kiann	1585	W52	D7	D10	W44	L8	D17	3.5	
14	Kumar, Ramesh	1581	D28	D8	H---	W43	L2	W36	3.5	
15	Li, Shawn	1547	W43	D10	L8	D17	D19	W37	3.5	
16	Yim, Dylan	1484	W42	L1	H---	W41	L6	W40	3.5	
17	Ganesan, Vidur	1480	D33	X23	L3	D15	W32	D13	3.5	
18	Goupinets, Andrew	1473	L22	W30	W49	W40	H---	L6	3.5	
19	Gupta, Krishang	1470	L3	W53	L46	W49	D15	W34	3.5	
20	Babbar, Riaan	1468	B---	L5	W47	W46	D10	L4	3.5	
21	Marinescu, Andra	1451	X---	W25	D1	L9	L4	W35	3.5	
22	Shuman, Steve	1408	W18	W26	W11	H---	L1	L7	3.5	
23	Mohan, Vishnu	1571	H---	F17	L42	W48	W46	D27	3	
24	Liu, Vincent	1521	L2	W48	D43	D32	W44	L12	3	
25	Stroud, Jeb	1513	W53	L21	D41	W27	L7	D28	3	
26	Dhawan, Viraj	1501	W30	L22	L40	H---	W39	D29	3	
27	Evin, Terrick	1470	W31	D39	L9	L25	W45	D23	3	
28	Ma, Lewis	1468	D14	D46	L33	D42	W41	D25	3	
29	Wong, Kate	1456	L1	L32	D48	W52	W47	D26	3	
30	Carper, Jack	1423	L26	L18	L35	B---	W49	W46	3	
31	Ghosh, Snehil	1407	L27	W35	L44	X51	D36	D38	3	
32	Chaudhuri, Arihant	1349	L6	W29	D37	D24	L17	W44	3	
33	Lindgren, Dustin	unr.	D17	D37	W28	L10	H---	H---	3	
34	Hendricks, David	1529	D40	W12	W39	L8	L11	L19	2.5	
35	Huang, Emily	1482	L49	L31	W30	W50	D40	L21	2.5	
36	Li, Edgar	1481	L8	W45	W50	L12	D31	L14	2.5	
37	He, Oliver	1480	D46	D33	D32	L4	W43	L15	2.5	
38	Yadlapati, Arush	1448	L12	D51	L4	H---	W42	D31	2.5	
39	Kwan-Uchiyama, Avery	1443	W51	D27	L34	L7	L26	W47	2.5	
40	Gao, Ziqian	1428	D34	D44	W26	L18	D35	L16	2.5	
41	Vijeyanandh, Vishnu	1319	L7	W52	D25	L16	L28	W48	2.5	
42	Yang, Jimmy	1314	L16	L43	W23	D28	L38	B---	2.5	
43	Kokati, Pranav	1445	L15	W42	D24	L14	L37	D45	2	
44	Rao, Atharv	1431	D4	D40	W31	L13	L24	L32	2	
45	Foltenyi, Vilmos	1410	L5	L36	W52	D47	L27	D43	2	
46	Wu, Shanna	1264	D37	D28	W19	L20	L23	L30	2	
47	Rao, Deepak Sri Kartikeya	1527	W48	L2	L20	D45	L29	L39	1.5	
48	Avula, Guru Harshith Reddy	1428	L47	L24	D29	L23	B---	L41	1.5	
49	Hard, Adam	1418	W35	L11	L18	L19	L30	U---	1	
50	Black, Justin	unr.	L10	B---	L36	L35	U---	U---	1	
51	Shinkarev, Slava	1577	L39	D38	L12	F31	U---	U---	0.5	
52	Foltenyi, Alex	1468	L13	L41	L45	L29	U---	U---	0	
53	Boddy, Kyle	1358	L25	L19	U---	U---	U---	U---	0	

56...Ke7 57.Qe3+!

Cutting the king as the d-file is poisoned due to 58.Qd3+.

57...Kf6?



Position after 57...Kf6

A mistake—or could it be a swindling attempt?—but White misses their chance, again due to a miscalculation. 57...Kf8 is objectively better but still lost after 58.b3+.

58.Qc3+??

A tempting but ultimately wrong idea, falling for the alleged swindle. It turns out that this particular pawn endgame is drawn. White thought that despite his doubled pawns, they could push the king to b4, exchange pawns on c5, and then win the resulting two-vs-one pawn endgame. However, Black has a subtle defense against this plan! 58.b3! is instead a winner here, as Black cannot prevent the loss of c7. 58...Qh4 (58...Qf1+ 59.Kb2 c5 60.Qh6+; 58...Qc6?? 59.Qh6+) 59.Qc3+

58...Qxc3 59.bxc3 Ke5 60.Kb2 Kd5 61.Kb3

So far both sides have played as planned, and White seems to be making the progress they wanted. 62.Kb4 looks imminent, after which White would win. However, Black has an only, yet sufficient, defense!

61...Kc5??

An intuitive and active move to play, especially in time trouble. But this allows White to force the desired exchange of the c3-pawn, after which the remaining pawn ending is simple and winning. So, it wasn't a swindle after all. 61...c5!! is the less intuitive and correct move. The key idea is that White simply cannot make further progress, as Black's pawns and active king stop White's king. 62.a4 (62.Ka4 is one attempt, but it ends the game immediately: 62...Kc4! and the "weaker" side stalemates the "stronger" side! 62...Kd6 63.Kc4 (63.c4 Ke5 64.Kc3 Ke4 65.Kb2 Ke3 66.Ka3 Kd4 67.Kb3 Ke3) 63...Kc6

62.c4!

Now White is back on the winning track and converts confidently.

62...c6 63.a4!

Preparing for Black's idea of pushing b6-b5, such that White's a-pawn would advance rather than remain backward on a3 (and lead to a draw).

63...b5

63...Kd6 64.Kb4+-

64.cxb5 cxb5 65.a5 b4 66.Ka4 Kc6 67.Kxb4

The rest is truly elementary technique and requires no comments.

67...Kb7 68.c4 Kc6 69.c5 Kb7 70.Kb5 Ka7 71.Kc6 Kb8 72.Kd7 Kb7 73.c6+ Kb8 74.c7+ Ka7

Hoping for 75.c8Q?? with a stalemate, but against serious opponents this is not a probable chance.

75.Kc6 Ka6 76.c8Q+ Kxa5 77.Qg4 Ka6 78.Qa4#

Quite an interesting game overall. Black chose a challenging line against White's opening preparation and seemed to have reached equality as a result. However, White kept generating chances into the endgame (even after missing a few good opportunities). In the end, Black's time trouble led to a crucial and subtle error that allowed White to win.

1-0

Mary Kuhner (1710) –
Rhadean Rubaiyat (1583) [B22]

Washington Class (Class B)
Redmond, WA (R3), November 30, 2024
[Mary Kuhner]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.c3 Nf6 4.e5 Nd5
5.Bc4 Nb6 6.Bb3 d5 7.d4

The engine favors 7.exd6.

Washington Class Championship 2024: Fischer (Class D) 1200-1399

#	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Total pts	Prize
1	Jordan, Christian	1347	D8	W6	W14	W16	W4	D2	5	1st
2	Stroud, James	1352	W19	W9	W7	L4	W6	D1	4.5	Shared 2nd/3rd/1st U1300
3	Narkhede, Kshitij	1348	L12	D18	W17	W21	W16	W9	4.5	Shared 2nd/3rd/1st U1300
4	Zhang, Bowen	1289	W17	W12	D16	W2	L1	W7	4.5	Shared 2nd/3rd/1st U1300
5	Alvarado, Alexander	1317	L9	W22	W15	L6	W11	W8	4	
6	Mishra, Aakash	1201	B---	L1	W11	W5	L2	W14	4	2nd U1300
7	Yun, Daniel D	1367	W13	W15	L2	D8	W12	L4	3.5	
8	Zou, Jinhan	1219	D1	W20	W10	D7	D9	L5	3.5	
9	Avula, Varshith Reddy	1205	W5	L2	W21	W14	D8	L3	3.5	
10	Lopez, Daniel	1366	L14	W19	L8	D15	W22	D12	3	
11	Ma, Ziliang	1303	W21	L14	L6	W18	L5	W19	3	
12	He, Jizhou	1274	W3	L4	D18	W22	L7	D10	3	
13	Keane, Brendan	1267	L7	L21	W19	L20	W18	W16	3	
14	Wang, Harvey	1235	W10	W11	L1	L9	W20	L6	3	
15	Choi, Hunter	1270	W22	L7	L5	D10	H---	H---	2.5	
16	Xu, Yang	1244	W18	W17	D4	L1	L3	L13	2.5	
17	Patnaik, Rishabhdeva	1371	L4	L16	L3	L19	B---	W20	2	
18	Deng, Arthur	1305	L16	D3	D12	L11	L13	W22	2	
19	Wang, Hengsheen	1231	L2	L10	L13	W17	W21	L11	2	
20	Randall, Dylan	1328	H---	L8	L22	W13	L14	L17	1.5	
21	Martin, Olin	1393	L11	W13	L9	L3	L19	U---	1	
22	Fobian, Christian	1384	L15	L5	W20	L12	L10	L18	1	

7...cxd4 8.cxd4 Bg4

The Delayed Alapin is a true chameleon, and this one now looks like a Caro-Kann Advance Variation—an opening I haven't played in around 40 years and don't know.

9.Be3 e6 10.0-0 Be7 11.Nbd2 0-0 12.Re1?

With the plan of Nf1–Ng3 but this fails miserably; I'm now quite a bit worse. The opening has gone very well for Black.

12...Bb4!

It suddenly becomes apparent that I will have to give up either an important pawn, or the health of my kingside pawn structure.

13.a3 Bxd2 14.Qxd2 Bxf3 15.gxf3

What have I got in return for my bad pawns? Well, the g-file and the bishop pair. While I figured I was worse, I also thought I might be able to do something with that.

15...Nc4 16.Qe2 b5 17.Kh1



Position after 17.Kh1

17...Ne7?!

The engine says this throws away Black's advantage. I thought it was a natural

move, bringing a piece to the kingside for defense. It would like to see ...f5 or ...Qh4 instead. The position is Frenchy enough that I'm not surprised ...f6 and ...f5 keep showing up among the best lines. Black didn't want to undouble my f-pawns, but that's shortly going to be the least of his problems...

18.Bg5 Qd7 19.Rg1 Nf5

19...Kh8 is probably safer.

20.Bf6

Pounce!



Position after 20.Bf6

20...g6

My opponent took a long time here and established that this was the best of a set of bad options. Stockfish agrees. After the game my opponent's friends asked why he didn't play 20...Kh8 which looks safer. He said something to the effect of, I've been sitting next to her every round, I know how she plays, she'd sacrifice the rook. Indeed I was drooling to do exactly that: 21.Rxg7! Nxg7 22.Rg1 Rg8 23.Bxc4 dxc4 (23...bxc4 24.Qe3 Qe8 25.Qg5 Qf8 26.h4) 24.Qe3 Qe8 and now 25.Qg5 was my idea (Stockfish prefers the more prosaic 25.Qh6 Qf8 26.Rg4 Rd8 27.Rh4

c3 28.Qxh7#) 25...Qf8 is forced but now Black has no recourse against h4–h5–h6–hxg7 as his extra rook can roam the board but cannot do anything, touching the h-pawn leads to a snap mate, and none of his other pieces can move.

21.Rad1

Now I had a psychological problem. I kept thinking about the rook sac, which clearly will never happen now; I had trouble tearing myself loose to think about the actual position. I finally resolved that with a position this juicy I'd find a different sac...

21...h5?

It wasn't good, but after this it's hopeless. Black is not going to be able to defend his over-extended kingside, and his queenside pieces can't help because of the bishop plus pawn chain dividing the board in half. The last chance was to tackle the problem of the Bf6 immediately: 21...Ng7 22.f4 Ne8 23.Bg5 f6 and White is only a little better.

22.Rg5 Kh7 23.f4

To give my pieces access to h5. I can't get in on the dark squares so, as Vukovic says in *The Art of Attack*, I need to sac something on a light square.

23...Kh6

Otherwise, I'm already sacrificing on h5. In fact, I still could, but I didn't see that. This will be a theme of the remainder of the game: I am slowly and inexorably preparing the sac, but in fact passed up several tactically difficult chances to play it earlier.

24.Rd3 Qc6

Washington Class Championship 2024: Spassky (Class E) 1000-1199

#	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Total pts	Prize
1	Bates, Killian	1040	W15	W14	W11	W7	W8	W3	6	1st
2	Zhang, Michael M	1177	W9	L5	H---	W14	H---	W7	4	Shared 2nd/3rd/1st U1100
3	Chaurasia, Vihaan	1120	L6	W12	W15	W5	W11	L1	4	Shared 2nd/3rd/1st U1100
4	Khudyev, Elina	1080	L5	L7	B---	W15	W13	W8	4	Shared 2nd/3rd/1st U1100
5	Mckendry, Matthew	1171	W4	W2	L8	L3	D10	W15	3.5	
6	Huang, Clora	1032	W3	D11	L10	W13	L7	W14	3.5	Shared 2nd U1100
7	Qin, Skyler	1021	W8	W4	D9	L1	W6	L2	3.5	Shared 2nd U1100
8	Smith, Andrew	1130	L7	W9	W5	W10	L1	L4	3	
9	Black, Stas	1111	L2	L8	D7	B---	W15	D10	3	
10	Kumar, Rishuraj	1040	L11	B---	W6	L8	D5	D9	3	
11	Liu, Bihe	1130	W10	D6	L1	W12	L3	L13	2.5	
12	Beck, Caleb	887	D13	L3	B---	L11	W14	U---	2.5	
13	Sembium, Aditi	1057	D12	L15	D14	L6	L4	W11	2	
14	Yu, Eric	1075	X16	L1	D13	L2	L12	L6	1.5	
15	Lin, Luna	1120	L1	W13	L3	L4	L9	L5	1	
16	Vinoth Ganapathy, Pavithran	1025	F14	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	0	

24...Nce3 25.Rxe3 Nxe3 26.Qxe3 Rac8 27.f5 Kh7 28.fxg6+ fxg6 29.Rxg6 Rc1+ 30.Kg2 Kxg6 31.Qg5+ Kh7 32.Qxh5+ Kg8 33.Qg6+ Qg7 34.Qxg7# is a computer line I might not have found, but as I haven't yet given up material, I can just take the knight...

25.Rh3

Here's another chance: 25.Rxh5+ gxf5 26.Bd1 Ng7 27.Bxg7+ Kxg7 28.Rg3+ and mates.

25...Ng7 26.Bd1

I love the esthetics of this move: every single white piece is focused on h5 except the dark-squared bishop, and that bishop—which in the previous line was worth a rook, and is about to be worth two rooks—is preventing any helpful black response to the threatened sacs. Also, I was thwarted in sacrificing one rook and was chomping at the bit to sacrifice two. (In fact, the sac was also winning on moves 24 and 25 but harder to calculate, and Black seems unable to free his position so it doesn't hurt to set things up thoroughly.)

26...Kh7 27.Rgxf5+

The computer shows off with 27.Qxh5+ Nxh5 28.Rxh5+ gxf5 29.Bc2+ Kh6 30.Bg7# but one shouldn't play a hard

to calculate line when an easier one is at hand...

27...gxf5 28.Rxh5+ Kg8

28...Nxh5 29.Qxh5+ Kg8 30.Qh8#; 28...Kg6 29.Qg4#

29.Qg4

The bishop of doom has the last word. My favorite game of the tournament.

1-0

Stephen Buck (1600) – Cedric Davies (1655) [A87]
Washington Class (Class B)
Redmond, WA (R5), December 1, 2024
[Cedric Davies]

My favorite game from the tournament. No big mistakes. Went up a pawn in the early middle game. Got into an ending a pawn up with a better knight vs bishop and converted with nice endgame technique.

1.c4 f5 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6 4.g3 Bg7 5.Bg2 0-0 6.Nf3 d6 7.0-0 c6 8.Qb3 Qe8 9.d5 Na6

The knight is well placed here. A small fight ensues over control of the c5-square.

10.Be3 e5 11.dxe6 Qxe6

Computer offers this line as being better

11...Ng4 12.Bf4 Ne5 13.e7 Rf7

12.Ng5

Does not really accomplish anything and will be kicked away soon.

12...Qe7 13.Rad1

Rxd6 is now a threat.

13...h6 14.Nf3 Be6 15.Qa4 Ng4



Position after 15...Ng4

I feel like over the past few moves, my position has improved while his has not. This move wins the important c5-square.

16.Bd4 Bxd4 17.Nxd4

Rxd4 was expected to protect the c4-pawn.

