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Happy
250th Birthday!



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Front Cover

Peshka says, "Happy 250th Birthday!"

Art by Sasha.

Back Cover

Three-time Washington State
Senior Champion Leonid Gavrysh.

Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.

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Submissions of games (PGN format is preferable for
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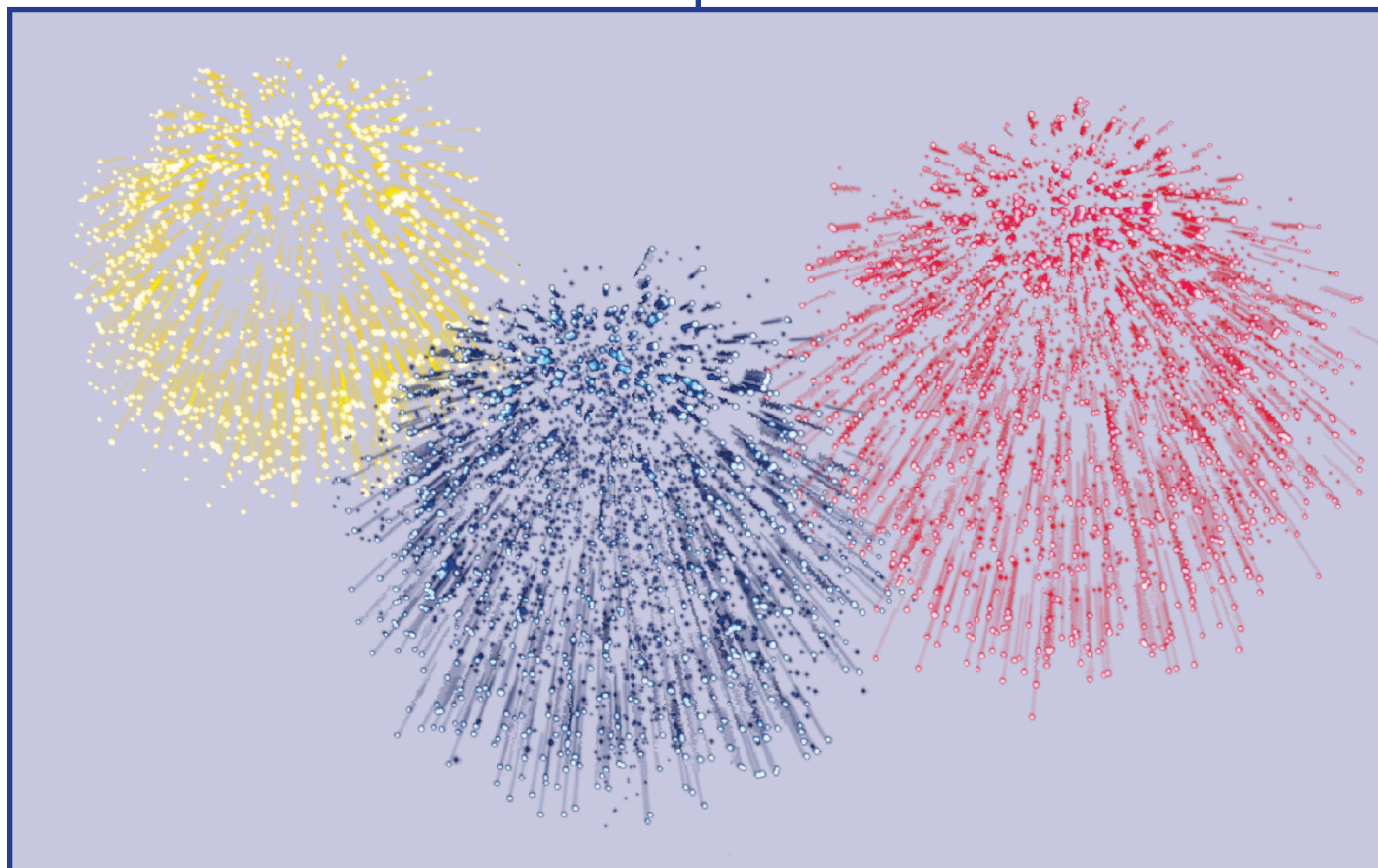
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250 Years of Chess

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 July, which means it is fre-e-e-dom for all the (chess) kids to finally enjoy summer! This July is super extra special because this year, we the People celebrate a big American day!

