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Front Cover

WCF ironman Ani Barua mans the TD desk at the
Mid-Year Scholastic Cup hosted at the
Grand Knights Chess Academy in Bellevue.
Photo credit: Gelareh Golanbar.

Back Cover

An artistic constellation of chess medals arranged by
Grand Knights Director Gelareh Golanbar
surrounds the Grand Golden Knight.
Photo credit: Mani Atikankhotchasee.

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Chess: Art, Science, or Sport?

The Chess Friends

The Man Benjamin Frederick, The Myth Sarang Sankrithi, and The Legend Vivaan Sankrithi

<https://www.chessfriendsbooks.com/blog>

Get their new book, *Q&A Chess: Tournament Edition* here (published 9-15-2025): <https://a.co/d/hMYdF7B>

Howdy! It's the Chess Friends! We now have more than 20 blog posts on our website, read by over a thousand readers from 17 countries and counting! We're very excited to write this exclusive piece for our favorite magazine, *Northwest Chess*!

There has been this question going around, whether chess is an art, science, or sport, but no one had asked us, the kids... So, in this article, we are going to share our opinion, based on our own chess experience. Our short answer: Chess is all of them! Let us explain...

Before we dig deeper, let's define science, art, and sport. Science is based on logic, experiments, and data. It is objective. It follows a clear method, and results aren't accepted until they're repeated over and over again. Art is subjective; it's more creative, intuitive, and not based on the right answer. Science thrives within boundaries. Art is boundless. Sport is challenging yourself, trying to push your limits by working hard, experimenting in your training, and being creative in your play. When we combine art, science, and sport, amazing things can happen. Space travels, for example, wouldn't be possible without all three!

Leonardo da Vinci, the greatest artist and scientist of all time, used his scientific skills to take his art to a masterpiece level. He observed nature with his artistic eye, and came up with discoveries in biology, engineering, and physics. Albert Einstein famously said that imagination (another way of saying creativity) is more important than knowledge. Advances in science inspire creativity in art, and creativity in art motivates advances in science. And let's not forget Einstein's famous photo, where he is riding the bike! Score for the sport!

To become a great chess player, you need to find a good balance between

art and science! To become a chess champion, you need to appreciate sport.

The Myth Sarang:



When I play a chess game, I am not really playing my opponent, but the positions that are in front of me on the chess board. It's really me versus me. Most of these positions follow certain patterns that I've studied and analyzed many times. I like to set up positions when I'm playing that follow ideas I've studied a lot. That way I am ready to push for strong results.

After each game, I analyze it with coaches and engines. In this analysis, I'm looking to learn from my mistakes, particularly in those critical positions that deviate from patterns I'm familiar with, so I can be better prepared in the future. In many ways this is science. I experiment with ideas I've studied, reflect on those experiments, learn from them, and then iterate to keep improving.

The Legend Vivaan:



When I play a chess game, I like to play in crazy creative ways that no one has ever seen before. This makes my opponents feel unprepared and not ready for my wild ideas! This is just like art! My brain rapid fires ideas, and I like to think about what my opponent will most likely do when I make a sneaky move. My favorite games are ones where I have fun and sac pieces!

Engines and coaches often don't love the piece sacs, but I still do them anyway because they're so pretty and fun! Now that I've gotten a lot better though, the engines tend to call my piece sacs brilliancies! Chess is all creativity for me. I learn from my coaches and calculate, but they know I'm a wild man, so they help me build my attacks and help me coordinate and improve my creative ideas.

The Man Benji:



I love volleyball as much as I love chess (don't make me pick one!). When I'm at a volleyball practice or a tournament, and someone asks me: "What other sports do you play?" without hesitation, I say *Chess*. Their reaction? *Oh, cool!* Chess is a sport on many levels! Let me highlight those levels, drawing from my tournament experience playing chess and volleyball.

1. Chess is a mental sport while volleyball is a physical sport. When you play volleyball and you try your best, your muscles get sore, which results in them getting stronger. In chess, when you think hard about a position, you're working your brain, which means you're building new neuron connections. But in both sports, you're getting pushed to your limits, whether it's physically or mentally.

2. In chess and in volleyball, you dedicate lots of time to practice, which is key to improving. In all sports, chess and volleyball included, we start at the same place. Someone might have a natural talent for the game, but if you want to get anywhere, talent is not enough. You have to practice day after day, whether it's getting reps at the gym or at chess tactics.

3. We test our practice at competitions. During a tournament game, it's you and your opponent, on the other side of the board, or the other side of the net. At first, it might seem like your opponent is someone who you have to "beat", or surpass. In reality, like Sarang said, it's me versus me. Your opponent is there to push you, to test your preparation, just like you do this for them. I am grateful that there are people to challenge me and help me get better.

4. Then, there are emotions. In volleyball and in chess, they are the same: elation with a win or frustration with a loss (let's skip a draw for now, since in volleyball, it's not a possible outcome). In volleyball, my teammates and I cheer each other during and after the match, sometimes very loudly! During a chess game, I would love to come to Vivi's board and start dancing and chanting *Let's-go-Vi-vi-let's-go!* But I can't. A chess game is all on you. Sure, we have our parents and chess friends to share emotions with after the game, but only you know how bad the mistake you made was. I think that's a reason why I tend to get more frustrated when I lose a chess game than a volleyball game.

5. Why do we play sports? During my first few years of playing chess and volleyball, the answer seemed obvious to me. *I play because I have fun!* Later, when I got more competitive, I realized that's not the only answer to this question. *I play because I want to play in the Olympics, or I want to be a Super GM.* You become driven by your goals, but you shouldn't think about them too much or else you will crumble under pressure. Reach for the stars, but grab the lowest hanging fruit on the way there! Also, never forget why you started playing your sport—for fun—whether it's chess or volleyball, or something else!

For our scientist chess readers, lean into the art! For our artist chess readers, lean into the science! For all our readers, enjoy the sport!

Now, if you made it this far, through the serious business part of this article, here are some knee-slappers! As they say, come for the information, stay for the jokes!

Why does Benji keep his volleyball knee-pads on when working on a chess blog?

Because of all those knee-slappers!

Why did an artist sign up for a chess tournament?

To win some Monet!

Why are scientists good at chess?

Because they understand it at a cellular level.

Why are artists good chess friends?

Because after a loss, they offer their shoulder to crayon.

Why can an artist quickly bounce back from a loss?

Because they know how to brush it off.

Why did the chemist win the puzzle solving competition?

Because he had all the solutions!

Three Cheers, Fellow Future Master Chess Friends!

The Man Benji, The Myth Sarang, The Legend Vivi



Washington Women's Championship



SAT-SUN, OCTOBER 11-12, 2025

HOTEL 116 BELLEVUE

625 116TH AVE NE, BELLEVUE, WA 98004

Highest Finishing WA Resident in the Polgar section becomes WA State Women's Champion and is seeded into 2026 WA State Championship, Invitational section. If there's a tie for 1st place, G/90 playoff games will be played later in the year.

Format: A Swiss-style tournament in four sections. Sections with <6 players may be merged.

Polgar Championship: A 5-Round, G/90; +30 Swiss over two days (Sat-Sun). Tri-rated in NWSRS, US Chess, and FIDE. Rounds: Sat. @ 9am, 1:30pm, 6pm. Sun. @ 10am, 3pm. Awards ~ 7:30pm.

Wenjun U1300: A 6-Round G/75; +10 Swiss over two days (Sat-Sun). NWSRS & US Chess dual rated. Rounds: Sat. @ 9am, 12:30pm, 4pm. Sun. @ 10am, 1:30pm, 5pm. Awards ~ 8pm.

Koneru U700: A 1-day, 5-Round G/25; +5 Swiss. NWSRS & US Chess dual rated. Rounds: Sun. @ 10am, 11am, 12:30pm, 1:30pm, 2:30pm. Awards ~ 3:45pm.

Botez Casual/Unrated: A 1-day, 4-Round G/30; +10 Swiss. Open to players unrated – 999. Unrated; no memberships required. Rounds: Sat. @ 11:30am, 1:30pm, 3pm, 4:30pm. Awards ~ 6pm.

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

Entry Fee: \$50 by 10/4, \$60 after. Less \$20 for Koneru U700 & Botez Unrated sections. Free entry for WGMs, WIMs, WFM, or US Chess Queens rated 2000+ USCF. Players rated 1200+ and 600+ in both USCF and NWSRS may play up 1 section into the Polgar and Wenjun sections, respectively. Maximum of 80 players total and 30 players per section, please register early.

Registration: Online at nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration. **Registration and payment deadline Fri. 10/10 @ 5pm.**

Eligibility: Open to all female chess players. Out-of-state players welcome!

Memberships: Current US Chess and WCF membership required for Polgar, Wenjun, and Koneru sections; other states accepted. Membership must be paid at time of registration. No memberships required for Botez section.

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

WA State Elementary Qualifier!

Prize Fund: \$1,200 (based on 40 paid entries)

Polgar Championship: 1st-2nd: \$150-100. 1st U1800/U1600/U1400: \$75.

Wenjun U1300: 1st-2nd: \$80-60. 1st U1200/U1000/U800: \$50.

Koneru U700: 1st-2nd: \$50-35. 1st U600/U400/U200/Unrated: \$30.

Botez Casual/Unrated: 1st-3rd: \$50-40-30.

Special Prizes (per section): Biggest Upset Win: \$5/round, Best Dressed: \$5/day, Best Etiquette: \$5, Fair Play/Kindness/Spreading Joy: \$5/day, Best Mother/Daughter Team (by avg TPR, across sections): \$15.

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

2025 Mid-Year Scholastic Cup

Josh Sinanan

The fourth annual Mid-Year Scholastic Cup was held June 28-29 at Grand Knights Chess Academy in Bellevue. As conceptualized by Mid-Year Scholastic Cup founder and WCF Tournament Coordinator Valentin Razmov, the purpose of these events is to provide Northwest junior players with opportunities to face strong competition and develop their chess skills, especially as they transition to longer time controls. Up-and-coming chess players from throughout the Pacific Northwest were represented in the 57-player field from cities including Sultan, Sammamish, Redmond, Newcastle, Gig Harbor, Bellevue, Woodinville, Bellingham, Bothell, Surrey (BC), Everett, Clyde Hill, Mercer Island, Lynnwood, University Place, Seattle, Kirkland, and North Bend!

The event was co-hosted by the Grand Knight Chess Academy and the Washington Chess Federation, directed by WCF Member-at-Large Ani Barua and WCF FIDE Liaison Mani Atikankhotchasee, and organized by WCF Tournament Coordinator Valentin Razmov, Grand Knight Director Gelareh Golanbar, Grand Knights Founder Sloan Setiadikurnia, and WCF President Josh Sinanan. The five-round, G/75; +15 Swiss tournament occurred over two days and was split between six sections grouped tightly by rating: Section 1 (1560+), Section 2 (1454-1534), Section 3 (1345-1437), Section 4 (1221-1313), Section 5 (1061-1184), and Section 6 (U1050).

Many thanks to our wonderful photographers Gelareh, Mani, Valentin, and Ani for taking pictures throughout the weekend. As usual in these prestigious junior events, the stakes were quite high. The highest finishing Washington player in each section earned a seed or free entry into the following tournaments, respectively: Section 1 → 2026 Washington Championship, Challengers; Section 2 → 2025 Washington Class Championships; Section 3 → 2025 SPFNO; and Sections 4-6 → another

2025 WCF tournament of the player's choice.

In Section 1, Bellevue chess king Thrinay Subramanian emerged victorious with a perfect five points from five games, vanquishing his nearest rivals Syal (1649), Li (1620), and Chen (1596) along the way. Somerset whiz kid Shawn Li captured second place honors a point and a half back with 3.5 points. Lincoln High School Chess Club President Gavin Shi earned third place for his efforts with

a solid three-point score. Chess warriors Yash Syal of Sammamish, Andy Chen of Bellevue, and Krishang Gupta of Everett shared fourth place honors with an even 2.5-point score.

In Section 2, Redmond chess queen Aarya Patel was crowned champion with an undefeated four points from five games, winning her last three games in a row against Evin (1508), Pai (1471), and Lai (1454)! A quadruplet of rising chess stars shared second-fourth place a full-

2025 Mid-Year Scholastic Cup: Section 1

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total pts
1	1	Thrinay Subramanian	1690	W9	W4	W2	W7	W5	5
2	2	Shawn Li	1620	W3	W7	L1	D5	W4	3.5
3	3	Gavin Shi	1732	L2	W8	D4	D6	W10	3
4	4-6	Yash Syal	1649	W6	L1	D3	W10	L2	2.5
5		Andy Chen	1596	L7	W10	W8	D2	L1	2.5
6		Krishang Gupta	1563	L4	W9	L7	D3	W8	2.5
7	7	Ziqian Gao	1686	W5	L2	W6	L1	L9	2
8	8-9	Rian Raja	1661	D10	L3	L5	W9	L6	1.5
9		Imai Maharaja	1604	L1	L6	D10	L8	W7	1.5
10	10	Oliver He	1580	D8	L5	D9	L4	L3	1

2025 Mid-Year Scholastic Cup: Section 2

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total pts
1	1	Aarya Patel	1492	D2	D6	W3	W4	W9	4
2	2-5	Naaditha Nawagamudewag	1528	D1	W5	D4	W9	L3	3
3		Terrick Evin	1508	W9	L4	L1	W10	W2	3
4		Vihaan Pai	1471	W10	W3	D2	L1	D7	3
5		Viraj Dhawan	1468	W7	L2	H---	W6	H---	3
6	6-9	Vidur Ganesan	1534	D8	D1	H---	L5	D10	2
7		Zoe Xu	1518	L5	L9	D10	W8	D4	2
8		Riaan Babbar	1498	D6	D10	L9	L7	B---	2
9		Ryan Lai	1454	L3	W7	W8	L2	L1	2
10	10	Sambuddha Sekhar Das	1522	L4	D8	D7	L3	D6	1.5

2025 Mid-Year Scholastic Cup: Section 3

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total pts
1	1-3	Rushil Singh	1437	X10	D2	W7	D3	D6	3.5
2		Yash Bhaskara	1419	W9	D1	D3	W7	D5	3.5
3		Harvey Wang	1399	D6	W5	D2	D1	W9	3.5
4	4-7	Aiden Zhu	1372	L7	W6	D8	L5	B---	2.5
5		Kruti Thanikonda	1356	D8	L3	D6	W4	D2	2.5
6		Arjun Moghe	1349	D3	L4	D5	B---	D1	2.5
7		Inura Nawagamudewage	1345	W4	W9	L1	L2	D8	2.5
8	8-9	Skyler Qin	1415	D5	H---	D4	L9	D7	2
9		Ziliang Ma	1369	L2	L7	B---	W8	L3	2
10	10	Warren Chung	1370	F1	U---	U---	U---	U---	0

point back: Naaditha Nawagamedewage of Lynnwood, Terrick Evin of Redmond, Vihaan Pai of Sammamish, and Viraj Dhawan of Sammamish.

Three chess musketeers topped the nine-player Section 3 with a solid 3.5 points: North Bend’s Rushil Singh, Redmond’s Yash Bhaskara, and Bellevue’s Harvey Wang. Four chess foot soldiers—Aiden Zhu of Seattle, Kruti Thanikonda of Sammamish, Arjun Moghe of Redmond, and Inura Nawagamudewage of Lynnwood—split the fourth place prize, covering their gas money.

In Section 4, Clyde Hill chess prince Kyle Jiang reigned supreme in the ten-player field with an undefeated four points from five games, allowing just two draws against Rengrajan (1243) and Sreraman (1313). A duo of rapidly improving chess prodigies split second and third place honors with three points apiece: Rohit Sreraman of Sammamish and Jake Bravenboer of Newcastle. Four chess golfers shared the fourth place prize with a 2.5-point par score: Alisa Rachiba of University Place, Justin Lee of Seattle, Jizhou He of Bellevue, and Anirudh Rengarajan of Gig Harbor.

Emerging chess pop star Jackson Rish-Brown from Gig Harbor dominated Section 5 and won first place with a round to spare! A trio of chess trumpeters shared second-fourth place accolades a half-point back with three points apiece: Patrick Zhang of Sammamish, Jayden Wu of Kirkland, and Rahul Sreraman of Sammamish.

Section 6 saw two players take their games to the next level to edge out a narrowly shared victory with four points each: Seattle’s Jonathan Wu and Sammamish’s Saahan Chadha. Seattle sensation Siana Razmov captured the third-place prize a half-point back, drawing against Wu and winning her last two games in the clutch. A pair of chess princes—Evan Dolar of Bellingham and Sebastian Lam of Mercer Island—shared fourth place, each with a regal “plus one” score.

While it may not always be possible to play the sharpest moves, it is within the realm of possibility to dress sharply for a chess game and make deliberate choices when selecting the next move in one’s wardrobe! The classiest players to grace the playing hall at this year’s Mid-Year Scholastic Cup included Shawn Li

+ Rian Raja (Section 1), Riaan Babbar + Vidur Ganesan (Section 2), Skyler Qin + Ziliang Ma (Section 3), Kyle Jiang + Jake Bravenboer (Section 4), Rahul Sreraman + Eason Chen (Section 5), and Phoenix Armitage-Selig + Evan Dolar (Section 6).

Other special prizes included the Highest USCF Rating Gain in each section, as well as the Best Female Player (by tournament performance rating). The “fantastic four” players with the highest USCF rating gains were Krishang Gupta (Section 1, 39 points), Inura Nawagamedewage (Section 3, 23 points), Anirudh Rengarajan (Section 4, 45 points), and Richard Rogov (Section 5, 2 points). The Best Female Prizes were awarded to Bellevue’s Zoe Xu (Section 2), University Place’s Alisa Rachiba (Section 4), and Surrey’s Fedora Gong (Section 6).

Congratulations to the winners, and many thanks to all who contributed to this amazing event!

Justin Lee, has annotated a couple games from the tournament for the Northwest Chess readers to enjoy.

Justin Lee (1280) – Sofia Byelashova (1274) [B45]
Mid-Year Scholastic Cup
Bellevue, WA (R3), June 28, 2025
[Justin Lee]

1.e4
Before the start of this round, I was feeling nervous because I knew my opponent has competed internationally.

1...c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 e6 5.Nc3 d6

We play into the open Sicilian, Taimanov Variation.

6.Bb5 Bd7 7.0-0 Be7 8.Be3 Nf6 9.Re1 0-0 10.Bd3 d5?!

This move just gives my opponent an isolated pawn.

