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Washington Challengers Cup Champion Vinesh Ravuri.
Photo Credit: Meiling Cheng.

Back Cover

Susan Polgar (L) presents GM Fidel Corrales Jimenez first
place trophy at the 19th SPICE Cup.
Photo credit: Ani Barua.

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Table Of Contents

Clicking on a Table Of Contents entry takes you to that page;
clicking on any page-footer will take you back to the
Table Of Contents page.

Vinesh Ravuri Meiling Cheng..... Front Cover	WCF Spring Scholastic (Ad) Bothell, Washington March 7..... 30
Love, Chess The Chess Friends 4	NW Players at 2025 US Senior Women's Championship Mary Kuhner and Chouchanik Airapetian..... 31
Oregon Junior Closed Wilson Gibbins 6	Intermat Candidates Chess Tournament (Ad) Bellevue, Washington March 7-8 33
2025 Washington Challenger's Cup Josh Sinanan 18	19th SPICE Cup Josh Sinanan 34
2026 Washington State Championship (Ad) Seattle, Washington February 6-8 and 21-22..... 22	Mount McKinley was named by William A. Dickey John Donaldson 42
National Chess Day Scholastic Chess Rekha Sagar 23	Washington State Barber/Rockefeller/Ashley (Ad) Bellevue, Washington March 15..... 43
Challenger's Cup Scholastic Rekha Sagar 24	Open Window School Spring Tornado (Ad) Bellevue, Washington March 21..... 44
Washington President's Cup (Ad) Bellevue, Washington February 14-15..... 25	St. Anne Celtic Challenge Spring 2026 (Ad) Seattle, Washington March 22..... 45
Presidential Scholastic Chess Tournament (Ad) Bellevue, Washington February 15..... 26	Seattle Chess Club (Various Events) (Ad) Various Events of the Seattle Chess Club..... 46
A Conversation With Ted Wang Ken Lee..... 27	13th Annual Reno Larry Evans Memorial Open (Ad) Reno, Nevada April 3-5 or April 4-5 47
Decatur Elementary Gator Fest (Ad) Seattle, Washington February 28..... 29	Susan Polgar (L), GM Fidel Corrales Jimenez Ani Barua Back Cover

A SPECIAL
48-PAGE ISSUE!

Love, Chess

The Chess Friends

The Man Benji, The Myth Sarang, and The Legend Vivi

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

Howdy! It's the Chess Friends!
It's February, and love is in the air. With Valentine's Day approaching, we explore what it's like to love chess.

There are so many aspects of love, but despite tons and tons of poems, songs, and novels about love, [social psychologists and neuroscientists are still debating](#) what love actually is. Several theories and models out there attempt to explain love, and how interpersonal relationships evolve, like the [Triangular Theory of Love](#), the [Knapp's Staircase Model](#), or [The Conception of the Long-term Relationship](#).

In this article, we reflect on how our love for chess changes with time, and propose our own model to describe the development of one's relationship with chess. With a tip of the hat to the great Hungarian-American chess master and scientist Arpad Elo, the creator of the Elo chess rating system, may we present...

The Chess Friends' E.L.O. Model for Three Stages of Chess Love:

Enchantment

Labor

Odyssey

The Legend Vivi, 8, describes *Enchantment*. The Myth Sarang, 12, discusses *Labor*. The Man Benji, 14, explores *Odyssey*. Our friend Peshka travels back in time, to Ancient Greece, where chess doesn't exist yet, and illustrates each E.L.O. step in a game *Guess the Classical Mythology Character!* Let's get started!

The Legend Vivaan: Enchantment

(Falling in Love with an Amazing Game)

I first fell in love with chess when I was a baby. I would lay down on my belly on the dining table, watching my brother do a chess lesson with uncle Josh. Until I was three, I loved chess as a toy. I loved the feel of the pieces. I loved playing with them. I loved knocking them down. Not going to lie, I also enjoyed seeing the reactions of everyone else when I did!

In my threes and fours, I fell in love with the game itself. How the pieces moved. The shapes. The patterns. The ideas. The thrill of checkmating the opponent's King! The joy of making friends while playing over-the-board. Everything was amazing! Even when I lost, though I got a bit upset, I would always chat with my opponent and learn from them and make a new friend.

In my fives and sixes, I loved medals and trophies. They were so shiny, so fun, and made me feel like I accomplished something every time I got one. In some

ways, all these awards helped fuel my love for chess. I also enjoyed seeing my rating shoot up after most tournaments because it felt like a confirmation that I was getting better and better.

In my sevens, much like I outgrew all my youth S clothes, I outgrew this love for awards and rating gains, though they are still fine. I coach chess now, help TD events, and study and play a lot more intentionally. My love for chess has evolved into a love for creative ideas and tricky patterns I come up with after a lot of thought and hard work. Much like a maze, sometimes you hit roadblocks, sometimes you run into a dead end, but how you move on from those moments becomes a lovely thrill.

The Myth Sarang: Labor

(How Work Shapes the Game and the Player)

The longer I play chess, the more I realize it's less about talent and more about work. Real work. Hard work. The work that tests your patience and focus. When you're a beginner, progress comes fast. You learn to hang fewer pieces, spot tactics, castle early, etc. But after that first stretch of improvement, the climb gets way steeper.

When you get better, the game demands more from you. It's not enough to simply know openings, you need to understand them. Studying endgames changes from just memorizing a few positions to long, precise analysis that can take hours, months and even YEARS to master. The better you get, the more invisible the progress feels. But that's also what makes it relevant.

At some point, I learned that loving chess means loving the work behind





it. You can't just chase huge dubs or quick breakthroughs. Most days, for me, improvement arrives in very small steps: understanding one more detail in a position, figuring out a new defense, or realizing why an old mistake keeps on happening. Those examples of small gains may not look like much, but they will help immensely over time.

Eventually, the grind itself becomes part of the reward. If you find joy in reviewing bad losses, you are in for a bright future. In a way, chess teaches you how to keep trying even when results come slowly. It shows that lasting growth comes from steady effort; and that the real magic of the game is learning to love the work that makes you better.

The Man Benji: Odyssey

(The Game Becomes Who We Are)

When we start playing chess, we get under its spell. The game enchants us: magic on the board, gifts for our brains, trophies and quick rises all fill us with good feelings. As we get better, the deep study and the grind enter the picture, which we learn how to love.

Is that all, then, a grind-grind-grind forever? No! After many months, or maybe years, of hard work and grinding, chess starts sticking with you. It becomes part of your everyday life; you think about chess, you think about the world around you like it's chess. When that happens,

congratulations! You have entered the third stage of your relationship with chess: Odyssey!

The word Odyssey, originating from [Homer's epic poem](#) about the Greek hero Odysseus, means journey. It's not your trivial road trip on a big Honda Odyssey though, but a long winding quest filled with adventures and trials. Trials that test your character, your smarts and resilience. That journey for us is chess itself.

We sail on this journey not for big prizes or big rating gains (though that would be nice!). We travel because that's who we are. Chess becomes our character. Our identity. *Hello, I'm The Man Benji, and I'm a chess player.*

Unlike the hero Odysseus, who traveled for years to reach his home, we, the heroes of our own epic chess journeys, are already home. What's that feeling you have when you enter the chess playing hall you've already seen thousands of times? *Ah, it's nice to be home.* The atmosphere, the chess friends, the new exciting positions on the board... *I am home at the chessboard, playing my favorite game.*

I only recently entered the Odyssey stage in my relationship with chess. I knew I was there when I stopped worrying about my opening prep or what my opponent would play, and whether I could win. I just go with the flow now, finding the enjoyment in every stage of the game. It feels like the joy of enchantment and labor all in one! And it's still just the beginning.