17...Nc5 18.Qc2 Bxc4 19.b3 Bf7 20.e4

Interesting try to open things up. White is

Washington Class Championship 2024: Petrosian U1000										
#	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Total pts	Prize
1	Han, Kaiyi	987	W23	W20	W10	W4	W2	L3	5	Shared 1st/2nd/3rd
2	Dsa, Orwin	814	B---	W19	W14	W7	L1	W8	5	
3	Foster, Chad	746	L5	W6	W13	W11	W8	W1	5	
4	Jacob, Salome	973	W25	W14	W5	L1	H---	W9	4.5	Shared 1st/2nd/3rd
5	Liguori, Catherine	946	W3	W15	L4	D17	W7	W12	4.5	
6	Randall, Simon	862	L15	L3	W25	W18	W19	W13	4	
7	Razmov, Siana	980	W17	W13	D9	L2	L5	W15	3.5	
8	Anbuselvam, Mithran	940	H---	W16	W20	W9	L3	L2	3.5	
9	Wu, Jayden	936	W21	W12	D7	L8	W17	L4	3.5	
10	Ge, Emma	924	L20	W23	L1	W21	D11	W17	3.5	
11	Gu, Vincent	873	L22	W21	W18	L3	D10	W19	3.5	
12	Jem, Ann	840	W18	L9	W24	W15	H---	L5	3.5	
13	Wong, Claire	905	X26	L7	L3	W22	W16	L6	3	
14	Wu, Jonathan	893	X27	L4	L2	W24	L15	W21	3	
15	Zhang, Patrick	830	W6	L5	W22	L12	W14	L7	3	
16	Covey, Lashawna	620	B---	L8	H---	H---	L13	W24	3	1st U800
17	Yu, Meng	801	L7	W22	W19	D5	L9	L10	2.5	
18	Astafyeva, Olga	310	L12	B---	L11	L6	D24	W22	2.5	2nd U800
19	Tsay, Elon	915	W24	L2	L17	W20	L6	L11	2	
20	Davies, Damien	812	W10	L1	L8	L19	L21	B---	2	
21	Astafiev, Vitaly	607	L9	L11	B---	L10	W20	L14	2	
22	Chim, Zander	560	W11	L17	L15	L13	B---	L18	2	1st U600
23	Wheeler, Eliza	871	L1	L10	B---	H---	U---	U---	1.5	
24	O'Sullivan, Colin	606	L19	W25	L12	L14	D18	L16	1.5	
25	Deepak, Sairaghav	748	L4	L24	L6	B---	U---	U---	1	
26	Tan, Talen	597	F13	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	0	
27	Ram, Krishna	336	F14	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	0	



(L-R) Claire Wong, Jonathan Wu, and WCF Member-at-Large Ani Barua engage in a riveting discussion. Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.

slightly worse due to being a pawn down.

20...fxe4 21.Nxe4 Nxe4 22.Bxe4 Qf6 23.h3 Ne5 24.f4 Nd7

Black has nothing to fear from the pawn pushes. White risks opening up their own king.

25.f5 g5 26.g4



Position after 26.g4

White has established a passed pawn on f5, but it is well blockaded. And the best piece to blockade is the knight. I aim for a small reshuffling of my pieces to get the knight to f6.

26...Qe5

Threatening Qg3+.

27.Bg2 Nf6?

The one move I wasn't happy with. I played it too quickly. This allows Ne6 possibilities, because of Bxe6 fxe6 Qxe6 Qg6+. I should have played first Rae8

or Kg7 to shore up the position before posting the knight to f6.

28.Rfe1

28.Ne6 Bxe6 29.fxe6 Kg7 30.Rfe1 Qa5=

28...Qc5

Realizing my mistake, I was happy to have this move that practically forces queens off the board.

29.Qxc5 dxc5 30.Ne6 Bxe6 31.Rxe6.

31.fxe6 Rfe8 32.Rc1 Kg7 33.Rxc5 Rad8 34.b4 a6 35.a4 Rd6 36.Rce5 Re7= Black still has a small edge in the endgame and will likely pick up the e6-pawn, but it is better for White than the game.

31...Rae8 32.Red6 Kg7



Position after 32...Kg7

Not only does Black have an extra pawn, but here the knight is better than the bishop. The bishop's influence is significantly reduced by the c6-pawn,

and importantly the knight covers the infiltration square d7. Only Black can play for a win here.

33.Kf2 Re5

It helps that Black can now double rooks, while still protecting the c5-pawn.

34.Bf3 Rfe8 35.R1d2 R8e7 36.Rd8

Here White offered me a draw. Nope, I came here to play! Let me show you my endgame technique. :)

36...h5!

Now that I've improved my position and placed all my pieces on their best squares, I start to work on creating a weakness on the kingside.

37.R8d3 a5

And now the other side of the board! I threaten ...a4 now or later, weakening his queenside pawns. Here ...Ne4+ Bxe4 Rxe4 was under serious consideration. But I felt it better to set up the position for weaknesses before going for that type of line.

38.Rc2 hxc4

I first create the g4-weakness and then challenge him for control of the d-file. I have an advantage in that I know he doesn't want to trade pieces, and so I can force him to make concessions.

39.hxc4 Rd7 40.Rdc3

40.Rxd7+ Nxd7 41.Rd2

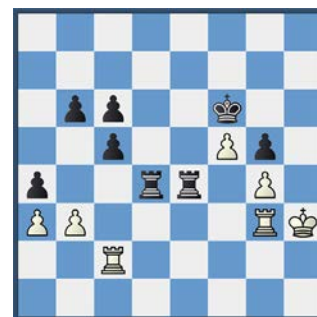
40...Ne4+ 41.Bxe4 Rxe4

After trading minor pieces, White has a lot of problems due to his weak g4-pawn.

42.Rg3?+

Too passive. The alternative Rxc5 at least keeps the white rooks active. **42.Rxc5 Rxc4 43.Rxa5 Kf6**

42...b6 43.Kg2 Kf6 44.a3 Rdd4 45.Kh3 a4!



Position after 45...a4

Now creating a target on the queenside

while the white king and rook wait passively protecting g4.

46.bxa4 Rxa4 47.Rd2?

47.Rb3 Ke5 48.Rxb6 Rxa3+ 49.Kh2 Kd6 50.Rb8 Rxc4 51.Rd8+ Ke7 52.Rg8 c4—

47...Rad4

Nope! You can't have the file, it is mine (queue evil laughter). Again, White doesn't want to trade, which I use to my benefit to shut down all potential counterplay.

48.Rb2 b5 49.Rc2 c4 50.Rb2 Rd3 51.a4 Ree3

Note the technique. This is better to keep the king farther away from the queenside than the alternative ...Rxc3+ Kxc3 Re3+ Kf2

52.Rxc3 Rxc3+ 53.Kg2 Rb3

Again, I use the fact that White can't trade to my benefit.

54.Re2 bxa4 55.Re6+ Kf7 56.Rxc6 c3 57.Kf2 a3 58.Ke2 a2 59.Ra6 Rb2+ 60.Kd1

60.Kd3 c2 61.Kd2 Rb1 62.Kxc2 a1Q

60...Rb1+

I like how I handled the ending in this game. Not rushing. Improving my position before going for breaks. Keeping control of important files and not allowing counterplay.

0-1

Dustin Lindgren –

Oliver He (1386) [B23]

Washington Class (Class C)

Redmond, WA (R2), November 29, 2024

[Dustin Lindgren]

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.Bxc6

Against the Sicilian Defense I like to take the knight on c6 and play against what will hopefully be a pawn weakness on the c-file. b takes and d takes are both valid, but I think d takes plays against this setup slightly better for Black.

4...dxc6 5.d3 e6 6.f4 Qc7 7.Nf3 Be7 8.b3 b6 9.Qd2

I have to hold f4 with the queen because Black's queen is on c7 for some reason, and I'm going for a queenside castle/kingside attack with Bb2.

9...Bb7 10.Bb2 a5 11.a4 0-0-0 12.0-0-0

Black agrees the kingside is too dangerous



*Dustin Lindgren resides in both Boise and Seattle. This is his first tournament.
Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.*

so we both take the queenside.

12...Kb8 13.g3 Rhf8 14.Qe2 Ba6 15.Ne5 Kb7



Position after 15...Kb7

Here I understood that all the tension would revolve around ...b5. That's how Black plans on attacking, so my goal is to make ...b5 as unpleasant as I can. This was a long think, but I was happy with Nc4 aiming for Na3 to prevent b5. After Nc4 can Black play ...b5? Yes, and it is the best move, but I was hoping for further preparation before the push. The computer does not like Nc4 and we go from an evaluation of +1.5 to +0.6. A rook move or Nb1 would have been better, which is hard to see with all the tension

on b5.

16.Nc4 Ka7 17.Na3 Qb7

I get my idea, and he still insists on ...b5, well this makes Nc4 good again.

18.Nc4 Kb8 19.Nb1 Qa7 20.Nbd2 Bc8 21.Bc3 Ka8 22.Nf3 h6 23.Nfe5 Bb7 24.Kb2 Ne8 25.Ng4 Qa6

For a while Black cannot decide what to do and shuffles their pieces around. I make improvements to my position without committing to anything too aggressive. There are still only white pieces on White's side and black pieces on Black's side. Computer gives this position +3.3 on even material because Black does not have hardly any good options, and White can basically do whatever they want. A queenside breakthrough doesn't look too good with the queen and king lined up on the a-file, and a1 being free for a rook as well.

26.Qe1 Rc8 27.Nge5 Bd8 28.h4 Bc7 29.g4 Rd8 30.h5 b5

The long awaited ...b5, something has to happen or Black will simply be lost. Evaluation is +5.0 for White after a takes.

31.Nxa5

Blunder by White. I saw b4 and miscalculated that after b4 I'd save my knight by trading it off on b7. However, this allows ...c3 to be taken with check, and then the knight will also be taken on b7. I lose a piece, however, I win three great pawns.

31...b4 32.Nxb7 bxc3+ 33.Qxc3 Kxb7 34.Qxc5 Bxe5+

After realizing this blunder I assumed that I had an advantage, and now it is back to equal, even though I'm down a piece. Computer agrees giving this position -0.2 for the best move or 0.0 for others.

35.Qxe5 Qb6 36.g5 Qd4+

Black wants an endgame up a piece.

37.Qxd4 Rxd4 38.c3 Rd8

Position is equal, I have every starting pawn still on its own file, more space, breakthrough possibilities, a pretty good king, three on one pawns, but I do not have a knight.

39.d4 Nd6 40.Rde1 Rde8 41.Rhg1 Rg8 42.c4 g6



Position after 42...g6

Blunder by Black, with the only move being gxf6. I did not think there was a difference between g takes and h takes so I missed this opportunity. "Always take towards the center" or something.

I thought after hxg6, Rxf6, gxf6, Rxf6, then Rg7 would be an advantage. I missed their response to Rg7.

43.c5 Nc8 44.hxg6 Rxf6 45.gxf6 Rxf6 46.Rg7 Rf6

Great move by Black, equal position, I have to defend some pawns.

47.Rf1 Rh8 48.Rg4 Ne7 49.Kc3

Initially I thought ...Rh3 was not an issue because of something like Kc4. After thinking about it for a while on my opponent's turn though, I realized it was. This would have been the best move for Black giving Black -3.3. I think they

decided against it for the same reason I didn't think it was a threat, that my king would be better on c4.

49...Rhh6 50.Rf3 Rfg6 51.Rfg3 Rxf6 52.Rxf6 Rf6

I realized I have to defend my f-pawn because of knight g6. Equal position.

53.Kd3 Ng6 54.Kc3 Ne7 55.b4 Ng6 56.b5 cxb5

It appears that Black couldn't find anything worth doing and probably also assumes this is a draw no matter what. However, they allowed this a bit too easily and White is back to +5.0 with some passed pawns that are close to promoting and Black's pieces are stuck on the queenside.

57.axb5 Ne7 58.Rg2 Ng6 59.Rf2 Ne7 60.b6

Surprisingly b6 is a blunder by White, I thought that the simple plan of getting a rook to a7 would probably result in a win, but Black has one move to draw the game, and they found it.

60...Rh6 61.Kd3 Rh3+ 62.Kc4 Re3 63.Ra2 Nc6

...Nc6 is the problem, it's much harder to remove than it would appear and a7 has been defused. d5 won't work because of Rxe4+.

64.f5 Rxe4 65.fxe6 fxe6 66.Kc3

This was surprisingly the only move to maintain a draw.

66...Rh4 67.Rd2 Rh5 68.Re2 Rh6 69.Re3 Nd8 70.Rd3 Kc6 71.Kc4 Rh5 72.Rf3 Rh7 73.Rf8 Rd7 74.Rf6 Rd5 75.Rg6 Rd7 76.Rh6 Rd5

Well, this is a drawn position, let's make it fancy.

77.b7 Kxb7 78.Rxe6 Rxd4+

Back to back rook sacrifices and the game is over after Nxe6+ so we agreed to a draw. This 78-move draw took over four hours and was emotionally exhausting going back and forth between a draw or a potential win.

The piece blunder could have been avoided with more careful consideration of b4 but just getting to that point was mentally draining. ~80.7 accuracy for White to ~79.5 accuracy for Black, and I did drop a piece so a draw is a great outcome even though I missed multiple winning opportunities.

½-½

Emma Ge (924) –

Damien Davies (812) [B50]

Washington Class (Under 1000)

Redmond, WA (R1), November 29, 2024

[Cedric Davies]

Damien, my son, is a 12-year old boy. He plays a great game here, showing some nice tactics and good strategic understanding. Although she falls in this game, Emma also plays a nice game, and she's a girl of just seven years. As both a chess parent and a chess enthusiast, I am both proud and amazed at the quality of play by Washington youngsters. Chess has a bright future in Washington if these kids keep it up.

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 g6 3.Bc4 Bg7 4.Nc3 Nc6 5.d3 d6 6.Be3 Nf6 7.0-0 0-0 8.Qd2 Bd7 9.Bh6 Re8

Due to the pressure on f7, with a potential Ng5 coming, I would prefer to keep the rook on f8.

10.Bxg7 Kxg7 11.h3= a6 12.a4 Nb4 13.Rfe1 Rb8

I like the plan of playing for a ...b5 break. To be considered here is playing ...b6, to prevent the opponent from playing a5. But before that Black probably needs to play ...e5 to stop White's potential e5-break.

14.a5 b6

Black needs to stop White from making the ...e5 break. 14...e5=

15.axb6 Qxb6 16.Nd5?

16.e5! dxe5 17.Nxe5 Rf8 18.Nxd7 Nxd7 19.Rxe7 Nf6±

16...Nbxnd5 17.exd5= Qxb2 18.Bb3



Position after 18.Bb3

White makes an interesting choice here. She is attempting to trap Black's queen with a threat of Reb1. 18.Rxa6

18...Rxb3!?

A wise decision. Instead of trying to make an escape for his queen, Damien sacs the

Exchange. In compensation he picks up a pawn and will likely pick up the d5-pawn as well.

19.cxb3 Qxb3 20.Reb1

20.d4 c4 21.Reb1 Qd3 22.Qxd3 cxd3

20...Qxd5 21.Rxa6 Bxh3! 22.gxh3?

White would be better not taking the bishop as it opens up her king.

22...Qxf3 23.Qe3 Qd5!



Position after 23...Qd5

Damien rightly decides to keep queens on the board. With White's king partly exposed and his control of the center, he has better attacking chances with the ladies remaining on the board.

24.Rb5?!

Leaving the back rank is dangerous here.

24...Re8!?

Interesting idea, fighting for the activity of his rook and sacrificing the e7-pawn in the process. If White accepts the sacrifice, the open e-file will work to Damien's benefit.

25.Qxe7?

Who can resist a free pawn? Unfortunately for White, taking the pawn helps Black by opening up the e-file for his rook.

25...Qxd3?

Damien is also tempted to win a pawn, though here it was better to immediately take control of the newly opened e-file.

25...Re8! White must now give up her queen or allow a forced mate 26.Qc7 Re1+ 27.Kh2 Qh1+ 28.Kg3 Rg1+ 29.Kh4 (29.Kf4 Nd5#) 29...Rg4#

26.Qb7

26.Ra7 Qd1+ (26...Qxb5? This very plausible mistake would allow White back into the game 27.Qxf7+ Kh6 28.Qxf6=) 27.Kh2 Qd5 28.Rbb7 Rf8

26...Re8

Damien takes over the file. Re1+ is a

Northwest Chess



*Neevan R. Saddi (L) and Vidip Kona analyze a position.
Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.*

deadly threat.

27.Ra1

To prevent Re1+. Probably it was better to stop the threat with the other rook, in order to preserve the option of playing Ra7

27...Qxh3

Strongly threatening ...Ng4.

28.Qg2

Again White offers a trade of queens to stem the attack.

28...Qd3

And again, Damien smartly rejects the trade. Here he gains a tempo by attacking the rook and prepares for his own rook-lift.

29.Rab1 c4!

Prevents R5b3.

30.Qc6 Re4

The rook enters the attack with deadly effect.

31.Rb7 Rg4+ 32.Kh2 Rh4+ 33.Kg1 Qh3

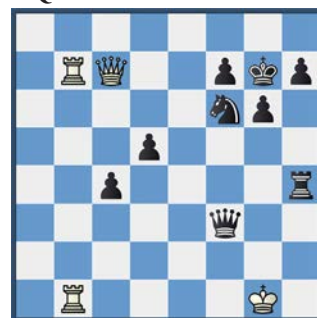
Rg4+ is the threat.

34.f3 d5

Nice move! Damien blocks the White queen's defense of f3. Though there was

something better—a forced mate in five. 34...Qg3+ 35.Kf1 Rh1+ 36.Ke2 Rh2+ 37.Ke3 Qe5+ 38.Qe4 Nd5#

35.Qc7 Qxf3



Position after 35...Qxf3

Cool and collected, Damien is not worried about White's threat to f7 as he sees that his king can run to safety.

36.Qxf7+ Kh6 37.Qf8+ Kg5 38.Rxh7

One last trick.

38...Rg4+

With ice water in his veins, Damien does not take the free rook and instead hunts down the king.

38...Nxh7?? 39.Qxf3+-

39.Kh2 Qg2#

0-1

Mixed Doubles Teams

In addition to the overall, class, and special prizes, this year's event once again featured a Mixed Doubles Competition in which the top three scoring teams, each consisting of one male player and one female player combined across all sections, qualified for a prize. A total of seventeen mixed double teams registered,

some with siblings teaming up and others with friends joining forces! When the dust settled, the Orange Gin team of Andra Marinescu of Renton and Jinmo Nam of Issaquah reigned supreme, with a combined team score of nine points. The Avocado Linguini team of Catherine Liguori of Lynnwood and Alexander Alvarado of Lake Stevens captured second place a half-point back.

Three teams shared third place honors with combined scores of eight points apiece: Team Mahan (Kaiyi Han and Lewis Ma), Team ReddyShank (Deeksha Shankaranand and Neevan R. Saddi), and Team Zoubian (Erin Bian and Jinhan Zou). We hope to continue the growth of the mixed doubles competition in future events!