2025 Mid-Year Scholastic Cup: Section 4									
#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total pts
1	1	Kyle Jiang	1244	W4	W8	D7	W6	D2	4
2	2-3	Rohit Sreraman	1313	W3	L6	H---	W4	D1	3
3		Jake Bravenboer	1250	L2	W9	D10	D7	W5	3
4	4-7	Alisa Rachiba	1288	L1	W5	W6	L2	D7	2.5
5		Justin Lee	1280	D7	L4	W8	W10	L3	2.5
6		Jizhou He	1255	W9	W2	L4	L1	H---	2.5
7		Anirudh Rengarajan	1243	D5	D10	D1	D3	D4	2.5
8	8-10	Sofia Byelashova	1274	D10	L1	L5	D9	B---	2
9		Darya Byelashova	1235	L6	L3	B---	D8	D10	2
10		Emma Ge	1221	D8	D7	D3	L5	D9	2

2025 Mid-Year Scholastic Cup: Section 5									
#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total pts
1	1	Jackson Rish-Brown	1179	D4	W6	W2	W7	L8	3.5
2	2-4	Patrick Zhang	1177	W8	W7	L1	L4	W6	3
3		Jayden Wu	1122	D6	D4	W5	H---	H---	3
4		Rahul Sreraman	1111	D1	D3	H---	W2	D7	3
5	5	Jacob Rish-Brown	1061	L7	W8	L3	D6	B---	2.5
6	6-8	Eason Chen	1184	D3	L1	W8	D5	L2	2
7		Bihe Liu	1173	W5	L2	H---	L1	D4	2
8		Richard Rogov	1105	L2	L5	L6	B---	W1	2

2025 Mid-Year Scholastic Cup: Section 6									
#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total pts
1	1-2	Jonathan Wu	1040	W7	D3	H---	W2	W4	4
2		Saahan Chadha	1009	W5	W4	W3	L1	W6	4
3	3	Siana Razmov	986	W8	D1	L2	W6	W9	3.5
4	4-5	Evan Dolar	1007	W9	L2	W7	W8	L1	3
5		Sebastian Lam	779	L2	W9	L6	W7	W8	3
6	6-8	Fedora Gong	866	W10	L7	W5	L3	L2	2
7		Phoenix Armitage-Selig	803	L1	W6	L4	L5	B---	2
8		Liam Zeng	722	L3	B---	W9	L4	L5	2
9	9	Eli Zhang	742	L4	L5	L8	B---	L3	1
10	10	Pranav Srinivas	149	L6	U---	U---	U---	U---	0

11.exd5 exd5 12.h3 Nxd4 13.Bxd4 Be6
14.Qf3 Re8 15.Bf5 Bxf5 16.Qxf5 Rc8
17.Re3 Qd6 18.Rae1

I double my rooks to pin the bishop.

18...Qb4? 19.Bxf6



Position after 19.Bxf6

My opponents bishop is pinned to the rooks. Taking the bishop back with the g-pawn would somehow make their position even worse after 20.Nxd5 Qh4 21.nxe7+ Kg7 22.Nxc8 Rxe3 23.Rxe3.

19...d4

19...gxf6 20.Nxd5 Qh4 21.Nxe7+ Kg7
22.Nxc8 Rxe3 23.Rxe3

20.Rxe7

Here my opponent's best move is to sacrifice the queen for the rook, which is hard to see.

20...Rf8 21.Qg5 g6 22.Qh6 Qxb2
23.Qg7#

1-0

Emma Ge (1221) –
Justin Lee (1280) [C54]
Mid-Year Scholastic Cup
Bellevue, WA (R4), June 29, 2025
[Justin Lee]

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

We play into the Giuoco Piano: Center attack.

5...exd4 6.cxd4 Bb4+ 7.Bd2

The best move here is to take the e-pawn. Somehow, I completely miss that.

7...Bxd2+

7...Nxe4 8.Bxb4 Nxb4 9.Bxf7+ Kxf7
10.Qb3+ Ke8 11.Qxb4

8.Nbxd2 0-0

Castling here is bad because it allows White to gain more space in the center



Justin Lee ponders his next move at the Mid-Year Scholastic Cup.
Photo credit: Mani Atikankhotchasee.

with d5. Instead of castling, I should have played 8...Nxe4 9.Nxe4 d5.

9.0-0 d5 10.Bd3 dxe4 11.Nxe4 Bg4 12.
h3 Bh5 13.Nxf6+ Qxf6 14.Be4 Rad8
15.Qb3 b6 16.Qc2 Bxf3 17.Bxf3 Nxd4



Position after 17...Nxd4

18.Qc3

18.Qxc7 Nxf3+ 19.gxf3 Rd5 20.Qc3
Rg5+ 21.Kh2 Qf4+ 22.Kh1 Rh5 23.Kg2
Rg5+ 24.Kh1 Rh5 25.Kg2 Qg5+ 26.Kh2
Qh4 27.f4

18...Nxf3+ 19.Qxf3 Qxf3

I decide to trade the queens instead

of taking the b-pawn because I am up a pawn, and I don't want to give my opponent any counterplay.

20.gxf3 Rd2 21.b3 Re8 22.Rfe1 Kf8
23.Rxe8+ Kxe8 24.Re1+ Kd7 25.a4 Rd3
26.Re3 Rxe3 27.fxe3

This endgame is much harder to draw without rooks on the board.

27...Kc6 28.b4 Kd5 29.a5 bxa5 30.bxa5
30.h4

30...h5 31.Kf2 h4 32.Ke2 Kc4 33.Kd2
Kb5 34.a6 Kxa6 35.Kc3 c5 36.Kc4 Kb6
37.f4 Kc6 38.e4 a5

My outside passed pawns act as diversions because they prevent my opponent from using her king to defend her own pawns.

39.Kb3 Kd6 40.Ka4 c4 41.Ka3 Kc5
42.Kb2 Kd4 43.e5 Ke4 44.Kc3 Kxf4
45.Kxc4 Kxe5 46.Kb5 f5 47.Kxa5 f4
48.Kb4 f3 49.Kc4 f2 50.Kd3 f1R 51.Ke2
Rf4 52.Ke3 Kf5 53.Ke2 Ke4 54.Kd2
Rf3 55.Ke2 Rxh3 56.Kf2 Rg3 57.Kf1
Kf3 58.Ke1 Rg2 59.Kd1 h3 60.Kc1 h2

0-1

2025 Idaho State Blitz Championship

(McKenzie and Gorman Co-Champions!)

By Jay Simonson

Eleven players registered for the 2025 Idaho State Blitz Chess Championship, and ten of them were present at the Idaho State University, Student Union, Salmon River Suites in Pocatello, Idaho on Saturday, July 19, 2025, to face off in the six round (two games per round) Blitz (Game in five minutes) tournament. Nine of the players are Idaho residents, and one, William Aepli, Lives in Wyoming.

At the end of round six, William Aepli, from Wilson, Wyoming, was the clear first-place winner, claiming the \$80 first prize. Niall McKenzie, from Pocatello, Idaho, and Cody Gorman, from Nampa, Idaho, were tied for second/third place, but as the top two Idaho players, were 2025 Idaho State Blitz Chess Co-Champions.

Niall and Cody played a playoff game to determine who received the physical championship plaque, which could not be split, and in the very intense playoff game, Niall became victorious, taking home the plaque, with both players earning \$55 each.

Jay Simonson was chief Tournament Director and Tilly Backstrom was the assistant TD.



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WASHINGTON CHALLENGERS CUP



SAT-SUN, OCTOBER 11-12, 2025

HOTEL 116 BELLEVUE

625 116TH AVE NE, BELLEVUE, WA 98004

Highest finishing Washington residents in the Gukesh + Pragg sections seeded into the 2026 Washington State Championship + Rising Stars sections, respectively.

Format: A 5-round Swiss in two sections:

Gukesh 1700+ & Pragganandhaa U1700

In case of a tie for 1st place, a future playoff match will determine the seed for the Championship or Rising Stars section of the 2026 Washington State Championship.

Schedule: Saturday 9 AM, 1:30 PM, 6 PM; Sunday 10 AM, 3 PM. Players whose games run long may request a late start for the next round.

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

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

Gukesh 1700+: 1st-4th: \$650-550-450-350.
1st U2100/U1900: \$300.

Pragganandhaa U1700: 1st-4th: \$400-350-300-250.
1st U1500/U1300/U1100: \$200; 1st Unrated: \$150.

Special Prizes (per section): Biggest Upset Win: \$10/rd., Best Female Player (by TPR): \$50, Best Senior Player (50+, by TPR): \$50, Best Dressed: \$20/day.

Entry Fee: \$100 by 10/4, \$120 after. Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs & WIMs and all chess Challengers rated 2300+ USCF. \$50 play-up fee if rated 1500-1700 in both NWSRS + USCF and playing in Gukesh 1700+. Maximum of 100 players – please register early to guarantee your spot.

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

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

Rating: Triple-Rated in NWSRS, US Chess, and FIDE. Higher of current NWSRS or October 2025 US Chess rating will be used to determine section, pairings, and prizes.

Registration: Online at nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration. Pay by SettleKing (Washington Chess Federation), Zelle (ID: WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com), cash, or write a check to Washington Chess Federation. **Payment due upon registration; players listed as unpaid for more than 3 days after registering will be withdrawn from the tournament. Registration + payment deadline: Fri, October 10 @ 5pm.** Unpaid players will be removed from the roster after the deadline.

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

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

Contact: Josh Sinanan, WCF President

Phone: 206-769-3757

Email: WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com

National Chess Day Scholastic

CHESS TOURNAMENT

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2025

HOTEL 116 BELLEVUE

625 116TH AVE NE, BELLEVUE, WA 98004



Format

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

K-3 U800

K-3 Open

4-12 U900

4-12 Open

Schedule

Rd. 1 – 9:00am

Rd. 2 – 10:30am

Lunch

Rd. 3 – 12:30pm

Rd. 4 – 1:45pm

Rd. 5 – 3:00pm

Awards ~ 4:30pm

Eligibility

Open to all students in
grades K-12 as of the
2025-26 school year. Out-
of-state players welcome!

Entry Fee

\$50 by 10/4, \$60 after.
Room for 50 players.

Awards

Section Prizes: Amazon Gift Cards
awarded in each section:
1st – 4th: \$70–65–60–55.

Special Prizes (per section): Medals
for first-time players, best female
player, best dressed, and biggest
upset win. ***Top player (by TPR) in
each of the K-3 Open and 4-12
Open sections wins free entry
into the 2025 SPFNO!***

Rating

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

Clocks + Notation

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

Registration

Register online at
NWchess.com/OnlineRegistration/
Pay by SettleKing/Zelle/Cash/Check.

**Payment due upon registration; players
listed as unpaid for more than 3 days after
registering will be withdrawn from the
tournament. 100% pre-registered, no on-
site entries or payments. Entry + payment
deadline Fri October 10 @ 5:00pm.** No
registrations accepted or refunds offered after
the deadline.

Procedure

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

WA State Scholastic Qualifier!

Questions?

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

CHALLENGERS CUP SCHOLASTIC

CHESS TOURNAMENT

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2025

HOTEL 116 BELLEVUE

625 116TH AVE NE, BELLEVUE, WA 98004



DUAL FORMAT

Rapid Sections

A 6-round, G/25; +5
Swiss in 2 sections:

K-3 U800

4-6 U1000

Schedule:

Rd. 1 – 9:00am
Rd. 2 – 10:30am
Lunch
Rd. 3 – 12:30pm
Rd. 4 – 1:45pm
Rd. 5 – 3:00pm
Rd. 6 – 4:15pm
Awards ~ 5:30pm

Classical Sections

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

K-5 Open

6-12 Open

Schedule:

Rd. 1 – 9:00am
Lunch
Rd. 2 – 12:30pm
Rd. 3 – 3:00pm
Awards ~ 5:30pm

ENTRY FEE

\$50 by 10/5, \$60 after.
Room for 50 players.

AWARDS

Section Prizes: Amazon Gift
Cards awarded in each section:
1st – 4th: \$70–65–60–55.

Special Prizes (per section):
Medals for first-time players,
best female player, best dressed,
and biggest upset win. ***Top
player (by TPR) in each of the
K-5 Open and 6-12 Open
sections wins free entry into
the 2025 WA Class
Championships!***

RATING

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

ELIGIBILITY

Open to all students in grades K-12 as of the 2025-26
school year. Out-of-state players welcome!

CLOCKS + NOTATION

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

REGISTRATION

Register online at
NWchess.com/OnlineRegistration
Pay by SettleKing/Zelle/Cash/Check.
**Payment due upon registration; players listed
as unpaid for more than 3 days after
registering will be withdrawn from the
tournament. 100% pre-registered, no on-site
entries or payments. Entry + payment
deadline Sat October 11 @ 5:00pm.** No
registrations accepted or refunds offered after the
deadline.

PROCEDURE

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

WA State Scholastic Qualifier!

Questions?

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



Seattle Seafair Open

Josh Sinanan



The 2025 Seattle Seafair Open and Seattle Seafair Blitz tournaments took place at Hotel 116 in Bellevue on the weekend of July 12-13. For the second consecutive year, the event was organized as a joint effort between the Seattle Chess Club and the Washington Chess Federation. Hosted in the spacious playing hall at Hotel 116, the venue easily accommodated the substantial attendance of 148 players, a Seafair record!

Players from throughout the Pacific Northwest were represented in the two-day chess extravaganza, including the cities of Kirkland, Bothell, Redmond, Sammamish, Kent, Portland, Seattle, Bellevue, Mount Lake Terrace, Lynnwood, Gig Harbor, Brier, Mercer Island, Silver Spring (Maryland), Belfair, Clyde Hill, Renton, Duvall, Edmonds, Issaquah, Mill Creek, North Bend, Pacific, Shoreline, Tacoma, Auburn, Spokane, Lake Stevens, Woodinville, Fall City, Hunts Point, and Kenmore! The busy slate of events was orchestrated by Seattle Chess Club President John Selsky, WCF Member-at-Large Ani Barua, WCF FIDE Liaison FA Mani Atikankhotchasee, WCF Scholastic Director Allen Messenger, and WCF President Josh Sinanan.

Seattle Seafair Open

The Seattle Seafair Open, Seattle Chess Club's premier annual tournament and traditionally largest event of the year, spanned the two-day weekend. This year's superb attendance of 148 players beat last year's record of 123 when the event was hosted at Lakeside Upper School in Seattle. Several changes and additions were implemented at this year's Seafair to provide a first-class playing experience for as many players as possible as the event continues to grow. The field was split into two sections—Open and Premier U1600—to make for much more competitive pairings each round than the traditional one-section format would produce. The dual USCF and FIDE rating



Tournament directors Mani Atikankhotchasee (L) and Ani Barua make their opening announcements while Seattle Chess Club President John Selsky proudly hoists the Seafair Trophy. Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.

of both sections was introduced to raise the prestige of the event and help players seeking to establish or update their FIDE rating in preparation for national and international events. Lastly, games from the top boards of both sections were broadcast on a 15-minute delay via the Clono app (clono.no), which spectators could follow to keep tabs on the top games.

Despite the new format, there were still plenty of upsets abound in every round due to the high density of underrated ringers populating the field. A star-studded lineup of titled players headlined the field, with such celebrities as NM Siddarth M. Sundaram, FM Aziz Degenbaev, Washington State Champion FM Ryan Porter, NM Vedic Panda, NM Yiding Lu, NM Brandon Jiang, NM Vidip Kona, CM Vihaan Jammalamadaka, CM Pranav K. Anoop, CM Leonid Gavrysh, and CM Ananth Gottumukkala. A trio of tournament directors ran the massive event, with Mani handling the FIDE rulings and Clono game broadcasting,

Ani managing the pairings, and Allen running the floor. SCC President John Selsky represented Seattle Chess Club and brought over the beautiful Seafair Trophy, which stood proudly at the front of the room much to the amazement of many players.

After five topsy-turvy weeks sailing the high seas in the 73-player Open section, only two bootleggers survived the dangerous voyage and discovered the first-place treasure, each scoring 4.5 points from five games: FM Aziz Degenbaev (4.5, 2380 → 2387) of Seattle and FM Ryan Porter (4.5, 2287 → 2296) of Bellevue. For Aziz, who recently became an FM and is working on his IM title, this was his second consecutive Seafair title after tying for first with IM Ray Kaufman last year. For Porter, a strong FM who recently returned to the chess world after a long break and is now teaching his sons how to play, the victory kept the momentum going since his crowning as the 2025 Washington State Champion back in February!



*Leonid Gavrysh (L) vs. Dr. Tejas Mulye at the start of their third-round game.
Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.*

A quintuplet of chess plunderers, not to be confused with blunderers, shared third/fourth/U2100/U1900 honors a half-point back: NM Vedic Panda (4.0, 2284 → 2283) of Seattle, NM Vidip Kona (4.0, 2223 → 2229) of Duvall, NM Brandon Jiang (4.0, 2191 → 2191) of Bellevue, CM Vihaan Jammalamadaka (4.0, 2092 → 2113) of Redmond, and Odbayar Yondon (4.0, 1885 → 1929) of Sammamish.

A pair of chess privateers—Vihaan Pai (3.0, 1474 → 1607) of Sammamish and Zoe Xu (3.0, 1468 → 1603) of Bellevue—shared the first U1700 prize with a sensational “plus one” score thanks to clutch upset wins in the final round!

The biggest upset wins were achieved by the following chess marauders: Selina Cheng (round one: 339 points) of Seattle, Benjamin Frederick (round two: 421 points) of Seattle, Vihaan Jammalamadaka (round three: 323 points) of Redmond, Skandha Raj (round four: 267 points) of Bellevue, and Odbayar Yondon (round five: 309 points) of Sammamish. Chess starbuck Zoe Xu (TPR: 1833) of Bellevue won the best female player prize.

Elder chess serviceman CM Leonid Gavrysh (TPR: 1962) of Brier won the best senior prizes for his geriatric efforts. A pair of classy chess temptresses—Sophie Velea (Saturday) of Sammamish and Loida Guo (Sunday) of Bothell—

won the daily best dressed prizes for their stylish ensembles.

Bothell chess raider Rian Raja (5.0, 1501 → 1576) topped the 75-player Premier U1600 section with a perfect 5.0 points from five games. Despite the adverse conditions, Captain Raja navigated his chess ship safely through the ‘Premier passage’ and survived his encounters with unhinged chess looters including Miskelly (1190), Thanikonda (1229), Samara (1189), and Hirschowitz (1544)! Seven chess corsairs—David Hirschowitz (4.0, 1544 → 1549) of Mercer Island, Pablo Manzon Jr. (4.0, 1500 → 1506) of Kent, Kedar Venkatachalam (4.0, 1463 → 1464) of Redmond, Riaan Babbar (4.0, 1318 → 1379) of Sammamish, Rushil Singh (4.0, 1263 → 1362) of North Bend, Ziliang Ma (4.0, 1191 → 1274) of Seattle, and Sachin Miskelly (4.0, 1190 → 1263) of Seattle—distributed the second/third/fourth/U1500/U1300 spoils amongst themselves.