On July 4, 1776, the Founding Fathers of the United States of America got together to sign the founding document, the Declaration of Independence, getting America the freedom it deserved.

Now, 250 years later, we're here, living in a bustling place, filled with forests, mountain ranges, oceans left and right, and a vibrant chess scene! We have the most super GMs (2700+ FIDE), the most chess players in the top 100, the second most GMs (after Russia), the second most registered FIDE players (after India), and...The World's Most Famous Chess Friends (just kidding about that one!)

Over these 250 years, there have been so many Americans who contributed to the growth of chess, both locally and globally, and in this article, we want to trace the rise of American chess, from the early days all the way to present, and honor some of the chess legends who put the United States on the chess map!



The Man Benji

The first 100 years of US chess

Before the United States was even on the political map, in the 1730s, there lived a super smart college student, way ahead of his time, who would play chess late into the night, writing his thoughts about the game until his candles went out. His name was **Benjamin Franklin**, and he became one of the Founding Fathers of the United States, drafting and signing the Declaration of Independence! If that was not enough, he also established the U.S. Postal Service, the first library, and public hospital! We also know him as a scientist and an inventor! And he was the first advocate of the game we all love: chess!

Though none of his games were recorded, we know he used chess in his diplomatic endeavors from [a painting of him playing against Lady Howe in London](#). When he served as a US Ambassador to France, he even played against French chess legend Philidor!

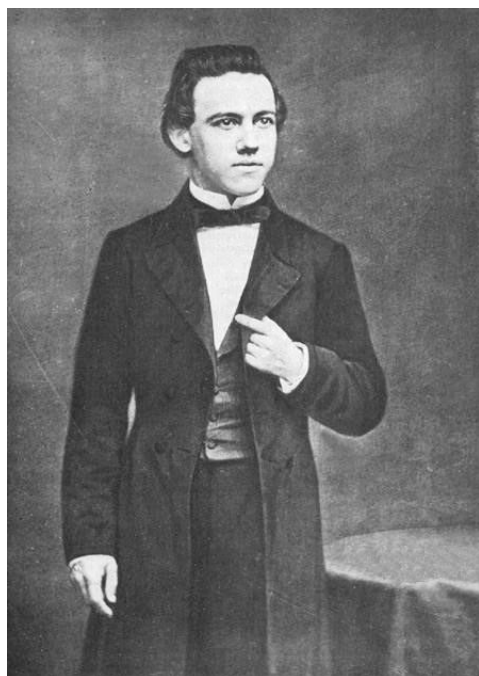
Benjamin collected his life-long experiences and thoughts about the benefits of chess in his 1786 essay [The Morals of Chess](#), where he described what chess sportsmanship is and what traits chess nurtures in those who play: Foresight, Circumspection, Caution, and Perseverance. After 250 years, his thoughts on chess still hold true today. What can I say...he was way ahead of his time!



Portrait of Benjamin Franklin (1706–1790) by David Martin, 1767. Source: [Wiki](#).

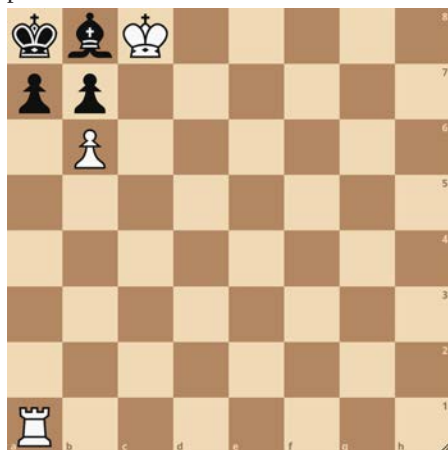
[The Morals of Chess](#) became one of the first chess writing appearing from an American, and some even consider Benjamin Franklin as the Founding Father of American chess literature! He was the first ambassador for the game, popularizing chess, and perhaps thanks to him, chess was a big thing in the United States right from the start!