Washington Class - Mixed Doubles Teams						
Name	Partner	Event	Section	Team Name	Team Score	Place (and Prize)
Aditi Sembium	Sarang Sankrithi	2-day	Spassky	It seems that we sank	$2.5+3 = 5.5$	
Sarang Sankrithi	Aditi Sembium	3-day	Kasparov			
Girisudha Sundararajan	Siva Sankrithi	Piper	Korchnoi	Sun & Sand	$4+1.5 = 5.5$	
Siva Sankrithi	Girisudha Sundararajan	3-day	Kasparov			
Siana Razmov	Gabriel Razmov	2-day	Petrosian	2xRaz	$3.5+3 = 6.5$	
Gabriel Razmov	Siana Razmov	3-day	Anand			
Mary Kuhner	Valentin Razmov	3-day	Kasparov	Raccoon	$4+2.5 = 6.5$	
Valentin Razmov	Mary Kuhner	3-day	Anand			
Kaiyi Han	Lewis Ma	3-day	Petrosian	Mahan	$5+3 = 8$	Shared 3rd: \$34
Lewis Ma	Kaiyi Han	3-day	Karpov			
Michelle Zhang	Michael Zhang	3-day	Anand	Zhang	$2.5+4 = 6.5$	
Michael Zhang	Michelle Zhang	3-day	Spassky			
Selina Cheng	Vidip Kona	3-day	Kasparov	Chengkona	$3.5 + 2.5 = 6$	
Vidip Kona	Selina Cheng	3-day	Carlsen			
Deeksha Shankaranand	Neevan Reddy Saddi	3-day	Kramnik	ReddyShank	$4+4 = 8$	Shared 3rd: \$34
Neevan Reddy Saddi	Deeksha Shankaranand	3-day	Anand			
Emma Ge	Eric Yu	3-day	Petrosian	Incredible 2	$3.5+1.5 = 5$	
Eric Yu	Emma Ge	2-day	Spassky			
Joanne Wangluo	Andrew Yin	2-day	Kasparov	Richmond Chess Champs	$N/A + 3.5 = 3.5$	
Andrew Yin	Joanne Wangluo	3-day	Kramnik			
Lashawna Covey	Michael Hosford	3-day	Petrosian	Cozy House	$3+2.5 = 5.5$	
Michael Hosford	Lashawna Covey	3-day	Kramnik			
Salome Jacob	Austin Liu	2-day	Petrosian	Top Down	$4.5+3 = 7.5$	
Austin Liu	Salome Jacob	3-day	Carlsen			
Luna Lin	Jizhou He	2-day	Spassky	1+1=11	$1+3 = 4$	
Jizhou He	Luna Lin	2-day	Fischer			
Erin Bian	Jinhan Zou	3-day	Carlsen	Zoubian	$4.5+3.5 = 8$	Shared 3rd: \$34
Jinhan Zou	Erin Bian	3-day	Fischer			
Zoe Xu	Edgar Li	3-day	Kasparov	XuLi	$2.5+2.5 = 5$	
Edgar Li	Zoe Xu	3-day	Karpov			
Catherine Liguori	Alexander Alvarado	2-day	Petrosian	Avocado Linguini	$4.5+4 = 8.5$	2nd: \$150
Alexander Alvarado	Catherine Liguori	3-day	Fischer			
Andra Marinescu	Jinmo Nam	3-day	Karpov	Orange Gin	$3.5+5.5 = 9$	1st: \$200
Jinmo Nam	Andra Marinescu	3-day	Karpov			

Mixed Doubles Prizes

Best male-female two-player team's combined score: First=\$200, Second=\$150, and Third=\$100.

Gukesh Thanksgiving Scholastic

The Washington Class Gukesh Thanksgiving Scholastic was held on Black Friday, November 29, at the Redmond Marriott. A modest turnout of just 86 scholastic chess players in grades K-11 participated from throughout the Pacific Northwest, including the cities of Clyde Hill, Redmond, Mill Creek, Bothell, Shoreline, Sammamish, Bellevue, Gig Harbor, Seattle, Kirkland, Lynnwood, Issaquah, Snohomish, Snoqualmie, Kenmore, Woodinville, Tigard (Oregon), Monroe, and Milton! The slight dip in attendance was likely due to several scholastic players opting to play in the brand new Petrosian U1000 section of the Washington Class Championships. The event was hosted by the Washington Chess Federation, directed by WCF Co-VP Rekha Sagar, Tim Campbell, and Alex Byelashov.

Amazing photographs were taken throughout the day by Meiling Cheng. The dual-format offered four longer (G/40; +5) games for experienced players in the K-3 Open and 4-12 Open sections, and the traditional five shorter (G/30) games for new players in the K-3 U800 and 4-8 U900 sections.

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Washington Class Gukesh Thanksgiving Scholastic

Individual Prizes - Amazon Gift Card Prizes awarded in each section.

1st-5th: \$65-\$60-\$55-\$50-\$45

Section	1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place	4th Place	5th Place
K-3 U800	Evan Lin	Andy Sang			
4-8 U900	Elliot Lin	Sakash Agrawal Amogh Durbhakula		Jethro Xia	Ishaan Mandore Bryce Brakenridge Gabriel Wong Aadi Sen Jesse Pan Chidhu Balasubramanian
K-3 Open	Arthur Deng Jeremy Ge		Ryan Lai Richard Rogov		
4-12 Open	Yash Syal		Yichen Liu		

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

***Top player (by TPR) in each of the K-3 Open and 4-12 Open sections wins free entry into the 2-day WA Class main event**

Section	Best Female	Biggest Upset
K-3 U800	Kristina Velichko, Kiana Chauhan, Nivaan Anand	Ananya Sreshta Devavarapu
4-8 U900	Keerthi Sri Siri Battula Alice Li,	Adrian Chirita
K-3 Open	Claire Nishino, Anne Nishino	Sofia Byelashova
4-12 Open	Lakshana Anand	Emma Li



The Washington Class Adult Novice Swiss, a relatively new tournament designed for U1100 or unrated adults (18+), was held on Friday from 11 AM-4 PM. Several parents whose kids were playing in the Gukesh Thanksgiving Scholastic decided to jump in at the last-minute to keep themselves occupied while their kids were otherwise engaged in their tournament.

The seven-player, four-round adult Swiss featured a goldilocks time control of G/30; +5 and was unrated. No memberships of any kind were required, and the event was run in a friendly and laid-back fashion, which made it perfect for new adults just getting into the game! The event was supervised by WCF Member-at-Large Ani Barua and took place in the back corner of the main event playing hall in Salons 1+2.

A Bothell chess man with a one-letter last name, Manoj V, topped the field with a perfect four points from four games to earn the first-place prize. Jie Shan of Bellevue earned the second place prize with three points. A pair of chess dads, Rohit Mahale of Issaquah and Anbuselvam Prakasam of Bothell shared third/first Unrated honors with an even two points apiece.

Redmond chess ranger Chetak Sirsat captured the first U900 prize with one

Special Appearance by Magician Rich Waters

On Friday afternoon from 11:30 AM-1:30 PM during the lunch hour, a group of transfixed kids and spellbound adults gathered in the foyer near the Gukesh Thanksgiving Scholastic parent waiting room to witness a mystifying magic show! Local Magician Rich Waters performed some close-up magic tricks and balloon twisting, much to the amazement of the mesmerized audience!

In anticipation of a considerable commotion, the organizers intentionally set up the exhibition as far away from the three-day playing room as possible to not disturb the players! Young players and their parents alike thoroughly enjoyed Magic Rich's performance, which provided a few much-needed hours of

entertainment and levity to uplift the spirit during the often intense and taxing chess proceedings.

Special thanks to the amazing Karen Schmidt for connecting the organizers with Magic Rich, with whom she used to play chess at Detective Cookie's Chess Park in Seattle.

Adult Novice Swiss

Washington Class Adult Novice Swiss: Open U1200									
#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Total pts	Prize
1	1	Manoj V	unr.	X8	W3	W2	W4	4	1st: \$75
2	2	Jie Shan	725	W5	W7	L1	W3	3	2nd: \$50
3	3-4	Rohit Mahale	801	W4	L1	W5	L2	2	=3rd/1st Unrated: \$22.50
4		Anbuselvam Prakasam	unr.	L3	W5	W7	L1	2	=3rd/1st Unrated: \$22.50
5	5-6	Chetak Sirsat	353 (P5)	L2	L4	L3	W7	1	1st U900: \$15
6		Duane Polich**	1793	W7	U---	U---	U---	1	
7	7-8	Nandeesh Yellappa	575 (P4)	L6	L2	L4	L5	0	1st U700: \$15
8		Matthew David Duran	980	F1	U---	U---	U---	0	

**Duane Polich participated as a "house player" (just in case anyone wonders why there is a 1700+ player).

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point. Snoqualmie chess savant Nandeesh Yellappa won the U700 prize in his first-ever chess tournament!

Washington Class Fischer Chess960 Rapid

The Washington Class Chess960 Fischer Rapid took place on Friday, November 29 from 2:15 PM-4:30 PM between rounds one and two of the main tournament. A dozen intrepid chess “fischermen” honored the legacy of the eleventh World Champion Bobby Fischer as they scrambled up the back-rank pieces and played Chess960 from a different starting position each round!

The starting positions of the back rank pieces were randomly determined by the players themselves drawing the pieces out of bag each round, which produced some unorthodox starting arrangements, including: RNKRNBQ (Rd. 1, Pos #670), BRNBQNK (Rd. 2, Pos #417), BNRQKRN (Rd. 3, Pos #323), and BRKRNNQB (Rd. 4, Pos #947).

In this era of Chessable and memorized opening theory that sometimes extends well into the game, Chess960 is a refreshing alternative for many since the strategy and planning must be done on the fly. As is the custom in Chess960 events

hosted by WCF, players were given two minutes to study the initial position at the beginning of each round before clocks were started.

Bellevue-based National Master Derek Zhang (2295), who was back home visiting for the holidays, reigned supreme with a perfect four points from four games, winning against his nearest rivals Valentin Razmov, Rafael Palathingal, and Tim Moroney along the way. Bothell chess bulldozer Rafael Palathingal (1948) flattened his opponents to earn the second place prize.

Two chess warriors—CM Tim Moroney (2072) of Mountlake Terrace and Neevan Reddy Saddi (1882) of Issaquah—shared third/first U2000 honors with 2.5 points apiece. A pair of rapidly improving youngsters split the first U1700/first U1400 prize with an even two-point score: Rian Raja (1620) of Bothell and Ziliang Ma (1303) of Seattle. Vivaan Sankrithi (1171) of Lake Forest Park, who is just six years old, earned the youngest player award for his youthful efforts.

Robson Puzzle Solving

On Friday afternoon at 4:45 PM, 15 fearless puzzle solvers sharpened their



Vidip Kona in full concentration mode during the Robson Puzzle Solving Competition.
Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.

pencils and solved as many of the 16 chess puzzles of varying difficulty as they could in 45 minutes. The slate of puzzles, which were designed by WCF Tournament Coordinator Valentin Razmov, contained a challenging mix of tactical, positional, and strategic themes which tested the knowledge, calculation, and intuition of the contestants.

Solutions were written on paper and evaluated based on accuracy, completeness, and speed. See the results on the top of page 20.

We have included the puzzles on page 19 for the *Northwest Chess* readers to enjoy. How many can you solve? Solutions will be revealed in a future issue of *Northwest Chess*!

Fischer Chess960 Rapid								
#	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Total pts	Prize
1	NM Derek Zhang	2295	W9	W5	W2	W3	4	1st
2	Rafael Palathingal	1948	W10	W6	L1	W4	3	2nd
3	CM Tim Moroney	2072	W7	D4	W5	L1	2.5	=3rd/U2000
4	Neevan Reddy Saddi	1882	W8	D3	W6	L2	2.5	
5	Valentin Razmov	1893	W12	L1	L3	W11	2	=1st U1700/U1400
6	Gabriel Razmov	1860	W11	L2	L4	W7	2	
7	Rian Raja	1620	L3	W8	W10	L6	2	
8	Ziliang Ma	1303	L4	L7	W9	W12	2	
9	Odbayar Yondon	1853	L1	D12	L8	W10	1.5	Youngest Player
10	Sarang Sankrithi	1613	L2	W11	L7	L9	1	
11	Vivaan Sankrithi	1171	L6	L10	W12	L5	1	
12	Siva Sankrithi	1400	L5	D9	L11	L8	0.5	



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Ryan Ackerman
Online Chess Coach

Washington Class – Puzzle Solving Competition

Nov 29, 2024

(Time allowed: 45 mins)

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

Puzzle #1: White to move and mate in 1.

Solution: 1. _____



Puzzle #2: White to move and mate in 2.

Solution: 1. _____ 2. _____



Puzzle #3: White to move and mate in 2.

Solution: 1. _____ 2. _____



Puzzle #4: White to move and mate in 3.

Solution: 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____



Washington Class – Robson Puzzle Solving

1 of 4

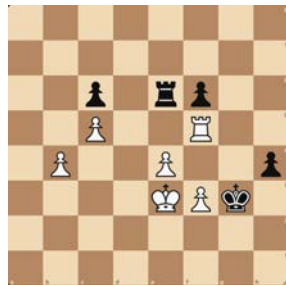
Puzzle #9: White to move in a difficult position. What is White's best chance to survive? Explain.

Solution: 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____
Idea: _____



Puzzle #10: White to move. How can White press for a win in this endgame? Explain.

Solution: 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____
Idea: _____



Puzzle #11: Black to move. What should be Black's defensive plan? Explain briefly.

Solution: 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____
Idea: _____



Puzzle #12: Black to move. How should Black defend against White's strong attack? Explain.

Solution: 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____
or (2. _____ 3. _____)



3 of 4

Washington Class – Robson Puzzle Solving

Puzzle #5: Black to move and win.

Solution: 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____



Puzzle #7: White to move and win material.

Solution: 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____



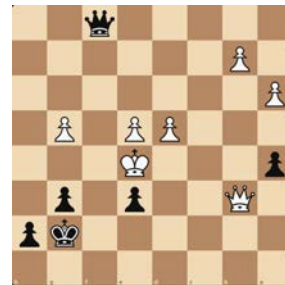
Puzzle #6: Black to move and win material.

Solution: 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____



Puzzle #8: Black to move and win.

Solution: 1. _____ 2. _____
3. _____ 4. _____



Washington Class – Robson Puzzle Solving

2 of 4

Puzzle #13: White to move and win.

Solution: 1. _____ 2. _____
3. _____ 4. _____ 5. _____



Puzzle #14: Black enjoys spatial advantage and active pieces. How should Black proceed? Explain.

Solution: 1. _____ 2. _____
Idea: _____



Puzzle #15: Black has sacrificed material to put pressure. How should Black proceed? Explain.

Solution: 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____
or (2. _____ 3. _____)



Puzzle #16: White to move and draw. Explain.

Solution: 1. _____ 2. _____
3. _____ 4. _____ 5. _____
Idea: _____



4 of 4

Washington Class Puzzle Solving Competition							
Last Name	First Name	Highest Rating	Start Time	End Time	Minutes used	Score (out of 16)	Prize
Kona	Vidip	2195	4:55 PM	5:28 PM	33	13.75	1st
Palathingal	Rafael	1928	4:55 PM	5:23 PM	28	13.5	2nd
Razmov	Gabriel	1860	4:55 PM	5:25 PM	30	13.25	3rd
Maharaja	Imai	1606	4:55 PM	5:24 PM	29	13	1st U2000
Yondon	Odbayar	1853	4:55 PM	5:40 PM	45	12.5	
Bhaskaran	Siddharth	1922	4:55 PM	5:26 PM	31	11.5	
Ma	Ziliang	1303	4:55 PM	5:34 PM	39	11.25	1st U1700
Kuhner	Mary	1763	4:55 PM	5:40 PM	45	10.75	
Bharathy Mohan	Aarav	1772	4:55 PM	5:37 PM	42	10.25	
Keane	Brendan	1267	4:55 PM	5:40 PM	45	9.25	1st U1400
Li	Edgar	1481	4:55 PM	5:29 PM	34	9	
Qin	Shenghao	1219	4:55 PM	5:40 PM	45	6.5	
Qin	Skyler	1021	4:55 PM	5:40 PM	45	5	1st U1100
Byelashov	Alex	1113	4:55 PM	5:40 PM	45	4.25	
Byelashova	Sofia	794	4:55 PM	5:40 PM	45	2.75	1st U800
Ganesan	Vidur	1480	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	

Chess Workshop for Girls and Women

The Washington Class Chess Workshop for Girls and Women, led by WCF Director of Women's and Girls' Chess WFM Chouchan Airapetian and WCF Co-VP Rekha Sagar, took place on Friday evening from 6:00 PM-8:00 PM in the studio space of the Redmond Marriott. An intimate gathering of about eight women and girls attended the workshop and enjoyed some complimentary Pagliacci pizza and refreshments courtesy of WCF while discussing the topic of: "How to develop and cultivate women's and girls' chess."

The workshop was followed by a thoughtful and constructive Q&A session, in which the ladies discussed issues that female players typically encounter while attending open tournaments. Some casual and fun bughouse games broke out and lasted late into the enchanting evening.

August Piper Memorial Adult Swiss

The Washington Class August Piper Memorial Adult Swiss took place on Saturday-Sunday, November 30—December 1, alongside the main tournament. Dr. August Piper (1944-2024) was the Seattle Chess Club President for 19 years and a beloved member of the Seattle chess community. Known for his rash remarks and sarcastic witticisms, Dr. Piper preferred to play chess the old-fashioned way, often writing his moves in descriptive notation (or sometimes in German!) with one of his signature fountain pens.

A champion of hypermodern openings, August preferred the Reti Opening as White and Sicilian as Black. Active in the pre-safe play era, August was known to have short fuse and occasionally a foul mouth, especially when Fred paired him against the kids!