Five chess pirates unearthed some buried treasure and shared first U1100 honors with three points apiece: Elina Khudyev (3.0, 1109 → 1204) of Sammamish, Ann Jem (3.0, 902 → 1032) of Seattle, Mithran Anbuselvam (3.0, 877 → 1040) of Bothell, Liam Chang (3.0, 831 → 1024) of Bothell, and Edwin Huang (3.0, 956 → 1069) of Bellevue. Rookie chess recruit Gobindroop Mann (3.0, unrated → 1254) of Pacific won the first Unrated prize with three points, recovering well after a first-round setback to finish undefeated in his last four games!

Five chess despoilers were awarded the best upset win prizes for their tricky efforts: Adheesh Sundaram (round one: 352 points) of Bothell, Liam Chang (round two: 548 points) of Bothell, Samuel Xu (round three: 283 points) of Bellevue,

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Pavithran Sundaram (round four: 474 points) of Bothell, and Samik Kulkarni (round five: 405 points) of Bothell.

Chess mermaid Andra Marinescu (TPR: 1383) of Renton took home the best female player prize. Veteran chess robber Pablo Manzon Jr. (TPR: 1494) of Kent won the best senior prize despite performing slightly below his 1500 rating. Two chess cavaliers—Damien Davies (Saturday) of Bothell and Michael Berg (Sunday) of Kent—cleaned up well and were awarded the best dressed prizes for their snazzy attire.

**Akim Pikh (1942) –
CM Ananth Gottumukkala (2188)**
2025 Seattle Seafair Open [B25]
Seattle, WA (R3), July 12, 2025
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 a6



Position after 2...a6

2...a6 is not played often. The most natural and common move is 2...Nc6, though 2...d6 and 2...e6 are also reasonable, and more popular than...a6.

That said, there's nothing inherently wrong with hinting at expansion on the queenside and protecting the b5-square against invasion by knight or bishop.

3.g3 Nc6

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Pablo Manzon Jr. (L) and Ziliang Ma begin their second-round game as Andra Marinescu looks on. Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.

3...b5 4.Bg2 Bb7 feels a more consistent continuation.

4.d3 g6 5.Bg2 Bg7 6.f4 d6 7.Nf3 e6 8.0-0 Nge7 9.Be3 Nd4 10.Rb1 0-0 11.Ne2 Nxe2+ 12.Qxe2 Nc6 13.c3 Re8 14.g4 f5 15.Nd2 Kh8 16.Rbe1 Bd7 17.h3

17.Nc4

17...Rb8 18.Nb3

18.Nf3

18...b5 19.Qd2

19.e5!?

19...a5 20.Nc1 b4 21.Ne2 bxc3 22.bxc3 a4 23.Qc2 Qa5 24.Rb1 Rbc8 25.Rb7 Rcd8?!

25...Qd8∞

26.exf5 Qa6 27.Rfb1 exf5 28.R1b6 Qa5



Position after 28...Qa5

29.Bxc6

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Josh Sinanan
President

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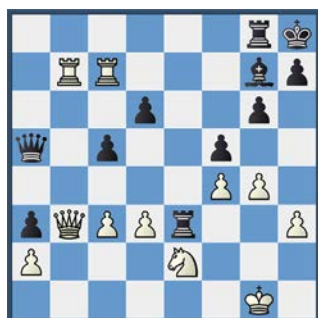




Vijay Patankar (L) vs. 2025 Washington State Champion Ryan Porter commence their second-round game. Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.

Just removing the e3-bishop from the line of fire causes some problems for Black. 29.Bf2 Ne7 (29...Rb8!?) 30.Rxd6 Bc8 31.Rxd8 Qxd8 32.Rb8 with a helpful extra pawn. 32...Qd7 (32...Qc7? 33.Qxa4 would be two helpful extra pawns.) 33.g5 and White is for choice.

29...Bxc6 30.Rxc6 Rxe3 31.Rcc7 Rg8 32.Qb2 a3 33.Qb3



Position after 33.Qb3

33...c4

33...Qa8 creates an interesting position, full of immediate sharp tactics. For example:

a) 34.Kf2 Qe8 35.Qxg8+ is a weird draw. 35...Kxg8 36.Rxg7+ Kh8 37.Rxh7+ Kg8 38.Ng3 Rxg3;

b) 34.gxf5 is an improvement on the 34.Kf2 line: 34...gxf5 (34...Rxe2 35.f6 Qe8 36.Qxg8+ Kxg8 37.f7+) 35.Kf2 Qe8 36.Qxg8+ Kxg8 37.Rxg7+ Kh8 38.Ng3 Rxg3 39.Rxg3±;

c) 34.Rxg7 Rxg7 35.Rb8+ Qxb8 36.Qxb8+ Rg8 37.Qxd6 Rxe2, but here White should probably take the perpetual.

34.Qxc4 Ree8?

34...Qa8 35.Kf2 Rxh3 36.g5 White is more aggressively placed.

35.Kf1

35.g5!?, since 35...Rxe2?? 36.Rxg7!

35...fxg4 36.hxg4 h5 37.Qc6!



Position after 37.Qc6

37...g5

37...Re3 38.Ra7 Qc5 39.Qb7 and the black queen is trapped.

38.Rxg7!

1-0

Jeff Kottcamp (1690) –
Vedic Panda (2276) [B22]

2025 Seattle Seafair Open
Seattle, WA (R1), July 12, 2025
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.d4 cxd4 5.
cxd4 d6 6.Nf3 Nc6



Position after 6...Nc6

7.Nc3

7.Bc4 Nb6 8.Bb5 dxe5 9.Nxe5 Bd7 10.Nxd7 Qxd7 11.Nc3 e6 12.0-0 is a fairly typical, and fairly equal, main line.

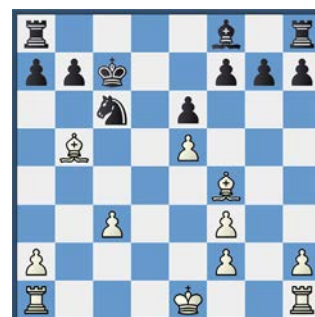
7...dxe5 8.dxe5 Nxc3 9.Qxd8+ Kxd8

9...Nxd8 10.bxc3 Bd7

10.bxc3 Bg4 11.Bf4

11.Be2 e6 12.Be3 allows the white bishops slightly more active roles.

11...Bxf3 12.gxf3 e6 13.Bb5 Kc7



Position after 13...Kc7

14.Bxc6

No need to rush this exchange. Start with 14.Ke2. Maybe Black will spend a tempo to encourage the capture later.

14...Kxc6 15.Ke2 Be7 16.Be3 Rhd8

17.Rhd1 b6 18.f4 Ba3 19.Rd4 Bc5 20.
Rd3 Rxd3 21.Kxd3 Rd8+ 22.Kc2 Kb5
23.Bxc5 Kxc5 24.Re1 Rd5 25.a4 a6 26.
Re4 Rd7 27.Rb4 b5 28.axb5?



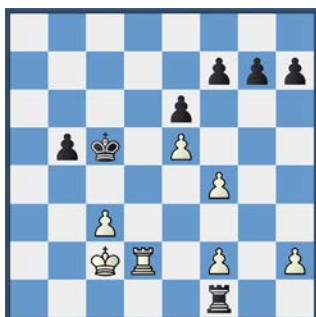
Position after 28.axb5

Despite the disadvantage of White having something like five pawn islands to Black's two, White is hanging on because there are no clear entry routes for the black rook. Exchanging on b5 creates one. It's much easier to continue to defend by blocking the queen side with 28.a5

28...axb5 29.Re4 Ra7 30.Kb3 Ra1
31.Rd4 Rb1+

31...Ra4!-+

32.Kc2 Rf1 33.Rd2



Position after 33.Rd2

33...Rh1?!



Vijay Nallappa (L) vs. Abhiram Nerella debate a topical line of the Caro-Kann in their second-round game. Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.

This impatient move allows White to activate the rook. 33...h5 can be played essentially at no cost here, as White has no constructive plans.

a) 34.Rd7?? Rxf2+ 35.Kd3 Rxf4-+;

b) After 34.Kd3, the best plan for Black isn't the obvious attack on the h-pawn. Instead, Black should shift to harassing from the other wing: 34...Ra1 (34...Rh1 35.Ke2 Rxh2 36.Rd7 is similar to the game line, a likely draw.) 35.Ke3 (35.Kc2? Ra4-+) 35...Ra3 36.Rd3 Kc4 37.Kd2 Ra2+ 38.Ke3 Rc2;

c) 34.h4 f5 35.exf6 (35.Kd3 Rh1 36.Ke3 Re1+! 37.Kf3 (37.Kd3 Re4; 37.Re2 Rc1 38.Kd2 Rh1) 37...Kc4) 35...gxf6.

For the rest of the game Black tries to grind out something, but White defends tenaciously.

34.Rd7! Rxh2 35.Rxf7 Rxf2+ 36.Kd3 g5 37.Rc7+ Kb6 38.Rxh7 Rf3+ 39.Kd2 Rxf4 40.Rh6 Re4 41.Rxe6+ Kc5 42.Kd3 Re1 43.Kd2 Re4 44.Kd3 Rf4 45.Rg6 g4 46.e6 Kd6 47.Rg5 Rf3+ 48.Ke2 Rxc3 49.Rxb5 Kxe6

It's worth noting that the defender here doesn't even need Philidor's drawing method, which can be summarized as king in front of pawn, rook on third rank until pawn advances to that rank, then rook to eighth rank to check King from behind. Against a b- or g-pawn, even a first-rank passive defense is adequate.



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The Battle of the Sids! Siddharth Bhaskaran (L) vs. Siddharth M. Sundaram headline round two on the top board. Here, Sundaram opts for two-handed queenside castling.
Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.

50.Kf2 Kf6 51.Kg2 Kg6 52.Ra5 Rf3
53.Rb5 Kf6 54.Ra5 Re3 55.Rb5 Re5
56.Rb2 Kg5 57.Ra2 Kh4 58.Rb2 Re3
59.Ra2 Rg3+ 60.Kh2 Re3 61.Rb2 Kg5
62.Kg2 Kf4 63.Rf2+ Kg5 64.Ra2 Kf5
65.Ra5+ Kf4 66.Ra4+ Re4 67.Ra2 Rc4
68.Rb2 Rc3 69.Ra2 Rg3+ 70.Kf2 Rh3
71.Ra4+ Kg5 72.Kg2 Rc3 73.Ra2 Kh4
74.Rb2 Rh3 75.Ra2 Rg3+ 76.Kh2 Rd3
77.Rb2 Rd4 78.Kg2 Kg5 79.Ra2 Re4
80.Rb2 Kf4 81.Rf2+ Ke5 82.Ra2 Re3
83.Rb2 Kf6 84.Ra2 Kg5 85.Rb2 Kh4
86.Ra2 Re4 87.Rb2 g3 88.Ra2 Kg4
89.Rb2 Kh4 90.Ra2 Rf4 91.Rb2 Rg4
92.Ra2 Rg7 93.Ra4+ Rg4 94.Ra2 Rc4
95.Rb2 Ra4 96.Rc2 Kg4 97.Rb2 Rf4
98.Ra2 Rf8 99.Ra4+ Rf4 100.Ra2 Kh4

101.Rb2 Rf2+ 102.Rxf2 gxf2 103.Kxf2
1/2-1/2

**Siddharth M. Sundaram (2415) –
Vihaan Jammalamadaka (2092) [B29]**
2025 Seattle Seafair Open
Seattle, WA (R3), July 12, 2025
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nc3

One of the two main moves for White in this slightly obscure Nimzovichian line of the Sicilian. The other, 3.e5 Nd5, takes on aspects of an Alekhine's Defense, though the c-pawn's influence on the d4-square should be marginally helpful for Black.

4.Nc3 e6 (4...Nxc3 5.dxc3 Nc6 6.Bf4 is also played.) 5.Nxd5 exd5 6.d4±

3...d5



Position after 3...d5

4.e5

4.exd5 Nxd5 5.Bb5+ Bd7 6.Ne5
(6.Qe2!?) 6...Bxb5 7.Qf3 f6 8.Nxb5 Na6
(8...fxe5 9.Qxd5±) 9.Qh5+ g6 10.Nxg6
hxg6 11.Qxh8±

4...Nfd7 5.Nxd5 Nxe5



Position after 5...Nxe5

6.Bb5+

6.Ne3!?: 6.Nxe5 Qxd5 7.Qe2 g6 8.b3
Bg7 9.Bb2 0-0 10.0-0-0 has a different
feel to it.

6...Nbc6 7.Nc3

7.Ne3



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7...Nxf3+ 8.Qxf3 Bd7 9.0-0 a6



Position after 9...a6

10.Bd3

10.Bxc6 Bxc6 11.Qh5 (11.Qg3 is the game at move 13.) 11...e6 12.Re1 Black has the bishops, but White is slightly ahead in development. There's also the small threat of 13.Rxe6 to counter. 12...g6 13.Qe5 Qd4 seems to solve most of the issues, though.

10...Ne5 11.Qe3 Nxd3 12.Qxd3 Bc6 13.Qg3 g6

13...h5 14.d3 h4 15.Qh3 e6

14.d3 Bg7 15.Re1 0-0 16.Bg5 Re8 17. Qh4



Position after 17.Qh4

17...Bf6?!



David Marcelia (L) and Ferris Samara engage in a tense second-round game. Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.

Black is not obligated to passively defend the e-pawn. 17...Qd7 18.Bxe7 (18.Rxe7 Rxe7 19.Bxe7 h6 is similar.) 18...h6 and...g5 will trap the bishop, though there are some complications. 19.Bxc5? Bxc3 20.bxc3 Qd5 forks and wins.

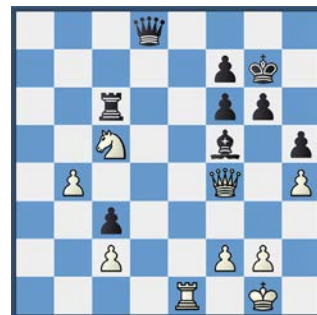
18.Bxf6 exf6 19.Rxe8+ Bxe8 20.Ne4 Kg7 21.Re1 b6

21...Bc6 22.Nxc5 Qa5 23.b4 Qxa2

22.Qg3 Bd7 23.h4 h5 24.b3 Be6 25.a4 Rc8 26.Re3 Rc6 27.Qf4 b5 28.axb5 axb5 29.Re1 c4 30.dxc4 bxc4 31.b4 Bf5 32.Nc5

32.c3 Re6 33.Re3

32...c3



Position after 32...c3

33.Qf3?!

33.Qe3 Bxc2 (33...Qd2 34.Qxd2 (34.Nb3 Qxe3 (34...Qd5 35.Qd4) 35.fxe3 (35.Rxe3?! Rc4 36.b5 Rxh4 37.Rxc3 Rb4) 38.Qf3?!

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Arjun Moghe (L) vs. Easton Ren drew a close fourth-round game.
Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.

34...cxd2 35.Rd1 Rd6 36.Nd3 Bxd3
37.Rxd2 Rb6 38.cxd3 Rxb4) 34.Qxc3

33...Qd2 34.Re3

White's position begins to collapse.
34.Re8 Rd6 35.g3 Bxc2 36.Qa8 f5 is, at
least, messy.

34...Rb6

34...Rd6 35.Ne4 Bxe4 36.Rxe4 Qxc2



Position after 34...Rb6

35.Qf4?!

35.Nb3 Qxc2 36.Nd4 Qb1+ 37.Kh2 Bg4

**35...Qxc2 36.Re7? Qb1+ 37.Kh2 Qxb4
38.Rxf7+**

A desperate hope, but of course nothing
is there.

**38...Kxf7 39.Qc7+ Ke8 40.g4 hxg4
41.h5 gxh5 42.Kg3 c2 43.Nd3 Qd6+**

0-1

**Ryan W Porter (2287) –
Rafael Palathingal (1961) [A14]**
2025 Seattle Seafair Open
Seattle, WA (R4), July 12, 2025
[Ralph Dubisch]

**1.c4 e6 2.g3 Nf6 3.Bg2 d5 4.Nf3 Be7
5.0-0 0-0 6.b3 d4**



Position after 6...d4

Grabbing space, but it can be hard to
maintain the pawn on this advanced
square. 6...c5 and 6...b6 are the most
played moves here.

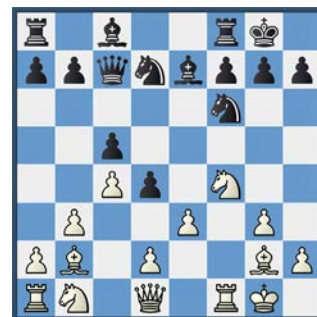
7.e3 c5 8.Ne5

8.exd4 cxd4 9.d3 Nc6 10.Re1 is a reversed
Benoni.

**8...Qc7 9.f4 Nbd7 10.Nd3 e5 11.Bb2
exf4**

11...e4 overextends the center pawns.

12.Nxf4



Position after 12.Nxf4

12...dxe3

The opening of central lines likely favors
White, with bishops on the long diagonals,
a potentially strong central outpost, and
fewer central targets. 12...Ne5!? 13.exd4
cxd4 14.Bxd4 Rd8 15.Nd5 Nxd5 16.cxd5
Black has at least partial compensation
for the pawn.

13.dxe3± Re8

13...Ne5

14.Nc3 Nf8 15.Ncd5 Nxd5 16.Bxd5 Ne6



Position after 16...Ne6

17.Nh5

Local material superiority builds up on
the kingside. 17.Qg4 Bf8 18.Nh5+-

**17...Bg5 18.Qf3 Bh6
19.Rae1 Ng5 20.Nf6+! Kh8
21.Qh5 Rf8 22.Qxh6! gxh6
23.Ne8+ Kg8 24.Nxc7**

A spectacular finish.