Maybe partially thanks to Benjamin who encouraged his country to play more chess, there lived a chess loving family in New Orleans. Their young son learned the game by watching his parents and guests play chess on Sundays. He became the first prodigy of chess, the unofficial World Chess Champion who still inspires us today.



Paul Morphy (1837–1884)
in New York City, 1857. Source: [Wiki](#).

Paul Morphy was a bright boy, the best in class, who could speak four languages fluently. Once, at the tender age of seven, he was watching his father's game that ended in a draw. Paul sprung up and said his father had a forced checkmate which both players missed, and that was very true! Soon, he was playing and winning against well-respected chess players in the area. At the age of nine, he even invented this cool checkmate-in-two puzzle!



White to play and checkmate in two

In Morphy's family, school came first, so he concentrated on his studies

and earned his lawyer's degree at the age of 20 in 1857, but couldn't practice since he was still considered a minor. So, what did he do during this one-year gap? Became the best chess player in the world!

He started his epic journey by winning the first American Chess Congress (now known as the U.S. Chess Championship) in New York, becoming the US Chess Champion. Then, Paul traveled to London, winning against the best players there, before proceeding to Paris and winning most of his matches there too, even against German chess legend, Adolf Anderssen, who specifically traveled to Paris to face Paul over the chess board!

But Paul Morphy's most famous game, the one that every child learns at the beginning of their chess journey, was against two amateurs, in an informal game known as [A Night in the Opera](#). One day, Paul was invited to the Opera, only on one condition. He had to play a game against two gentlemen: Karl II, Duke of Brunswick and his friend, who got to discuss the moves together. Focusing more on the opera than his game, Paul played one of the greatest attacking games of all times, maximizing each piece to its fullest potential!

Here is the sparkling moment from the game. Can you find the brilliant combination, now known as the Opera Mate?



White to play and deliver The Opera Mate (in two)

Paul then went back home to America, and, true to his word, started his law practice and never played in another

chess tournament. But his brilliancies still shine today. He was America's first chess teacher, showing how to attack, convert advantages, and be a good sport!



Wilhelm Steinitz (1836–1900),
the first official World Chess Champion.
Source: [Wiki](#).

Talking about chess in the United States in the 1800s, we have to mention another American, **Wilhelm Steinitz**, who redefined the game of chess. Born in Prague, a contemporary of Paul Morphy, Steinitz didn't start playing chess until his early 20s, so he must have watched Paul's triumphant European tour from the sidelines. Maybe he was inspired by Morphy's games, or maybe he saw something from a completely different angle, but he started learning chess very hard, developing his own style for the game. He moved to London to become a chess professional, playing, teaching, and writing about chess.

In the early 1870s, Steinitz introduced a new positional style of play, where every move you make has a small purpose that leads to great things later in the game. Some players argued against this style, including Johannes Zukertort, a Polish player who lived in London and was considered to be another top player in the world at that time.

Though there were many great chess players, there had never been an official World Chess Championship match; players just played each other during different events, counting wins and losses to decide who was the greatest. Somewhere, someone needed to start the Championship show, so everyone could

agree who the Champion of the World was. And what was the better place to have this show than the United States of America?

Luckily for us, in the early 1880s, Wilhelm Steinitz moved to the United States, where he found a new home, eventually accepting American citizenship. In 1886, a match was arranged between Steinitz and Zukertort to determine the World Chess Champion! The match was held in three cities: New York, St. Louis, and New Orleans, and the first player to win ten games would be officially crowned as the first World Chess Champion!

Despite Steinitz's rough start of losing the first four out of five games, he bounced back with the ultimate comeback and clinched victory 12.5–7.5! It only feels fitting that Wilhelm Steinitz, an immigrant representing the American side, won the World chess title the same year that the Statue of Liberty was dedicated!