The four-round, adult-only Swiss tournament attracted 18 players in two sections: the Botvinnik Open and the Korchnoi U1500. The marathon G/120; +30 time control with just four games over two days was convenient for the out-of-region folks since they only had to spend one night in a hotel. A few chess diehards opted to play in *both* the Piper Memorial Adult Swiss as well as the main Washington Class Championships, which meant "simuling" two opponents in different parts of the room! WCF Vice President Rekha Sagar directed the tournament, which was sponsored by the Seattle Chess Club with a generous guaranteed prize fund of \$1,000 thanks to SCC board member and chess benefactor Henry Yan.

Two chess masters—FM Peter Yu (2100 → 2120, 3.5) of Bothell and NM Gerld Larson (2031 → 2052, 3.5) of Seattle—topped the 11-player Botvinnik Open by a full-point. The co-champs

Washington Class Piper Memorial Adult Swiss: Botvinnik Open

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Total pts	Prizes
1	1-2	FM Peter Yu	2100	W4	W6	D2	W5	3.5	=1st/2nd
2		NM Gerald Larson	2042	W9	W8	D1	W3	3.5	=1st/2nd
3	3-4	Paul Harwood	1865	W5	W10	D4	L2	2.5	=3rd
4		Paul Leblanc	1862	L1	W7	D3	W6	2.5	=3rd
5	5-7	NM Viktors Pupols	2200	L3	W9	W8	L1	2	
6		Richard Lavoie	1857	W7	L1	W10	L4	2	
7		Mark Smith	1625	L6	L4	B---	W11	2	1st U1650
8	8-9	Erkan Chabuk	1817	W11	L2	L5	D9	1.5	
9		Roger Hanson	1812	L2	L5	W11	D8	1.5	
10	10-11	Austin Wentz	1604	B---	L3	L6	U---	1	
11		Guanyu Ren	1538	L8	B---	L9	L7	1	



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Washington Class Piper Memorial Adult Swiss: Korchnoi U1500

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Total pts	Prizes
1	1	Girisudha Sundararajan	unr.	W5	W4	W2	W6	4	1st
2	2-3	Kyle Boddy	1345	W3	H---	L1	W4	2.5	=2nd/3rd
3		Eliza Wheeler	871	L2	H---	W5	B---	2.5	=2nd/3rd
4	4-5	Don Hack	1279	W6	L1	W7	L2	2	1st U1300
5		Nandeesh Yellappa	575 (P4)	L1	B---	L3	W7	2	1st Unrated
6	6-7	John Selsky	848	L4	D7	B---	L1	1.5	
7		Colin O'Sullivan	606	B---	D6	L4	L5	1.5	

drew against each other in the third round and won their other three games. The two Pauls, Harwood (1865 → 1888, 2.5) of Bellevue and Leblanc (1862 → 1877, 2.5) of Victoria (B.C.), shared third place honors with a solid “plus one” score. Port Townsend chess pioneer Mark Smith (1590 → 1592, 2.0) earned the first U1650 prize with an even score.

In the cottage-sized 7-player Korchnoi U1500 section, Redmond chess guru Girisudha Sundararajan (754 → 1196, 4.0) put on a show and won all four games against her unsuspecting male opponents. Seattle chess specialists Kyle Boddy (1278 → 1273, 2.5) and Eliza Wheeler (805 → 812, 2.5) shared second/third place accolades a point-and-a-half back. Don Hack (1279 → 1232, 2.0), Ladysmith (B.C.) chess legend, captured first U1300 honors with a par score. Snoqualmie chess dad Nandeesh Yellappa (575 → 601, 2.0) took a break from parenting his daughters and brought home the first Unrated prize thanks to a clutch last-round win against Olympia chess “simuler” Colin O'Sullivan (606).

Casablanca Rapid

The Washington Class Casablanca Rapid took place on Saturday, November 30 from 2:00 PM-5:00 PM between rounds three and four of the main

tournament. “Casablanca Chess” is a chess variant in which each round starts in a new middlegame position from a historical game. Just like in Chess960, players were given two minutes before clocks start to examine initial positions.

The starting positions were selected by a panel of chess experts and masters including Geoff Gale, FM Curt Collyer, FM Roland Feng, and NM Josh Sinanan. Players competed over the course of four rounds with a fun time control of G/15; +5, which made for exciting and imbalanced struggles! The starting positions featured in the tournament (all from World Championship matches) were as follows:

Botvinnik - Smyslov 1958



Position after 20...Nd7

Karpov - Kasparov 1985



Position after 12...0-0

Caruana - Carlsen 2018



Position after 20...0-0

Alekhine - Capablanca 1927



Position after 17...Rac8



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Washington Class Casablanca Rapid										
#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Total pts	Prize	
1	1	NM Vidip Kona	2209	W9	W7	W10	D5	3.5	1st	
2	2-4	Joseph Frantz	2034	W13	D4	D8	W7	3	=2nd/3rd/U2000	
3		Valentin Razmov	1893	W16	D8	D4	W10	3	=2nd/3rd/U2000	
4		Gabriel Razmov	1860	W11	D2	D3	W8	3	=2nd/3rd/U2000	
5	5-6	NM Matthew Wilber	2170	L10	W6	W9	D1	2.5		
6		Rafael Palathingal	1928	H---	L5	W17	W12	2.5		
7	7-11	Neevan Reddy Saddi	1882	W15	L1	W11	L2	2		
8		Odbayar Yondon	1853	W17	D3	D2	L4	2		
9		Sarang Sankrithi	1613	L1	W16	L5	W15	2	=1st U1700	
10		Kenneth Yuodelis	1580	W5	W12	L1	L3	2	=1st U1700	
11		Vivaan Sankrithi	1171	L4	W14	L7	W16	2	1st U1400	
12	12-15	Scott Christensen	1957	W14	L10	D15	L6	1.5		
13		Siva Sankrithi	1400	L2	L15	D14	W17	1.5		
14		Alexander Alvarado	1317	L12	L11	D13	B---	1.5		
15		Ziliang Ma	1303	L7	W13	D12	L9	1.5		
16	16-17	Luke Dale	1312	L3	L9	B---	L11	1		
17		Mithran Anbuselvam	940	L8	B---	L6	L13	1		

Duvall chess dude NM Vidip Kona (2209) topped the 17-player field with an impressive 3.5 points out of four games, conceding only a single draw to fellow National Master Matthew Wilber in the final round. Three Seattle chess musketeers shared second/third/first U2000 honors a half-point back: Joseph Frantz (2034), Valentin Razmov (1893), and his son Gabriel Razmov (1860).

A pair of rising chess stars—Sarang Sankrithi (1613) of Lake Forest Park and Kenneth Yuodelis (1580) of Bellevue—split the first U1700 prize with an even score. Reigning Washington State Kindergarten Co-Champion, Vivaan Sankrithi (1171) of Lake Forest Park, earned the first U1400 prize with an impressive two points after blindsiding Alvarado and Dale with his wild berserk attacks in the second and fourth rounds, respectively.

Firouzja Bullet

The Washington Class Firouzja Bullet tournament took place late

Saturday afternoon from 5:00 PM-6:00 PM immediately following the

Casablanca Rapid. Like the inaugural event held during the 2024 Washington Open, the Firouzja Bullet was held as a five-round Single Swiss in one section with a blisteringly fast time control of G/2: +1.

The hypersonic pace of play appealed to speed chess hustlers and bullet wizards alike as they attempted to imitate the skills of bullet phenom and world top ten Grandmaster Alireza Firouzja, who now represents France. The formula one event took place under the direction of WCF Member-at-Large Ani Barua and WCF Co-VP Rekha Sagar. Since it was too fast to be rated under any known rating systems, the event was unrated and didn't require any memberships to play!

Twenty-three chess daredevils ranging from unrated to National Master

Washington Class Firouzja Bullet										
#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total pts	Prize
1	1	NM Vidip Kona	2195	H---	W17	W10	W5	X2	4.5	1st
2	2-4	NM Matthew Wilber	2170	W23	W20	W18	W8	F1	4	
3		Rafael Palathingal	1928	W16	L8	W20	W11	W9	4	=2nd/3rd
4		Neevan Reddy Saddi	1882	L9	W21	W13	W18	W8	4	=2nd/3rd
5	5-11	Joseph Frantz	2034	L8	W23	W14	L1	W10	3	
6		Aarav Bharathy Mohan	1772	L10	W16	L11	W19	W18	3	=1st U2000/U1600
7		Rian Raja	1620	X24	L9	W19	L10	W17	3	=1st U2000/U1600
8		Varun Iyengar	1423	W5	W3	W9	L2	L4	3	=1st U2000/U1600
9		Christian Jordan	1347	W4	W7	L8	W21	L3	3	=1st U2000/U1600
10		Ziliang Ma	1303	W6	W12	L1	W7	L5	3	=1st U2000/U1600
11		Christian Zarate	unr.	L20	B---	W6	L3	W15	3	1st Unrated
12	12-13	Imai Maharaja	1606	D17	L10	L21	B---	W16	2.5	
13		Gavin Shi	1538	W19	L18	L4	D20	W21	2.5	
14	14-19	Jinmo Nam	1569	L18	W22	L5	L17	W20	2	
15		Scott Christensen	1566	H---	L19	D17	W23	L11	2	
16		Snehl Ghosh	1407	L3	L6	B---	W22	L12	2	
17		Daniel Lopez	unr.	D12	L1	D15	W14	L7	2	
18		Raymond Ouyang	unr.	W14	W13	L2	L4	L6	2	
19		Muthukurisil Arivoli	unr.	L13	W15	L7	L6	W23	2	
20	20-22	Daniel Polonsky	1527	W11	L2	L3	D13	L14	1.5	
21		Ziqian Gao	1428	H---	L4	W12	L9	L13	1.5	
22		Nandeesh Yellappa	809	H---	L14	L23	L16	B---	1.5	1st U1200
23	23	Jeb Stroud	1513	L2	L5	W22	L15	L19	1	
24	24	Vitaly Astafiev	607	F7	U---	U---	U---	U---	0	

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competed in the hour-long chess bonanza, which scheduled one round every 10 minutes and had its fair share of wild time scrambles, including a decisive K+R vs K+R ending that the players elected to play out in mutual zeitnot! After the smoke cleared from the swift pace of play, a single chess magician—NM Vidip Kona (2195) of Duvall—rose above the rest with an undefeated 4.5 points from five games. After taking a first-round half-point bye due to his main event game going long, Kona won his next three in a row to set up a final-round showdown with NM Matt Wilber, who had the tournament’s only perfect score.

Unfortunately, due to a miscommunication, Matt thought that the tournament was done after four rounds and promptly left the building, forfeiting his last-round game and gifting the tournament victory to Kona! A pair of future chess masters—Rafael Palathingal (1928) of Bothell and Neevan Reddy Saddi (1882) of Issaquah—shared second/third place honors with four points apiece.

A quintuplet of qualified chess questers split the first U2000 prize with a “plus one” score: Aarav Bharathy Mohan (1772) of Bothell, Rian Raja (1620) of Bothell, Varun Iyengar (1423) of Portland, Christian Jordan (1347) of Edgewood, and Ziliang Ma (1303) of Seattle. Snoqualmie chess dad Nandeesh Yellappa (809) earned the first U1200 prize by virtue of completing the tournament. Newcomer Christian Zarate claimed the unrated prize with an impressive three-point score.

Carlsen Rapid

The Washington Class Carlsen Rapid, a four-round, G/12; +3 Swiss, took place on Sunday December 1 from 2:00 PM-4:30 PM between rounds five and six of the main tournament. Originally advertised as a two-section event—Kasparov Open and Anand U1600—the popular side event named after undisputed chess king and former World Champion Magnus Carlsen was run as a one-section Swiss with the two sections combined due to a low turnout in the Anand U1600 section. Players ranging from 755 to FIDE Master competed over the course of the afternoon, which made for several entertaining US Chess Quick rated skirmishes!

In the merged 14-player Kasparov Open section, a quadruplet of chess

Washington Class Carlsen Rapid Championship: Kasparov & Anand (combined)										
#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Total pts	Prize	
1	1-4	FM Ryan W Porter	2285	W9	W12	W6	L2	3	=1st/2nd/3rd/U2000	
2		NM Aaryan Deshpande	2076	L10	W8	W7	W1	3	=1st/2nd/3rd/U2000	
3		Valentin Razmov	1893	H---	H---	X11	W7	3	=1st/2nd/3rd/U2000	
4		Alex Bondar	1500	L7	W9	W12	W6	3	=1st/2nd/3rd/U2000	
5	5	Rian Raja	1620	W14	L6	W10	D8	2.5	1st U1700	
6	6-10	Rafael Palathingal	1948	W11	W5	L1	L4	2		
7		Gabriel Razmov	1860	W4	W10	L2	L3	2		
8		Lorenzo Patton Jr	1749	H---	L2	W14	D5	2		
9		Walter Guity	1591	L1	L4	W13	W12	2	=1st/2nd (Anand)	
10		Kenneth Yuodelis	1580	W2	L7	L5	W14	2	=1st/2nd (Anand)	
11	11	Jeb Stroud	1513	L6	W13	H---	U---	1.5		
12	12-14	Dann Merriman	1719	W13	L1	L4	L9	1		
13		Xavier Palathingal	962	L12	L11	L9	B---	1	=3rd Anand/1st U1400	
14		Dmitriy Bondar	755	L5	B---	L8	L10	1	=3rd Anand/1st U1400	

kings emerged victorious, each with three points from four games: FM Ryan Porter (2128 → 2113, 3.0) of Bellevue, Aaryan Deshpande (1883 → 1882, 3.0) of Sammamish, newcomer Aliaksei Bondar (unrated → 1647, 3.0) of Redmond, and Valentin Razmov (1605 → 1616, 3.0) of Seattle. Bothell chess prince Rian Raja (1344 → 1351, 2.5) took home the first U1700 prize with a solid “plus one” score. Two chess journeymen—Walter Guity (1505 → 1502, 2.0) of Shoreline and Kenneth Yuodelis (1164 → 1201, 2.0) of Bellevue—claimed the first/second place Anand U1600 prize with an even score.

Chess ironmen Xavier Palathingal (759 → 748, 1.0) of Bothell and Dmitriy Bondar (unrated → 740, 1.0) of Redmond shared third place Anand/first U1400 for their superhuman efforts.

Kiyonaga Memorial
Bughouse

The Washington Class Case Kiyonaga Memorial Bughouse tournament was held in honor of games-player extraordinaire and former Lakeside Chess Team member Case Kiyonaga (1985-2023), who passed away unexpectedly last fall. Case excelled at math, chess, and tennis during his tenure as a student at Lakeside School in

Seattle, participating in several state and national championships. He loved games of all types: cards, board games, video, Magic: The Gathering, and Legend of the Five Rings, in which he won multiple national and world championships. Case was especially fond of bughouse and played at a master-level, well above his regular chess rating of ~1600 NWSRS.

The inaugural Washington Class Kiyonaga Memorial Bughouse tournament was held on Sunday December 1 from 3:00 PM-4:15 PM and attracted 15 two-player teams, many of whom knew Case personally and used to play bughouse with him. The event was hand-paired by tournament directors Jacob Mayer and Allen Messenger and run as a seven-round Single Swiss in one section. A maximum average team rating of 1800 was allowed to encourage balanced competition and hard-fought games.

The relatively fast time control of G/3;+0 was used to ensure that the event didn’t run too long and conflict with the 4:30 PM round six start-time of the main tournament.

After seven wild and crazy rounds of play, the team of Kirsten Parker + Wade Barrett (unrated, 7.0) topped the

Kiyonaga Memorial Bughouse													
#	Team Name	Avg Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	Total pts	Prize		
1	Selina and Aarav	1780	W8	W10	L14	L5	W9	L15	W13	4	=3rd		
2	Joey and Jeb	1774	W9	W13	L15	W10	L5	W6	L14	4	=3rd		
3	Sarang and Odbayar	1733	L10	W8	W11	L6	L14	W12	W5	4	=1st/2nd K-6		
4	Benji and Arnav	1681	W11	L14	L10	L12	L13	B--	U--	2			
5	Neevan and Snehil	1645	W12	L15	W13	W10	W2	L14	L3	4	=1st/2nd K-6		
6	Eddie and Siva	1587	L14	W9	W7	W3	L15	L2	W8	4	=3rd		
7	Nikhil and Vishnu	1585	L15	L11	L6	B--	W12	L10	L9	2			
8	Edgar and Ziqian	1455	L1	L3	B--	W11	L10	L13	L6	2			
9	Ziliang and Varun	1407	L2	L6	W12	W13	L1	W11	W7	4	=3rd		
10	David and Richard	1337	W3	L1	W4	L2	W8	W7	L15	4	=3rd		
11	Vivaan and Arianth	1260	L4	W7	L3	L8	B--	L9	W12	3	3rd K-6		
12	Cedric and Damian	1234	L5	B--	L9	W4	L7	L3	L11	2			
13	Duane and Vitaliy	1200	B--	L2	L5	L9	W4	W8	L1	3			
14	Boas and Doron	850	W6	W4	W1	L15	W3	W5	W2	6	2nd		
15	Kirsten and Wade	unr.	W7	W5	W2	W14	W6	W1	W10	7	1st		

field with a perfect seven points from seven games. Boas Lee + Doron Motter (850, 6.0) captured second place with six points, dropping only one game to the champs Kirsten + Wade.

Five teams shared third place honors with four points apiece: Selina Cheng + Aarav Bharathy Mohan (1780, 4.0), Joey Frantz + Jeb Stroud (1774, 4.0), Eddie Chang + Siva Sankrithi (1587, 4.0), Ziliang Ma + Varun Iyengar (1407, 4.0), and David Hirschowitz + Richard Chess (1337, 4.0). Two teams of rising bughouse stars split first/second K-6 accolades: Sarang Sankrithi + Odbayar Yondon (1733, 4.0) and Neevan Reddy Saddi + Snehil Ghosh (1645, 4.0). Youngsters Vivaan Sankrithi + Arihant Chaudhuri (1260, 3.0) earned the third place K-6 prize to round out the winners.