1-0



Seattle Seafair Open: OPEN										
#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total	
1	1-2	FM Aziz Degenbaev	2380	W57	W7	H---	W16	W5	4.5	
2		FM Ryan W Porter	2287	W35	W22	H---	W14	W10	4.5	
3	3-7	NM Vedic Panda	2276	D67	W46	W45	W28	D8	4	
4		NM Brandon Jiang	2191	H---	W67	W23	D17	W21	4	
5		NM Vidip Kona	2161	W49	W24	W15	W6	L1	4	
6		CM Vihaan Jammalamadaka	2092	W50	W66	W8	L5	W22	4	
7		Odbayar Yondon	1879	W73	L1	W50	W51	W19	4	
8	8-18	NM Siddarth M. Sundaram	2415	W71	W21	L6	W31	D3	3.5	
9		NM Yiding Lu	2201	W47	D17	W32	H---	H---	3.5	
10		CM Pranav K. Anoop	2139	W36	W25	H---	W37	L2	3.5	
11		CM Leonid Gavrysh	2063	H---	L37	W59	W46	W28	3.5	
12		Pratik Thorwe	2014	D37	W59	L17	W36	W29	3.5	
13		Anand Gupta	1970	L68	D40	W69	W58	W30	3.5	
14		Rafael Palathingal	1961	W39	D38	W33	L2	W32	3.5	
15		Dominic M Colombo	1949	W40	W68	L5	W25	D17	3.5	
16		Akim Pikh	1942	W51	W58	W19	L1	D18	3.5	
17		Albert Eksarevskiy	1855	W69	D9	W12	D4	D15	3.5	
18		Yuchen Zhou	1748	D55	W72	H---	W45	D16	3.5	
19	19-27	CM Ananth Gottumukkala	2188	W48	W30	L16	W24	L7	3	
20		Jeffrey Wei	1972	L38	W65	L47	W61	W37	3	
21		Siddharth Bhaskaran	1880	W41	L8	W38	W47	L4	3	
22		Vijay Patankar	1866	W60	L2	W48	W41	L6	3	
23		Noah Kulick	1833	W54	H---	L4	D52	W50	3	
24		Abhinav Mishra	1805	W62	L5	W68	L19	W51	3	
25		Siddharth Shenoy	1764	W70	L10	W27	L15	W52	3	
26		Vihaan Pai	1474	D32	L33	W71	D34	W47	3	
27		Zoe Xu	1468	D56	D31	L25	W67	W48	3	
28	28-43	Michael Lin	1953	H---	W42	W34	L3	L11	2.5	
29		Vijay Nallappa	1858	D42	W61	L37	W49	L12	2.5	
30		Ujwal Garine	1837	W53	L19	D58	W39	L13	2.5	
31		Keshav Beegala	1827	D61	D27	W43	L8	D38	2.5	
32		Sophie Velea	1821	D26	W64	L9	W57	L14	2.5	
33		Paul Lazarte	1773	D64	W26	L14	D40	D41	2.5	
34		Saiya Karamali	1734	D72	W55	L28	D26	D40	2.5	
35		Jackson Subcleff	1712	L2	L41	D55	W63	W58	2.5	
36		Gavin Shi	1647	L10	D62	W64	L12	W65	2.5	
37		Benjamin Frederick	1642	D12	W11	W29	L10	L20	2.5	
38		Ziqian Gu	1641	W20	D14	L21	H---	D31	2.5	
39		Evan Cen	1627	L14	D63	W72	L30	W64	2.5	
40		Deeksha Shankaranand	1623	L15	D13	W62	D33	D34	2.5	
41		Shawn Li	1555	L21	W35	W56	L22	D33	2.5	
42		Jeffrey Kou	1539	D29	L28	L46	W72	W57	2.5	
43		Skandha Raj	1364	B---	L45	L31	W68	D44	2.5	
44	44-55	Leonardo Wang	1939	L58	L51	H---	W62	D43	2	
45		Karthik Bimod	1913	W52	W43	L3	L18	U---	2	
46		Aarav B. Mohan	1741	D65	L3	W42	L11	D54	2	
47		Jinmo Nam	1689	L9	W60	W20	L21	L26	2	
48		Rhadean Rubaiyat	1687	L19	W53	L22	W70	L27	2	
49		Guanyu Ren	1664	L5	D69	W63	L29	D53	2	
50		Kenneth Yuodelis	1643	L6	W54	L7	W55	L23	2	
51		Vidur Ganesan	1620	L16	W44	W66	L7	L24	2	
52		Stephanie Velea	1592	L45	D71	W65	D23	L25	2	
53		Jimmy Yang	1521	L30	L48	W60	H---	D49	2	
54		Shanna Wu	1507	L23	L50	W73	H---	D46	2	
55		Loida Guo	1430	D18	L34	D35	L50	W69	2	
56	56-65	Richard Lavoice	1798	D27	H---	L41	H---	U---	1.5	
57		Nabil Shahad	1724	L1	W73	H---	L32	L42	1.5	
58		Cedric Davies	1619	W44	L16	D30	L13	L35	1.5	
59		Tejas Mulye	1553	H---	L12	L11	L64	W70	1.5	
60		Chen Yuan	1542	L22	L47	L53	B---	D61	1.5	
61		Abhiram Nerella	1500	D31	L29	D67	L20	D60	1.5	
62		Imai Maharaja	1472	L24	D36	L40	L44	W72	1.5	
63		Oliver He	1471	L66	D39	L49	L35	W73	1.5	
64		Iris Zhang	1452	D33	L32	L36	W59	L39	1.5	
65		Chad Fondren	1417	D46	L20	L52	W73	L36	1.5	
66	66-70	Ryan Ackerman	1800	W63	L6	L51	U---	U---	1	
67		Jeff Kottcamp	1690	D3	L4	D61	L27	U---	1	
68		Selina Cheng	1631	W13	L15	L24	L43	U---	1	
69		Harry Wu	1533	L17	D49	L13	H---	L55	1	
70		Allen Chang	1446	L25	H---	H---	L48	L59	1	
71	71-72	Vishnu Mohan	1729	L8	D52	L26	U---	U---	0.5	
72		Soham Kelkar	unr.	D34	L18	L39	L42	L62	0.5	
73	73	Sambuddha S. Das	1550	L7	L57	L54	L65	L63	0	

Seattle Seafair Open: Premier U1600										
#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total	
1	1	Rian Raja	1529	W62	W8	W12	W14	W2	5	
2	2-8	David Hirschowitz	1544	W17	W47	W13	W5	L1	4	
3		Pablo Manzoni Jr	1500	W26	W7	D36	W23	D4	4	
4		Kedar Venkatachalam	1463	D41	W53	W63	W36	D3	4	
5		Riaan Babbar	1285	W28	W38	W27	L2	W25	4	
6		Rushil Singh	1246	D43	W41	W18	W10	D12	4	
7		Ziliang Ma	1198	W72	L3	W65	W50	W21	4	
8		Sachin Miskelly	1190	W74	L1	W64	W28	W22	4	
9	9-17	David Marcella	1573	W68	L14	W43	H---	W35	3.5	
10		Andra Marinescu	1479	W40	W37	H---	L6	W38	3.5	
11		Nathan Tan	1374	L50	W55	H---	W63	W36	3.5	
12		Kruti Thanikonda	1268	W54	W15	L1	W26	D6	3.5	
13		Raghav K. Sundaram	1242	W30	W50	L2	W27	D17	3.5	
14		Ferris Samara	1203	W56	W9	W21	L1	D15	3.5	
15		Varshith Reddy Avula	1162	W67	L12	W30	W53	D14	3.5	
16		Anyi Li	1155	W60	L22	W31	D32	W33	3.5	
17		Nikhar Khamesra	1134	L2	W72	W59	W45	D13	3.5	
18	18-32	Pranav Kokati	1402	D49	W52	L6	W62	D32	3	
19		Andrew Inforzato	1379	L63	L30	W66	W70	W42	3	
20		Viraj Dhawan	1377	W69	L36	D62	W49	H---	3	
21		Daniel Hyman	1348	W51	W39	L14	W24	L7	3	
22		Easton Ren	1315	W70	W16	D24	D25	L8	3	
23		Arihant Chaudhuri	1278	W65	D63	W42	L3	D24	3	
24		Guru H.R. Avula	1152	W73	W46	D22	L21	D23	3	
25		Arjun Moghe	1147	W32	W45	H---	D22	L5	3	
26		Eason Chen	1107	L3	W57	W34	L12	W54	3	
27		Elina Khudiyev	1022	W61	W35	L5	L13	W56	3	
28		Ann Jem	902	L5	W67	W37	L8	W45	3	
29		Mithran Anbuselvam	878	L46	L61	W57	W44	W50	3	
30		Liam Chang	831	L13	W19	L15	W69	W51	3	
31		Edwin Huang	669	L38	W69	L16	W68	W53	3	
32		Gobindroop Mann	unr.	L25	W71	W68	D16	D18	3	
33	33-43	John McCoy	1464	D48	D49	H---	W54	L16	2.5	
34		Aiden Zhu	1293	D42	D64	L26	H---	W59	2.5	
35		Harvey Wang	1225	W75	L27	W70	H---	L9	2.5	
36		Danny Nguyen	1185	W57	W20	D3	L4	L11	2.5	
37		Aakash Mishra	1184	W66	L10	L28	H---	W63	2.5	
38		Jizhou He	1174	W31	L5	H---	W43	L10	2.5	
39		Will Clausen	1173	W58	L21	L54	H---	W64	2.5	
40		Justin Lee	1086	L10	W74	L45	D67	W66	2.5	
41		Anirudh Rengarajan	1065	D4	L6	D52	D60	W67	2.5	
42		Aaron Zhang	906	D34	W44	L23	W61	L19	2.5	
43		Kaspian Jung	891	D6	W48	L9	L38	W62	2.5	
44	44-60	Avyaan Roy Chowdhury	1316	D52	L42	D48	L29	W70	2	
45		Emil Khudiyev	1287	W71	L25	W40	L17	L28	2	
46		Michael Berg	1245	W29	L24	L50	L56	W71	2	
47		Rishuraj Kumar	1204	W55	L2	L53	D64	D49	2	
48		Eugene Chou	1067	D33	L43	D44	D65	D60	2	
49		Benjamin Keeper	1063	D18	D33	H---	L20	D47	2	
50		Adheesh M. Sundaram	1022	W11	L13	W46	L7	L29	2	
51		Kenan Khatib	980	L21	D66	H---	W58	L30	2	
52		Jackson Rish-Brown	971	D44	L18	D41	L59	W72	2	
53		Samuel Xu	921	W59	L4	W47	L15	L31	2	
54		Jacob Rish-Brown	898	L12	W73	W39	L33	L26	2	
55		Richard Rogov	807	L47	L11	L60	W73	W69	2	
56		Yuvan Oruganti	791	L14	L62	W73	W46	L27	2	
57		Samik Kulkarni	736	L36	L26	L29	B---	W68	2	
58		Aryash Singhal	638	L39	L70	W75	L51	W74	2	
59		Pavithran M. Sundaram	497	L53	B---	L17	W52	L34	2	
60		Clifford Dibble	unr.	L16	L65	W55	D41	D48	2	
61	61-67	Aarya Patel	1349	L27	W29	H---	L42	U---	1.5	
62		Rohit Sreraman	1115	L1	W56	D20	L18	L43	1.5	
63		Rahul Sreraman	1056	W19	D23	L4	L11	L37	1.5	
64		Matthew McKendry	949	H---	D34	L8	D47	L39	1.5	
65		Kaiyi Han	901	L23	W60	L7	D48	U---	1.5	
66		Saahan Chadha	702	L37	D51	L19	W74	L40	1.5	
67		Ishaan Mandore	507	L15	L28	B---	D40	L41	1.5	
68	68-73	Kyle Jiang	1141	L9	W75	L32	L31	L57	1	
69		Joyce Gui	1045	L20	L31	W72	L30	L55	1	
70		Sam Olson	957	L22	W58	L35	L19	L44	1	
71		Rebecca Li	903	L45	L32	H---	H---	L46	1	
72		Chethan K. Jayakrishnan	739	L7	L17	L69	W75	L52	1	
73		Edward Esparza	unr.	L24	L54	L56	L55	W75	1	
74	74	Zander Chim	738	L8	L40	H---	L66	L58	0.5	
75	75	Damien Davies	815	L35	L68	L58	L72	L73	0	

Seafair Blitz

The Seafair Blitz tournament took place on Sunday evening immediately following the last round of the Seattle Seafair Open. A robust turnout of forty hardcore chess rovers took part in the nine-round single Swiss tournament, which was directed by WCF FIDE Liaison Mani Atikankhotchasee with assistance from WCF ironmen Ani Barua and Allen Messenger. The event lasted deep into the evening and featured players with ratings ranging from unrated to 2415.

The pace of play was measured and leisurely, with the 'long' G/5; +3 Blitz time control in effect for the dual USCF Blitz + FIDE Blitz rated games. With the extra time on the clock, players had the opportunity to ponder their moves for a few seconds before moving and could attempt to 'calculate' short combinations before playing them rather than just relying on their pattern recognition and intuition. Despite the leisurely pace, zeitnot still played a part in several games and pulled its victims into the depths of the chess abyss!

Kyrgyzstani chess crusader FM Aziz Degenbaev (8.0, 2353 → 2355) dominated the field with an impressive 8.0 points from nine games to claim the first place prize, dropping just one game against dark horse Pranav K. Anoop (1793) in the seventh round. This victory rounded out a pretty good weekend for Aziz, who also tied for first in the main tournament. A trio of Bellevue chess troopers tied for second/third place honors a full point back with seven points apiece: NM Siddharth Sundaram (7.0, 2232 → 2228), NM Brandon Jiang (7.0, 1813 → 1878), and soon-to-be master Pranav K. Anoop (7.0, 1793 → 1922).

Seattle chess spearman Gavin Shi (6.0, 1632 → 1638) snagged the first U2000 prize with an impressive 6-3 score. Siddharth Shenoy (5.5, 1606 → 1598), a Seattle-based chess soldier who recently returned to competitive play, earned the first U1800 prize a half-point back. A duo of chess dogfaces shared first U1600/U1400 honors with five points apiece: Rian Raja (5.0, 1368 → 1426) of Bothell and Andrew Inforzato (5.0, unrated → 1313) of Belfair. Lynnwood chess legionary Inura Nawagamudewage (4.5, 1177 → 1326) won the first U1200 prize thanks to a clutch final round win against unrated ringer Anthony Lamb.

Youngster Noble Schasteen (3.0, unrated → 1011) from Detective Cookie's Chess Club in Seattle captured the first U1000 prize with three hard-earned points.

Bellevue mortarman Adwik Shetty (2.0, unrated → 633) earned the first Unrated prize thanks to his determination and perseverance. Several biggest upset win prizes were awarded and won by the following draftees: Raghav K. Sundaram (round two), Pranav K. Anoop (round three), Ridhim Suram (round four), Illia Kalian (round five), Vihaan Padmanabhuni (round six), and Naaditha Nawagamudewage (round seven).

In terms of style and class, young Joyce Gui (3.0, unrated → 970) of Bellevue was in a class of her own and won the best dressed prize for her fashionable getup. Joyce also won the Best Female Prize thanks to being the only female brave enough to compete with her male counterparts. Kent-based ship captain Michael Berg (3.0, unrated → 1034) stopped all the incoming vessels to claim the Best Senior prize, just like the iceberg stopped the Titanic!

Thanks to all the chess sailors and their mates who came out and supported the Seafair events!

Seattle Seafair Blitz														
#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	Rd 8	Rd 9	Total	
1	1	FM Aziz Degenbaev	2380	W25	W11	W6	W3	W5	W2	L4	W9	W8	8	
2	2-4	NM Siddarth M Sundaram	2415	W17	W24	L4	W14	W9	L1	W12	W5	W6	7	
3		NM Brandon Jiang	2191	W18	W12	W8	L1	W24	L4	W14	W11	W13	7	
4		Pranav Kurungod Anoop	2139	W20	W10	W2	L5	W12	W3	W1	L6	W15	7	
5	5	NM Vidip Kona	2161	W32	W13	D9	W4	L1	W16	W8	L2	W11	6.5	
6	6-7	CM Vihaan Jammalamadaka	2092	W26	W16	L1	L12	W15	W13	W7	W4	L2	6	
7		Gavin Shi	1647	W37	L8	W28	L24	W26	W36	L6	W25	W17	6	
8	8-10	Rafael Palathingal	1961	W33	W7	L3	W10	D13	W9	L5	W24	L1	5.5	
9		Neevan Reddy Saddi	1951	W21	W40	D5	W23	L2	L8	W16	L1	W20	5.5	
10		Siddharth Shenoy	1764	W22	L4	W29	L8	L19	W30	W33	D20	W18	5.5	
11	11-19	Dominic M Colombo	1935	W28	L1	W18	L16	W32	W17	W25	L3	L5	5	
12		Owen Xu	1876	W29	L3	W33	W6	L4	W22	L2	L15	W25	5	
13		Albert Eksarevskiy	1855	W31	L5	W21	W17	D8	L6	D15	W16	L3	5	
14		Aarav Bharathy Mohan	1741	W35	D23	W15	L2	D36	W19	L3	L17	W26	5	
15		Kenneth Yuodelis	1643	H---	W36	L14	W30	L6	W23	D13	W12	L4	5	
16		Ziqian Gao	1641	W38	L6	W22	W11	W23	L5	L9	L13	W24	5	
17		Sambuddha Sekhar Das	1550	L2	W39	W40	L13	W33	L11	W19	W14	L7	5	
18		Rian Raja	1529	L3	W34	L11	L33	W28	W21	W22	W23	L10	5	
19		Andrew Inforzato	1379	L23	W35	L24	W40	W10	L14	L17	W31	W37	5	
20	20-22	Imai Maharaja	1490	L4	L29	W34	L22	W40	W31	W36	D10	L9	4.5	
21		Naaditha Nawagamudewage	1328	L9	W38	L13	L25	W29	L18	W30	D22	B---	4.5	
22		Inura Nawagamudewage	1167	L10	W26	L16	W20	W27	L12	L18	D21	W30	4.5	
23	23-29	Peter Yu	2101	W19	D14	W30	L9	L16	L15	W32	L18	D31	4	
24		Akim Pikh	1942	W34	L2	W19	W7	L3	L25	W26	L8	L16	4	
25		David Hirschowitz	1544	L1	L28	W35	W21	W31	W24	L11	L7	L12	4	
26		Terrick Evin	1350	L6	L22	W38	W29	L7	W37	L24	W35	L14	4	
27		Vishal Suram	1322	D39	L30	L31	W35	L22	L28	W37	W36	H---	4	
28		Raghav Kalyana Sundaram	1242	L11	W25	L7	L32	L18	W27	L31	W37	W35	4	
29		Snehil Ghosh	1200	L12	W20	L10	L26	L21	W39	L35	W38	W40	4	
30	30-31	Anthony Lamb	1726	D36	W27	L23	L15	W39	L10	L21	W32	L22	3.5	
31		Ziliang Ma	1198	L13	W32	W27	L36	L25	L20	W28	L19	D23	3.5	
32	32-36	Yuan Jiang	1492	L5	L31	W37	W28	L11	L33	L23	L30	W38	3	
33		Daniel Hyman	1348	L8	W37	L12	W18	L17	W32	L10	U---	U---	3	
34		Michael Berg	1245	L24	L18	L20	L39	L37	L38	W40	B---	W36	3	
35		Joyce Gui	1045	L14	L19	L25	L27	W38	W40	W29	L26	L28	3	
36		Noble Schasteen	891	D30	L15	W39	W31	D14	L7	L20	L27	L34	3	
37	37-40	Illia Kalian	670	L7	L33	L32	W38	W34	L26	L27	L28	L19	2	
38		Vihaan Padmanabhuni	438	L16	L21	L26	L37	L35	W34	W39	L29	L32	2	
39		Ridhima Suram	186	D27	L17	L36	W34	L30	L29	L38	L40	H---	2	
40		Adwik Shetty	unr.	B---	L9	L17	L19	L20	L35	L34	W39	L29	2	



**OPEN
WINDOW
SCHOOL**

FALL TORNAADO

SATURDAY OCTOBER 18TH, 2025

OPEN WINDOW SCHOOL

6128 168TH PL SE BELLEVUE, WA 98006



DUAL FORMAT

Rapid Sections:

A 5-Round G/25; +5 Swiss
in four sections:

K-1 U700

2-3 U700

K-3 Open

4-8 U900

Schedule:

Rd. 1 - 9:00am

Rd. 2 - 10:30am

Lunch

Rd. 3 - 12:30pm

Rd. 4 - 2:00pm

Rd. 5 - 3:30pm

Awards Ceremony ~ 5pm

Classical Section:

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

K-8 Open

Schedule:

Rd. 1 - 9:00am

Rd. 2 - 11:00am

Lunch

Rd. 3 - 1:00pm

Rd. 4 - 3:00pm

Awards Ceremony ~ 5pm

ENTRY FEE

\$40. Maximum of 150 players.