After that, Wilhelm Steinitz (who changed his name to William) defended his World Title three times before giving the torch to Emmanuel Lasker. Steinitz became known as the Founding Father of Modern Chess.

Every chess player has an immortal game at some point. Steinitz's Immortal Game from 1895, known as [The Battle of Hastings](#), came from the Italian opening against Curt von Bardeleben. In the game, William showed how to exploit the position where your opponent is too slow to castle. The answer is...a calculated romantic attack! In this position below, Steinitz had an astonishing idea: to take his rook on a walk! Can you find the idea that starts with what appears to be a rook sacrifice?

The position after move 21 in the Wilhelm Steinitz vs Curt von Bardeleben game. White to move and win!

[See diagram top of next column]

The answer is 22.Rxe7+ Kf8 23.Rf7+ Kg8 24.Rg7+ Kh8 25.Rxh7+...and Black resigned.

There is a lot to learn from "The Father of Positional Chess,"



and the first undisputed World Champion. He showed the world that you can achieve excellence in chess not only with intuition and natural talent, but also with hard studying and finding your own style. Perhaps that is his greatest gift to us all!

Now, I'm going to turn it over to Sarang, who brings us to the early 20th century.



Frank Marshall (1877–1944), before 1904. Source: [Wiki](#).

The Myth Sarang

The 1900s of US chess

The 1900s of American Chess started with a bang! The first US Open was held in 1900 in the city of Excelsior, Minnesota, and won by Louis Uedemann. In 1939, the United States Chess Federation (USCF) was formed and began to organize the nation's official chess matches, supporting chess participation and popularization.

Frank Marshall was one of the strongest players of the early 20th century and was U.S. Chess Champion from 1909 to 1936, the longest in US chess history, also leading the US to four consecutive gold medals at the Chess Olympiad. He was known for his aggressive, imaginative style, with a fitting nickname 'The Great Swindler,' and his influence went beyond competition because he helped strengthen chess culture in the United States in many ways. He also has multiple openings named after him, for example Marshall Gambit and Marshall Defense are both solid openings as Black. He also founded the Marshall Chess Club in New York, which has been instrumental in growing chess in the USA.

Here's a game of Frank Marshall, as Black against Stefan Levitsky, [played in Breslau in 1912](#).



Levitsky played 20. Qh5?? With the intention to capture Black's rook. This is a huge mistake and Levitsky missed this beautiful move as Black. Can you find it? It's 20...Ref8!

Black is attacking White's rook and has a threat of Rxf2 sacrificing the rook to mate!

The game went...21. Re5 Rh6 22. Qg5



And now, Chess Friends, brace yourselves for the most stunning combo in chess history! Believe me, you'll be shocked. First, Frank Marshall sacrifices...THE ROOOOOOOOOK!

22...Rxf3! If White takes Black's rook 23.gxf3, Black plays 23...Nf3+ with a royal triple fork! Levitsky played 23...Rc5, attacking the queen with a threat of Rc7 and Qxg7 mate:



In response, Frank Marshall finds the most golden move of all time:

23...QUEEN TO G3!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

This is crazy! White has to take Black's queen to avoid Qxh2#. Let's say White takes 24.hxg3, we now have mate in one with 24...Ne2#! If they play 24.fxg3, we have 24...Ne2+, the king is forced to move 25.Kh1, and we have a back rank mate, 25...Rxf1#. If White takes 24.Qxg3, we play 24...Ne2+ with a fork, then 25.Kh1 Nxg3+ 26.fxg3 Rxf1# on the back rank. Levitsky resigned here.

This game is famously known as "[The Gold Coins Game](#)," because apparently after Frank played ...Qg3, the move was so brilliant that the spectators threw gold coins on the players and board! What a move!

Another big name in American Chess in the 1900s was another chess prodigy, who grew up to be the strongest player in the world. Polish-American **Samuel Reshevsky** was the top American player for nearly four decades after Marshall. He won the US Chess Champion title eight times! Only Bobby Fischer could match that! Samuel also famously tied for third in the 1948 world championship and reached the semis of Candidates in 1968.