“Knight-Time” Blitz

The Washington Class “Knight-Time” Blitz tournament, always a popular side event traditionally held after the final round of large WCF tournaments, took place late Sunday evening from 8:30 PM-11:00 PM. WCF Member-at-Large directed the seven-round, G/5; +2, single Swiss blitz tournament with assistance from WCF Scholastic Director Allen Messenger. The field was divided into two sections, by rating, with 19 players taking part in the Nakamura Open and just seven in Tal U1600.



Selina Cheng (L) vs Stephen Willy and other top boards during round one of the “Knight-Time” Blitz. Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.

Sammamish chess prince FM Stephen Willy (2088 → 2116, 7.0) channeled his inner Nakamura with a dominating 7-0 clinic, scoring full points against his nearest rivals Kona (2128), Bian (1694), G. Razmov (1633), and Deshpande (1963) along the way. NM Vidip Kona (2128 → 2128, 5.5) of Duvall earned the second place prize a point-and-a-half back. A

triumvirate of chess troopers—Gabriel Razmov (1633 → 1717, 4.5) of Seattle, WFM Erin Bian (1694 → 1796, 4.5) of Shoreline, and Harishkumar Karthikeyan (1678 → 1762, 4.5) of Redmond—shared third/first U2000 honors, each with a solid “plus two” score.

Redmond chess rebel Imai Maharaja (1473 → 1500, 3.0) won the first U1700 prize with an impressive three-point score thanks to his clutch sixth round win against Seattle chess king and WCF Tournament Coordinator Valentin Razmov.

Due to a shortage of players in the seven-player Tal U1600 section, it was run as a five-round single Swiss instead of seven, since no legal Swiss pairings were possible beyond the fifth round. As such, the players got to wrap things up early and could still turn in at a decent hour to get their beauty sleep!

When the dust had settled after five rounds, two players emerged as co-champions, each with four points from five games: Jeb Stroud (1097 → 1216, 4.0) of Bellingham and Vishnu Mohan (unrated → 1429, 4.0) of Bothell. Edgewood’s Christian Jordan (937 → 1009, 3.0) and Seattle’s Ziliang Ma (1274 → 1218, 3.0) tied for third/first U1400 a full point back. Bothell chess dad Xavier Palathingal (603 → 589, 1.0) earned the first U1100 prize to round out the prize winners.

Washington Class Knight-Time Blitz: Nakamura Open													
#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	Total pts	Prize	
1	1	FM Stephen Willy	2300	W14	W3	W6	W2	W4	W9	W8	7	1st: \$100	
2	2	NM Vidip Kona	2195	H---	W11	W7	L1	W5	W3	W9	5.5	2nd: \$80	
3	3-5	Gabriel Razmov	1860	W12	L1	W19	W17	D9	L2	W11	4.5	=3rd/1st U2000: \$28.33	
4		WFM Erin Bian	2186	W13	D7	W8	W6	L1	H---	H---	4.5	=3rd/1st U2000: \$28.33	
5		Harishkumar Karthikeyan	1968	H---	H---	H---	W10	L2	W18	W7	4.5	=3rd/1st U2000: \$28.33	
6	6-8	NM Aaryan Deshpande	2076	W9	W17	L1	L4	W14	L7	W12	4		
7		Rafael Palathingal	1928	W16	D4	L2	D11	W15	W6	L5	4		
8		Alexander Kaelin	2014	W19	W15	L4	L9	W17	W11	L1	4		
9	9-10	Lorenzo Patton Jr	1749	L6	W18	W12	W8	D3	L1	L2	3.5		
10		Valentin Razmov	1893	H---	H---	H---	L5	W13	L12	W17	3.5		
11	11-14	Ryan Ackerman	1855	H---	L2	W15	D7	W12	L8	L3	3		
12		Imai Maharaja	1606	L3	B---	L9	W13	L11	W10	L6	3	1st U1700: \$35	
13		FM William Wachira	1751	L4	W16	L17	L12	L10	W15	W18	3		
14		Selina Cheng	1787	L1	L19	W18	W16	L6	H---	H---	3		
15	15-16	Kenneth Yuodelis	1580	B---	L8	L11	W19	L7	L13	D16	2.5		
16		Davey V Jones	1700	L7	L13	B---	L14	L18	W17	D15	2.5		
17	17-19	Duane Polich	1793	W18	L6	W13	L3	L8	L16	L10	2		
18		WCM Mary Kuhner	1810	L17	L9	L14	B---	W16	L5	L13	2		
19		Yuchen Zhou	1701	L8	W14	L3	L15	B---	U---	U---	2		

Washington Class Knight-Time Blitz: Tal U1600													
#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	N/A	N/A	Total pts	Prize	
1	1-2	Jeb Stroud	1513	W4	W6	L2	W3	W5			4	=1st/2nd: \$60	
2		Vishnu Mohan	1571	H---	W3	W1	D5	W7			4	=1st/2nd: \$60	
3	3-4	Christian Jordan	1347	W5	L2	W6	L1	B---			3	=3rd/1st U1400: \$35	
4		Ziliang Ma	1303	L1	L5	B---	W7	W6			3	=3rd/1st U1400: \$35	
5	5	Deepak Sri Kartikeya Rao	1527	L3	W4	W7	D2	L1			2.5		
6	6	James Stroud	1352	W7	L1	L3	B---	L4			2		
7	7	Xavier Palathingal	962	L6	B---	L5	L4	L2			1	1st U1100	

PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLASTIC

CHESS TOURNAMENT



President's Day Monday, February 17, 2025

Chinook Middle School

2001 98th Ave NE, Bellevue, WA 98004

FORMAT

A 5-round G/25; +5 Swiss in 7 sections:

Kindergarten

1-2 U700

3-4 U800

5-12 U1000

1-3 Open

4-6 Open

7-12 Open

Dual NWSRS and US Chess rated, with US Chess membership required. Establish or update your national rating! Chess clocks will be used from the beginning in all games. Chess notation required in all sections except for Kindergarten, 1-2 U700 and 3-4 U800. All equipment is provided courtesy of WCF.

SCHEDULE

Rounds: 9:15am, 10:45am, Lunch Time, 12:30pm, 1:45pm, 3:00pm. Awards presentation ~ 4:30pm or asap.

ELIGIBILITY

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

ENTRY FEE

\$50 by Feb. 10th, \$60 after. Room for 250 players.

AWARDS

Section Prizes: Amazon e-gift cards awarded in each section: 1st – 5th: \$70-65-60-55-50.

Team Prizes: Plaques awarded to: The top 5 finishing teams (top 4 scores from same school comprise team score) across all sections. The team that brings the most players across all sections wins an exclusive lesson with NM & WCF President Josh Sinanan.

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

RATING

Higher of US Chess February regular or current NWSRS rating used to determine section and pairings.

THE DETAILS

Online Registration:

NWchess.com/OnlineRegistration/
Pay by
Credit/Debit/PayPal/SettleKing.

For credit, debit, and PayPal payments, a processing fee of 4% will be added on, so consider saving by using Zelle or SettleKing instead.

100% pre-registered, no on-site entries or payments. Entry + payment deadline Sun. Feb. 16th @ 5:00pm. Unpaid players by the deadline will be withdrawn from the tournament.

WA State Elementary Qualifier!

This event is a qualifier for the WA State Elementary Championship on April 26, 2025, in Tacoma. Players scoring 3.0+ points will qualify for the Championship sections of State.

Pizza lunch and other concessions will be available for purchase on site.

Questions? Rekha Sagar, WCF Vice President: rekha4chess@gmail.com

Veterans Day Scholastic

Josh Sinanan

The inaugural Veterans Day Scholastic was held on Veterans Day Monday, November 11, 2024, at Chinook Middle School in Bellevue. The event was held alongside the Washington Challenger's Cup, a two-day event open to kids and adults that was taking place in the adjacent gymnasium.

In contrast to the Challenger's Cup Scholastic held the day before in the same space, the Veterans Day Scholastic was conducted as a traditional five-round, G/25; +5 Swiss in five sections. A total of 151 scholastic chess players in grades K-11 participated from throughout the region, from locales including Redmond, Woodinville, Sammamish, Snoqualmie, Bellevue, Newcastle, Seattle, Kirkland, Mill Creek, Monroe, Clyde Hill, Bothell, Olympia, Everett, Renton, University Place, Gig Harbor, North Bend, Richmond (B.C.), Des Moines, and Milton.

The tournament was hosted by the Washington Chess Federation and directed by the fantastic team of Alex Byelashov, Ani Barua, and Rekha Sagar. A variety of delicious and healthy snacks were provided throughout the day by the Chouchan Airapetian and her family. WCF photographer and videographer, Meiling Cheng, was on-site for several hours snapping many photos in search of those special chess moments.

The five-round rapid Swiss format featuring a time control of game in twenty-five minutes with a five-second increment appealed to both novice players and seasoned chess veterans alike. To ensure good competitive balance for players of all ages and levels, the tournament was parsed into five sections based on grade and rating: K-2 U700, K-2 Open, 3-6 U800, 3-6 Open, and 7-12 Open.

Congratulations to the intrepid chess soldiers who participated, and many thanks to the parents and coaches who came out to support them! For many parents, Veterans Day is still a working day, which requires many to take a day off from work. As chess organizers, we truly appreciate the sacrifices that you all



Chief tournament director Rekha Sagar looks on as two young competitors play out their endgame at the Veterans Day Scholastic. Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.

make, both on and off the chess board, to make these events successful!

Special recognition is due to our Amazon gift card winners:

Veterans Day Scholastic Prizes					
Section Prizes: Amazon gift card prizes awarded in each section.					
1st – 5th: \$60 / \$55 / \$50 / \$45 / \$40					
Section	1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place	4th Place	5th Place
K-2 U700	Pin-Ruei Su	Atlas Bigelow	Bryan Li	Evan Lin Advaith Sairam David Zhang Louis Liu Jingyi Pan	
K-2 Open	Nickrad Ahsant	Elina KhudiyevRyan Lai		Jeremy Ge	Siana Razmov
3-6 U800	Tavishna Nandeesh Martina Szeto		Vihaan Gaddam Satvik Verma Sihas Jayasinghe Neil Phadnis Leo Luo		
3-6 Open	Peng-Ruei Pan	Avyaan Roy Chowdhury Gabriel Pleasants Vedant Singh Jordan Szeto			
7-12 Open	Daniel Polonsky	Jeffrey Chien Alex Xu Vihaan Chaurasia Rishik De			



*The stimulating parent waiting area in the commons of Chinook Middle School during the Veterans Day Scholastic.
Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.*

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

Place	Team (School)	Team Score (pts)
1st	Samantha Smith ES	16
2nd	Somerset ES	12.5
3rd	Thurgood Marshall ES	11
4th	Discovery ES	10.5
5th	Open Window	9.5

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

Section	Best Female Player	Best Dressed	Biggest Upset Win
K-2 U700	Kristina Velichko	Rhea Sagar	Jingyi Pan
K-2 Open	Emma Ge	Felicity Mei	Patrick Zhang
3-6 U800	Clara Dragusanu	Martina Szeto	Parth Anant Sundaram
3-6 Open	Alisa Rachiba	Jinhan Zou	Niko Elmieh
7-12 Open	Tapasya Nandeesh	Stephane Dragusanu	Talen Tan



*Hygiene first! This young man kept his tissues close by his board during the cold season in the Pacific Northwest.
Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.*

Challenger's Cup Scholastic

Josh Sinanan

The 2024 Challenger's Cup Scholastic took place on Sunday, November 10, 2024, at Chinook Middle School in Bellevue. Chinook Middle sits atop Clyde Hill and is easily accessible from the 520 freeway, making it easily accessible for players from both sides of Lake Washington.

A total of 122 scholastic chess players in grades K-11 participated

from throughout the Pacific Northwest, including the cities of Bellevue, Clyde Hill, Snohomish, Bothell, Seattle, Issaquah, Bainbridge Island, Shoreline, Redmond, Sammamish, Monroe, Medina, Mercer Island, Renton, Kirkland, Kenmore, Woodinville, Lake Stevens, and Richmond (B.C.).

The event was hosted by the Washington Chess Federation and co-

directed by WCF Member-at-Large Ani Barua and WCF Co-Vice President Rekha Sagar. WCF Women's and Girl's Chess Director Chouchan Airapetian and her daughter Angela Agaian ran the concessions, which included a delicious order of Sahara Pizza from Mercer Island! Amazing photos were taken throughout the day by chess mom and photographer extraordinaire Meiling Cheng.



*Players and parents line up for pizza during the lunch hour at the Challenger's Cup Scholastic as food handlers make final preparations.
Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.*

The event offered a dual format consisting of two classical and three rapid sections. The rapid sections - Kindergarten, 1-3 U800, and 4-6 U1000, were each run as a six-round, G/25; +5 Swiss. For the older, more experienced players, the two classical sections—K-5 Open and 6-12 Open—featured three rounds of G/50; +10 to provide a steppingstone for ambitious players who are interested in transitioning to playing deeper, longer games. As an extra incentive to participate in the classical sections, the top-finishing player (by tournament performance rating) in each of the K-5 Open and 6-12 Open sections earned free entry into the 2024 Washington Class Championships!

Congratulations to the courageous chess warriors who participated, sixteen for whom it was their first NWSRS-rated chess tournament! Our vibrant scholastic chess community continues to grow and thrive with each tournament, with many juniors seeking early qualification for the Washington State Elementary Chess Championships in April.

Special congratulations to the Amazon gift card prize winners:



Brook Ayalew (L) analyzes his game with special guest, IM Joseph Levine, who lives near Chinook in Clyde Hill.
Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.

Challengers Cup Scholastic Prizes					
Individual Prizes - Amazon Gift Card Prizes awarded in each section. 1st-5th: \$60-\$55-\$50-\$45-\$40.					
Section	1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place	4th Place	5th Place
Kindergarten	Deethya R Sankar	Kheiron Chin	Leonardo Song	Samuel Tie Aishini Reddy	
1-3 U800	Dhruv Bangard	Kyle Liu	Louis Liu Vikaat Siva		Jaxon Krogstad Ryan Zhang Aarav Parpuri Ved Dixit Aryan Pande Charles Brown
4-6 U1000	Martina Szeto	Jordan Szeto	Emma Li	Kavir Agarwal Ryan Lai Ameya George Jace Liu	
K-5 Open	Felix Y Chen*	Jizhou He Shanna Wu Yang Xu Jonathan Lan			
6-12 Open	Rian Raja*	Brook Ayalew Thrinay Subramanian		William Chen Nathan Jiang Daniel Meyerzon Abhiram Nerella Vyom Joshi Harry Wu Ron Li Palash Bhasin	
<i>*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!</i>					
Special Prizes (per section): Medals for first-time players, best female player, and biggest upset win.					
Section	Best Female Player	Best Dressed	Biggest Upset Win		
Kindergarten	Rhea Sagar	Sreesha Reddy Avuthu	N/A		
1-3 U800	Laya Sankar	Jaxon Krogstad	Jingyi Pan		
4-6 U1000	Joyce Gui	Martina Szeto	Robert Gridasov		
K-5 Open	Natalie Xu	Neil Upasani	Emma Ge		
6-12 Open	Aarya Patel	Martin Soukal	Dinesh Poka		

Saint Anne Celtic Challenge Fall 2024

Josh Sinanan

The Fall 2024 edition of the Saint Anne Celtic Challenge took place on Sunday, November 24, at Saint Anne School in the Queen Anne suburb of Seattle. A robust showing of 144 scholastic chess players in grades K-10 participated in the event, with a high concentration hailing from the local Seattle neighborhoods and surrounding areas.

The field was split across five sections parsed by grade and rating: K-1 U700, 2-3 U700, K-3 Open, 4-8 U900, and 4-12 Open. The Saint Anne Celtic Challenge remains a popular tournament staple for many on the local chess “circuit” due to its efficient and fast-paced structure. Instead of beginning early in the morning, the Celtic Challenge always starts in the afternoon on Sundays, which makes it

much more attractive for out-of-region players since they have the morning to travel and don’t have to wake up in the wee hours of the morning!

The geographic diversity of the attendees was indeed noticeable, with players from the following cities represented in the five-round Swiss event: Seattle, Bothell, Redmond, Shoreline, Everett, Gig Harbor, Sammamish, Bellevue, Richmond (B.C.), Issaquah, Bonney Lake, Stanwood, Renton, Mill Creek, Lynnwood, Vancouver (B.C.), Snoqualmie, Kirkland, University Place, Lake Forest Park, Lake Stevens, North Bend, Des Moines, Surrey, Milton, and Mercer Island.

Eight players from British Columbia who are members of the Richmond Chess Champions team came down especially

for the tournament. However, the team with the most players attending was easily Aki Kurose Middle School from south Seattle, which brought a whopping 14 players and dominated the 4-8 U900 section.

A relaxed atmosphere and good sportsmanship on the part of the players, which are routinely emphasized and encouraged during Saint Anne tournaments, were both on full display throughout the afternoon! The games played by the youngsters taking part were exciting and full of life, with many contests being decided deep into the endgame. Despite the occasional stalemate, the games were high quality for the most part, even in time pressure.

During the first round of the tournament shortly after the games



St. Anne Chess Coach and WCF President Josh Sinanan scores a game at the St. Anne Celtic Challenge.

Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.



The spacious playing room in Banchemo Hall of St. Anne School in Seattle.

Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.

had begun, a player approached the tournament directors and informed us that someone was sitting in his chair. After some detective work, it was discovered that a rogue player (who had not pre-registered) had decided to sit down in an empty chair and started playing a game at the instruction of her father!

Things worked out in the end though, with the girl in question being re-paired against someone else whose opponent hadn't shown up and joining the tournament thereafter!

The event was hosted by Saint Anne School, organized by Saint Anne Chess Club Coordinators Carlee Thorrington & Arlene Kelly, paired by WCF Member-at-Large Ani Barua, and directed by WCF President and Saint Anne Chess Coach Josh Sinanan. Assistant judges Alex Byelashov and Sebastian Clemente stayed the entire afternoon and helped take the scores of the players as they finished their games.