Would I eventually get bored and tired of chess to the point I quit? Don't think it's going to happen. I've had my tough moments, when after many hours of hard work, I felt like I couldn't go on any longer, then something would spark, and I would forget about all my struggles. It could be a brilliant position, or a cool

tactic. Or it could be the middle of a hard, intense game where both you and your opponent are playing your hearts out. That's when you realize, what fun it is! There is always something new to learn, something else to get better at. With chess odyssey, there are always ways to go even further. The sky is the E.L.O. limit!

Well, there you have it. The three stages of our love of chess. Before we let you go, how about some silly knee-slappers, Valentine's chess day edition?

Why didn't Peshka solve the chess puzzle?

Because it was too heart!



Why do chess players use magnetic sets on Valentine's Day?

They find them attractive!



Two cookies played a chess game on Valentine's Day!

It was a match made in oven!



What Valentine's Day gift always forfeits their chess game?

Choco-LATE!



Roses are red, DGT boards are brown.

My trusted Sicilian will never let me down.



Roses are red, Peshka is wise,

If you read [Q&A Chess](#), your rating will rise!



Roses are red, violets are blue,

We all love chess, and Northwest Chess too!



Three Cheers, Fellow Future Master Chess Friends!

The Man Benji,
The Myth Sarang,
The Legend Vivi

2025 Washington Challenger's Cup

Josh Sinanan

The 2025 Washington Challenger's Cup was held National Chess Day weekend, Saturday-Sunday October 11-12, at Hotel 116 in Bellevue. Held as five-rounds, FIDE rated Swiss in two sections—Gukesh Open and Praggnanandhaa U1700—the event attracted 108 players and was held alongside the Washington Women's Championship and a scholastic event held concurrently each day in the same room. Needless to say, there was plenty of chess happening in Bellevue in celebration of National Chess Day, which takes place every second Saturday in October to honor the game of chess as a national pastime in the United States. As proclaimed by President Gerald Ford in 1976 during its inaugural year: "For both professionals and amateurs, chess is a game that sharpens the mind, tests human faculties, and encourages healthy competition. It has captivated the attention of players and spectators worldwide and will continue

to do so as long as competition and excellence challenge mankind."

As is the tradition for the Washington Challenger's Cup, the highest-finishing Washington State resident in the Gukesh Open section seeds directly into the Championship section of the 2026 Washington State Championship, set to take place at Lakeside School in Seattle over two weekends in February. Players in the Praggnanandhaa U1700 section were vying for a seed into the Rising stars section of the 2026 Washington State Championship, which now consists of eight 10-player Round Robins and continues to grow each year!

The two seeds into the Washington State Championship, along with both sections now being FIDE rated, attract many of the region's strongest players. This year's Gukesh Open featured a star-studded lineup of three FMs, six NM's, five CM's, and one WCM taking

part: FM Aziz Degenbaev, FM Ted Wang, FM Ryan Porter, NM Siddarth M. Sundaram, NM Vinesh Ravuri, NM Vidip Kona, NM Jason Cigan, NM Viktors Pupols, NM Aaryan Deshpande, CM Vihaan Jammalamadaka, CM Ananth Gottumukkala, CM Rafael Palathingal, CM Leonid Gavrysh, CM Luca Tessiere, and WCM Becca Lampman.

Chess players from throughout the Pacific Northwest were well represented from cities including: Lake Stevens, Bothell, Bellevue, Redmond, Portland, Spokane, Olympia, Sammamish, Richland, Mill Creek, Seattle, Brier, Bremerton, Shoreline, Tenino, Silver Spring (MD), Kenmore, Duvall, Lynnwood, Kirkland, Issaquah, Normandy Park, Kingston, Gig Harbor, Lake Forest Park, Beaverton, Medina, Hunts Point, Port Townsend, Ravensdale, University Place, and Burnaby (BC)! The tournament was hosted by the Washington Chess Federation, organized by WCF President Josh Sinanan, and directed by NTD Jacob Mayer, WCF Member-at-Large Ani Barua, WCF Scholastic Director Allen Messenger, and WCF Co-Vice President Rekha Sagar.

NM Vinesh Ravuri (4.5, 2332 → 2335), an Amazon software engineer based in Bellevue, won the 58-player Gukesh Open outright with an impressive 4.5 points from five games! Ravuri, who typically prefers the faster time controls, played a Swiss Gambit and drew his first-round game against Oregon Expert Karthik Bimod (2015) before winning his next four games to clinch the title. His clutch final-round victory against CM Vihaan Jammalamadaka, who had just won against FM Aziz Degenbaev (2402) and NM Vidip Kona (2194), was enough to earn him clear first place, as Oregon Master Jason Cigan (2215) only



Vinesh Ravuri (L) vs Vihaan Jammalamadaka.
Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.



WCF President Josh Sinanan makes his opening announcements.
Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.

managed to draw against Arjun Krishnamachari (2319). For his victory, Vinesh is seeded into the Championship section of the 2026 Washington State Championship. Three chess musketeers tied for second-fourth place a half-point back: NM Jason Cigan (4.0, 2215 → 2226) of Portland, CM Vihaan Jammalamadaka (4.0, 2157 → 2191) of Redmond, and Ananth Gottumukkala (4.0, 2147 → 2165) of Sammamish. The U2100 prize was split evenly between three rising chess stars: Hayul Lim (3.5, 2023 → 2048) of Portland, Miles Kuipers (3.5, 1994 → 2015) of Bellevue, and Saahil Gupta (3.5, 1929 → 1972) of Portland. Young Aiden Yin (3.5, 1832 → 1937) of Burnaby, BC captured the first U1900 prize with an impressive undefeated “plus two” score.

The biggest upsets in the Gukesh Open section were achieved each round by the following players: Karthik Bimod (round one, 399/2 points), Sambuddha Das (round two, 595 points), Aiden Yin (rounds three and four, 332 and 252 points, respectively), Saahil Gupta (round five, 157 points). The Best Female prize was awarded to WCM Becca Lampman for her 2012 tournament performance rating (TPR), while CM Leonid Gavrysh, took home the Best Senior prize with a stunning TPR of 2209. The best dressed prizes in the Gukesh Open were awarded to