AWARDS

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

Trophies awarded to the top 5
finishing teams (top 4 scores
from same school comprise team
score) across all sections.

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

RATING

NWSRS rated. Open sections
will also be US Chess rated; US
Chess membership required only
for Open sections. Highest of
current NWSRS and US Chess
Regular rating will be used to
determine section and pairings.

ELIGIBILITY

Open to all students in grades K-8
as of the 2025-26 school year.

Out-of-state players welcome!

**WA State Scholastic
Qualifier!**

THE DETAILS

Registration & Payment

Registration and payment deadline

Fri 10/17 @ 5:00 PM at

chessreg.com (pay by
credit/debit/PayPal). No
registrations accepted or refunds
offered after the deadline.

Concessions

Pizza lunch available for pre-order
when registering. Other
concessions will be provided for
purchase on site.

Clocks

Chess clocks will be used from the
beginning in the K-3 Open and K-8
Open sections. Clocks are not
required for the other sections, until
a judge places one in unfinished
games after 40 minutes of play. All
equipment is provided courtesy of
OWS Chess Club.

Questions?

Parent Contact - David Lew,
davidglew@gmail.com

Tournament Director - Josh
Sinanan, 206.769.3757,
joshsinanan@gmail.com

2025 Oregon Class Championships Chess Tournament

November 1-2, Daylight Saving Time Weekend

- Sponsored by the Oregon Chess Federation (OCF). Registration is at onlineregistration.cc

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

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

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

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

RATED: All sections are US Chess regular rated.

ENTRY FEE: \$80 if registered by Friday, October 10 \$90 from October 11 until Friday, October 31 at noon. Free entry for GMs and IMs with up to \$80 deducted from a prize won. US Chess membership is required for all players. Oregon Chess Federation membership is required for Oregon residents and will be checked by the tournament registration website. See [the OCF Membership page](#) for instructions on obtaining an OCF membership. Be sure to add your US Chess ID to your OCF membership. If you have issues configuring your OCF membership or with the tournament registration website checking your OCF membership, send email to support@oregonchessfed.org.

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

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

- **LOCATION:** Lloyd Center DoubleTree Hotel, 1000 NE Multnomah St, Portland, OR 97232. **The tournament this year is in the Pacific Northwest Ballroom (combination of Oregon, Alaska, and Idaho).** There is free parking in the hotel parking garage (parking passes to be able to leave the parking garage for free will be available at the tournament). Hotel rooms for any of the nights of October 31-November 2 are available at a special chess rate of \$169 for a room on Friday or Saturday, \$139 on Sunday, not including tax. **The hotel chess rate is not guaranteed to be available after October 1, or even earlier if the rooms are sold out.** Check the OCF website (<https://oregonchessfed.org/?p=1610>) for information on reserving rooms.

REGISTRATION: Register online at onlineregistration.cc (no mailed or on-site entries are allowed). **The deadline to register is Friday, October 31 at noon.** Email support@oregonchessfed.org if you encounter any issues while trying to register online, need to modify or withdraw your registration, or are unable to pay the entry fee online via credit card, debit card, or PayPal.

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

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

A Conversation With Akim And Valentyna Pikh

Ken Lee

Akim Pikh and his family moved to Seattle in July 2024. Akim quickly made his mark in the chess community, scoring impressive wins within two weeks of arriving in the Pacific Northwest.

Originally from Ukraine, Akim has relocated to three different countries in the last few years and has found that chess has enabled him to make friends no matter where he is in the world.

I sat down with Akim and his mother Valentyna to discuss his remarkable adventure.

Ken: Akim, when and where were you born?

Akim: I was born in 2014, in the city of Nova Kakhovka, Kherson region, which is located in the south of Ukraine.

Ken: When did you start playing chess?

Akim: I started playing chess when I was almost six years old. My mom taught me how the pieces moved and basic rules, and at first, I played at home with my family, just for fun. Then I joined the local chess club where my older brother was already playing.

Ken: Did you love chess right away?

Akim: Yes, I liked it, especially

playing in the club. I made many friends there. At that time, I was also super motivated to beat my brother, who kept teasing me that I'd never win against him. So beating him became my personal mission. We had this friendly rivalry going on, until, finally, I won.

Ken: Why did you move from Ukraine?

Akim: The war started in February 2022, and my family had no choice but to leave Ukraine. Our city has been occupied since the first day and is still under Russian control.

Ken: I'm so sorry Akim. What did your family do?

Akim: We first went to Estonia to stay with family friends, who helped us during the first months of the war. Then we decided to move to Ireland because they offered a lot of support to Ukrainian families who had lost their homes. It was also a wonderful opportunity for our family to start learning English before moving to the United States, since none of us spoke it at all.

Ken: Did you continue to play chess in Ireland?

Akim: Yes, I had my chess board with me on

the internet, and I kept playing with my mom and my brother. We found a few tournaments in Ireland that I could join, but it was not easy to get there since we lived in a remote village.

I did pretty well in those tournaments, played against some high-rated players, and it really helped me earn and improve my FIDE rating. At one of these tournaments, after winning a game, my opponent invited me to join his chess team! I played for his team once a month whenever I was in Ireland, and it was a lot of fun. I still play for his team in online tournaments on Lichess.com, which helps me keep improving and enjoy chess with other players.

Ken: When did you start working with a chess coach?

Akim: There were no chess clubs in the village we lived in, and my English was limited back then, so we decided to find a coach online from Ukraine. My family connected with IM Sergey Pavlov, and I've been working with him online ever since.

Ken: When did your family decide to move to the United States?

Akim: My parents made the decision to move to the United States because of my brother and me. Our home town was destroyed, and there was nowhere to go, not even in the future. So they thought the best thing to do was to build a better future here in the US.

He fights for his own "place in the sun."



Don't miss out on the opportunity to make your next move in the game of real estate. Your kingdom awaits!

Contact Lin S. Shih
(206) 954-0963
lin@linshih.com

Coldwell Banker Bain

Ken: How did they decide on Seattle?

Akim: My parents did research online, comparing experiences of other families from Ukraine who had already moved to the US. From the start, they were thinking about two states, Washington and Florida, and Washington seemed a lot better to us. That's why we chose Seattle.

Ken: Well, that's lucky for us! How did you find your first chess tournament in Seattle?

Akim: My mom just googled "chess clubs nearby," and the first thing that popped up was Orlov Chess Academy in Seattle. When we got there, kind of randomly, we found out a tournament was about to happen, hosted by the Seattle Chess Club, and they told us I could join right away. That's how I played my first chess tournament in Seattle!

Ken: How did you do?

Akim: I shared first place with another player, and thanks to that tournament, I got my first USCF rating.

Ken: That must have caught people's attention right away.

Akim: Yes. I think so. I also got to meet Josh Sinanan, the president of the Washington Chess Federation. Since then, he has really helped me a lot to take part in Washington Chess tournaments. I'm very thankful to him and the *Northwest Chess* team for all their support.

Ken: Have you found the chess community here to be welcoming?

Akim: Yes, I've met some really nice people. They have helped us navigate the tournament circuit, introduce us to new friends, and made us feel at home.

Ken: How has your mom helped you with your chess?

Akim: My mom doesn't play chess seriously, just for fun, so she can't really give me advice on my game. She takes me to all the tournaments, cheers me on when I lose, and helps me feel better after tough games.

Ken: What does she say?

Akim: She tells me "Sometimes you learn more from a loss than a win." She also reminds me of the motto from my first chess club: "Never give up, and you will see others surrender."

Ken: Does that make you feel better?



Akim Pikh. Photo courtesy of Valentyna Pikh.

Akim: Well, I get that, but I'd much rather win and skip the losing part.

Ken: Akim, last question for you today. What do you think is the biggest factor in your growth as a chess player?

Akim: Honestly, it is hard for me to talk about my strengths in chess, because I still have a lot to learn and improve. My coach, Sergey Pavlov, sees my strengths way better than I do, and he helps me get stronger and win more games. May I ask him to respond to that question?

Ken: Of course, that would be awesome.

Akim: Ok, here is how he responded:

"Akim calculates variations well and feels the dynamics of the game. He has natural intuition.

He is able to handle pressure and shows great patience. He can defend a worse position and develop a small advantage.

There is no doubt he has a bright mind. Moreover, at just 10 years old, Akim has already gone through difficulties that most children around him could never even imagine.

For him, chess is a form of compensation. In the game, he fights for his own "place in the sun."

Ken: Thank you. Check and mate.

ST. ANNE CELTIC CHALLENGE FALL 2025

In Memory of Coach Chris Hurley, 1965-2020.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2025

ST. ANNE SCHOOL

101 WEST LEE ST SEATTLE, WA 98119



FORMAT

A 5-Round Swiss tournament in five sections:

- ♟ K-1 U700
- ♟ 2-3 U700
- ♟ K-3 Open
- ♟ 4-8 U900
- ♟ 4-12 Open

ROUNDS

Rd. 1 - 12:00pm
Rd. 2 - 1:10pm
Rd. 3 - 2:20pm
Rd. 4 - 3:30pm
Rd. 5 - 4:40pm
Awards Ceremony ~
6pm

TIME CONTROL

G/25; +5 sec. increment

**WA State
Scholastic
Qualifier!**

ENTRY FEE

\$25. Maximum of 150 players.
Please register early to
guarantee your spot!

AWARDS

Trophies awarded to the top-scoring players in each section.
Trophies awarded to the top 5 finishing teams (top 4 scores from same school count for team score) across all sections.
Medals for first-time tournament players who do not earn a trophy.

RATING

NWSRS rated. Open sections also US Chess rated. Higher of current NWSRS or November 2025 US Chess rating will be used to determine section and pairings. US Chess membership required only for Open sections.

ELIGIBILITY

Open to all students in grades K-12 as of the 2025-26 school year. Out-of-state players welcome!

REGISTRATION

Online registration and payment deadline Sat 11/15 @ 5:00 PM at nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration

(pay by credit/debit/PayPal/Venmo)
No registrations accepted or refunds offered after the deadline.

PROCEDURE

Pairings and standings will be posted near the playing area before each round.

CONCESSIONS

Available for purchase onsite.

CLOCKS

Chess clocks will be used from the start in the Open sections. Clocks not required for the other sections, until a judge places one set for G/10 minutes + 5 sec increment into unfinished games after 35 minutes of play. All equipment is provided courtesy of St. Anne Chess Club.

QUESTIONS?

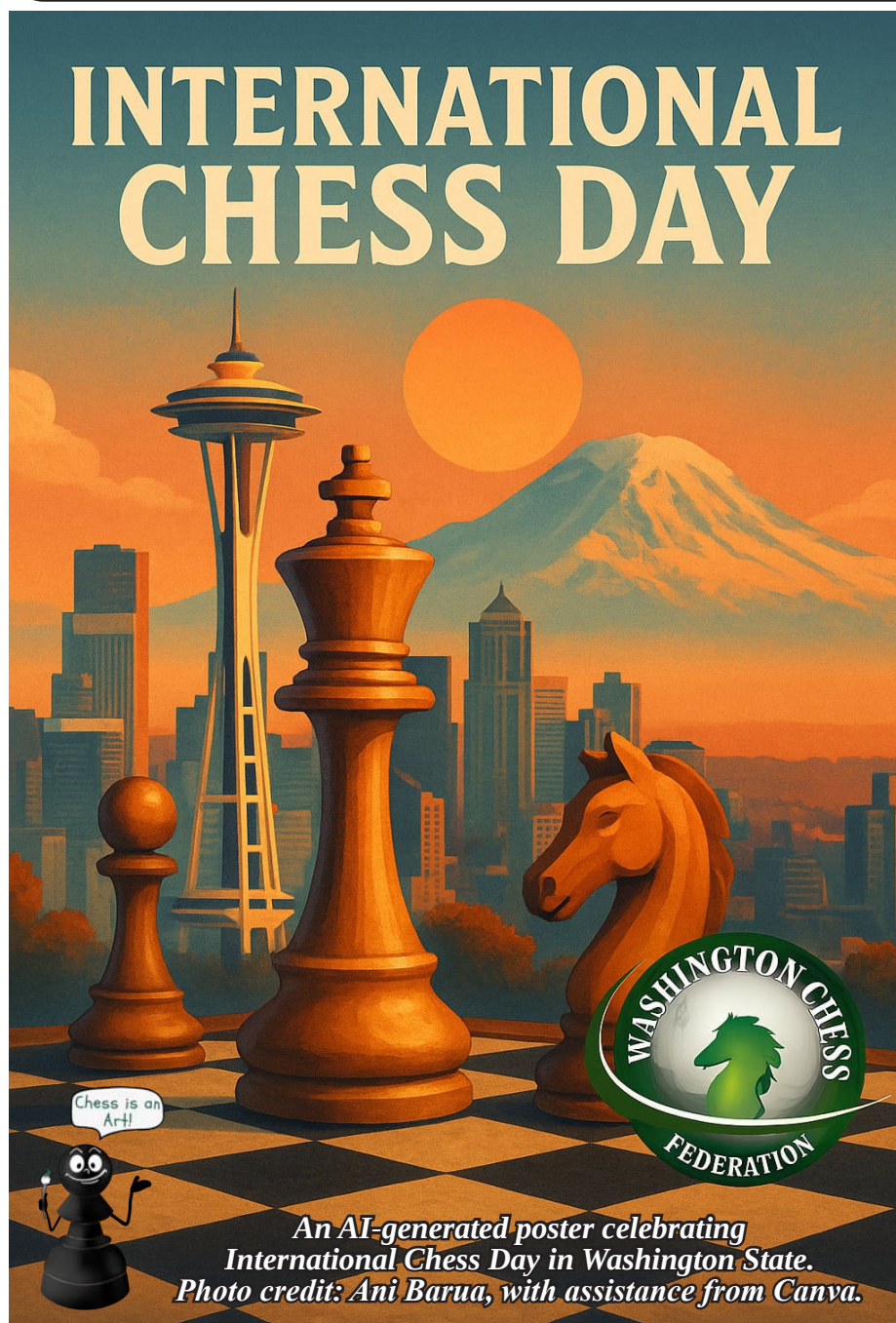
Contact: Carlee Thorrington,
thorrington.mother@stannesea.org
St. Anne Chess Coach - Josh Sinanan,
joshsinanan@gmail.com



12th Annual Vancouver Open

(Heath, Tang, and Cigan Victorious)

Josh Sinanan



The 12th Annual Vancouver Open was hosted by the Washington Chess Federation July 19-20, 2025, at the Vancouver Hampton Inn & Suites. The splendid mid-summer tradition provides an opportunity for players from throughout the Pacific Northwest to play in a high-quality tournament hosted at a hotel conveniently located midway between Washington and Oregon. For those who choose to spend a night or two at the hotel, the event offers a mini-vacation experience without having to hop on plane!

A solid attendance of 56 players turned out to celebrate International Chess Day weekend and compete in the two-day chess extravaganza. An even mix of 27 Oregon players and 28 Washington players competed in the five-round Swiss tournament, with only Daniel Hyman from Silver Spring, Maryland representing the East Coast! Pacific Northwest cities represented included Vancouver (WA), Tacoma, Portland, Bothell, Hillsboro, Seattle, Battle Ground, Tenino, Camas, Happy Valley, Sammamish, Yakima, Culver, Redmond, Beaverton, Bellevue, Salem, Eugene, Gresham, Fall City, Kelso, Kirkland, and Mercer Island.

Despite a leak in the ceiling of the playing hall caused by a burst pipe, the tournament ran as planned! Several strategically located buckets throughout the room caught the stray droplets of water that seemed to get progressively bigger as the weekend progressed. By the fifth round, several adult players could be seen surreptitiously brandishing their umbrellas and rain gear while a few youngsters arrived wearing bathing suits underneath their clothes in case of a full-blown downpour!

WCF co-VP Rekha Sagar directed the event with assistance from WCF President Josh Sinanan and WCF Treasurer Robert Allen. The field was split evenly between two sections, with 30 players in the Lewis Open and 26 in the Clark U1700, named

in honor of the famous PNW explorers Captain Meriwether Lewis and Lieutenant William Clark. Headlining the Lewis Open were four National Masters - Jason Cigan, Josh Sinanan, Austin Tang, and Ryan Min—and two Experts—Rebecca Lampman and Derek Heath.

In the Lewis Open, a trio of chess trekkers emerged victorious, each with an undefeated four points from five games: Jason Cigan (4.0, 2232 → 2236) of Portland, Austin Tang (4.0, 2153 → 2163) of Portland, and Derek Heath (4.0, 2078 → 2098) of Camas. Cigan started red-hot with three consecutive victories against Maokhampio (1708), Witt (1906), and Lampman (2127) and led the tournament after Tang and Heath drew their third-round game. This set up a key fourth round showdown between Cigan and Heath on board one, which ended in a draw, while Tang vanquished Pikh (1965) on board two.

Tang and Cigan then signed a quick draw in round five on board one while Heath won against Lin (1916) on board two to join them in the winner's circle. Two chess bushrangers, Karthik Bimod (3.5, 1900 → 1922) of Portland and Leonardo Wang (3.5, 1884 → 1893) of Fall City, shared first U2000 honors a half-point back. A quadruplet of chess



Vihaan Rahul carefully notates his moves during his first-round game at the Vancouver Open. Photo credit: Rekha Sagar.

wayfarers—Ekam Sardar (2.5, 1523 → 1607) of Portland, Stephanie Velea (2.5, 1603 → 1637) of Sammamish, Bohan Li (2.5, 1497 → 1533) of Portland, and Robert Allen (2.5, 1700 → 1700) of

Tacoma—shared the first U1800 prize with a par score. Vancouver chess voyager Pranav D. Vijayaraghavan captured the biggest upset win (343 points) thanks to a surprise first-round victory. Bothell-based adventurer Becca Lampman (2.5, 2127 → 2107) earned the Best Female Prize thanks to a tournament performance rating (TPR) of 1923. Veteran chess journeyman Roger Hanson (3.0, 1874 → 1887) of Tenino was awarded the Best Senior Prize thanks to his 1966 TPR. Two stylish chess settlers—Roger Hanson (Saturday) of Tenino and Stephanie Velea (Sunday) of Sammamish—were declared the Best Dressed players and rounded out the Lewis section prize winners.