Samuel Reshevsky in 1921, photo from the magazine Ultra, Argentina.

Source: [Wiki](#).

Throughout his chess career, Reshevsky played 11 World Champions, a record that still holds today! The Champs he faced were Lasker, Capablanca, Alekhine, Euwe, Botvinnik, Smyslov, Tal, Petrosian, Spassky, Fischer, and Karpov, the second through 12th World Champs.

After the International Chess Federation (FIDE) was founded in Paris, France in 1924, and a formal title of Grandmaster was established, in 1950 the committee selected several players worldwide to give the first Grandmaster titles, without common nowadays qualification path and norms. Out of the first 27 GM titles, two went to American players: Samuel Reshevsky and Reuben

Fine, who would win the US Open every time he chose to play: seven!



Robert James (Bobby) Fischer (1943–2008), 11th World Chess Champion.

Distributed by the Associated Press in 1966.

Source: [Wiki](#).

Bobby Fischer transformed chess on a global scale when he won the World Championship in 1972, which made him the first and only American chess World Champion, holding it until 1975. His influence also continued through Fischer Random, later known as Chess960, a variant where the back row pieces are shuffled, introducing a new way of thinking in the opening. Fischer's legacy is in his brilliance, and the chess boom it produced in America and worldwide!

In 1956, Bobby, as Black, played his famous game against Donald Byrne in New York. The game became known as [The Game of The Century](#). Look at this position:



Byrne just played 17.Kf1, escaping Fischer's check. Now, can you find the brilliant queen sacrifice for Fischer?

Chess Friends, brace yourselves because another crazy move is coming!

17.Be6!!

If White takes Black's queen, which Byrne did, Fischer has lots of compensation with ...Bxc4+, ...Ne2+, ...Nxd4+ and ...axb6, which is enough to seal the deal.

Fischer's legacy endures and has been the inspiration for many great books and movies that continue to fascinate the chess players for generations to come.

Now let's turn it over to The Legend Vivaan to talk about the present!

The Legend Vivaan

US Chess Today

There are lots of American legends among us today. In fact, three Americans have achieved a peak FIDE ELO above 2800, namely **Fabiano Caruana** (2844, achieved in 2014), **Wesley So** (2822, achieved in 2017), and **Hikaru Nakamura** (2816, achieved in 2022). A fun fact about Fabiano is he's Italian American. Wesley is Filipino American. Hikaru is Japanese American. We are a nation that thrives with amazing immigrants and chess is no exception!

Chess today is so much more than Super GMs, World Champions, and legends. It's a game that unites people and brings people together across all walks of life, and the USA is at the center of that.

For example, consider **GM Susan Polgar**, a Hungarian American chess coach, teacher, author, pioneer, and World Champion. Her work through her life, and through her foundation, has brought chess to so many and grown the sport

immeasurably. Ukrainian American **GM Irina Krush** was the youngest ever to win the US Women's Chess Championship, doing so at 14, and has championed the US Women's team to silver and bronze medals at the Chess Olympiad!

In the pandemic, chess streaming exploded, and the US is at its center. Canadian Americans **Alexandra and Andrea Botez** (@botezlive) have millions of followers who enjoy chess through their content and learning from them. **IM Levy Rozman** (@gothamchess) is nicknamed "The Internet's Chess Teacher" and many have improved considerably through his videos and became fans of our game, including us through Chessly! He has over two billion YouTube views! Streamer "Jedi Master" **FM James Canty** (@GMCanty) became the first American World Champ in Chess Boxing! We love playing bullet with him and being on his stream!

In the 2013, Sinquefeld Cup, **GM Fabiano Caruana** had a rating performance over 3100! In 2016, in the London Chess Classic, he played **GM Hikaru Nakamura**, where he found a brilliant queen sac. The game now carries the name [Just Fab](#).



In this position, Fabiano plays the brilliant 19.Qxf6!

After 19...Bxf6, Black is up a queen for two knights. Believe it or not, the engine evaluation here is +1 for White! Talk about an amazing positional sacrifice to find over the board!