2025 Washington Challengers Cup: Gukesh 1700+										
#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total	
1	1	NM Vinesh Ravuri	2333	D39	W29	W44	W24	W3	4.5	
2	2-4	NM Jason Cigan	2264	W45	W12	D4	W25	D6	4	
3		CM Vihaan Jammalamadaka	2164	W30	W19	W33	W9	L1	4	
4		CM Ananth Gottumukkala	2156	W40	W55	D2	D5	W16	4	
5	5-14	NM Siddarth M Sundaram	2463	W20	W35	L9	D4	W24	3.5	
6		Arjun Krishnamachari	2319	W57	W15	H---	H---	D2	3.5	
7		FM Ted Wang	2307	W21	L24	D13	W44	W25	3.5	
8		FM Ryan W Porter	2287	W27	D11	H---	W18	D12	3.5	
9		NM Vidip Kona	2243	W28	W16	W5	L3	D11	3.5	
10		CM Rafael Palathingal	2111	W58	L44	W27	W36	D14	3.5	
11		Hayul Lim	2024	W48	D8	D18	W19	D9	3.5	
12		Miles Kuipers	2006	W49	L2	W41	W39	D8	3.5	
13		Saahil Gupta	1950	D51	W32	D7	D15	W23	3.5	
14		Aiden Yin	1833	H---	D54	W34	W35	D10	3.5	
15	15-21	NM Aaryan Deshpande	2076	W42	L6	W31	D13	D17	3	
16		Gabriel Razmov	2005	W50	L9	W48	W21	L4	3	
17		Andrew Yin	2003	H---	W46	L25	W49	D15	3	
18		Neevan Reddy Saddi	1982	D32	W51	D11	L8	W39	3	
19		Jeffrey Wei	1943	W53	L3	W43	L11	W40	3	
20		Vijay Patankar	1942	L5	L41	W56	W47	W44	3	
21		Shuyi Han	1917	L7	W47	W53	L16	W36	3	
22	22-32	NM Viktors Pupols	2200	D29	D39	H---	D26	D27	2.5	
23		WCM Becca Lampman	2107	W31	L33	H---	W38	L13	2.5	
24		CM Leonid Gavrysh	2049	W47	W7	H---	L1	L5	2.5	
25		Yevgeniy Rozenfeld	2012	H---	W26	W17	L2	L7	2.5	
26		Leonardo Wang	1943	D56	L25	W46	D22	D32	2.5	
27		Isaac Vega	1892	L8	W42	L10	W48	D22	2.5	
28		Aarav Bharathy Mohan	1869	L9	L48	D42	W56	W49	2.5	
29		Yuchen Zhou	1858	D22	L1	H---	D50	W51	2.5	
30		Valentin Razmov	1831	L3	L53	W57	D51	W52	2.5	
31		Vishnu Mohan	1766	L23	W57	L15	D53	W50	2.5	
32		Austin Wentz	1705	D18	L13	H---	W55	D26	2.5	
33	33-44	FM Aziz Degenbaev	2408	W38	W23	L3	U---	U---	2	
34		Benjamin Mukumbya	2165	L55	W56	L14	U---	W53	2	
35		Harishkumar Karthikeyan	2085	W41	L5	W55	L14	U---	2	
36		Akim Pikh	1981	D43	D52	W50	L10	L21	2	
37		Nikhil Ramkumar	1944	U---	D58	D51	D41	D42	2	
38		Yuan Jiang	1941	L33	H---	W58	L23	H---	2	
39		Karthik Bimod	1934	D1	D22	W52	L12	L18	2	
40		Zane Wirkkala	1801	L4	L50	W45	W43	L19	2	
41		Benjamin Frederick	1763	L35	W20	D12	D37	H---	2	
42		Arnav Gadde	1751	L15	L27	D28	W58	D37	2	
43		Imai Maharaja	1673	D36	H---	L19	L40	W58	2	
44		Sambuddha Sekhar Das	1516	B---	W10	L1	L7	L20	2	
45	45-53	Shawn Li	1881	L2	L49	L40	W57	D47	1.5	
46		Ziqian Gao	1786	D54	L17	L26	H---	D48	1.5	
47		Lorenzo Patton Jr	1749	L24	L21	B---	L20	D45	1.5	
48		Miranda Meng	1728	L11	W28	L16	L27	D46	1.5	
49		William Chen	1727	L12	W45	H---	L17	L28	1.5	
50		Jinmo Nam	1724	L16	W40	L36	D29	L31	1.5	
51		Vihaan Pai	1615	D13	L18	D37	D30	L29	1.5	
52		Sarang Sankrithi	1609	H---	D36	L39	H---	L30	1.5	
53		Oliver He	1549	L19	W30	L21	D31	L34	1.5	
54	54-56	CM Luca Tessiore	2152	D46	D14	U---	U---	U---	1	
55		Roger Hanson	1851	W34	L4	L35	L32	U---	1	
56		Christopher Gilbert	1577	D26	L34	L20	L28	D57	1	
57	57-58	Odbayar Yondon	1932	L6	L31	L30	L45	D56	0.5	
58		Davey V Jones	1767	L10	D37	L38	L42	L43	0.5	

classy gents Sarang Sankrithi, Benjamin Frederick, and Isaac Vega on Saturday and to Jason Cigan on Sunday.

In the 50-player Pragganandhaa U1700 section, Skyview Middle School eighth grader Rian Raja (4.5, 1625 → 1643) of Bothell emerged victorious with an impressive 4.5 score by winning his first four games before taking a fifth-round draw in the final round against Dheeran Koripella (1462) to clinch first place! For his victory, Rian is seeded into the Rising Stars section of the 2026 Washington State Championship. A trio of chess prodigies shared second-fourth place honors with four points apiece: Dheeran Koripella (4.0, 1462 → 1484) of Sammamish, Daniel Hyman (4.0, 1422 → 1494) of Silver Spring (MD), and Sai Navaneeth Satish Kumar (4.0, 1092 → 1267) of Olympia. Five rising chess superstars split the first U1500 prize, each finishing with a solid “plus two” score: Deepak Rao (3.5, 1312 → 1333) of Bellevue, Skandha Raj (3.5, 1376 → 1396) of Bellevue, Patrick Zhang (3.5, 1190 → 1259) of Sammamish, Balbir Singh (3.5, 1391 → 1397) of Seatac, and

James Hamlett (3.5, 1400 → 1414) of Shoreline. Redmond Chess King Kevin Cui (3.0, 1004 → 1183), recovered well after a difficult start and won three of his next four games to claim the first U1300 prize. Eighth-grade chess phenom Aariv Shah (2.5, 912 → 1044) of Issaquah took home the first U1100 prize with an even score.

The Biggest Upset prizes in the Pragganandhaa U1700 section were achieved by: Aariv Shah (round one, 427 points), Brannon Underwood (round two, 342 points), Baoshuo Yao (round three, 269 points), Kevin Cui (round four, 183 points), and Liam Glaser (round five, 258 points). Bellevue Chess Queen Kaiyi Han won the Best Female prize with a TPR of 1070 while Spokane’s Steve Brendemuhl claimed the Best Senior prize with a TPR of 1557. The best dressed prizes in the Pragganandhaa U1700 were awarded to Mithran Anbuselvam on Saturday and to Vicky Yin on Sunday for their fleek ensembles!

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



Lorenzo Patton Jr. (L) vs Vijay Patankar.
Photo credit: Meiling Cheing.

Vinesh Ravuri (2333) – Vihaan Jammalamadaka (2164) [D77]
2025 Washington Challengers Cup
Bellevue, WA (R5) October 12, 2025
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.d4 g6 3.g3 Bg7 4.Bg2 0-0 5.0-0 d5 6.c4

My pgn software calls this “King’s Indian: fianchetto (without c4).” This seems a bit ironic, considering White’s sixth move. It looks more like a Grünfeld to me, though as with many queen-side openings, transpositions abound.

6...dxc4

Queen’s Gambit Accepted?

7.Na3 c3 8.bxc3 c5



Position after 8...c5

9.Bb2

Still in known territory, but committing the bishop to this blocked-up diagonal seems premature to me. 9.e3 Nc6 10.Qe2 Bf5 11.Rd1 seems most played here, though the bishop very well may end up on b2 eventually. I’d be interested to see 9.Qb3 Nc6 10.Rd1 Na5 11.Qb2, evaluated as equal by Stockfish, but showing a considerable plus for White in practical human results.

9...Nc6 10.Re1

The engine approves. The only theory in my small database is 10.e3 Bf5 11.Qe2 e5, when Black is doing fine.

10...cxd4 11.cxd4 Ne4 12.Nh4

Maybe just a little decentralizing. I’d probably prefer completing development while essentially guaranteeing the central pawn duo: 12.Qc2!? Nd6

a) 12...Bf5? 13.g4! wins material.;

b) 12...f5?! 13.Qb3+ e6 (13...Kh8 14.d5±) 14.Nc4±;

13.e4± (or 13.Rad1±)

12...f5

12...Nd6♙ is solid, complex, and interesting.

13.Qb3+ e6 14.Red1

14.Rad1 seems natural. White prefers the d- and c-files for the rooks.