The tournament was held once again in honor of Coach Chris Hurley (1965-2020), who founded the Saint Anne Chess Club and supported the Saint Anne and Seattle Prep chess programs from 2013-2020.

Many thanks to the amazing chess families and volunteers who contributed to this fantastic event!

Congratulations to the trophy winners.



*William Wright (L) vs. David Thomas during their first round game of the St. Anne Celtic Challenge.
Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.*



Saint Anne Celtic Challenge Prizes

Trophies awarded to the top 10 scoring players in each section.

Trophies awarded to the top 5 finishing teams.

Team Score consists of the top 4 scores from same school across all sections.

Medals for first-time tournament players who do not earn a trophy.

Individual Trophies					
Place	K-1 U700	2-3 U700	K-3 Open	4-8 U900	4-12 Open
1st	Aryan Pande	Jasper Ning Chien	Kyle Liu	Bryant Bui	Vidur Ganesan
2nd	Suryen Charuvil Vinu	Gordon Dai	Eason Chen	Shivanga Sameneni	Rian Raja
3rd	Conrad Skelton	Zixuan Yang	Ryan Lai	David Hoffman	Ziliang Ma
4th	Kevin Eustis	Peixin Dong	Jiyong Ruan	Cameron Yorks	Oliver Tam
5th	Aiden Venkatesh	Jonathan Yang	Sofia Byelashova	Daniel Dong	Jinhan Zou
6th	George Xu	Liam Zhen	Varun Bolisetty	Aryash Singhal	Ren Wadhwani
7th	Kheiron Chin	David Cijo Thomas	Joyce Gui	Vidur Jariwala	Brendan Keane
8th	Anthony Ferzli	Jingyi Pan	Lemuel Daniel	Jingyuan Pan	Gabriel Veiga
9th	Samuel Tie	Ziheng Yang	Jaxon Krogstad	Nicolas Marriott	Elliot Lin
10th	Samyukta Siddhartha	Joseph Santiago	N/A	Jethro Xia	Blane Hildenbrand
Team Trophies					
Place	School	Players			Score
1st	Detective Cookie Chess Club	Ziliang Ma (1303) 4.0, Oliver Tam (1280) 4.0, Ren Wadhwani (4.0), Liam Zhen (660) 3.0			15
2nd	Richmond Chess Champions	Zixuan Yang (unr.) 4.0, Daniel Dong (unr.) 4.0, Ziheng Yang (unr.) 3.0, Jordan Szeto (1215) 3.0, George Xu (unr.) 2.5			14
3rd	Samantha Smith Elementary School	Jinhan Zou (1219) 4.0, Seojoon Oh (943) 3.0, Krish Chenchu Arun (850) 3.0, Jingyi Pan (538) 3.0			13
4th	Somerset Elementary School	Eason Chen (844) 4.0, Ella Lo (871) 3.0, Evan Lin (723) 3.0, Zhibo Zhang (1119) 2.0			12
5th	Evergreen Middle School	Jinyuan Pan (644) 4.0, Shravan Gokul (827) 3.5, Shivam Gupta (835) 3.0			10.5

Washington Spring Fling

RAPID SCHOLASTIC CUP

Saturday, March 1, 2025

Hotel 116 Bellevue

625 116th Ave NE, Bellevue, WA 98004

Format

A 7-round G/25; +5 Swiss scholastic chess tournament in 3 sections:

Murzin Championship

Grischuk U1400

Dubov U800

Entry Fee

\$60 by 2/22, \$70 after.

Rounds

Rd 1.: 10am

Rd 2: 11:15am

Rd 3: 12:30pm

Lunch

Rd 4: 2:00pm

Rd 5: 3:15pm

Rd 6: 4:30pm

Rd 7: 5:45pm

Awards ~ 7pm or asap.

Late start available for games that go long.

Byes

Up to 2 half-point byes available if requested before end of Rd 2.

Eligibility

Open to all chess players in grades K-12 as of the 2024-2025 school year. Out-of-state players welcome! Maximum of 30 players in each section and 75 players total. Please register early!

Prizes

Murzin Championship (Based on 25 paid entries)

1st \$200 + seed into Rising Stars section of 2026 WA State Championship.

2nd–5th: \$185, 170, 150, 110.

Grishuk U1400 (Based on 25 paid entries)

1st \$175 + seed into Prodigies section of 2026 WA State Championship.

2nd–5th: \$160, 145, 125, 85.

Dubov U800 (Based on 25 paid entries)

1st–5th: \$150, 135, 120, 100, 60.

Special Prizes: (per section) Biggest Upset Win: \$10/rd., Best Dressed: \$10, Best Female Player (by TPR): \$25.

Rating/Membership

Dual NWSRS + US Chess rated, with US Chess & WCF membership required in all sections.

Average of the February 28th NWSRS and US Chess regular rating will be used to determine section and pairings.



THE DETAILS

Procedure: Pairings and standings posted near the playing area before each round.

Online Registration:

nwchess.com/online/registration (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. **Registration and payment deadline: Friday, Feb 28th @ 5:00pm.** No registrations accepted or refunds offered after the deadline.

Questions? Josh Sinanan, WCF President,
206.769.3757,
WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com





Eastside Open



March 1-2, 2025

Hotel 116 Bellevue

625 116th Ave NE

Bellevue, WA 98004

Format: A 5-round Swiss in three sections: **Bellevue Open**, **Kirkland U1700**, and **Redmond U1200**.

Entry fee: \$100 by 2/22, \$120 after. \$50 play-up fee if rated 1500-1699 or 1000-1199 in both NWSRS and USCF and playing up in Bellevue Open or Kirkland U1700, respectively. Free entry for players rated 2100+ USCF. Maximum of 100 players, please register early to reserve your spot!

Schedule: Arrival: 8-8:45am. Rounds: Sat @ 9am, 2pm, 7pm. Sun @ 10am, 3pm.

Closing Ceremony + Blitz Tournament: ~ 7pm or asap.

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

Rating: Dual NWSRS + US Chess Rated. Bellevue Open is also FIDE rated. Higher of current NWSRS or live US Chess rating as of Feb. 27th will be used to determine section, pairings, and prizes.

Memberships: US Chess and WCF/OCF/ICA memberships required; must be paid at the time of registration.

Prize Fund: \$5,000 based on 100 paid entries.

Bellevue Open: 1st-4th: \$450-\$350-\$250-\$200, 1st-2nd U2100: \$150-\$125, 1st-2nd U1900: \$150-\$125.

Kirkland U1700: 1st-4th: \$400-\$300-\$200-\$150, 1st-2nd U1500: \$125-\$100, 1st-2nd U1300: \$125-\$100.

Redmond U1200: 1st-4th: \$300-\$225-\$175-\$125, 1st-2nd U1000: \$100-\$75, 1st-2nd U800: \$100-\$75.

Special Prizes (per section):

Biggest Upset Win: \$20/rd., Best Female Player (by TPR): \$50, Best Dressed: \$20/day.

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

Registration: Online at 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 fee of 4% will be added on, so consider saving by using Zelle or SettleKing instead. **Registration + payment deadline: Fri, Feb. 28 @ 5pm.** Unpaid players will be removed from the roster after the deadline, and players from the Waitlist will be offered a spot.

Eastside Open Blitz Tournament: Sunday 7-9pm (after rd. 5 of main tournament). **Entry Fee:** \$25.

Format: A 7-Round Single Swiss in one section, 2 half-point byes available. US Chess Blitz rated. **TC:** G/4; +3.

On-site registration: 6:00-6:45pm. Rds. Sun @ 7pm, 7:15, 7:30, 7:45, 8, 8:15, 8:30. Closing Ceremony ~ 8:45pm or asap. Current US Chess membership required. Higher of March 2025 US Chess Blitz or Regular rating used to determine pairings and prizes. **Prize Fund: \$500** (based on 40 pd. entries)

1st - 3rd: \$120-80-50, 1st U1900/U1700/U1500/U1300/U1100/Unrated: \$30. Biggest upset win: \$10/rd.

Questions – Josh Sinanan, WCF President, 206-769-3757, washingtonchessfederation@gmail.com

2024 Oregon Junior Closed

Wilson Gibbins



Austin Tang (L) and Zoey Tang share first place in the 2024 Oregon Junior Closed Championship Section. Photo credit: Wilson Gibbins.

The Oregon Junior Closed had a familiar look to it—11 of the 12 players have participated in one or more previous incarnations of this event, with Unahan Efe Monkul the only player to join us for the first time. But looks can be deceiving—there was a huge increase in the strength of the tournament. The average rating in the Championship Section jumped from 1933 in 2023 to 2151 in 2024, over 200 points. The average rating in the Challengers Section also increased nearly 200 points year over year, from 1647 to 1840.

The Championship Section ended in a tie for first between Zoey and Austin Tang. Just like last year, Zoey had the white pieces against her brother Austin in the last round with the championship on the line. But there were two big differences this year:

1. They were tied for first when they played their fifth-round game—in 2023 Zoey held a one-point lead going into the final game.
2. Austin fought his way to a draw to share the championship this year. Both last year and this year's games were hard fought, but last year Zoey got the upper hand at the end. Neither player did their sibling any favors of an easy last round to split the title—they tested each other over 46 moves before shaking hands. Nor did either have an easy path to the championship—see the games below.

Saahil Gupta won clear first in the Challengers Section by grinding out a 45-move win over Kai Lewis in the last game of the tournament to finish. Saahil and Neil Natarajan entered the last round with 3-1 scores, including a first-round draw between the two. Neil drew 2022 Challengers Champion Ademidun Adebolu in the last round to finish second.

Thanks to Zoey Tang for organizing this tournament. Thanks to the Portland Chess Club for providing the wonderful facility for this event. And finally, thanks to the parents who helped make this event possible.

Saahil Gupta (1862) – Kai Lewis (1821) [E68]
Oregon Junior Closed (Challengers)
Portland, OR (R5), December 8, 2024
[Wilson Gibbins]

This game was played in the last round. Saahil and Neil Natarajan are tied for the lead with three points out of four. Both have White in their final game. Kai is a tournament veteran, having played in the last three Oregon Junior Closed tournaments.

1.c4 Nf6 2.g3 g6 3.Bg2 Bg7 4.Nf3 0-0 5.d4 d6 6.Nc3 Nbd7 7.0-0 e5 8.e4 exd4

Black gives up pawn central control to activate his pieces. It is a risky strategy, but risky strategies are obligatory for King's Indian players.

9.Nxd4 a6



Position after 9...a6

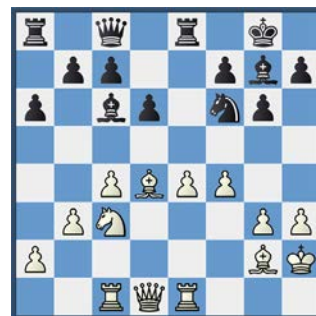
I believe that this qualifies as Gallagher Variation of the Fianchetto King's Indian, popularized by British/Swiss Grandmaster Joe Gallagher starting around 1989. GM Gallegher sometimes started with 9...a6 like Kai, but often inserted 9...Re8 before

playing 10...a6 9...Re8 10.h3 a6 Either way, it is likely to lead to a game where calculation accuracy is at a premium.

10.h3 Ne5

A more popular approach is 10...Rb8 which gets the rook off the h1–a8 diagonal and out of the line of fire of White's bishop on g2. Black is planning to play c7–c5, Nd7–e5, and b7–b5 in some order, giving him a weak backward pawn on d6 and a boatload of tactical shots.

11.b3 Bd7 12.Be3 Nc6 13.Rc1 Qc8 14. Kh2 Re8 15.f4 Nxd4 16.Bxd4 Bc6 17. Re1



Position after 17.Re1

17...b5?!

Risky, but Black shouldn't wait around. He needs to generate play quickly or White's extra space will allow him to continue to improve his position.

18.Nd5!±

White obtains a position with extra space and a backward pawn on c7 to target. If I were Black, I would be hoping that White's bishop on g2 would become a bad bishop, but the game does not provide evidence to support my hope.

18...Bxd5 19.cxd5 Nd7 20.Bxg7 Kxg7 21.Qd4+ f6 22.Re3 Qd8 23.Rec3

Applying pressure to the backward pawn on c7.

23...Rc8 24.h4

2024 Oregon Junior Closed (Championship)

Place	Name	Rating	State	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total
1	Zoey Tang	2356	OR	W6	W3	D5	D4	D2	3.5
2	Austin Tang	2164	OR	D5	W6	W4	D3	D1	3.5
3	Ishaan Kodarapu	2156	OR	D4	L1	W6	D2	W5	3
4	Havish Sripada	2267	OR	D3	D5	L2	D1	W6	2.5
5	Hayul Lim	1898	OR	D2	D4	D1	L6	L3	1.5
6	William Nobles	1875	OR	L1	L2	L3	W5	L4	1

This is a nice idea. After White ties Black down on the queenside, he starts to generate play on the kingside, knowing that his advantage in space will allow him to shift attackers from one side to the other faster than Black can shift defenders.

24...Nc5

Blocks White's rook pressure on the c-pawn and applies pressure to White's e-pawn. But, unfortunately for Black...

25.e5!

White's e-pawn isn't a static weakness—it is mobile.

25...b4

Black can't win a pawn with 25...fxe5 26.fxe5 Rxe5 as 27.Rxc5 wins a knight.

26.Re3

Not 26.Qxb4 distracting White's queen from the e5 square 26...fxe5 27.fxe5 Rxe5

is an improved position for Black, though White is still better.

26...Rb8 27.Bh3 a5 28.Rce1 Rf8 29.R3e2 Qe7 30.Bg4 Rf7 31.e6 Rff8 32.f5 Rbe8 33.Kg2

White's gigantic advantage in space means that he is in no hurry—he can leisurely make tidying moves, as Black has no way of diminishing White's positional advantages.

33...Kh8 34.fxc6 hxc6 35.h5

Black's knight on c5 is well placed to prevent White from making progress on the queenside, but it will be hard pressed to get back to the kingside where the immediate action is occurring.

35...g5 36.Bf5 Kg7 37.h6+! Kh8

37...Kxh6 38.Rh1+ Kg7 39.Rh7+ Kg8 40.Rxe7

38.Bg6

Material is even, but Stockfish has White's advantage as over six pawns.

38...Rd8 39.Bf7 Nd7

A good practical try. If White takes the knight, it removes the pawn defense of White's f7 bishop. If White doesn't take the knight, it will hop out to e5, a better square for defending the king than c5 was.

40.exd7!



Position after 40.exd7

The weakness of White's scattered



Saahil Gupta. Photo credit: Wilson Gibbins.

2024 Oregon Junior Closed (Challenger)									
Place	Name	Rating	State	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total
1	Saahil Gupta	1862	OR	D2	W4	W3	D6	W5	4
2	Neil Natarajan	1887	OR	D1	W5	W4	D3	D6	3.5
3	Emel Bayrambeyli	1858	OR	D5	W6	L1	D2	W4	3
4	Tunahan Efe Monkul	1838	OR	D6	L1	L2	W5	L3	1.5
5	Kai Sebastian Lewis	1821	OR	D3	L2	W6	L4	L1	1.5
6	Ademidun Adebolu	1778	OR	D4	L3	L5	D1	D2	1.5

isolated pawns is irrelevant, but their nearness to promotion squares combined with his dominant rooks is decisive.

40...Qxf7 41.Re7 Qg6 42.Qe4! Qxe4+ 43.R1xe4 Rg8 44.h7 Rg8 45.Re8

If 45...Kxh7, then 46.Rxf8 Rxf8 47.Re8 and White's d-pawn will promote.

1-0

Ishaan Kodarapu (2156) –

Zoey Tang (2356) [A29]

Oregon Junior Closed (Championship)

Portland, OR (R2), December 7, 2024

[Wilson Gibbins]

1.c4 e5 2.g3 d5!?



Position after 2...d5

Kids, just because Magnus Carlsen plays a move, it doesn't mean you should play that move. If Magnus jumped off the Brooklyn Bridge, would you jump off the Brooklyn Bridge? Seriously, this move has been played by Magnus, Vidit Gujrathi, Jordan Van Foreest, and Wesley So, though mostly at fast time controls. As the Oregon Junior Closed gives players a fair amount of time to prepare, opening surprises are valuable, and early opening surprises are extra valuable as they have a better chance of actually appearing on the board.

3.cxd5 Qxd5

A standard idea in the Hyper-Accelerated Dragon (1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 g6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Qxd4), but is it playable with colors reversed? Stockfish says yes. Black can still return to more conventional lines with 3...Nf6 as White's best responses are 4.Nc3 and 4.Bg2. Moves that try to hold on to White's extra pawn give Black plenty of compensation. 4.e4 (4.Qa4+ c6 5.dxc6 Nxc6 6.Nc3 Bc5 7.Nf3 Qb6 8.e3 0-0) 4...c6 5.dxc6? (5.Bg2=) 5...Nxc6 Black's development combined with White's weak d4 square give Black a significant advantage.

4.Nf3 Nc6 5.Nc3 Qd8

This is the most popular move among carbon-based life forms. The silicon-based life forms find other moves to be acceptable, those moves being 5...Qd6; and 5...Qd7.

6.Bg2 Nf6 7.0-0 h6!



Position after 7...h6

The exclamation mark was graciously provided by the Chessbase 17 reference tab. The position is still equal, but Black has a plus score in this position. That said, Ishaan has lots of Sicilian experience as Black, including Dragon experience, so he should be able to find his way in this position. And he does.

8.d3 Bd6 9.a3 a5 10.h3

White can liquidate the center and simplify the position with 10.d4 Nxd4 (as 10...e4? 11.Nd2 Nxd4 12.Qa4+ Nc6 13.Ndxe4 is better for White. Liquidating the center is considered an accomplishment when you are playing the Sicilian as Black, but not so much when you are playing the Sicilian reversed as White. Ishaan's move keeps more tension in the position and more opportunities to play for a win.)