Gresham chess discoverer Daniel Vasey (4.5, 1479 → 1559) topped the Clark U1700 section with an undefeated 4.5 points from five games, allowing only a single draw against Battle Ground's Mark Hanna (1431) in the penultimate round. Vasey's clutch final-round victory against fellow Oregonian Matthew Stevens (1655) sealed the deal and guaranteed him at least a tie for first place regardless of the outcome of Hanna's game against Kesavan (1333), which eventually ended in a draw.

A pair of chess pioneers—Mark Hanna (4.0, 1431 → 1501) of Battle



The playing hall at the Vancouver Open. Note the two empty tables in the middle row, just below the ceiling leak. Photo credit: Rekha Sagar.

Ground and Olivia Maokhampio (4.0, 1238 → 1322) of Beaverton shared second/third place honors a half-point back. Portland chess precursor Vihaan Kesavan (3.5, 1333 → 1413) and Seattle chess trailblazer Ferris Samara (3.5, 1305 → 1353) split the pooled first U1600/U1400 prize with a solid 'plus two' score. A trio of up-and-coming junior chess frontiersmen—Pragit Arunkumar (3.0, 1224 → 1265) of Portland, Jayden Thein (3.0, 1095 → 1164) of Camas, and Rayansh Sharma (3.0, 923 → 1095) of Portland—captured the first U1200 prize with three points apiece.

New chess colonist Steven Hull

(1.0, unrated → 890) from the host city of Vancouver earned the unrated prize for his effort. Portland chess pathfinder Rayansh Sharma scored the biggest upset win of the entire tournament with an amazing 699-point surprise victory! The best female prize was awarded to chess trekker Eevie Tare (2.5, 1247 → 1261) of Portland for her impressive 1326 TPR. Local chess medicine man Steven Hull of Vancouver, always a gentleman in victory or defeat, earned the Best Senior Prize for his 755 TPR. Chess homesteaders Corina Maokhampio (Saturday) of Beaverton and Allan Leland (Sunday) of Vancouver came dressed to impress and took home

the best dressed prizes for their classy ensembles.

Congratulations to the winners, and many thanks to all who contributed to this adventurous event!

**Derek Heath (2112) –
Austin Tang (2153) [A45]**

2025 Vancouver Open
Vancouver, WA (R3), July 19, 2025
[Ralph Dubisch]

**1.d4 Nf6 2.Bf4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.e3 Bg7
5.h4 h5 6.Nf3 0-0 7.Ne5 c5 8.Qd2 Nc6
9.dxc5 Ne4?!**

9...Bf5

10.Nxc6 bxc6

10...Nxd2?? 11.Nxd8 Nxf1 12.Bc7
e6 13.c6±; 10...Bxc3 11.Qxc3! bxc6
12.Qa3±

11.Nxe4 dxe4 12.0-0-0 Bg4

12...Qe8 13.Qb4±

**13.Qxd8 Raxd8 14.Rxd8 Rxd8 15.Bc4±
Kf8**

15...e5 16.Bg3 Kf8 reaches the game but
is a more accurate move order.

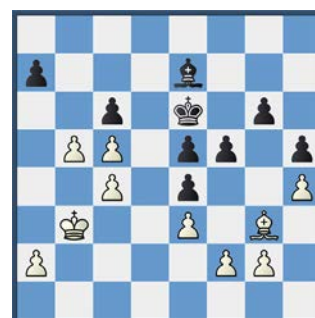
16.c3

White has the option to avoid entombing
the bishop: 16.Bc7 Rd7 17.Ba5±

**16...e5 17.Bg3 Ke7 18.Kc2 Be6 19.Bxe6
Kxe6 20.b4 f5 21.c4 Bh6 22.Rd1 Rxd1
23.Kxd1 Bf8**

23...f4!?

24.Kc2 Be7 25.Kb3 Kd7 26.b5



Position after 26...Ke6

26...Ke6?!

The black king doesn't do much to aid the
advance of the kingside pawns. It should
stay on the queenside to help defend.
26...Bd8 27.Kb4 Kc8 28.bxc6 f4 29.exf4
exf4 30.Bxf4 Bxf4, and this strange
position is already equal. In fact, White



Vancouver Open Co-Champion Austin Tang was especially dangerous with the black pieces.
Photo credit: Rekha Sagar.

can go wrong with 31.g3?, when Black will be able to create an outside passed pawn winning the bishop and the game.

27.Kb4

For 27.bxc6 Bd8 (27...Bxc5 28.Bxe5!) 28.Kb4 a6 see the next note.

27...Bd8 28.bxc6 a6



Position after 28...a6



Lucas Maokhampio during his first-round game on board one against Jason Cigan.
Photo credit: Rekha Sagar.

29.Ka4

Wasting a key tempo, allowing Black to support along the b8–h2 diagonal. This is the only opportunity to strike with 29.f4!! exf3 (29...Bc7 30.fxe5 Ke7 31.Bf4 Ke6 32.Bg5 Kf7 33.e6+ Kxe6 34.g3 Bxg3 35.Ka5+–, because 35...f4 36.exf4 (36.Bxf4 Bxf4 37.exf4 e3 38.Kxa6 e2 39.c7 also wins for White.) 36...e3 37.Kxa6 (37.f5+ gxf5 38.Bxe3 Bxh4 39.Bf4 wins as well.) 37...e2 38.c7 e1Q 39.c8Q+ is mate soon.) 30.gxf3 Bc7 31.f4 e4 32.Be1

29...Bc7 30.f3 f4! 31.Bf2

31.exf4 exf4 32.Be1 e3 33.Kb3±

31...exf3 32.gxf3 e4!! 33.fxe4 f3! 34.Kb3 Ke5 35.Kc2 Kxe4 36.Kd2 Ba5+ 37.Kc2 Bc7

A weird and difficult tripled-pawn endgame. At the finish, White's two extra pawns are permanently blocked.

There's no chance for zugzwang as the white bishop can tempo f2–g1 as needed. A draw is a fair result.

½–½

**Roger Hanson (1874) –
Kylie Zhang (1912) [A04]**

2025 Vancouver Open
Vancouver, WA (R4), July 20, 2025
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d3 e5 4.g3 g6 5.Bg2 Bg7 6.0-0 Nge7 7.c3 0-0 8.a3 f5 9.b4



Position after 9.b4

9...cxb4?!

There are all sorts of positional reasons not to capture on b4 here. The exchange is Black's c-pawn for White's a-pawn, slightly improving White's central influence, increasing Black's pawn islands, and automatically developing the rook on a1 on its original square. White is left with more freedom, queenside space, and initiative. 9...d6=

10.axb4± d5?

10...b5

11.b5 Nb8?!

11...fxe4 12.dxe4 dxe4 13.Ng5 Qxd1 14.Rxd1 Bg4 15.Re1±

12.Qb3 Kh8 13.Ba3 Be6 14.Ng5 Bg8 15.exd5 Re8

15...Nxd5 16.Bxf8 Bxf8 17.c4 Nb6 (17...Qxg5 18.Bxd5 Bxd5 19.cxd5 Nd7 20.d6±) 18.Bxb7 Qxg5 19.Bxa8 Nxa8 20.Rxa7±

16.Ne6 Qc8 17.Nxg7 Kxg7 18.c4 Bf7 19.Qc3 Nd7 20.f4 Ng8 21.fxe5 Nxe5 22.Bd6 Kf6 23.Re1 Qd8 24.Bxe5+

1–0





Vancouver Open Co-Champion Jason Cigan played the Najdorf in his first-round game. Photo credit: Rekha Sagar.



Vedant Sharma essays the London System during his first-round game. Photo credit: Rekha Sagar.



A curious crowd of spectators gathers around to catch the end of Leonardo Wang (L) vs. Pranav D. Vijayaraghavan, the last game of the second-round. Photo credit: Rekha Sagar.

Vancouver Open: Lewis Open

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total
1	1-3	Derek Heath	2112	W12	W8	D2	D3	W7	4
2		Austin Tang	2153	W24	W4	D1	W6	D3	4
3		Jason Cigan	2226	W21	W9	W16	D1	D2	4
4	4-5	Karthik Bimod	1913	W23	L2	W27	W16	D6	3.5
5		Leonardo Wang	1939	W20	W29	L6	D15	W12	3.5
6	6-11	Akim Pikh	1942	D26	W14	W5	L2	D4	3
7		Michael Lin	1953	H---	W18	D10	W11	L1	3
8		Roger Hanson	1874	W22	L1	H---	W10	D9	3
9		Steven Witt	1916	W30	L3	W21	D13	D8	3
10		Kylie Zhang	1912	H---	W26	D7	L8	W14	3
11		Sophie Velea	1821	H---	D13	W29	L7	W21	3
12	12-18	Ekam Sardar	1537	L1	D25	W18	W19	L5	2.5
13		Ryan Min	2144	H---	D11	W28	D9	U---	2.5
14		Stephanie Velea	1592	H---	L6	W25	W17	L10	2.5
15		Josh Sinanan	2211	W19	H---	H---	D5	U---	2.5
16		Becca Lampman	2127	W17	W28	L3	L4	H---	2.5
17		Bohan Li	1594	L16	W23	H---	L14	W24	2.5
18		Robert J Allen	1700	H---	L7	L12	W29	W20	2.5
19	19-23	Aaron Nicoski	1658	L15	D20	W26	L12	D22	2
20		Lewis Ma	1505	L5	D19	D24	W27	L18	2
21		Lucas Maokhampio	1705	L3	W30	L9	W22	L11	2
22		Loida Guo	1466	L8	D24	W30	L21	D19	2
23		Merrick Liu	1490	L4	L17	B---	D24	D27	2
24	24-27	Vedant Sharma	1597	L2	D22	D20	D23	L17	1.5
25		Yian Lin	1711	L29	D12	L14	W26	U---	1.5
26		Jimmy Yang	1506	D6	L10	L19	L25	W30	1.5
27		William Ho	1426	L28	B---	L4	L20	D23	1.5
28	28-30	Evan Chowdhury	1759	W27	L16	L13	U---	U---	1
29		Pranav D. Vijayaraghavan	1368	W25	L5	L11	L18	U---	1
30		Imai Maharaja	1490	L9	L21	L22	B---	L26	1

Vancouver Open: Clark U1700

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total
1	1	Daniel Vasey	1479	W10	W18	W14	D2	W7	4.5
2	2-3	Mark Hanna	1450	W17	W16	W6	D1	D4	4
3		Olivia Maokhampio	1271	W21	L6	W12	W14	W8	4
4	4-5	Vihaan Kesavan	1249	W25	W19	D7	D6	D2	3.5
5		Ferris Samara	1203	L11	W24	W21	W13	D6	3.5
6	6-12	Kevin Abihai	1529	W22	W3	L2	D4	D5	3
7		Matthew Stevens	1655	W15	D8	D4	W18	L1	3
8		Leo Suzuki	1291	W12	D7	H---	W9	L3	3
9		Jayden Thein	1095	D13	D22	W19	L8	W20	3
10		Pragit Arunkumar	1169	L1	W20	H---	W19	D13	3
11		Francisco J Lopez	1634	W5	L14	H---	W22	H---	3
12		Rayansh Sharma	659	L8	W25	L3	W23	W18	3
13	13-17	Raymond Zhao	1373	D9	D23	W17	L5	D10	2.5
14		Aiden Zhu	1293	W24	W11	L1	L3	D16	2.5
15		Eevie Tare	1212	L7	H---	D23	D17	W22	2.5
16		Suhaan Kesavan	1001	W23	L2	L18	W25	D14	2.5
17		Aditya Sharma	1110	L2	W26	L13	D15	X23	2.5
18	18-21	Rihaan Rahul	1278	W20	L1	W16	L7	L12	2
19		Daniel Hyman	1348	W26	L4	L9	L10	W25	2
20		Shaurya Sharma	565	L18	L10	B---	W21	L9	2
21		Ary Cheng	428	L3	B---	L5	L20	W24	2
22	22	Dallas Samson	1183	L6	D9	W26	L11	L15	1.5
23	23-26	Allan Leland	1358	L16	D13	D15	L12	F17	1
24		Vihaan Rahul	718	L14	L5	L25	W26	L21	1
25		Steven Hull	unr.	L4	L12	W24	L16	L19	1
26		Corina Maokhampio	807	L19	L17	L22	L24	B---	1

19th Annual SPICE Cup Open



November 19-24, 2025

Hilton Bellevue

300 112th Ave SE, Bellevue, WA 98004



Co-hosted by the Susan Polgar Foundation and the WA Chess Federation.

A 9-round, dual USCF and FIDE-rated Swiss. One section; minimum rating 2000 FIDE or 2200 USCF required.

Entry fee:

- GMs: Free entry.
- Foreign IMs: \$250 by 9/15, \$300 by 10/15, \$350 after.
- US Flag IMs: \$395 by 9/15, \$445 by 10/15, \$495 after.
- Foreign FIDE-rated players (2000+): \$395 by 9/15, \$445 by 10/15, \$495 after.
- US players 2200+ FIDE: \$595 by 9/15, \$645 by 10/15, \$695 after.
- US players 2000-2199 FIDE: \$895 by 9/15, \$945 by 10/15, \$995 after.

Schedule:

Wednesday 11/19: Arrival & Check-in – 3:00-4:30 PM, Rd. 1 – 5:00 PM.

Thursday 11/20: Rd. 2 – 10:00 AM, Rd. 3 – 4:00 PM.

Friday 11/21: Rd. 4 – 10:00 AM, Rd. 5 – 4:00 PM.

Saturday 11/22: Rd. 6 – 11:00 AM.

Saturday 11/22: SPICE Cup Blitz Championship (9SS, G/3; +2) – 7:00 PM.

Sunday 11/23: Rd. 7 – 11:00 AM, Rd. 8 – 5:00 PM.

Monday 11/24: SPICE Cup Rapid Championship (5SS, G/15; +5) – 10:00 AM.

Monday 11/24: Rd. 9 – 4:00 PM, Closing Ceremony – 8:00 PM or ASAP.

Prize Fund: \$12,500 Guaranteed! GM, IM, WGM, and WIM norms are possible.

1st – 3rd: \$5000-3000-2000, Top U2450: \$500-250, Top U2300: \$500-250.

Special Prizes (which can be won in addition to a place or class prize):

Top Female: \$500, Top Senior (50+): \$500, Brilliancy Prize: \$100.

Time Control: G/90; +30. Forfeit time: 60 minutes.

Byes: Players may request up to two half-point byes in rounds 1-7 if announced by the start of the tournament. Zero-point byes are available for any round.

Rating: Dual USCF and FIDE-rated. November 2025 FIDE ratings will be used to determine pairings and prizes.

Memberships: A current US Chess membership is required at the time of the tournament.

Hotel Rates: \$199 for a King room or 2 Queens. Complimentary guest room Wi-Fi and event day parking. Discounted overnight parking of \$18 per vehicle per night. Many restaurants are within 1-2 miles of the hotel. For online hotel reservations, use the [booking link](#). Group Code: WACFRL. For phone reservations, call 425-455-1300 and reference the Chess SPICE Cup. Cut-off date for discounted hotel reservations is **October 30, 2025**.

Registration: Online at nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration or send registration form and payment to: Washington Chess Federation, 4174 148th Avenue NE, Building I, Suite M, Redmond, Washington 98052. Limited space available; please register early. Registration will stay open until capacity is reached or by the **deadline of 11/18** at 12:00 PM (noon) PT. Partial refunds (less PayPal fees + \$20 processing fee) are available until the registration deadline.

Miscellaneous: Limited free hotel accommodation available for GMs. Players receiving conditions may not take any byes without express permission from the organizer. All equipment is provided. Anti-cheating measures will be strictly enforced.

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

Co-hosted by Washington Chess Federation & Susan Polgar Foundation



20th Susan Polgar Foundation National Open for Girls & Boys



Saturday-Sunday, November 22-23, 2025

Hilton Bellevue: 300 112th Ave SE, Bellevue, WA 98004

Info: spfno.com Register: ChessReg.com
Email: WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com
Phone: 206-769-3757

2-day Championship sections

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

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

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

Format: A 5-Round, G/60; +30 Swiss.
Dual NWSRS + USCF rated. K-12
sections are also FIDE rated.

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

1-day Scholastic sections (Sat-only)

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

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

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

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

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

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

WA State Scholastic Qualifier!

Hotel Rates: Hilton Bellevue for \$159 (1 King/2 Queen) per
night, address above. Complimentary guest room Wi-Fi and event
day parking. Many restaurants are within 1-2 miles from
hotel. Phone: 425.455.1300, request SPFNO room block. Group
Code: WACFCI. [Booking link](#) for online hotel reservations. Cut-
off date for discounted hotel reservations is **October 30, 2025**.

Entry Fees: (by Nov. 1 | Nov. 2 – 14 | Nov. 15 or after)

- 2-Day Championship sections EF: \$90 | \$105 | \$125
- 1-Day Scholastic sections (Sat-only) EF: \$55 | \$70 | \$90

Registration & Payment: **Registration and payment
deadline Fri 11/21 @ 5pm at ChessReg.com** (pay by
credit/debit/PayPal).

Fun Side Events!

Parents and Coaches Seminar: Sat @ 10:15-11:15am.

SPFNO Girls Workshop: Sat @ 11:15-12:15pm.

GM Susan Polgar Book Sale & Signing: Sat @ 2-3pm &
Sun @ 11am-12pm.

All-Comers Blitz with FM Megan Lee: Sat @ 3:15-
4:30pm.

SPFNO Puzzle Solving Competition: Sat @ 5:30-6pm.
EF: \$30 by 11/15, \$45 after.

SPFNO Blitz Championship: Sat @ 6:30-9pm.
EF: \$30 by 11/15, \$45 after.

GM Susan Polgar Simul: Sun @ 1-4pm.
EF: \$65 by 11/15, \$85 after. Max 20 players.

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

NORTHWEST CHESS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

ROBERT A. KARCH

(MARCH 24, 1930 – MARCH 23, 2010)

JOHN DONALDSON

Bob Karch got his start as a player in Tacoma in the late 1940s, but it was not until the 1970s he would make his mark on chess in the Northwest. Shortly after graduating from Lincoln High School in the late 1940s, he enlisted in the United States Army serving in military intelligence for twenty years before retiring. During his career in the Armed Forces, Bob found time to start the Northwest rating system in 1957, improving upon USCF efforts at the time, particularly in terms of timeliness. This rating system continued into the 1980s under various administrators.

Upon retiring from the Army Bob worked briefly for B.H. Wood at *Chess* magazine in England in 1972. Looking back, it appears Bob, who was always the optimist, had a long-term plan to be a chess professional with his stint at *Chess* the final preparation.