Fabiano further improved his position with 20.Nd5 Qd8 21.Nf5 Rb8 22.Nf6+ Qxf6 23.Rxd6 Be6 24.Rhd1 O-O 25.h5 Qg5+ 26.Be3, resulting in the board shown below:



Note that here Fabiano has crazy mating ideas on the kingside. With the awesome knight on f5 threatening h6, a well-positioned bishop pair, strong rooks, and an open g-file, it's about to go down, and fast, for Black. The game proceeded with 26...Qf6 27.Nxh6+ Kh8 28.Bf5 Qe7 29.b5 Qe8 30.Nxf7+ Rxf7 31.Rxe6 Qxb5 32.Rh6+ at which point Hikaru resigned. Do you see why?

[see diagram top of next page]

Though Black is still +1 materially, there's nothing they can do. After 32...Kg8, White can proceed with 33.Rg1+ Kf8 34.Rh8+ Ke7 35.Rxb8

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Qxb8 36.Bc5+. Note here that ...Ke8 gets mated with Rg8+ Rf8 Rxf8# and if ...Kf6 Rg6#, leaving ...Qd6 losing the queen or ...Kd8, which is met by Rg8 also winning the queen.

In 2007 in Barcelona, **GM Hikaru Nakamura** had an [“Immortal” queen sac of his own against GM Krasenkow](#). Hikaru is also one of the biggest Twitch streamers worldwide (@GMHikaru) and watching him do puzzle rush is truly something else!

Here’s the position after 21.Bxf6, and at this moment Black is up a pawn but the position is crazy!



In this moment, Hikaru finds the amazing 21...Qxf2+! Do you see how epic this is?

After 22.Kxf2 Bc5+ 23.Kf3 Rxf6+ and now materially White is up a queen for two pawns and a bishop, but look at Black’s crazy attack and how strong the bishops and rooks are! What can White

even do? 24.Kg4 Ne5+ ...uh-oh another piece into the attack for Hikaru with that knight! 25.Kg5 Rg6+ 26.Kh5 f6 (threatening ...Rh6#) 27.Rxe5 Rxe5+ 28.Kh4 Bc8, and at this point White resigned. Here’s the final position:



Note that White is still up a queen for a rook and two pawns so +2. That said,

there’s no way for White to defend this position. If White plays g4, Black wins with ...Bf2+ Kh3 Rh6#. If White plays a3, Black wins with ...Rh6+ Qh5 Rexh5# (or if you want to be fancy ...g5#)! White’s only move to survive a little longer is Bd5, but even then, Black can play ...Rxd5 g4 Rd3 Qf3 Rxf3, already way up now but mate coming, Nxf3 Rxg4+. At this point, it’s mate in two but we’ll leave the mate-in-two puzzle here for you! 😊

We want to wish you all a very happy 4th of July, and wish our United States of America an amazing happy 250th anniversary!

This month, may you enjoy the fireworks not only in the sky, but also on the chess board!

Three Cheers, Fellow Future Master Chess Friends!

The Man Benji,
The Myth Sarang,
The Legend Vivaan





CORVALLIS CHESS CLUB'S 3RD ANNUAL **DAN ROGERS** MEMORIAL

CHESS TOURNAMENT

July 18 and 19, 2026 • 5-SS, 90+10

📍 **Comfort Suites** at Linn County Fairground, 100 Opal Ct, **Albany, Oregon**



\$40 Entry Fee
(NTAFLOF)

REGISTRATION

\$40 EF! Visit corvallischess.org for the direct registration link, or scan the QR code. *Registration ends July 17 2026 at 5pm. No onsite registration. Registration will close at 120 players.*

SCHEDULE

Player's Meeting: Sat. 9:50am

Saturday: 10am, 2pm, 5:30pm,
9pm Blitz Tournament.

Sunday: 10am & 2pm.
Winners announced end of R5.

\$3000 GUARANTEED PRIZE FUND

OPEN: \$500-350-250. **Under 1600:** \$400-300-200. **Under 1000:** \$300-200-100.