14...Kh8?!

14...b5!?! 15.Rac1 Qb6

15.Rac1 Qd5 16.Nc4 b6 17.f3

Nf6 18.e4 Qd8

18...fxe4 19.fxe4± Nxe4?? 20.Qe3+-

19.Ne5 Na5 20.Qe3 Nh5?!

20...Kg8±, while not good for Black, reduces the impact of some of the tactics aimed at g6.

21.Ba3

21.exf5 exf5 22.f4 Rb8 23.d5 looks dominating.

21...Rf6

Trying to save the f8-rook seems a lost cause; one reason is the white bishop has become a much better piece than the rook. 21...f4 22.Qe1 Qe8 23.Bxf8 Bxf8 24.Bh3 Ba3 doesn't really offer enough compensation for the material, and White remains positionally better as well, but it's arguably better than the game continuation.

22.g4 f4 23.Qe1 g5 24.gxh5



Position after 24.gxh5

24...gxh4

24...Qe8 25.Rc7 Qxh5 26.Bh3 Qxh4 27.Qxh4 gxh4 28.Kh1+-, with a fun attack along seventh rank, g-file, and diagonals. (28.Be7 is also a direct path to win material without much diminishing the attack.)

25.Qxh4 Ba6 26.d5 exd5 27.Rxd5 Qe8 28.Rc7 h6 29.Rxg7

29...Kxg7 30.Rd7+ wins the house.

1-0

2025 Washington Challengers Cup: Praggnanandhaa U1700										
#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total	
1	1	Rian Raja	1600	W46	W24	W11	W3	D2	4.5	
2	2-4	Dheeran Koripella	1561	D18	W31	W36	W4	D1	4	
3		Daniel Hyman	1400	W45	W21	W22	L1	W15	4	
4		Sai Navaneeth Satish Kumar	1370	W49	W12	W9	L2	W21	4	
5	5-11	Lewis Ma	1531	D42	W18	D14	H---	W24	3.5	
6		Steven Brendemihl	1500	W34	W43	H---	D22	D11	3.5	
7		Deepak Sri Kartikeya Rao	1464	D35	W42	D10	D19	W30	3.5	
8		Skandha Raj	1449	L36	W26	H---	W39	W22	3.5	
9		Patrick Zhang	1433	W47	W29	L4	W36	D10	3.5	
10		Balbir Singh	1417	H---	W37	D7	W31	D9	3.5	
11		James Hamlett	1414	W30	W32	L1	W38	D6	3.5	
12	12-20	Alex Ye	1506	W19	L4	W28	D24	D14	3	
13		Sanjay Urali	1490	W27	L36	D29	W42	D19	3	
14		Snehil Ghosh	1429	W28	D38	D5	D30	D12	3	
15		Kshitij Narkhede	1418	L29	W34	W44	W35	L3	3	
16		Satish Kumar Chandra Ramachandran	1381	L38	W47	L30	W37	W36	3	
17		Skyler Qin	1380	W20	L22	W48	H---	H---	3	
18		Varshith Reddy Avula	1337	D2	L5	H---	W48	W38	3	
19		Ziliang Ma	1310	L12	W33	W45	D7	D13	3	
20		Kevin Cui	1004	L17	W46	L24	W47	W35	3	
21	21-32	Stanley Deng	1691	W50	L3	D35	W32	L4	2.5	
22		Naaditha Nawagamudewage	1558	W26	W17	L3	D6	L8	2.5	
23		Alexander Alvarado	1409	L31	L48	W34	D29	W43	2.5	
24		Guru Harshith Reddy Avula	1388	W48	L1	W20	D12	L5	2.5	
25		Inura Nawagamudewage	1380	L32	L28	W46	W49	D31	2.5	
26		Raghav Murthy	1325	L22	L8	D41	W50	W44	2.5	
27		Olin Martin	1291	L13	H---	L42	W41	W40	2.5	
28		Liam Glaser	1172	L14	W25	L12	D43	W39	2.5	
29		Mikhail Lagzdin	1169	W15	L9	D13	D23	H---	2.5	
30		Mithran Anbuselvam	1155	L11	W41	W16	D14	L7	2.5	
31		Baoshuo Yao	1147	W23	L2	W40	L10	D25	2.5	
32		Aariv Shah	953	W25	L11	W43	L21	H---	2.5	
33	33-38	Harvey Wang	1439	L43	L19	D37	H---	W48	2	
34		Rohit Sreraman	1297	L6	L15	L23	X46	W45	2	
35		Rahul Sreraman	1262	D7	W39	D21	L15	L20	2	
36		Jacob Rish-Brown	1242	W8	W13	L2	L9	L16	2	
37		Yang Xu	1182	D39	L10	D33	L16	W47	2	
38		Ved Dixit	1021	W16	D14	H---	L11	L18	2	
39	39-45	Atharv Rao	1430	D37	L35	W49	L8	L28	1.5	
40		Ryan Lai	1416	H---	D44	L31	H---	L27	1.5	
41		Dmitriy Bondar	1371	U---	L30	D26	L27	W49	1.5	
42		Jackson Rish-Brown	1318	D5	L7	W27	L13	U---	1.5	
43		Aryan Pande	1190	W33	L6	L32	D28	L23	1.5	
44		Matvei Ivanov	1166	H---	D40	L15	H---	L26	1.5	
45		Jonathan Wu	1117	L3	W50	L19	H---	L34	1.5	
46	46-49	Arihant Chaudhuri	1338	L1	L20	L25	F34	B---	1	
47		Kaiyi Han	1187	L9	L16	W50	L20	L37	1	
48		Brannon Underwood	1067	L24	W23	L17	L18	L33	1	
49		Vicky Yin	864	L4	B---	L39	L25	L41	1	
50	50	Ferris Samara	1353	L21	L45	L47	L26	U---	0	

2026 WASHINGTON STATE CHAMPIONSHIP



February 6-8 & 21-22, 2026

Lakeside Upper School

14050 1st Ave NE, Seattle, WA 98125

Format: Eight invitation-only 10-player Round Robins by rating: Championship, Premier, Invitational, Challengers, Rising Stars, Prodigies, Wizards, and Sensations. The field of each section is determined by seeding and by the highest rated eligible players to register by the due date based on the average Jan 1st, 2026 *live* ratings of:

- (a) USCF Regular & FIDE - for the top 2 sections; or
 - (b) USCF Regular & NWSRS - for all other sections.
- All sections are triple-rated in NWSRS, USCF, and FIDE.

Time Control: 40/120; SD/30; +10.

Late default: 60 minutes (except for Round 1).

Eligibility: Open to WA residents who have resided in WA for the past 6 months and who meet the two-event activity requirement (for classical games) between Mar-Dec 2025.

Entry Fee / Deposit:

- Championship / Premier: Free, with a \$450 deposit required via check, Zelle, or SettleKing by Jan. 31, to be refunded upon successful completion of all 9 rounds.
- Invitational / Challengers / Rising Stars / Prodigies / Wizards / Sensations: \$225.

Pay by Zelle (ID: WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com), SettleKing (Washington Chess Federation), or write a check made out to WCF.

Registration: Online via [online registration](#). By registering and paying, each player is confirming their ability to play in all 9 rounds, as scheduled. We will take the top 80 players (including seeded players) who have met the eligibility requirements and **confirm + pay their entry fee / deposit by the due date of Sat, Jan 31st**.

Byes: Since this is a prestigious round robin, there will be **no byes or rescheduling of games allowed** in any section. All games must be played on site under TD supervision at the scheduled round times. Players who drop out of the event will be ineligible to play in the next two years and will forfeit their entry fee / deposit / prize.