Bob found himself back in the Pacific Northwest opening a full-time chess center in Seattle just as the Fischer boom was starting. His American Chess Service facility only lasted a few years but hosted many events where players like the young Yasser Seirawan and future IM Eric Tangborn gained valuable experience. Peter Biyiasas, reigning Canadian champion at the time, won a number of Karch organized tournaments in the early to mid-1970s.

The greatest promotional event Bob Karch organized was undoubtedly the match he played with Yasser Seirawan. The battle between Fischer and Spassky might have been played a year before

but the effects of the “Fischer Boom” were still being felt in Seattle when the 43-year-old Karch and the 13-year-old Seirawan squared off in a six-game match in August of 1973. Karch, normally a Class A player who occasionally slipped over 2000, was the reigning “Seattle City Champion” while Yasser was 13 and rapidly improving. They were far from the best players in the area at the time, but the newspapers didn’t realize that. What they saw was a study in contrasts.

Lew Peterson, writing in the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* at the time, described the scene. “Yasser, who ranges in age from 11 and 13 years depending on your sources, showed up for the highly publicized game in yellow cutoffs, a red-gauche hat and a well-tanned bare chest. His older opponent was dressed slightly more conservatively in slacks, dress shirt and tie.” Yasser won the match, which attracted large stories in the P.I. for each of the games, 4-2. Bob, who always wanted to make chess more popular and appreciated the publicity, couldn’t have been happier.

Bob served as the editor of *Northwest Chess* for 12 years in the 1970s and 1980s, and currently ranks number three on the all-time list, trailing only Jeff Roland and Dan Wade in longevity. He was also the editor of the correspondence chess magazine *Chess International* for several years in the late 1980s. Correspondence chess was a life-long interest of Bob who served five years as the US Secretary to the International Correspondence Chess Federation.

Besides editing, organizing and directing Bob also served in various administrative posts for the Washington Chess Federation for many years and as USCF secretary for a short time. Throughout his life he taught hundreds of beginner classes teaching thousands of people how to play chess.

Typically wearing a suit and a tie Bob was certainly more conservative than your average chess player but outward appearances could belie the dreamer that lay beneath. One need only look at the American Chess Service calendar for 1973, with close to (50!) weekend events on the calendar spread across hundreds of miles of the Northwest to realize that he was putting on the local version of Bill Goichberg’s Continental Chess Association tour but with an infinitely smaller player base. These generous prize funds kept many semi-pros going but it was good that Bob had his military pension to fall back on when events lost money.

Bob was definitely a visionary who was ahead of his time.

Previously Covered

Articles of previous inductees are found in the following issues of *Northwest Chess*:

[Viktors Pupols - January 2023](#)

[Richard S. Vandenburg - September 2023](#)

[Clark Harmon - March 2024](#)

[Daniel Wade - May 2025](#)



Robert Karch at the US Open in 1975. Photo credit unknown.



Washington Class Championships

Fri-Sun, Nov 28-30, 2025

Embassy Suites Seattle North/Lynnwood

20610 44th Avenue West, Lynnwood, WA 98036-7701

\$16,500 Prize Fund

(based on 200 paid entries)

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

Entry Fees (EF) (by Oct 31 / Nov 14 / on-site) & **Prizes** per section:

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

Seeds: Highest finishing WA resident in Carlsen, Anand, Kramnik, Kasparov, and Karpov sections seeded in the 2026 WA State Championship: Championship, Premier, Invitational, Challengers, and Rising Stars sections, respectively. Ties for a seed to be resolved by post-event playoff games.

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

Special Prizes (per class section):

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

Notes: * = May not combine with higher prizes.

** = Requires a minimum of 3 eligible players.

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

Hotel Rates: \$239 Double room, single or double occupancy. Call 425-775-2500 to request the Washington Chess Federation block. Cut-off date for reservations at the above rate is Nov 22 @ 5pm PST.

Main Event

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

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

Registration & Payment:

Before event: (by Thu, Nov 27 @ 5pm) NWchess.com/OnlineRegistration

(pay by Zelle / SettleKing) or write a check to Washington Chess Federation.

On-site (payment by cash possible too): Fri 8:30-9:30am for 3-day schedule, or 4:30-5:15pm if entering with 1 half-point bye. Sat 8-8:30am for 2-day schedule, or 9-9:30am if entering 3-day schedule with 2 half-point byes. *Late registrations receive a half-point bye for round 1.*

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

Rating: Dual rated US Chess and NWSRS. Carlsen / Anand / Kramnik / Kasparov sections also FIDE rated (except any G/55 games). Highest of Nov 2025 US Chess and current NWSRS ratings used to determine class sections, pairings, and prizes. Higher of US Chess and CFC ratings used for Canadian players. Other foreign ratings used at TD discretion; foreign ratings also used for players with no US Chess rating.

Unrated players are eligible only for 1st / 2nd / 3rd prizes in the Carlsen (2200+) section or for the Unrated prizes in the Petrosian (U1000) section.

Entry Fee Adjustments: Playing up into a higher section is allowed (for \$85 extra) if the player's USCF rating is within 200 points of that section's lower limit (e.g., min USCF 1600 for the 1800-1999 section). Seniors (age 50+) may subtract \$50. Free entry to GMs, IMs, WGMs, and WIMs. Reentry for ½ of original entry fee. Canadians may pay CAD\$ at par.

Rounds:

3-day schedule: Fri @ 10am & 6pm; Sat @ 10am & 6pm; Sun @ 10am & 4:30pm.
2-day schedule: Sat @ 9am, 11:45am, 2:45pm, then join 3-day schedule from round 4 @ 6pm.

Time Controls:

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

2-day schedule: G/55; +15 (rounds 1-3); rounds 4-6 same as in 3-day schedule.

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

Procedures: Pairings posted near the playing hall and online ~20 mins before each round. If withdrawing or skipping a round, please inform organizers at least 30 mins before the start of the round.

Washington Class Championships, Nov 28-30 (cont.)

Fun Side Events!

(many run between rounds of the Main Event)

WA Class Erdogmus Thanksgiving Scholastic

Fri, 11/28 @ 9 AM – 4 PM (during round 1)

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

- **Open:** A 4-round G/40;+5 Swiss in two sections: **K-3 Open** and **4-12 Open**. For intermediate to advanced players. Dual NWSRS and USCF rated. US Chess membership req'd. Clocks & notation req'd. Rounds: 9:15am, 10:45, lunch, 12:45, 2:15pm. Awards: ~4pm.
- **Challengers:** A 5-round G/25;+5 Swiss in two sections: **K-3 U800** and **4-12 U900**. For novice to low-intermediate players. Dual NWSRS and USCF rated. US Chess membership req'd. Clocks req'd from the start. Notation req'd in 4-12 U900, and optional in K-3 U800. Rounds: 9:15am, 10:30, lunch, 12, 1:15, 2:30pm. Awards: ~4pm.

Entry fee: \$50 by Fri, 11/21; \$60 after. Room for up to 132 players.

Awards (per section):

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

Rating: Higher of Nov 2025 USCF or current NWSRS ratings used for sections & pairings.

Registration: NWchess.com/OnlineRegistration/ - pay by Zelle / SettleKing / check; no on-site entries or payments. Registration & payment deadline: Wed, 11/26 @ 5pm. Unpaid players are withdrawn.

WA Class Dorfner Memorial Adult Novice Swiss

Fri, 11/28 @ 11 AM – 4 PM (during round 1)

A 4-round Swiss in one section. For U1200 or unrated adults (18+). 1 half-point bye available. Unrated. TC: G/30;+5. EF: \$25. No memberships req'd. Register: 10-10:45am. Rounds: 11am, 12:15, 1:30, 2:45pm.

Prizes: \$400/b20. 1st \$150, 2nd \$100, 3rd \$60, 1st U900 / U700 / Unrated \$30.

WA Class Chess960 Freestyle Fischer Rapid

Fri, 11/28 @ 2:15 PM – 4:30 PM (between rounds 1 & 2)

A 4-round Swiss in one section, 1 half-point bye available. Unrated. TC: G/12;+3. EF: \$20. No memberships req'd. Register: 1:30-2pm. Rounds: 2:15pm, 2:50, 3:25, 4pm. Higher of Nov 2025 USCF and current NWSRS used for pairings & prizes. A new (randomized) opening position in each round. Players have 2 mins before clocks start to examine initial positions. Prize fund: \$300/b20: 1st-3rd \$80-\$60-\$40, 1st U2000/U1700/U1400/Unr \$30.

WA Class Robson Puzzle Solving

Fri, 11/28 @ 4:45 PM – 5:30 PM (between rounds 1 & 2)

Solving 16 chess puzzles in 45 mins, on paper. Evaluation based on both accuracy and completeness. EF: \$15. Register: 3:45-4:30pm. No memberships req'd. Prize fund: \$250/b30. 1st \$60, 2nd \$45, 3rd \$25, 1st U2000 / U1700 / U1400 / U1100 / U800 / Unrated \$20.

WA Class Deshmukh Girls & Women Workshop

Fri, 11/28 @ 6 PM – 8 PM (during round 2)

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

WA Class Piper Memorial Adult Swiss

Sat-Sun, 11/29-11/30 @ 11 AM and 4:30 PM (during rounds 3-6)

Sponsored by *Seattle Chess Club* in memory of Dr. August Piper (1944-2024), with generous support from Gerald Larsen & Henry Yan. A 4-round Swiss in two sections: Botvinnik (Open) and Korchnoi (U1500); may be merged based on entries. 1 half point bye available. USCF rated only. TC: G/120;+30. EF: \$60 online (by Fri, 11/28) or \$70 on-site; \$20 discount for SCC members. EF waived for unrated players who purchase memberships. Register: Sat, 11/29 @ 10-10:30am (unless starting with a half-point bye). US Chess and WCF/OCF/ICA memberships req'd. Nov 2025 USCF ratings used for sections, pairings, & prizes. Guaranteed prize fund: \$1,000.

Botvinnik (Open): 1st \$240, 2nd \$150, 3rd \$120, 1st U1650 \$80;

Korchnoi (U1500): 1st \$120, 2nd \$100, 3rd \$80, 1st U1300 \$60, 1st Unr. \$50.

WA Class Casablanca Rapid

Sat, 11/29 @ 2 PM – 5 PM (between rounds 3 & 4)

A 4-round Swiss in one section. 1 half-point bye available. Unrated. TC: G/15;+5. EF: \$30. No memberships. Register: 1-1:45pm. Rounds: 2pm, 2:45, 3:30, 4:15pm. Higher of Nov 2025 USCF Quick and current NWSRS ratings used for pairings & prizes. Each round starts in a new *midlegame* position from a historical game. Players have 2 mins before clocks start to examine initial positions. Prize fund: \$400/b20. 1st \$110, 2nd \$85, 3rd \$60, 1st U2100 \$50, 1st U1800 \$40, 1st U1500 \$30, Biggest Upset Win: \$25.

WA Class Waldow Chess Rapid Championship

Sat, 11/29 @ 2:45 PM – 8:45 PM (during round 4)

With generous support from Mark Waldow. A 6-round Swiss in one section. 1 half-point bye available, if requested by the end of round 2. Unrated. TC: G/20;+5. EF: \$50. No memberships req'd. Registration: online (by Fri, 11/28) or on-site (Sat @ 2-2:30pm). Check-in req'd by 2:30pm, incl. for online registrants. Rounds: 2:45pm, 3:45, 4:45, 5:45, 6:45, 7:45pm. Higher of Nov 2025 USCF and current NWSRS ratings used for pairings & prizes. Rules: Play begins with White to move, having already played e4 & d4. Games in rounds 1-3 start with the Black king on e8 (as usual), but games in rounds 4-6 start with the Black king on d8 (swapped with the Black queen, which also flips how castling works for Black). In all cases Black receives draw odds. Guaranteed prize fund: \$5,000. 1st-10th: \$1,000 / \$850 / \$700 / \$600 / \$500 / \$400 / \$300 / \$250 / \$200 / \$150; Biggest Upset Win \$50.

WA Class Naroditsky Memorial Bullet

Sat, 11/29 @ 9 PM – 9:50 PM (after round 4)

A 5-round Swiss in one section. 2 half-point byes available. Unrated. TC: G/2;+1. EF: \$10. No memberships. Register: 8:15-8:50pm. Rounds: 9pm, 9:10, 9:20, 9:30, 9:40pm. Higher of Nov 2025 USCF Blitz and current NWSRS rating used for pairings & prizes. Prize fund: \$200/b20. 1st \$50, 2nd \$40, 3rd \$30, 1st U2000 / U1600 / U1200 / Unrated \$20.

WA Class Carlsen Rapid Championship

Sun, 11/30 @ 2 PM – 4:30 PM (between rounds 5 & 6)

A 4-round Swiss in two sections: Kasparov (1600+) and Anand (U1600); may be merged based on entries. 1 half-point bye available. USCF Quick rated; Kasparov section is FIDE Rapid rated too. TC: G/12;+4. EF: \$35. Players rated 1500+ may play up for a \$10 fee. Current US Chess and WCF/OCF/ICA memberships req'd. Register: 1-1:45pm. Rounds: 2pm, 2:35, 3:10, 3:45pm. Higher of Nov 2025 USCF Quick and current NWSRS ratings used for sections, pairings, & prizes. Prize fund: \$850/b30. Kasparov (1600+): 1st \$140, 2nd \$110, 3rd \$80, 1st U2100 / U1800 \$60; Anand (U1600): 1st \$100, 2nd \$80, 3rd \$60, 1st U1400 / U1100 / Unrated \$40; Biggest Upset Win (in each section): \$25.

WA Class Aronian Bughouse

Sun, 11/30 @ 3 PM – 4:15 PM (between rounds 5 & 6)

A 7-round Single Swiss in one section. 2 half-point byes available. Max avg team rating: 1800. Unrated. TC: G/3;+0. EF: \$30/player. No memberships req'd. Register: 2:15-2:45pm. Rounds: 3pm, 3:10, 3:20, 3:30, 3:40, 3:50, 4pm. Higher of Nov 2025 USCF Blitz and current NWSRS ratings (if unrated, up to 1300 based on age) used for pairings & prizes. Team prizes: \$400 (based on 20 teams): 1st-3rd \$100-\$70-\$50; 1st-3rd K-6 \$50-\$40-\$30; Biggest Upset Win: \$30; Best Sportsmanship: \$30.

WA Class "Knight-Time" Blitz

Sun, 11/30 @ 8:30 PM – 10:45 PM (after round 6)

A 7-round Swiss in two sections: Nakamura (1600+) and Tal (U1600); may be merged based on entries. 2 half-point byes available. USCF Blitz rated; Nakamura section is FIDE Blitz rated too. TC: G/5;+2. EF: \$30. Players rated 1500+ may play up (\$10 fee). Current US Chess and WCF/OCF/ICA memberships req'd. Register: 7:30-8:15pm. Rounds: 8:30pm, 8:50, 9:10, 9:30, 9:50, 10:10, 10:30pm. Higher of Nov 2025 USCF Blitz and current NWSRS ratings used for sections, pairings, & prizes. Prize fund: \$750/b30. Nakamura (1600+): 1st \$120, 2nd \$100, 3rd \$75, 1st U2100 / U1800 \$60; Tal (U1600): 1st \$90, 2nd \$75, 3rd \$60, 1st U1400 / U1100 / Unrated \$40.

Monroe YMCA Summer Championship

Josh Sinanan

The Monroe YMCA Summer Chess Championship took place on Saturday, July 26, 2025, at the Monroe/Sky Valley Family YMCA. WCF Co-Vice President Rekha Sagar—herself a Monroe resident who resides near the venue—organized

and ran the event with assistance from Sujatha Avula, her two boys Varshith and Guru, Paul Victor, and WCF President Josh Sinanan. The tournament attracted a sold-out crowd of 59 players across four sections named in honor of Pacific Northwest Native American

Indian tribes: Monroe Championship, Snohomish U1300, Skykomish U900, and Snoqualmie U500.

A notable spiritual presence could be felt in the playing hall as the sacred tribal values of stewardship, unity, and respect for all beings were emphasized throughout the event. The late-July event, co-hosted by the Washington Chess Federation and Monroe YMCA, attracted participants ranging from unrated to master and drew from cities throughout the region including Bothell, Sultan, Redmond, Woodinville, Richmond, Seattle, Sammamish, Snohomish, Bellevue, Monroe, Duvall, Mercer Island, Hillsboro, Kirkland, Mill Creek, Issaquah, and North Bend. As the day wore on, a few vocally inclined parents and spectators could be heard performing their own rendition of the Village People's 1978 hit Y.M.C.A. song!



Duvall-based phenom NM Vidip Kona (5.0, 2229 → 2235) topped the 18-player Monroe Championship section with a perfect 5.0 points from five games. Along the way, Kona vanquished his nearest rivals Guo (1466), Maharaja (1577), Shi (1723), and Yu (2100) in fine style, winning outright by a full point. Rising superstar Gavin Shi (4.0, 1640 → 1713) of Seattle captured second place with an impressive 4-1 score.

A quintuplet of chess gladiators shared third/fourth place honors with a “plus one” score: FM Peter Yu (3.0, 2100 → 2100) of Bothell, Loida Guo (3.0, 1498 → 1493) of Bothell, Avyaan R. Chowdhury (3.0, 1226 → 1335) of Kirkland, Imai Maharaja (3.0, 1427 → 1487) of Redmond, and Rushil Singh (3.0, 1362 → 1364) of North Bend.