10...0-0 11.Be3 Qe7 12.Rc1 Rd8 13.Nd2 Be6 14.Nde4 Nxe4 15.Nxe4 a4 16.Nc5 Bxc5



Position after 16...Bxc5

17.Rxc5!

17.Bxc5 Qd7 18.Bxc6 bxc6 gives White great pawn structure but might result in

an early draw. 19.g4 (19.h4 is still even, but it takes courage to weaken the white squares in the face of Black's unopposed white-squared bishop.) 19...Bxg4 20.hxg4 Qxg4+ and White can't avoid perpetual check.

17...e4?!

Trading a center pawn for a wing pawn. If Black doesn't have something concrete in mind, this is a positional concession.

18.Bxe4 Bxh3 19.Re1 Nd4 20.Rc4! c5 21.Rxa4

A clear pawn and the two bishops mean that White is close to a winning advantage, but there is lots of chess yet to play. Zoey is a seasoned veteran and doesn't panic easily.

21...Rxa4 22.Qxa4 b5 23.Qd1

It is hard to let your queen abandon your king when you know a Zoey Tang attack is coming, but 23.Qa5 keeps a bigger advantage.

23...Bg4 24.Bxd4 Rxd4 25.Qc1 Bh3 26.Bf3 Be6 27.Qe3 Qd6 28.Rc1 Kh7 29.Be4+

Stockfish suggests the show-off move 29.Bc6 with the idea 29...Qxc6? (29...b4 30.a4) 30.Qxd4

29...f5 30.Bg2 Bd7 31.Qf3 Qe5 32.Qe3 Qd6 33.b3 Kh8 34.f4 Qb6 35.Kh2 h5 36.Qe5 h4 37.gxh4 Qh6 38.Kg3! Qg6+ 39.Kf2 Qh6 40.Kg3 Qg6+ 41.Kf2 Qh6

An implicit draw offer.

42.Bf3

Ishaan correctly declines.

42...Rxf4 43.Rg1

43.Rxc5!+- reduces White's king's defending pieces to the bishop on f3, but the king is surprisingly safe, at least according to Stockfish.

43...Rxf4 44.Qg3=

44.Qxc5± is still better for White, but it takes a lot of courage to let your queen drift away from your king, especially when it has so little pawn cover.

44...Rh2+ 45.Rg2 Rxf2+ 46.Kxf2 f4!= 47.Qh2?!

The game is still drawn, but this is a step in the wrong direction. It is tempting to get queens off the board against Zoey the fearsome attacker, but sometimes one forgets that Zoey is a fearsome endgame player too. 47.Qf2 is still equal.

47...Qxh2+ 48.Kxh2 g5



Position after 48...g5

49.Bd5?

Surprisingly, this is the losing move. It isn't obvious why. White can draw with the plan of (1) trying to exchange the pawn on e2 for the pawn on f4, then (2) applying some bishop pressure to the pawn on b5. If Black doesn't exchange the pawn on f4 for the pawn on e3, then the pawn on e3 blocks Black's king entry through d4. Not obvious at all. 49.Kg2 Kg7 50.Kf2 Kf6 51.e3 Ke5 52.Ke2 g4 53.Bb7 g3 54.exf4+ Kxf4 55.Ba6! I'd have a hard time taking my bishop off the long diagonal where it helps prevent Black's g-pawn from advancing and the Black's king from advancing too, but 55.Ba6 is the only move that draws. That line and that move would be hard to find without an engine, especially when playing on increment.

49...Kg7-+

Black is now winning. It will still take a few accurate moves to make the advantage clear.

50.b4

It is too late to try the e2-e3 plan. 50.Kg2 Kf6 51.Kf2 Ke5 52.Bb7 Kd4-+

50...cxb4 51.axb4 Kf6 52.d4

Correctly trying to prevent Black's king from getting to the d4 square, but since White doesn't have time to break up Black's pawns with Kf2 and e2-e3, Zoey can safely advance her kingside pawns to stretch the defense.

52...Ke7 53.Kg2 Kd6 54.Bb3 g4! 55.Kf2 Bf5 56.e3

Ishaan plays the correct plan, but it is one move too late.

56...g3+!

The only move to win.

57.Kf3 Be4+!

Ditto.

58.Ke2 g2 59.Kf2 fxe3+ 60.Kg1 e2 61.Kf2 g1Q+ 62.Kxg1 e1Q+

0-1

Will Nobles (1875) –
Austin Tang (2164) [B60]

Oregon Junior Closed (Championship)
Portland, OR (R2), December 7, 2024
[Wilson Gibbins]

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 d6 3.Nge2

The Chameleon Sicilian, popularized by Andrew Soltis. Maybe White will play a Closed Sicilian with g2-g3 and Bf1-g2. Maybe White will play d2-d4, returning to a mainline Open Sicilian. Black must be on his guard if he is not to get tricked into playing an Open Sicilian line that he does not know.

3...Nc6

If Black was hoping to play the Najdorf variation, this move says goodbye to those hopes. In this case, no worries—Austin has extensive experience in the Classical Sicilian.

4.d4 cxd4 5.Nxd4 Nf6 6.Bg5

If you are not interested in the opening theory of this position, I recommend skipping all the notes from here to White's move nine.

6...Bd7

The Modern Variation of the Richter-Rauzer Sicilian, the second most popular move for Black. The most popular move is 6...e6 to prevent White from doubling his pawns with 7.Bxf6. But since Black often ends up with doubled f-pawns in these lines anyway, Modern Variation players like Austin just accept that these doubled pawns are their lot in life and move on.

7.f4

This looks like a normal move to 6.Bg5 Najdorf players, but Richter-Rauzer players move 7.Qd2 first and ask questions later. After the main move 7.Qd2 Black often strives to sacrifice an exchange just to reach an unclear ending like this—7...Rc8 8.0-0-0 Nxd4 9.Qxd4 Qa5 10.f4 (White can play 10.Bd2 to avoid split pawns.) 10...Rxc3 11.bxc3 e5 12.Qb4! Qxb4! 13.cxb4 Nxe4 14.Bh4

7...Qb6

The best response. But Black's move was once considered a refutation of 7.f4, now only considered equal.

8.Bxf6

The main line of the "refutation" goes 8.Nb3 Ng4 9.Qe2 (9.Qd2 Qe3+ 10.Qxe3 Nxe3?) 9...Nd4 10.Qd2 (10.Nd5?! Nxe2 11.Nxb6 axb6 and this unbalanced ending favors Black) 10...Nxb3 11.axb3 Qe3+ 12.Qe2= (12.Qxe3 is also equal according to Stockfish, but not according to the old opening manuals, mainly because Leonid Stein won the following game. Back in the day the opening evaluations were often biased towards who won a famous game, instead of our current bias towards whatever Stockfish tells us. 12...Nxe3 13.Kd2 Nxf1+ 14.Rhxf1 e6 15.Ra5 Bc6 16.Re1 d5 17.exd5 Bb4 18.Ra1 Bxd5 19.Re2 f6 20.Bh4 Kf7 21.Kc1 Bc6 22.Ne4 Rhd8 23.Bf2 b6 24.c3 Be7 25.g3 Rd7 26.Kc2 Rad8 27.Bd4 Bb5 28.Rf2 Rc7 29.Rd2 Rd5 30.c4 Rh5 31.Bg1 Bc6 32.Nd6+ Kf8 33.Re1 Bd7 34.Ne4 Bb4 35.Nc3 Kf7 36.Red1 Bc6 37.Rd8 Ra5 38.R8d3 h5 39.Re1 Be8 40.Rde3 Kf8 41.Rxe6 0-1 Polugaevsky,L-Stein,L URS Club Team-ch Riga 1968 (8.1))

8...gxf6

White is still equal, but after Will's next move...

9.Nf3?!

Black is now a little better, though the position is sufficiently murky for all three results.

9...f5?

The circumspect way to play for an edge. 9...Qxb2! 10.Nd5 0-0-0 looks dangerous to both sides, as are most positions resulting from 1.e4 c5.

10.Bc4 fxe4?

10...Bg7 and; 10...Qxb2 are also strong for Black.

11.Nxe4 h6?!?

Perhaps this was played to stop 12.Nfg5 if Black castles long, as the f-pawn seems to be in danger, but Black can neutralize White's apparent threat to the f-pawn with tricks. 11...0-0-0 12.Nfg5?

a) 12.Neg5? Qb4+;

b) 12.Bxf7 Bh6 13.Bb3 (13.g3 d5! 14.Bxd5 Bf5 and White's pinned bishop on d5 is in big trouble) 13...Bxf4 (13...Rh7);

c) 12.Qe2 (best) 12...Qxb2 13.0-0 Nd4?; 12...d5 13.Bxd5 (13.Qxd5 Qe3+ 14.Be2 Bg4) 13...Bf5 Once again, White's pinned bishop is in big trouble. The Sicilian—easy to play with your chess engine

running, hard to play with your chess clock running.

12.Qe2 0-0-0 13.Bxf7?!

13.0-0-0 is roughly equal.

13...Bg7!

13...Qxb2? 14.0-0 White has a slight edge in this highly unbalanced position.

14.c3 Rhf8 15.Bd5 Rxf4 16.a4?!

It is tempting to start a pawn storm on Black's king, but the queenside is the safest place for White's king, so this move weakens White's pawn cover for his king. 16.0-0-0

16...Bg4?!

Why relinquish the advantage of the two bishops? Black is still much better if he keeps this bishop on the board. 16...Kb8; 16...Rdf8

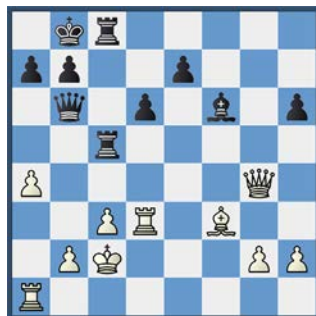
17.Nf2!

Now Will reels off a series of accurate moves that allow him to snuff out Austin's opportunities.

17...Bxf3 18.Bxf3 Ne5 19.Nd3! Rf5 20.0-0-0

Best and equal, but maybe White now regrets his 16th move.

20...Kb8 21.Qe4 Nxd3+ 22.Rxd3 Re5 23.Qg4 Bf6 24.Rhd1 Rc8 25.Kc2 Rec5 26.Ra1



Position after 26 Ra1

Hmmm, maybe I should retract my judgy comments on White's 16th and 20th moves. Will finds a way to make his 16th move pay off.

26...Rc4 27.Qe6 Qa5 28.Ra3 Qe5 29.Rb3! R4c7 30.Qg4

Will bravely keeps queens on the board, believing in the attacking strength of his active rooks and unopposed light-squared bishop. He will be rewarded for his bravery on the next move. Killjoy Stockfish likes White's slight positional advantage resulting from 30.Qd5 Qxd5



L-R: Havish Sripada, Emel Bayrambeyli, Ademidun Adebolu, William Nobles, Saahil Gupta, Hayul Lim, Ishaan Kodarapu, Kai Lewis, Zoey Tang, Austin Tang, Neil Natarajan (back), Tunahan Efe Monkul (front). Photo credit: Wilson Gibbins.

31.Rxd5 a6 stopping Rd5-b5 32.Rh5

30...Qe1?

30...e6 31.Qb4 d5 equalizes by blocking White's bishop attack on b7

31.Qb4 b6 32.a5 Bg5 33.Rd1±

33.Ra3 also gives Black problems.

33...Qf2+ 34.Kb1

I believe the rest of the game is played in time trouble.

34...Qc5

Not objectively the best move, but perhaps practically best. 34...Rc4 35.Qa3 Qc5 36.axb6 Qxa3 37.bxa7+ Kxa7 38.Rxa3+ is objectively best for Black, but leaves Black in groveling mode.

35.Qa4 Qf5+ 36.Be4 Qd7 37.Qb4?

37.Rb5+; 37.Qd4+- b5 38.Qd5; 37.Qxd7 Rxd7 38.Bf5

37...Be3?

37...Rc4! 38.Qa3 Rxe4 (or 38...Ra4 39.axb6 a5)

38.axb6 Bxb6 39.Bf3?

Back to equal. Now Austin reels off a series of accurate moves to snuff out Will's opportunities. 39.Qa5! Rb7 40.Qa6+-

39...Rc4! 40.Qa5 R8c5! 41.Qa6 Ra4 42.Qd3 Qe6?

Allowing Will to improve his prospects, which he graciously accepts. 42...Re5=

43.Bd5!± Qe5 44.Rb5! Ra5 45.Rxa5 Rxa5 46.Qc4

46.h3±

46...Rc5

46...Qf5+ 47.Be4 Qb5 48.Qf7 Ra1+ 49.Kxa1 Qa4+ 50.Qa2! (50.Kb1 Qxd1+ 51.Ka2 Qa4+ 52.Kb1 Qxe4+) 50...Qxd1+ 51.Bb1=

47.Qb3?

47.Qd3±; 47.Qg4 Rxd5?? (47...Rb5!±) 48.Qg8+

47...Qf5+



Position after 47...Qf5+

48.Qc2?

Both players made choices throughout the game that have resulted in a dramatic back-and-forth struggle where it has been impossible to predict who will come out on top. That back-and-forth struggle has just come to an end—no drama remains. 48.Kc1!=

48...Rxd5 49.Rxd5 Qxd5 50.Qh7 Qg5 51.Qe4 Kc7 52.Qc4+ Kd7 53.Qe4 Qe5 54.Qb7+ Ke6 55.Qc8+ Kf7 56.Qh3 Qf6 57.g4 e5 58.Qg2 e4 59.h4 Qf3 60.Qh2 Ke6 61.g5 e3 62.gxh6 e2

0-1



YOU'RE INVITED

Join us for a special fundraising gala on March 21st, 2025, dedicated to supporting and empowering girls in chess. This elegant evening will include a gourmet dinner, complimentary parking, and the Mercer Island High School orchestra to make the night truly memorable. The auction will feature Metropolitan Market gift cards, Victoria Secret baskets, wine selections, stunning paintings, chess lesson vouchers and more.

This gala is not just an event, but a celebration of the potential and talent of young female chess players. By attending, you'll be contributing to scholarships, training, and resources that help girls thrive in the game, building confidence and skill in a traditionally male-dominated field.



DATE: March 21st, 2025
TIME: 6:30pm to 9:30pm
TICKETS: \$125 (18+ Only)
LOCATION: Hilton Bellevue Hotel
300 112th Avenue SE | Bellevue, WA



MyChessWorld.com

WA State Barber/Rockefeller

OPEN CHESS TOURNAMENT

Sunday, March 23, 2025

Chinook Middle School

2001 98th Ave NE, Bellevue, WA 98004



CLASSICAL SECTIONS

K-5 Rockefeller Open (Qualifier for Rockefeller Closed Event)

6-8 Barber Open (Qualifier for Barber Closed Event)

A 4-round Swiss. Longer time control for Intermediate to Advanced players. Dual NWSRS and US Chess Rated; US Chess membership required. Time Control: G/60; +10. Late default: 30 minutes. Rounds: 9am, 12pm, 2:45pm, 5:30pm. Awards ~ 8pm or asap.

RAPID SECTIONS

K-1 U700, 2-3 U800, 4-8 U900, K-3 Open, 4-6 Open, 7-12 Open.

A 5-round G/25; +5 Swiss. Shorter time control for players of all levels. Rounds: 9am, 10:30am, 11:45am, Lunch, 1:15pm, 2:30pm. Awards ~ 4pm.

ALL SECTIONS

Dual NWSRS and US Chess rated, with US Chess membership required. Establish or update your national rating! Chess clocks will be used from the beginning in all games. Chess notation required in all sections except for K-1 U700 and 2-3 U800. All equipment is provided courtesy of WCF.

ENTRY FEE

\$50 by March 16th, \$60 after.
Room for 250 players.

AWARDS

Section Prizes: Amazon Gift Cards awarded in each section:
1st – 5th: \$90-80-70-60-50.

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 timers, best female player, and biggest upset win.

FOLLOW-UP INVITATIONAL EVENT

Top 6 finishing WA State residents in the K-5 Rockefeller Open and 6-8 Barber Open section (by MSCO tiebreaks) will qualify for the Rockefeller and Barber Closed Events on March 30 in Seattle. The other 6 spots in each closed event will be determined by rating. The winners of the closed (4-Round Swiss) events will earn a \$750 travel stipend (donated by the WCF) and will be the WA State representatives at the National Rockefeller (K-5) and Barber (6-8) Tournament of Champions, respectively, held concurrently with the US Open in early August.

THE DETAILS

Online Registration:

NWchess.com/OnlineRegistration/

Pay by

Credit/Debit/PayPal/Zelle/SettleKing.

For credit, debit, and PayPal

payments, a processing fee of 4% will be added on, so consider saving by using Zelle or SettleKing instead.

100% pre-registered, no on-site entries or payments. Entry + payment deadline Sat., March 22nd @ 5pm. No registrations accepted or refunds offered after the deadline. Unpaid players will be withdrawn from the tournament.

ELIGIBILITY

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

RATING

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

Questions?

Contact Josh Sinanan, WCF President at 206.769.3757 or WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com

2025 Western States Regional Chess Championship for Girls & Women



Format

A regional tournament open to all female chess players in three sections.

Megan Lee Championship

A 5-round, G/60; +30 Swiss over two days (Sat-Sun). Tri-rated in NWSRS, US Chess, and FIDE. Rds.: Sat. @ OCA Seattle: 9am, 1pm, 5pm. Sun. @ Chinook: 9am, 4:30pm. Awards ~ 7:30pm.

Divya Deshmukh U1300

A 1-day, 5-round, G/40; +5 Swiss. NWSRS & US Chess dual rated. Rds.: Sun. @ Chinook: 9am, 10:45am, 1pm, 4:30pm, 6pm. Awards ~ 7:30pm.