Schedule:

Check-in (mandatory): Fri, Feb 6 @ 4:30pm (before Rd. 1).

Round 1: Fri, Feb 6 @ 5pm. No late arrivals!

Rounds 2-9: Feb 7, 8, 21, 22 @ 10 AM and 5 PM.

Drawing of lots: Sun, Feb 1 @ 10 PM at the Orlov Chess Academy, Greenlake. Attendance is optional & encouraged.

Prizes: The prize fund for each section is guaranteed by WCF and may be increased based on donations.

Championship: \$1750, Premier: \$1500,
Invitational: \$1250, Challengers: \$1000,
Rising Stars: \$750, Prodigies/Wizards/Sensations: \$500.

Prizes (per section): **1st-5th: 45%, 25%, 15%, 10%, 5%**

Best Annotated Game: **\$50**

The winner of the Championship section receives the title **Washington State Champion**.

Seeded Players (may qualify for a higher section based on rating):

Championship: FM Ryan Porter (State champ), FM Aziz Degenbaev (Championship runner-up), CM Ananth Gottumukkala (Premier champ), NM Siddarth M. Sundaram (WA Open champ), NM Vinesh Ravuri (Challenger's Cup champ), Harishkumar Karthikeyan (WA Class - Master HFWR), TBA (Junior Closed champ).

Premier: NM Advaith Vijayakumar (Premier runner-up), Pratik Thorve (Invitational champ), NM Bertrand Wan (Winter Classic winner), Shawn Li (WA Class, Expert winner).

Invitational: Emerson Wong-Godfrey (Invitational runner-up), Gabriel Razmov (Challengers champ), CM Leonid Gavrysh (Senior champ), NM Advaith Vijayakumar (President's Cup champ), Saiya Karamali (Women's champ), Arnav Gadde (WA Class - Class A winner), Valentin Razmov (Harmon Memorial HFWR).

Challengers: Akim Pikh (Challengers runner-up), Brook Ayalew (Rising Stars champ), NM Andrew Fletcher (Bellingham Open winner), Zane Wirkkala (WA Open - U1800 winner, WA Class - Class B winner), Thrinay Subramanian (Mid-year Scholastic - Section 1 winner), Rian Raja (WA Winter Classic, U1800 section winner), TBA (Junior Invitational champ).

Rising Stars: Haituka Anandkumar (Rising Stars runner-up), Rian Raja (Prodigies champ, Challenger's Cup - U1700 winner), Rushil Singh (WA Class, Class C winner), Loida Guo (WCF nominee).

Prodigies: Shanna Wu (Prodigies runner-up), Harry Wu (Wizards champ), Ryan Lai + Ashwin Vijayaguru (Winter Classic - U1400 winners).

Wizards: Daniel Yun (Wizards runner-up), Vivaan Sankrithi (Sensations champ).

Sensations: Emma Ge (Sensations runner-up).

Memberships: Current US Chess and WCF memberships required. Memberships must be paid at the time of registration.

Info: Josh Sinanan, WCF President, 206.769.3757,
WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com

National Chess Day Scholastic Chess

Rekha Sagar

The 2025 National Chess Day Scholastic Chess Tournament took place on National Chess Day, Saturday, October 11, at Hotel 116 in Bellevue. The 63-player event kicked off the National Chess Day festivities hosted by the Washington Chess Federation (WCF).

In 1976, President Gerald Ford, an avid chess fan, proclaimed the *second Saturday of October* as National Chess Day, encouraging Americans of all ages to celebrate chess as a timeless and intellectually enriching pastime. Nearly 50 years later, the tradition continues, and this year's scholastic tournament brought together a new generation of players to honor the game.

Participants ranged from grades K–12 and competed across four sections divided by grade and rating strength:

- K–3 U800
- K–3 Open
- 4–12 U900
- 4–12 Open

For three young chess ninjas, this tournament marked their first-ever USCF-rated event, making National Chess Day even more memorable.

Thanks to its convenient Bellevue location, the tournament attracted players from across the Pacific Northwest, including Snohomish, Renton, Redmond, Seattle, Bellevue, Bothell, Mill Creek, Bellingham, Issaquah, Gig Harbor, Hillsboro, Sammamish, Clyde Hill, and Mercer Island.

The cadence of play was lightning-fast in the younger sections and more measured among the older competitors. Throughout the day, players displayed remarkable creativity and confidence—

with daring sacrifices, sharp tactical shots, and resourceful defensive ideas. As noted by Chief Tournament Director Rekha Sagar, the students showed *impressive sportsmanship, discipline, and respect at the boards*, embodying the spirit of scholastic chess.

The event was directed by WCF Vice President Rekha Sagar, with assistance

from WCF President Josh Sinanan and WCF Women's and Girls' Director Chouchan Airapetian. Beautiful event photos and videos were captured by Meiling Cheng and Rekha Sagar, helping preserve the energy and excitement of the day.

Congratulations to the winners:

National Chess Day Scholastic Prizes

Individual Prizes - Amazon Gift cards awarded in each section.

1st - 4th: \$70-65-60-\$55.

Section	1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place	4th Place
K-3 U800	Jairam Ishaan Kakarlapudi	Ayaan Karthik	Ary Cheng Jerry Zhao	
K-3 Open	Kyle Liu	Leo Gu Dhruv Bangard		William Zhang
4-12 U900	Aaron Huang	Luke Shi Sharvil Gunadekar		Aaron Dai
4-12 Open	Ron Li	Ian Gagnier Justin Lee Julian Chen		

Special Prizes - Medals for first-timers (awarded at-site), best female player, best dressed, and biggest upset win.

Section	Best Female Player	Best Dressed	Biggest Upset Win
K-3 U800	Nora Saha	Nora Saha	Kevin Dai
K-3 Open	N/A	N/A	Leo Gu
4-12 U900	Shivani Dalakoti	N/A	Aiden Lee
4-12 Open	Yuanyi Jiang	N/A	Bryan Li

Challenger's Cup Scholastic

Rekha Sagar

The 2025 Challenger's Cup Scholastic took place on Sunday, October 12, 2025, at Hotel 116 in Bellevue, a centrally located venue known for its spacious event rooms, friendly staff, and easy access for families traveling from across the region. This was the first time the scholastic section was held alongside the adult tournaments and the Washington Women's Championship, which allowed many young players to observe higher-level games and even have their own games annotated by Chouchan Airapetian. A total of 55 scholastic chess players in grades K–12 participated from throughout the Pacific Northwest.

The event was hosted by the Washington Chess Federation and directed by WCF Vice President Rekha Sagar. Beautiful photos were taken throughout the day by chess mom and photographer extraordinaire Meiling Cheng, whose work captured the excitement, focus, and joy of the young competitors.

The tournament featured a dual format, consisting of two classical and two rapid sections. The rapid sections—K–3 U800 and 4–6 U1000—were each run as a six-round G/25; +5 Swiss, ideal for developing players gaining tournament experience. For the older, more advanced players, the classical sections—K–5 Open and 6–12 Open—featured three rounds of G/50; +10, providing a meaningful stepping-stone for students transitioning to deeper, longer time-control games.

As an extra incentive to participate in the classical sections, the top-finishing player (by performance rating) in both the K–5 Open and 6–12 Open sections earned free entry into the 2025 Washington Class Championships.

Congratulations to all the courageous chess warriors who participated—including three students for whom this was their first NWSRS-rated chess

tournament! Our vibrant scholastic chess community continues to grow and thrive with every event, with many juniors already seeking early qualifications for

the Washington State Elementary Chess Championships in April.

Special congratulations to the Amazon gift card prize winners:

Challengers Cup Scholastic Prizes

Individual Prizes - Amazon Gift cards awarded in each section.