Monroe YMCA Summer Chess Championship: Monroe Championship									
#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total
1	1	Vidip Kona	2172	W8	W3	W6	W2	W4	5
2	2	Gavin Shi	1723	W11	W7	W4	L1	W6	4
3	3-7	Loida Guo	1466	W15	L1	D5	W9	D7	3
4		Peter Yu	2100	W5	W12	L2	W13	L1	3
5		Avyaan Roy Chowdhury	1393	L4	W14	D3	D8	W13	3
6		Imai Maharaja	1577	W9	W13	L1	W12	L2	3
7		Rushil Singh	1448	W18	L2	D9	W15	D3	3
8	8-11	Snehil Ghosh	1423	L1	W16	L12	D5	W15	2.5
9		Guru Harshith Reddy Avula	1344	L6	W17	D7	L3	W16	2.5
10		Prashanth Savani	1422	H---	H---	L15	W14	D11	2.5
11		Varshith Reddy Avula	1380	L2	W18	L13	W17	D10	2.5
12	12-15	Bhavik Bharath	1551	W14	L4	W8	L6	U---	2
13		Ryan Lai	1453	W17	L6	W11	L4	L5	2
14		Arjun Moghe	1340	L12	L5	W16	L10	W17	2
15		Ananya Sabarish	1119	L3	B---	W10	L7	L8	2
16	16	Anyi Li	1317	H---	L8	L14	W18	L9	1.5
17	17-18	Shivani Dalakoti	unr.	L13	L9	W18	L11	L14	1
18		Advik Rawat	unr.	L7	L11	L17	L16	B---	1

Monroe YMCA Summer Chess Championship: Snohomish U1300									
#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total
1	1	Paul Victor	1257	W8	W6	W2	W5	W7	5
2	2	Patrick Zhang	1220	W7	W4	L1	W6	W5	4
3	3-4	Aariv Shah	925	L6	L7	B---	W8	W9	3
4		Chethan Krishna Jayakrishnan	932	W13	L2	L9	B---	W6	3
5	5	Mithran Anbuselvam	1111	D9	X13	W8	L1	L2	2.5
6	6-8	Joyce Gui	1045	W3	L1	W7	L2	L4	2
7		Vincent Gu	1026	L2	W3	L6	W9	L1	2
8		Chad Foster	1042	L1	W9	L5	L3	B---	2
9	9	Amogh Durbhakula	950	D5	L8	W4	L7	L3	1.5
10	10-13	Ayaansh Agrawal	1230	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	0
11		Hanish Tallapaneni	1218	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	0
12		Aiden Zhu	1175	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	0
13		Sai Karthik	1076	L4	F5	U---	U---	U---	0



Monroe Championship winners during the awards ceremony: (L-R) Rushil Singh, Ayaan R. Chowdhury, Peter Yu, TD Rekha Sagar, Loida Guo, and Gavin Shi.
Photo credit: Sujatha Ramigani.

In addition to the overall prizes, several ‘Special’ prizes in the form of chess medals were also awarded as follows: Gavin Shi—Biggest Upset Win (377 points), Ananya Sabarish—Best Female Player + Best Dressed, Peter Yu—Best Senior Player, Prashant Savani—Kindness and Spreading Joy.



In the 13-player Snohomish U1300 section, Monroe chess marathon man Paul Victor (5.0, 1219 → 1291) emerged victorious with a perfect 5.0 points from five games, scoring key victories against his youthful rivals Gui (1003), Zhang (971), Anbuselvam (1040), and Gu (973) along the way. Sammamish chess savant Patrick Zhang (4.0, 971 → 1105) earned

the second-place prize with an impressive 4-1 score. A pair of future chess kings shared third/fourth place with three points apiece: Aariv Shah (3.0, 487 → 674) of Issaquah, and Chethan K. Jayakrishnan (3.0, 736 → 787) of Bothell. Chethan and Paul added to their winnings by virtue of claiming the Biggest Upset Win (144 points) and Best Senior Player prizes, respectively. Mithran Anbuselvam, a happy chap by nature, took home the Kindness and Spreading Joy Prize for his cheerful efforts.



In the massive 21-player Skykomish U900 section, a single chess warrior—Aaron Chin (5.0, 852 → 932) of Seattle—emerged unscathed after five rounds to

claim the first-place trophy with a perfect score. Sultan chess slugger Phoenix Armitage-Selig (4.0, 507 → 701) took second place on tiebreaks, dropping only a single game to Chin in the penultimate round.

Monroe chess dancer Dinesh Poka (4.0, 642 → 748) channeled John Candy, who cameoned as Gus Polinski, Polka King of the Midwest, in the 1990 hit movie *Home Alone*, by dancing the ‘Chess Polka’ along his way to winning the third-place trophy.

First grade chess wizard Kheiron Chin (3.5, 224 → 521) of Seattle won the fourth-place trophy on tiebreaks, recovering well after a first-round loss against Sajeeth (484). Mill Creek mystery man Hridik Sarkar (3.5, 281 → 509) took fifth place on tiebreaks thanks to his red-hot 3.5/4 point start!



In the cottage-sized Snoqualmie U500 section, Richmond chess ringer Pengyu Chen (4.5, 459 → 532) came all the way down from British Columbia with his parents Siyang and Heming just to play in the tournament, and it was well-worth the trip as he won the first-place trophy with an undefeated 4.5 points from five games! Had it not been for an accidental first-round stalemate against Ghosh (112), Chen would no doubt have achieved a perfect score!

Sammamish chess stud Sushant Deshpande (3.5, unrated → 459) earned the second-place trophy with a fantastic 3.5-1.5 score, dropping only a single game along the way. Bothell chess bouncer Archith Jayakrishnan (3.0, 290 → 384) captured third place on tiebreaks by virtue of playing against the top six players in his section.

Chess Dad Siyang Chen (3.0, unrated → 427) of Richmond, Pengyu's father, did well in his first chess tournament and took fourth place on tiebreaks. In a closely contested race for fifth place, it was Abhinav Manikandan (2.5, 205 → 308) of Snohomish who edged out his nearest competitors and claimed the fifth-place trophy on tiebreaks with an even score.

Congratulations to the winners and many thanks to all who make the trip out to Monroe to support this event!



(L-R) Sujatha Ramigani, Josh Sinanan, Rekha Sagar, organizers of the Monroe YMCA Summer Championship.
Photo credit: Paul Victor.



Paul Victor, winner of the Snohomish U1300 section, won all five of his games.
Photo credit: Rekha Sagar.



Phoenix Armitage-Selig (R) delivers checkmate against Samay Sanjeeth in round three on the top board of the Skykomish U900 section while Dharsaan Ponniah looks on.
Photo credit: Rekha Sagar.

Monroe YMCA Summer Chess Championship: Skykomish U900									
#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total
1	1	Aaron Chin	852	W20	W16	W15	W2	W5	5
2	2-3	Phoenix Armitage-Selig	782	W17	W3	W13	L1	W7	4
3		Dinesh Poka	706	W9	L2	W20	W15	W10	4
4	4-5	Kheiron Chin	521	L13	W17	D10	W12	W11	3.5
5		Hridik Sarkar	873	D14	W18	W12	W11	L1	3.5
6	6-9	Svanik Kalya	855	W7	L13	L11	W21	W16	3
7		Navika Koul	572	L6	W19	W18	W13	L2	3
8		Mridula Raghavan	871	L10	L11	W14	W20	W13	3
9		Ary Cheng	428	L3	B---	W16	L10	W15	3
10	10-12	Rishima Singh	669	W8	L15	D4	W9	L3	2.5
11		Xander Ragno	529	D12	W8	W6	L5	L4	2.5
12		Vihaan Ramana	769	D11	W14	L5	L4	W20	2.5
13	13-18	Samay Sajeeth	727	W4	W6	L2	L7	L8	2
14		Rameses Khambatti	684	D5	L12	L8	W18	D19	2
15		Dharsaan Ponniah	760	W19	W10	L1	L3	L9	2
16		Rishab Wishwas	716	W21	L1	L9	W17	L6	2
17		Ishaan Prasad	533	L2	L4	W19	L16	B---	2
18		Hanish Poka	386	B---	L5	L7	L14	W21	2
19	19	Mithran Perumalsamy	526	L15	L7	L17	B---	D14	1.5
20	20-21	Anirudh Raghavan	557	L1	W21	L3	L8	L12	1
21		Anthony Zhang	514	L16	L20	B---	L6	L18	1

Monroe YMCA Summer Chess Championship: Snoqualmie U500									
#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total
1	1	Pengyu Chen	538	D9	W11	W3	W5	W4	4.5
2	2	Sushant Deshpande	285	W11	W3	D5	L4	W8	3.5
3	3-4	Archith Jayakrishnan	498	W4	L2	L1	W6	W5	3
4		Siyang Chen	unr.	L3	W9	W8	W2	L1	3
5	5-7	Abhinav Manikandan	272	W7	W8	D2	L1	L3	2.5
6		Akshar Savani	unr.	U---	D7	W9	L3	W11	2.5
7		Hanvick Vuggirala	unr.	L5	D6	W11	L8	W9	2.5
8	8	Claude Yang	143	B---	L5	L4	W7	L2	2
9	9	Oishani Ghosh	236	D1	L4	L6	W11	L7	1.5
10	10	Rhea Prasad	113	H---	H---	U---	U---	U---	1
11	11	Haswin Karthik	unr.	L2	L1	L7	L9	L6	0

2025 National K-12 GRADE Chess Championships

Thu-Sun, December 11-14, 2025

Spokane Convention Center

334 West Spokane Falls Boulevard, Spokane, WA 99201



ELIGIBILITY

Open to all US students in grades K-12 as of the 2025-2026 school year.

FORMAT

A 7-round, G/90; d10 Swiss tournament in 13 grade-level sections, K-12.

ENTRY FEES

\$105 online or postmarked by **10/27**

\$160 online or postmarked by **11/17**

\$235 online **ONLY** by **12/1**

\$360 online **ONLY** by **12/10**

\$400 on-site until **10am Fri 12/12**

See [Scholastic Regulations](#) for details on required byes for on-site entries.

\$40 for section changes requested **after 11/3**.

100% Entry refunds available if notified by email to nationalevents@uschess.org by **11/3**.

Refunds requested **after 11/3** or in person at Chess Control by 11am PT on **12/11** will incur a \$40 service charge.

No refunds after **11am 12/11**.

SCHEDULE

Thursday 12/11: **Bughouse Championship** (11am-2pm), **National Puzzle Solving Championship** (3-4pm), **Blitz Championship** (5-9pm)

Friday 12/12: **Opening Ceremony** (12:30pm), Rd. 1: 1pm, Rd. 2: 6pm.

Saturday 12/13: Rd. 3: 9am, Rd. 4: 1:30pm, Rd. 5: 6pm.

Sunday 12/14: Rd. 6: 9am, Rd. 7: 2pm, **Awards Ceremony** ~ Sun. 6pm.

Note: K-1 sections start 30 min later for morning rounds and 30 min earlier for evening rounds. Please check full [schedule](#) for details.

AWARDS

All players who complete the event will receive an award! Medals awarded to the top-scoring players in each section. Players will be able to collect medals following the completion of round 7. For team award info, see [Nationals Website](#).

RATING

US Chess rated. December 2025 US Chess rating supplement will be used to determine pairings and prizes. Converted ratings used for players with higher NWSRS ratings. See page 7 of [Scholastic Regulations](#) for details.

EVENT WEBSITE

new.uschess.org/k12-2025-championships

ONLINE REGISTRATION

kingregistration.com/event/2025nationalk12

QUESTIONS?

Josh Sinanan, WCF President,
US Chess Scholastic Council Rep,
WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com,
Call or text: 206-769-3757



Washington Winter Classic



DECEMBER 20-21, 2025

HOTEL 116 BELLEVUE

625 116TH AVE NE, BELLEVUE, WA 98004

Highest finishing WA player in the Rudolph Open, Dasher U1800, and Prancer U1400 sections seeded into the Premier, Challengers, and Prodigies sections, respectively, of the 2026 WA State Championship.

Format: A five-round Swiss in three sections:

Rudolph Open, Dasher U1800 & Prancer U1400

In case of a tie for 1st place, follow-up playoff games will determine the seed for the Premier, Challengers or Prodigies section of the 2026 Washington State Championship.

Time Control: G/90; +30 sec. increment. Late default: 60 minutes.

Schedule: Sat @ 9 AM, 2 PM, 7 PM. Sun @ 10 AM, 3 PM. Games that go long may request a late start for the next round.

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

Rudolph Open: 1st-4th: \$450-\$350-\$250-\$200,
1st-2nd U2200: \$150-\$125, 1st-2nd U2000: \$150-\$125.

Dasher U1800: 1st-4th: \$400-\$300-\$200-\$150,
1st-2nd U1700: \$125-\$100, 1st-2nd U1500: \$125-\$100.

Prancer U1400: 1st-4th: \$300-\$225-\$175-\$125,
1st-2nd U1200: \$100-\$75, 1st-2nd U1000: \$100-\$75.

Special Prizes (per section):

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

Entry Fee: \$100 by 12/13, \$125 after. Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs, WIMs and chess Santas rated 2200+ USCF. \$50 play-up fee if rated 1700-1799 or 1300-1399 in both NWSRS and USCF and playing up in Rudolph Open or Dasher U1800, respectively. Maximum of 100 players – please register early.

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

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

Rating: Triple rated in NWSRS, USCF, and FIDE. Higher of December 2025 US Chess or current NWSRS rating used to determine section, pairings, and prizes. Higher of USCF or foreign rating used at TD discretion.

Registration: Online at nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration (pay by SettleKing/Zelle/check/cash). Registration and payment **deadline: Fri. 12/19 @ 5pm**. No registrations accepted or refunds offered after the deadline.

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

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

Contact: Josh Sinanan, WCF President, 206.769.3757

Email: WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com

Holiday Blitz: Sunday 7-9pm (after rd. 5 of main tournament). **Entry Fee:** \$30. **Format:** A 9-Round Single Swiss in one section, 2 half-point byes available. Dual US Chess Blitz + FIDE Blitz rated. **TC:** G/3; +2. **On-site registration:** 6:00-6:45pm. Rds. Sun @ 7pm, 7:15, 7:30, 7:45, 8, 8:15, 8:30, 8:45, 9pm. Closing Ceremony ~ 9:15pm or asap. Current US Chess membership required. Higher of December 2025 US Chess Blitz or Regular rating used to determine pairings and prizes.

Prize Fund: \$750 (based on 50 paid entries)

1st – 3rd: \$170-120-90,

1st U2000/U1800/U1600/U1400/U1200/U1000/Unrated: \$40.

Biggest upset win: \$10/rd.

WINTER CLASSIC SCHOLASTIC

CHESS TOURNAMENT

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2025

HOTEL 116 BELLEVUE

625 116TH AVE NE, BELLEVUE, WA 98004



FORMAT

A 4-round G/45; +5
Swiss in four sections:

K-3 U800

K-3 Open

4-12 U1000

4-12 Open

SCHEDULE

Rd 1 - 9am
Rd 2 - 11am
Lunch
Rd 3 - 2pm
Rd 4 - 4pm
Awards ceremony ~
6pm.

ELIGIBILITY

Open to all students in
grades K-12 as of the
2025-26 school year. Out-
of-state players welcome!

**WA State
Scholastic
Qualifier!**

ENTRY FEE

\$50 by 12/14, \$60 after.
Room for 80 players.

AWARDS

Section Prizes: Amazon Gift
Cards awarded in each
section:
1st - 4th: \$70-65-60-55.

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

RATING

Dual NWSRS and US Chess
rated, with **US Chess**
membership required in
all sections. Establish or
update your national rating!
Higher of current NWSRS or
December 2025 US Chess
rating will be used to
determine section and
pairings.

CLOCKS + NOTATION

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

REGISTRATION

Register online at
NWchess.com/OnlineRegistration
Pay by SettleKing/Zelle/Cash/Check.
**Payment due upon registration; players
listed as unpaid for more than 3 days
after registering will be withdrawn
from the tournament. 100% pre-
registered, no on-site entries or
payments. Entry + payment deadline
Sat December 20 @ 5:00pm.** No
registrations accepted or refunds offered
after the deadline.

PROCEDURE

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

Questions?

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

Holiday Scholastic Cup

CHESS TOURNAMENT

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2025

HOTEL 116 BELLEVUE

625 116TH AVE NE, BELLEVUE, WA 98004



Format

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

K-3 U700

K-3 Open

4-12 U800

4-12 Open

Schedule

Rd. 1 – 9:00am

Rd. 2 – 10:30am

Lunch

Rd. 3 – 12:30pm

Rd. 4 – 1:45pm

Rd. 5 – 3:00pm

Awards ~ 4:30pm

Eligibility

Open to all students in
grades K-12 as of the
2025-26 school year.
Out-of-state players
welcome!

Entry Fee

\$50 by 12/13, \$60 after.
Room for 80 players.

Awards

Section Prizes: Amazon Gift
Cards awarded in each section:
1st – 4th: \$70-65-60-55.

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

Rating

Dual NWSRS and US Chess rated,
with **US Chess membership
required in all sections.**

Establish or update your national
rating! Higher of current NWSRS
or December 2025 US Chess
rating will be used to determine
section and pairings.

**WA State Scholastic
Qualifier!**

Clocks + Notation

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

Registration

Register online at
NWchess.com/OnlineRegistration/
Pay by SettleKing/Zelle/Cash/Check.

**Payment due upon registration; players
listed as unpaid for more than 3 days
after registering will be withdrawn from
the tournament. 100% pre-registered, no
on-site entries or payments. Entry +
payment deadline Fri December 19 @
5:00pm.** No registrations accepted or
refunds offered after the deadline.

Procedure

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

Questions?

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

TOURNAMENTS



Venue

7212 Woodlawn Avenue NE, Seattle 98115

info & events calendar

www.seattlechess.club

tournament signups & inquiries

contact@seattlechess.club

– or mail –

SCC Tournament Director, address as above

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

October 4

3-round round-robin. 4-player sections by close rating. **Time control:** Game/85 + 10 sec. increment. **Entry fee:** \$15 (+\$10 day membership for non-SCC). Prepayment required. **Prizes:** winner of each 4-player quad wins free entry to next Quads played within 3 months. **Check-in:** 9:15-9:45am. **Rounds:** 10am, 2 & 6pm. **Byes:** 0 – must play all 3 rounds! US Chess rated and US Chess membership req'd.

October Quads

October 18-19

See below.

Seattle Fall Open

October 3, 10, 17, 24

Pumpkin Spice

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

Coming up:

- **October Tornado** – October 26; tentative, 2B confirmed
- **November Quads** – November 8; tentative, 2B confirmed

Check our events calendar periodically for confirmed dates.

Club Notes

- Join our Discord – it's under new management!
<https://discord.gg/wBTRH8FmFd>
- Starting in November (delayed from October) registration for our 1-day weekend tournaments will be through the Northwest Chess Online Registration system.

SEATTLE FALL OPEN

OCTOBER 18 - 19, 2025

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A 5-round Swiss in 2 sections – Open and U1600 – with time control of Game/90 with 10-second increment

Prize fund: \$1,630 based on 40 paid entries, 3 per prize group

OPEN: 1st \$425	2nd \$275	U1900 \$150	U1750 \$100
U1600: 1st \$280	2nd \$160	U1400 \$90	U1200/unr \$70

Biggest upset win in each section, rds 1-4 \$10 each

- ❖ **Entry fee** by 10/12: SCC members \$60, others \$90. After 10/12 add \$10.
- ❖ **Play up fee:** If USCF rating under 1500, \$25 for SCC members, \$35 others to play in Open section.
- ❖ **Check in:** 9:15-9:45am. **Rounds:** 10am, 2 & 6pm Saturday, 10:30am & 2:30pm Sunday
- ❖ **Venue:** Seattle University, Pigott Building, Room 305 (3rd level), 901 12th Avenue, Seattle 98122
- ❖ **Byes:** 2 half-point byes available. Commit before round 2 for Sunday rounds.
- ❖ **Max 48 seats.** Register at <http://nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration>. Sign up early!
- ❖ US Chess rated. Current US Chess membership required.

KNIGHTS
ACADEMY

GRAND KN
CHESS ACADE