Carissa Yip U700

A 1-day, 5-round, G/25; +5 Swiss. NWSRS & US Chess dual rated. Rds.: Sun. @ Chinook: 9am, 10:30am, 1pm, 4:30pm, 6pm. Awards ~ 7:30pm.

Prize Fund: \$2,500 (Guaranteed, thanks to generous grants and donations from US Chess & My Chess World.)

Championship:

1st - 3rd: \$400, \$260, \$180

1st U1800/U1600/U1400: \$60

U1300:

1st - 3rd: \$180, \$140, \$110

1st U1200/U1000/U800: \$60

U700:

1st - 3rd: \$140, \$110, \$80

1st U600/U400/U200/unrated: \$60

Special Prizes (per section):

Biggest Upset Win: \$10/round

Best Dressed: \$10

Best Etiquette: \$10

Kindness & Spreading Joy: \$10

Best Mother/Daughter Team: \$20

Sat-Sun, April 12-13, 2025

Sat – Orlov Chess Academy – Seattle

7212 Woodlawn Ave NE, Seattle, WA 98115

Sun – Chinook Middle School

2001 98th Ave NE, Bellevue, WA 98004



Entry Fee: \$50 if postmarked or online by 4/5, \$60 after. Free entry for WGMs, WIMs, WFMs, and US Chess 2000+. Maximum of 30 players in Championship section and 150 players total, please register early.

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

Rating: Highest of April US Chess or current NWSRS rating will be used to determine section, pairings, and prizes. Higher of US Chess or foreign ratings used at TD discretion.

Memberships: US Chess membership required. Membership must be paid at the time of registration.

WA State Elementary Qualifier!

Registration: nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration

Pay by Credit/Debit/PayPal/SettleKing.

Registration and payment deadline: Fri. 4/11 @ 5pm.

For credit, debit, and PayPal payments, a processing fee of 4% will be added on, so please consider saving by using Zelle or SettleKing instead.

Payment is also available via Zelle (ID: WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com).

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, Suite M, Redmond, WA 98052.

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

washingtonchessfederation@gmail.com

Fun Side Events!

Workshop for Girls and Women: Sun @ 12-1pm.

Includes complementary pizza lunch!

FM Megan Lee Simul: Sun @ 2:15-3:45pm.

EF: \$25. Max 25 players, please register early.

Puzzle Solving Competition: Sun @ 4-4:30pm. EF: \$10.



US CHESS
women

US Senior Women's Chess Championship 2024

Mary Kuhner

This tournament, the second of its kind, was a five-round Swiss held in Murray, Utah (near Salt Lake City) on December 13-15, 2024. It featured twelve senior (age 50+) women including last year's Champion, WGM Anjelina Belikovskaia. I was surprised to be invited as I was #23 on the US Chess senior women's list, but ended up as tenth seed. The tournament was organized by Maureen Grimaud; Karen Pennock was chief TD and Enrique Huerta was assistant TD.

Sometimes when you have a great tournament result, it's because everything just flows naturally, and you dominate your opposition. Not this time! I started by playing WFM Olga Sagalchik (2118—all ratings given are US Chess), who had beaten me in the 2023 event. I got rather the worse of a Stonewall Dutch (the majority of games started with 1.d4, quite a change from Seattle) and then slowly clawed my way to a slight advantage in a late midgame with two rooks and a queen on each side. When Olga repeated the position, both the live-streamer, WGM Sabina Foisor, and my coach hoped I would play on; but I feared her pieces would infiltrate behind the wall, so I accepted the draw.

The bottom seed, Jayashree Sekar (1600), defeated WIM Shernaz Kennedy (1917) in a flurry of tactics to win the upset prize. We were just beginning to realize that this soft-spoken Indian lady is absolutely ferocious over the board.

My round two opponent was Carla Naylor (1759). Again, I faltered in the opening, but she was not incisive enough with her attack—I think if she'd gone for my throat she would

have had me. Instead, I developed such a threatening counterattack that she reflexively traded queens, unfortunately losing material in the process. While this was going on I was watching Jayashree play WIM Beatriz Marinello (2200)—Beatriz also traded queens and lost material to a similar combination, earning Jayashree a second upset prize and a share of the lead.

In round three I played the top seed, Anjelina (2231). I feel she understood me all too well, because she offered an early queen trade that I thought would be to my advantage, then slowly stifled me. I kept searching for counterplay and discovering she had neutralized it moves in advance. I felt completely outclassed as I lost one pawn after another until the outcome was clear. In retrospect I both mis-evaluated the queenless middlegame and erred by allowing her to steer into lines that don't favor my style.

My reward for this painful loss was to be paired with Jayashree in round four. I thought that she might be provoked into an unsound attack, and indeed she went for the kill in her signature style. I'd underestimated just how lethal this would be, and for several moves was completely losing. But she let up the pressure briefly, I found some only moves, and when I managed to force the queens off the board and end her attack, I was quickly up six pawns.

During all of this, WFM Natalya Tsodikova (2138) had been steadily winning all of her games and was now uncatchable even if she lost in round five. The final confrontation was delayed because Anjelina decided to play out a drawn endgame for fifty moves on the 30 second increment, leading to a G/90 that took over five hours.



Mary Kuhner and Carla Naylor before round two.
Photo credit: Alexey Root.



Back row, L-R: Julia O'Neill, Jayashree Sekar, WCM Mary Kuhner, Brenda Nardi, WCM Natasha Christiansen, WFM Olga Sagalchik, WFM Natalya Tsodikova. Front row, L-R: WIM Beatriz Marinello, WIM Shernaz Kennedy, WGM Angelina Belakovskaia, WIM Alexey Root, Carla Naylor. Photo credit: Mike Mulford.

In the last round I played Shernaz (1917), who had been having a rocky tournament. However, I had a complete failure of blunder-checking and got my rook pinned to my queen. In desperation I cast around for counterplay, pushed my a-pawn, and generated some threats. Shernaz tired of the pressure and forced the queens off the board. It turned out that her queen had been holding her position together. Stockfish thinks she had to give up an entire rook for the pawn, now on b2; she was understandably not eager to do that, but the pawn exacted monstrous revenge.

So out of five lost or nearly lost positions I had 3.5 points. Natalya had drawn her last game and was far out of reach at 4.5, but to my great surprise I was tied for second with Anjelina, winning \$1500. Beatriz and Olga tied for fourth-

fifth. (You can catch a glimpse of history in the names of the competitors: when this group of players was young, US chess was dominated by Eastern European emigres. The landscape has certainly changed since then!)

Apparently, my motto should be like the Incredible Hulk's: "Don't make me desperate. You won't like me when I'm desperate." I often win games where I'm in bad trouble (I've twice dropped my queen in recent years and have 1.5 points to show for it) but this was extreme. I need to figure out how my play changes when my back is to the wall and try to cultivate it.

This was a wonderful event and I'm grateful to the organizers, sponsor Precision Tune Auto Care, and US Chess for making it possible. Also, thanks to Sabina, who gamely live-cast the entire

event and also interviewed almost all of the players. (My interview was after the closing ceremony, and I was giddy with excitement and exhaustion: I'm a little afraid to watch it!) It was fascinating to meet the other ladies and share stories of how we came to play chess and why we still love it. I also spoke with a local player who underscored how important we were as role models for adult women thinking of joining or rejoining the chess scene.

For other views on this event, including Sabina's stream and player interviews as well as daily reports from Alexey Root, visit the US Chess web site.

Here is my game with Jayashree, showcasing her fearless attacking play and also illustrating how lucky I got in this event!

**Mary Kuhner (1711) –
Jayashree Sekar (1600) [C54]**
US Senior Women's Championship
Salt Lake City (R4), December 15, 2024
[Mary Kuhner]

1.e4 Nc6 2.Nf3

I didn't feel like playing her pet opening, and she doesn't force me to do so.

2...e5 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.c3 Nf6 5.d3 d6 6.Nbd2 0-0 7.a4 a6

In the database this is a drawish line, but I knew a game with Jayashree was likely to be anything but drawish. She had already upset two strong players in this event. I hoped that I could provoke a risky attack and bring my defensive skills to bear.

8.0-0

I should know this opening—like all of my openings—better than I do. I didn't want to play h3 making the eventual ...Nf4 even stronger; I didn't think I could play Nf1 due to the weakness of f2. Stockfish says 8.Nf1 Ng4 9.Ne3 is perfectly playable, though it didn't feel that way at the time.

8...Ne7

Going to f4 eventually, I guessed.

9.Nb3?

This can't be good, given that it traps my bishop. But I was struggling to get my pieces untangled without h3, which I still didn't want to play.

9...Ba7 10.Be3 Ng6 11.Nbd2 Kh8

Now she's signaling a desire to play ...f5.

12.d4

Because of my concerns about a knight on f4, I discarded the computer's favored line 12.Bxa7 Rxa7 13.Re1 but now I see that 13...Nf4 will simply be undermined by 14.d4.

12...Nf4?

She should hold out for trying to plant a piece on this square, not a pawn that will block important attacking lines.

13.Bxf4

Better is 13.dxe5 dxe5 14.Bxa7 Rxa7 15.Nxe5.

13...exf4 14.Qc2 Nh5 15.Bd3 g5

Here it comes!

16.e5? g4

My idea works fine against 16...dxe5 17.Nxe5, but this is a big problem.

17.Ne1 f5?

This closes lines—including my line against h7, but h7 really doesn't matter and Jayashree should strive to keep things more open. 17...dxe5 unleashes the fury of the Ba7, which is likely to be more than I can handle.

18.exd6 cxd6 19.Nc4 Bb8

Despite two of her own pawns in the way, Jayashree foresees a future for this bishop on the b8–h2 diagonal.

20.Qd2 Qh4 21.g3

Both here and later Stockfish recommends 21.Nb6 but the wide variety of sacrifices available to Black was seriously worrying me.

21...Qh3



Position after 21...Qh3

Now comes a turning point. I was very much afraid of ...f3 followed by a mate on g2 or h2 that I wouldn't be able to stop. Having been watching Jayashree play, I knew she wouldn't hesitate to sacrifice for it. But the move I chose gives me permanent weaknesses by opening lines, and apparently, it's not necessary.

22.gxf4?!

22.Qe2 f3 23.Qe7 apparently ties up Black's undeveloped pieces and doesn't permit her to make progress with her attack.; 22.Nb6 is also possible but how White defends is even less clear to me here.

22...Be6 23.Ng2 Bd5 24.Nce3 Bf3

I somehow did not see that this bishop could settle in on f3, and now I'm in terrible trouble. The one ray of hope is quickly bringing my bishop to f1 where it will both defend my king and menace Black's queen, which is short of squares.

25.Rfe1 d5 26.Bf1

Jayashree is completely winning, but has only one minute on her clock from here on out (the event was G/90 with 30

seconds increment) and makes a panicky move that throws away her advantage.

26...Bxg2?? 27.Bxg2 Qh4 28.Nxd5

Not for the pawn's sake but to cover f4. The game now revolves around the f4-pawn, because if it falls the floodgates will re-open for Black's pieces. (Though it was some comfort to me that the pseudo-fianchettoed light-square bishop means that ...Qxh2+ won't necessarily lead to mate.)

28...Bd6 29.Re6 Rad8 30.Rae1 Bb8

I realized to my dismay that she is threatening to sacrifice the exchange on d5, after which f4 and h2 fall and the attack is on again. I found a solution that the computer turns out to approve, though during the game it felt like I was building a house of cards that might fall down at any moment.

31.Rh6 Kg7 32.Ree6 Rxd5

Jayashree throws a last bit of fuel on the fire, reckoning that the endgame offers her nothing.

33.Bxd5 g3

The goal of 31.Rh6 was to be able to meet 33...Bxf4 with 34.Qxf4 Nxf4 35.Rxh4 Nxd5

34.fxg3 Qg4 35.Qe2?!

Loses quite a bit of material unnecessarily but is still winning.

35...Nf6?

35...Qxe2 36.Rxh7+ Kxh7 37.Rxe2 and White has four pawns for the piece and is likely to pocket one or two more soon, but there's scope for an error. After this move there is very little.

36.Rhxf6 Qxe2 37.Rxe2 Rxf6 38.Re7+ Kh6 39.Rxb7 Bd6 40.Bg8 Kh5 41.h3 Rh6 42.Rxh7 Rxh7 43.Bxh7

Bishops of opposite colors, but there's no way the bishop can dance at this many weddings—I'm about to be up six healthy pawns.

43...a5 44.Bxf5 Be7 45.Kf2 Bd6 46.Ke3 Be7 47.c4 Bb4 48.c5 Be1 49.c6 Bxg3 50.c7

1–0



TOURNAMENTS



Venue

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

Info & events calendar

www.seattlechess.club

Entries & inquiries

SCC Tournament Director

same address as above

– or –

contact@seattlechess.club

February 1

Format: 3-round round-robin. 4-player sections by close rating.
Time Control: Game/90 + 10 sec. increment (*note new shorter TC*). **Entry fee:** \$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, 2pm, 6pm. **Byes:** 0 – must play all 3 rounds! US Chess membership req'd.

February Quads

February 22-23

See below.

Winter Adult Swiss

February 7, 14, 21, 28

Cabin Fever

One US Chess-rated round per Friday night, 4 rounds per month, at 7:30pm. **Time Control:** 40 moves/90 minutes w/10 sec. increment, followed by sudden death 60 minutes w/10 sec. increment. **Entry:** Free for SCC members, \$5/night others. Drop in for any round!

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

*Wednesdays are for casual play. It's free!
Come anytime 7-11pm.*



Winter Adult Swiss February 22 - 23, 2025



A 4-round Swiss with time control of Game 120 mins. with 30-sec. increment.
Open to players born before 2/22/2007.

Prize fund: \$375 guaranteed

First	\$110	Second	\$85	U1800	\$60
U1600	\$ 50	U1400	\$40	U1200/unr	\$30

Entry fees: Free for SCC members, \$20 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 Gerald Larson & Henry Yan ~

12th Annual Reno Larry Evans Memorial Open

Apr 18-20 or Apr 19-20, 2025, 3 Day or 2 Day Schedule

US Chess
150 GPP (Enhanced)

\$27,500!! (b/275)

\$17,000!! (Guaranteed)

F.I.D.E. Rated
OPEN Section

NEW LOCATION: J Resort Casino Hotel, 345 N. Arlington Avenue, Reno, NV 89501

Downtown Reno, formerly Sands Regency Casino Hotel

6 Rd Swiss ♦ 6 Sections ♦ 40/2, Game/1 - d5 ♦ (Open Section) 40/2, Game/55 - d5 ♦ 2 Day (Rds 1-3) G/1 - d5

Open Section (2200 & above) EF: \$194, (2000-2199) \$250, (1999/below) \$300; GMs and IMs free but must enter by 3/21 or pay late fee at door. Guaranteed Prizes; (1-7 in Open Section plus 1/2 of all other prizes).

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

Section Expert (2000-2199) EF: \$194 (2-day EF: \$190) \$2,000-1,000-500-300-200

Section "A" (1800-1999) EF: \$193 (2-day EF: \$190) \$1,800-900-500-300-200

Section "B" (1600-1799) EF: \$192 (2-day EF: \$190) \$1,700-800-400-300-200

Section "C" (1400-1599) EF: \$191 (2-day EF: \$190) \$1,500-700-400-300-200

Section "D/Under" (1399-below) EF: \$180 (2-day EF: \$190) \$1,000-500-300-200, (1199/below) \$400-200-100


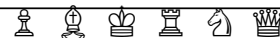
Top Senior (65+) - \$200; Club Championship - \$600 - 300.

Wed. 4/16: 7:00 pm - GM Sergey Kudrin Clock Simul w/ complete analysis of YOUR Game (Only \$30!-bring clock)

Thursday 4/17: 6 - 7:15 pm - Lecture by IM John Donaldson (FREE)

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

Saturday 4/19: 3 - 4:30 pm - FREE Game/Position Analysis - IM John Donaldson

 **Main Tournament** 

Registration: Thursday (4/17) 5 - 8 pm. - Friday (4/18) 9 - 10 am. - Saturday (4/19) 9 - 10 am.

Round Times: (3-day Schedule) Friday - 12 Noon - 7 pm; Saturday - 10 am - 6 pm; Sunday - 9 am - 4 pm
(2-day Schedule) Sat.- Rd 1 - 10:30 am, Rd 2 - 12:45 pm, Rd 3 - 3 pm, Rd 4 merge with regular schedule - 6 pm

For more information: Call, Write or E-mail Organizer and Chief TD, N.T.D. Jerome (Jerry) Weikel,
(H) 775-747-1405 OR (Cell) 775-354-8728 • 6578 Valley Wood Dr., Reno, NV 89523 • wackyykl@aol.com

Room Reservation: Call J Resort Reno, 1-866-386-7829, Group Reservation Code: CHESS 2025

Hotel Rates: Sunday-Thursday \$104.01, Friday-Saturday \$138.06, all taxes and fees included. Reserve by 4/9

For TLA and to confirm receipt of entry see player list at: www.renochess.org

ENTRY FORM - 12th Annual Larry Evans Memorial Open - Reno, Nevada - Apr 18-20 OR Apr 19-20, 2025

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

PRINT Name _____ Phone# _____ USCF Rating _____

Street Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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

ENTRY FEE ENCLOSED: (CIRCLE SECTION AND FEE BELOW) BYE(S) REQUESTED FOR ROUND(S): (circle)

1	2	3	4	5	6
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----- OPEN SECTION -----

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3-Day EF	Free	•	\$194	•	\$250	•	\$300		\$194	\$193	\$192	\$191	\$180	USCF Dues
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2-Day EF	\$190	\$190	\$190	\$190	\$190	USCF Dues
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FEES ALSO ENCLOSED FOR:

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

POSTMARK BY March 21, 2025. Add \$11 after 3/21. Add \$22 on site.

Do not mail after 4/11 or email after 4/15. Make check / m.o. payable to WEIKEL CHESS LLC or provide credit card info and signature. \$7 service charge on credit card entries. ☐ Visa ☐ Master Card ☐ Am.Ex
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