1st - 4th: \$70-65-60-\$55.

Section	1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place	4th Place
K-3 U800	Eli Zhang	Bobby Chai	Ary Cheng Brayden Wei	
4-6 U1000	Rohan Borkar Jethro Xia		Owen Chen Nolan Yin Vihaan Singh	
K-5 Open	Samik Kulkarni (wins free entry into WA Class) Ren Wadhwani		Farhan Mohammed Evan Lin	
6-12 Open	Leo Luo (wins free entry into WA Class) Jake Bravenboer		Jizhou He Easton Ren Vyom Joshi William Kang Owen Zhang Felix Han	

Special Prizes - Medals for first-timers (awarded at-site), best female player, best dressed, and biggest upset win.

Section	First-Timers	Best Female Player	Best Dressed	Biggest Upset Win
K-3 U800	Veronica AstafyevaSamyukta Siddhartha			Sushant Deshpande
4-6 U1000		Sanjana Siddhartha		Hrithick Thoppay
K-5 Open		Alice Li		Evan Lin
6-12 Open				Viet Nguyen

WASHINGTON PRESIDENT'S CUP



FEBRUARY 14-15, 2026

HOTEL 116 BELLEVUE

625 116TH AVE NE, BELLEVUE, WA 98004

Highest finishing Washington resident in the Open section seeded into the 2027 Washington State Championship – Invitational section.

Format: A five-round Swiss in three sections:

Kennedy Open, Johnson U1700 & Nixon U1300

In case of a tie for 1st place, a future follow-up playoff match will determine the seed for the Invitational section of the 2027 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: \$5,500 based on 100 paid entries.

Kennedy Open: 1st–4th: \$500–\$400–\$300–\$250,
1st–2nd U2100: \$175–\$150, 1st–2nd U1900: \$175–\$150.

Johnson U1700: 1st–4th: \$400–\$300–\$200–\$150,
1st–2nd U1600: \$125–\$100, 1st–2nd U1400: \$125–\$100.

Nixon U1300: 1st–4th: \$300–\$250–\$200–\$150,
1st–2nd U1100: \$100–\$75, 1st–2nd U900: \$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: \$110 by 2/7, \$140 after. Free entry (pending completion without withdrawals) for GMs, IMs, WGMs, and WIMs. Chess Senators rated 2200+ USCF receive a \$50 discount. \$60 play-up fee if rated 1600–1699 or 1200–1299 in both NWSRS and USCF and playing up in Kennedy Open or Johnson U1700, respectively. Maximum of 200 players.

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 February 2026 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 (Washington Chess Federation), Zelle (ID: see email below), or mail a check to WCF. Registration and payment **deadline: Fri. 2/13 @ 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

Presidential 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 February 2026 US Chess Blitz or Regular rating used to determine pairings and prizes. **Prize Fund: \$750** (b/o 50 pd. entries)
1st – 3rd: \$170–120–90,
1st U2000/U1800/U1600/U1400/U1200/U1000/Unrated: \$40. Biggest upset win: \$10/rd.

PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLASTIC

CHESSTOURNAMENT

Sunday, February 15, 2026

Chinook Middle School

2001 98th Ave NE, Bellevue, WA 98004



FORMAT

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

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

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

SCHEDULE

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

ELIGIBILITY

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

ENTRY FEE

\$55 by Feb. 8th, \$65 after.
Room for 250 players.

AWARDS

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

Team Prizes: Plaques awarded to:

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

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

RATING

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

THE DETAILS

Online Registration:

NWchess.com/OnlineRegistration/

Pay by Zelle (ID:

WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com),
SettleKing (Washington Chess Federation), or mail a check to WCF.

100% pre-registered, no on-site entries or payments. Entry + payment deadline Sat. Feb. 14th @ 5:00pm. Unpaid players by the deadline will be withdrawn from the tournament.

WA State Scholastic Qualifier!

This event is a qualifier for the WA State Scholastic Championships on April 25, 2026, in Tacoma. Players scoring 3.0+ points will qualify for the Championship sections of State. No qualification required for kindergarten players; all are eligible to play at State!

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

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

A Conversation With FIDE Master Ted Wang

Three-time US National Champion

FIDE Master At 11

National Master At 10

Ken Lee

Ken: When did you first start playing chess?

Ted: I started playing chess about six years ago when I was in Pre-K. I just started playing with some friends and I liked it right away. I'm 11 years old now.

Ken: Do you remember your first chess tournament?

Ted: Yeah, my first chess tournament was in kindergarten. It was kind of nerve-racking, and I remember blundering a bunch of checkmates. I ended up winning three out of five games.

Ken: Who was your first chess coach?

Ted: My first coach was GM Gregory Serper.

Ken: That's interesting. Were you

and your family very intentional about working with a GM right away?

Ted: Actually, it wasn't even on our radar to work with a GM right away. Normally, working with a GM is for advanced players, but we were fortunate to meet Coach Serper by accident.

Ken: How did that happen?

Ted: I have an older sister who studies piano with a teacher named Irina Akhrin.

She asked me if I would like to play piano too and I said no :). She then asked me what hobbies I enjoyed, and I mentioned chess.

Irina said that she happened to know a good chess coach and she introduced me to Coach Serper.

Ken: That's amazing. Do you think that Coach Serper noticed your chess potential early on?

Ted: Coach Serper noticed that I liked to work on tactics. Back then, I liked to watch a lot of YouTube chess videos. He advised me to be much more selective about what

I watch and how I train. He said quality was more important than quantity.

Ken: What did he mean by that?

Ted: He encouraged me to go deeper with individual lessons rather than trying a bunch of different things.

For example, that would mean learning how to play and defend against a particular line thoroughly versus jumping around from tactic to tactic.

Ken: What other elements do you think contributed to your rapid rise in the chess world?

Ted: I think at any stage in your chess career, it's helpful to work on chess puzzles. When you are younger, it's hard to sit still, and so you work on mate in two, mate in three, mate in four, and so on.

As you get more experienced/seasoned, the puzzles require more time and hard work to solve.

Ken: What are some of your favorite puzzles to work on?

Ted: In 2020, during the COVID pandemic, my lessons switched from in-person to online with Coach Serper.

That time gave me a lot of time to work on puzzles. I think I cycled through all the puzzles on Chess.com that were available at the time. So, eventually, I switched to puzzles on ChessTempo.



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: Were there other factors that you think contributed to your fast ascent in chess?

Ted: When I lost a game or a tournament, I used that disappointment to come back and train harder.

Ken: You were able to use setbacks as motivation to work harder?

Ted: Yeah. When I lost a tough match, I wanted to work even harder and beat that opponent the next time I faced them.

Ken: What does your training schedule look like?

Ted: It's not that structured really. I like doing puzzles and I review all my games with Coach Serper. He's good at finding key tilting points in my games and helping me work on those areas.

Ken: What is your favorite chess tournament?

Ted: The FIDE World Cup Tournament in Batumi, Georgia in 2024 was a lot of fun.

It's a small tournament consisting of 48 players in each section where each federation nominates three to four representatives.

I didn't do very well, but to me it was a good experience because I got to see my friends and made a lot of new friends from different countries. All the games were broadcast live on Chess.com and Lichess which was cool.

Ken: What four elements do you think are required to be an excellent chess player?

Ted: First, you should be able to focus deeply.

Second, you need the motivation and discipline to work hard.

Third, you must be good at pattern recognition.

Lastly, you should be consistent with your training program.

Ken: Can you expand on your ideas about your training program?

Ted: It differs from person to person. For me, I have never read any chess books from start to finish. But that's just me.

I like to work on puzzles, and I spend a lot of time studying tactics.

Ken: How does your tournament prep change as you get better?

Ted: Up until about 1500 ELO, you just go in and play your game. But when you are in the 1800 plus range, the competitive nature of the game requires that you spend time studying your opponent's individual games.

Ken: What's the best way to do that?

Ted: I go to Chessbase and look at their games.

Chessbase shows, for example, my opponents' favorite openings for White and Black.

Then I use that information to prepare for a specific opponent and style.

Ken: How do you measure your success or progress when you train?

Ted: I keep it simple. When I train, I work on four tactics per day. I figure that if I get three out of four tactics correct it might translate into a tournament draw or win.

If I get four out of four tactics correct during my chess training sessions, I think it will likely translate into a win during a tournament.

Ken: What are your future goals in chess?

Ted: My next goal is getting my norms for an International Master title.

Ken: What advice do you have for your fellow chess players around the world?

Ted: I think it's good to have chess heroes.

By analyzing games on Chess.com, I found the aggressive style of play that I enjoy. By looking at their games first, I discovered my chess heroes are Fischer and Kasparov.

I also think that it's a good idea to experience out-of-state tournaments like Nationals or Supnationals.

Ken: How is playing in those tournaments different from those in the PNW?

Ted: First, you are playing as a team, so you shift your mentality from an individual to representing Washington State. Second, it adds a whole different level of fun.

Ken: What do you mean by that?

Ted: Washington has great coaches like Josh Sinanan and mentors like Siva Sankrithi who really know how to create a fun team atmosphere when we are travelling out of state.

Ken: How so?

Ted: Many Washington players travel to out of state tournaments. We often have our own team room. Best of all, we cheer and support each other throughout the tournament!

Ken: Any other advice for chess players?

Ted: I think the most important thing to remember is the long timeline of chess. I've been playing and working hard on this game for six years. I've had some success, but when I really think about it, what I really am most proud of is that I still love to play the game.

When I play, I also think of this Grandmaster Savielly Tartakower quote to help me stay focused:

"The player who wins the game is the player who makes the next to the last mistake." To me, that means that you never give up and keep fighting all the time.

Ken: Check and mate. Thank you.

"When it comes to chess training, quality is more important than quantity."



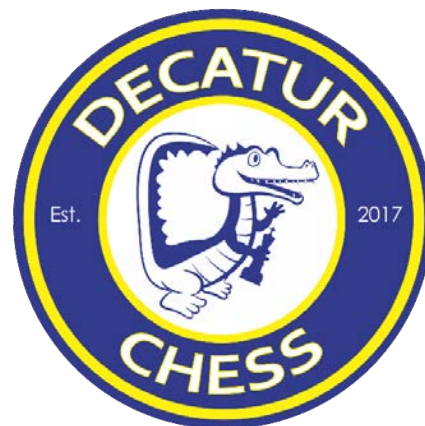
Ted Wang—First Place Finish at North American Youth Chess Championship 2024 U12 Section.



GATOR FEST

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2026

@ DECATUR ELEMENTARY - 7711 43RD AVE NE, SEATTLE, WA 98115



FORMAT

A 5-Round G/30 Swiss in six grade-level sections:

♟ **Kindergarten**

♜ **1st Grade**

♞ **2nd Grade**

♝ **3rd Grade**

♔ **4th Grade**

♚ **5th Grade**

Sections may be combined depending on attendance. Players in lower grades are welcome to play in higher grade sections.

SCHEDULE

Rd. 1 – 9:00am

Rd. 2 – 10:00am

Rd. 3 – 11:00am

Lunch

Rd. 4 – 12:30pm

Rd. 5 – 1:30pm

Awards Ceremony ~ 2:30pm

ENTRY FEE

\$35 by 2/21, \$45 after.
Room for 160 players.

AWARDS

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

RATING

NWSRS rated. NWSRS ratings will be used to determine board order and pairings.

ELIGIBILITY

Open to all students in grades K-5 as of the 2025-26 school year. Out-of-state players welcome!

REGISTRATION

Register online at [Chessreg.com/](https://chessreg.com/)
Pay by Credit/Debit/PayPal. 100% preregistered, no on-site entries or payments. **Entry + payment deadline Feb 27 @ 5:00pm.** No registrations accepted or refunds offered after the deadline.

WA State Scholastic Qualifier!

CLOCKS

Clocks will not be used from the start but will be placed in unfinished games after 35 minutes of play and set to 10 minutes per player with a 5-second increment.

CONCESSIONS

Pizza lunch available for pre-order only. Other refreshments available for purchase on-site.

QUESTIONS?

Contact: Libin Xu:

decaturchessclub@gmail.com

Tournament Director - Josh Sinanan:

joshsinanan@gmail.com

CO-HOSTED BY MONROE CHESS CLUB AND WASHINGTON CHESS FEDERATION

2026 WCF SPRING SCHOLASTIC



SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 2026

COUNTRY INN & SUITES BY RADISSON

19333 N CREEK PKWY S, BOTHELL WA-98011

FORMAT

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

K-1 U700

2-3 U700

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

\$55 by 2/16, \$65 after.
Room for 150 players.

AWARDS

Prizes: Trophies for 3 points and above in each section.

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.** Higher of current NWSRS or March US Chess regular 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-1 U700. All equipment is provided courtesy of WCF.

REGISTRATION

Register online at
NWchess.com/OnlineRegistration/
Pay by SettleKing/Zelle/Cash/Check.
100% pre-registered, no on-site entries or payments. Entry + payment deadline Friday March 6th @ 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: Rekha Sagar, WCF VP,
rekha4chess@gmail.com,
425-496-9160

INTERMAT CANDIDATES

CHESS TOURNAMENT

Saturday-Sunday, March 7-8, 2026

Hotel 116 Bellevue

625 116th Ave NE, Bellevue, WA 98004



FORMAT

Thirteen 16-player Swiss sections by grade level, grades K-12. Each section is comprised of the sixteen highest rated WA players in each grade who accept the invitation.

The two highest finishers in each grade-level section will be selected as the two honored players who will play for Team Washington in the 2026 WA vs BC International Scholastic Match, scheduled to take place in May-June in the Seattle/Bellevue area.

SCHEDULE

Rounds: Sat @ 9 AM, 1:30 PM, 6 PM. Sun @ 10 AM, 3 PM.
Delayed start available upon request if games go long.
Playoff rounds, if needed, to break ties for top two places immediately after the last round:
Two G/5; +2 blitz games. If still tied, G/6; +2 White, G/5; +2 Black with draw odds.

MEMBERSHIPS

Current US Chess and WCF membership are required. Memberships must be paid at time of registration.

TIME CONTROL

G/90; +30.
Late default: 60 minutes.

ENTRY FEE

\$100 by Feb. 28, \$125 after.

BYES

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

PRIZES

Section Prizes

(b/o 16 pd. entries/section)

1st: \$225 + Plaque, 2nd: \$180 + Plaque
3rd: \$150, 4th: \$120, 5th: \$100, 6th: \$75.

RATING

All games will be triple rated in FIDE, USCF, and NWSRS. Higher of 2026 March USCF Regular or current NWSRS rating will be used to determine player eligibility and pairings.

REGISTRATION

NWchess.com/OnlineRegistration/.

Pay by Zelle (ID: WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com), SettleKing (Washington Chess Federation), or write a check to WCF.

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

Registration + payment deadline is Friday, March 6th at 5pm. No registrations accepted or refunds offered after the deadline. The highest rated alternate in each grade level will be called up in case someone withdraws. Alternates should be standing by on the morning of March 7th in case a spot becomes available.

WA State Barber/Rockefeller/Ashley

OPEN CHESS TOURNAMENT

Sunday, March 15, 2026

Chinook Middle School

2001 98th Ave NE, Bellevue, WA 98004



CLASSICAL SECTIONS

K-3 Ashley Open

(Qualifier for Ashley Closed)

K-5 Rockefeller Open

(Qualifier for Rockefeller Closed)

6-8 Barber Open

(Qualifier for Barber Closed)

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

RAPID SECTIONS

K-1 U700, 2-3 U700, 4-12 U900, K-3 Open, 4-12 Open.

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

ALL SECTIONS

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

ENTRY FEE

\$55 by March 8th, \$65 after.

Room for 250 players.

AWARDS

Section Prizes: Amazon Gift Cards awarded in each section:

1st – 5th: \$80-75-70-65-60.

Team Prizes: Amazon Gift Cards awarded to the top 4 players from the top 5 finishing teams (top 4 scores from same school comprise team score) across all sections: 1st – 5th: \$30-25-20-15-10.

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

FOLLOW-UP CLOSED EVENT

Top 5 finishing WA State residents in the K-3 Ashley Open, K-5 Rockefeller Open, and 6-8 Barber Open section (by MSCO tiebreaks) will qualify for the Ashley, Rockefeller and Barber Closed Events on March 29 in Seattle. The other 5 spots in each closed event will be determined by rating. The winners of the closed (4-Round Swiss) events will earn a \$750 travel stipend (donated by the WCF) and will be the WA State representatives at the National Ashley (K-3), Rockefeller (K-5), and Barber (6-8) Tournament of Champions, respectively, held concurrently with the US Open in early August.

THE DETAILS

Online Registration:

NWchess.com/OnlineRegistration/

Pay by Zelle (ID:

WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com),

SettleKing (Washington Chess

Federation), or mail a check to WCF.

100% pre-registered, no on-site entries or payments. Entry + payment deadline Sat., March 14th @ 5pm. No registrations accepted or refunds offered after the deadline. Unpaid players will be withdrawn from the tournament.

ELIGIBILITY

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

RATING

Highest of March USCF Regular or current NWSRS rating used to determine section and pairings.

Questions?

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



**OPEN
WINDOW
SCHOOL**

SPRING TORNADO

SATURDAY MARCH 21ST, 2026

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 am

Rd. 2 – 10:30 am

Lunch

Rd. 3 – 12:30 pm

Rd. 4 – 2 pm

Rd. 5 – 3:30 pm

Awards Ceremony ~ 5 pm

Classical Section:

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

K-8 Open

Schedule:

Rd. 1 – 9 am

Rd. 2 – 11 am

Lunch

Rd. 3 – 1 pm

Rd. 4 – 3 pm

Awards Ceremony ~ 5 pm

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 USCF rated; US Chess membership required only for Open sections. Higher of current NWSRS and USCF 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 3/20 @ 5 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

ST. ANNE CELTIC CHALLENGE SPRING 2026

In Memory of Coach Chris Hurley, 1965-2020.

SUNDAY, MARCH 22, 2026

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 March 2026 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 3/21 @ 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

TOURNAMENTS



venue & mail
7212 Woodlawn Avenue NE
Seattle, WA 98115
 info & events calendar
www.seattlechess.club
 club & tournament inquiries
contact@seattlechess.club

February 21-22 (Sat.-Sun.)

See below.

Winter Adult Weekend

February 28 (Sat.)

3-round round-robin. 4-player sections by close rating. **Time control:** Game/85 + 10 sec. increment. **Entry fee:** \$15 (+\$20 day membership for non-SCC ← **note new day fee**). 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! **Venue:** TBA. US Chess rated, US Chess membership req'd. **Sign up:** <https://nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration/>.

February Quads

February 6, 13, 20, 27 (Fri.)

One US Chess-rated round per night, 4 rounds per month, at 7:30pm. **Pairing:** Standard Swiss. **Time control:** 40 moves in 90 mins., then sudden death 60 mins.; 10 sec. increment in both TCs. Free for SCC members, \$5/night others. Play in any or all rounds! **Sign up:** email contact@seattlechess.club. **Venue:** SCC, 28 players max.

Cabin Fever

Coming up:

- **March Quads** – March 14; tentative, 2B confirmed
- **SCC Spring Open** – April 11-12; tentative, 2B confirmed

Check our events calendar periodically for confirmed dates.

WINTER ADULT WEEKEND

for players 18 years and older
February 21-22, 2026

Saturday 2/21 - ADULT QUADS

- **Time control:** Game/90 + 10 sec. increment
- **Pairing:** round-robin; 4-player sections by close ratings
- **Rounds:** 10am, 2pm, 6pm
- **Entry fee:** \$25 SCC members, \$40 others
- **Prize fund:** \$280 based on 16 entries. **Prizes:** Each quad winner \$70.
- **No byes** - must play all 3 rounds!

Sunday 2/22 - ADULT TORNADO

- **Time control:** Game/50 + 10 sec. increment. **Pairing:** standard Swiss.
- **Rounds:** 10am, 12:30pm, 3pm, 5:30pm or ASAP
- **Entry fee:** \$30 SCC members, \$50 others
- **Prize fund:** \$350 based on 16 entries
- **Prizes:** \$140 (1st), \$100 (2nd), \$70 (U1600), \$40 (U1200)
- 1 half-point bye available.

- ❖ **Venue:** Seattle Chess Club, 7212 Woodlawn Ave. NE, Seattle 98115. **28 players max** in each tournament.
- ❖ **Register** at <https://nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration>
- ❖ Register for one or both tournaments! If both: \$45 SCC members, \$80 others.
- ❖ Both tournaments are USCF rated. USCF membership required.

13th Annual Reno Larry Evans Memorial Open

Apr 3-5 or Apr 4-5, 2026, 3 Day or 2 Day Schedule

US Chess
150 GPP (Enhanced)

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

\$17,000!! (Guaranteed)

F.I.D.E. Rated
OPEN Section

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

Downtown Reno, formerly Sands Regency Casino Hotel

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

Open Section, F.I.D.E. Rated (2200 & above) EF: \$194, (2000-2199) \$250, (1999/below) \$300; GMs and IMs free but must enter by 3/6 or pay late fee at door. Guaranteed Prizes; (1-7 in Open Section plus 1/2 of all other prizes).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Wed. 4/1: 7:00 pm - GM Sergey Kudrin Clock Simul w/ complete analysis of YOUR Game (Only \$30!-bring clock)

Thursday 4/2: 6 - 7:15 pm - Lecture by IM John Donaldson (FREE)

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

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



Registration: Thursday (4/2) 5 - 8 pm. - Friday (4/3) 9 - 10 am. - Saturday (4/4) 9 - 10 am.

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

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

Room Reservation: Call J Resort Reno, 1-866-386-7829, Group Reservation Code: CHESS 42026

Hotel Rates: Sunday-Thursday \$92.66, Friday-Saturday \$149.41, all taxes and fees included. Reserve by 3/20

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

ENTRY FORM - 13th Annual Larry Evans Memorial Open - Reno, Nevada - Apr 3-5 OR Apr 4-5, 2026

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

PRINT Name _____ **Phone#** _____ **USCF Rating** _____

Street Address _____ **City** _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

POSTMARK BY March 6, 2026. Add \$11 after 3/6. Add \$22 on site.

Do not mail after 3/27 or email after 3/31. Make check / m.o. payable to WEIKEL CHESS LLC or provide credit card info and signature. \$7 service

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

Name on Credit Card _____

Expiration Date _____ ZIP Code _____

Credit Card# _____ CVV Code _____

Signature _____

☐ Check Enclosed

☐ Charge My Card

TOTAL FEES: \$ _____



20



2025 SPICE CUP
1st Place