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5+3 BLITZ TOURNAMENT: Sat. 9:00 pm, register on site by 8:50 pm. \$10 EF. 80% prize payout!

USCF RATED - MEMBERSHIP REQUIRED - See uschess.org for details.

HOTEL RATE: \$169+tax double queen or king, includes free full hot buffet breakfast. Pool, sauna, gym, and other amenities. Reserve by 6/22/2026, call 541-928-0921 and request chess rates.

Tournament Organizer: **Jim Nelson** (CCC President) - jwnelson.nelson1@gmail.com

You can visit corvallischess.org for registration link and information.

Oregon Senior Open

Wilson Gibbins



Action at the 2026 Oregon Senior Open. Photo credit: David Murray.

The 16th Edition of the Oregon Senior Open blended old traditions and new approaches, with the May 2-3 event delivering an enjoyable weekend of chess for the veteran players. We switched from one section to two like Washington has been using for years. This allowed us to reduce the number of rounds from five to four and eliminate the Friday night round, resulting in a less grueling tournament. The new format proved popular as we had a record 34 players show up—18 in the Open section and 16 in the Under 1800 section.

Three players tied for first place in the Open section with undefeated 3.0/4 records. First-time entrant Steven Van Enk qualified for the Irwin nomination on tiebreaks over Steven Deeth, a previous champion from 2017 and the first Oregon Senior Open in 2011. The third co-champion Jim Musumeci made the trip from San Diego California. Jim also won the over-70 prize, Steven Van Enk won the over-60 prize, and Steven Deeth pulled the U2000 prize into the three-way tie prize fund, so these three players monopolized all the prizes in the Open section. To the victors go the spoils.

The Under 1800 section players did a better job of sharing their prizes. Dale Bradley won all four games to win the U1800 section outright. John Hart finished second with an undefeated 3.0/4 score. Michael Shaw and Issam Rifai split the U1600 prize with 2.5/4 points. Benji Johnson and Edward Kazzimir split the U1400 prize with 2.0/4 points. Dale doubled up by snagging the over-60 prize, James Nelson won the over-70 prize and Jon Strohhahn won the over-80 prize which went unclaimed in the Open section.

Thanks to Dave Murray for directing this tournament. Dave will qualify to

play in this tournament in a year or two, so we will be looking for a new director soon. Thanks to Zoey Tang for all the organization and promotion work that led to the record turnout. Thanks to Eric Holcomb for managing the tournament finances. And thanks to the Portland Chess Club for allowing us to use their location at the Lloyd Center one last time before it disappears off the face of the earth. I hope to see you at the new Portland Chess Club location at the Montgomery Building next year.

Games

**Steven Van Enk (2253) –
Darrel Bourne (1773) [B04]**

Oregon Senior Open
(R2), May 2, 2026

[Wilson Gibbins and Steven Van Enk]

1.e4 Nf6

The Alekhine Defense isn't popular these days at the top level, but Bobby Fischer played it twice in his 1972 World Championship match against Boris Spassky, earning a dramatic 72-move win in game 13 and a draw in game 19. Based on this history, senior players might see it in a more positive light than Stockfish does today.

2.e5 Nd5 3.d4 d6 4.c4 Nb6



Position after 4...Nb6

5.exd6

The exchange variation is a practical way to gain a clear advantage. More ambitious is the sharp Four Pawns Attack 5.f4 but it takes more study and memory work, which is hard to justify against a line one faces rarely.

5...cxd6 6.Nc3 g6 7.Nf3

7.h3

7...Bg7

7...Bg4 is still better for White, but it finds a square for Black's light-squared

bishop, for which he will later experience difficulty finding a good square.

8.h3

Steven doesn't allow Darrel a second chance to develop the queen-bishop to g4.

8...0-0 9.Be2 Nc6



Position after 9...Nc6

10.Bg5

Stockfish gives White a big advantage after the simple. 10.0-0

10...Nd7

10...h6 Believe it or not, this is Black's last chance to stay in the game. You need to be accurate when you play a provocative opening like the Alekhine's Defense. 11.Be3 (11.Bf4 e5) 11...d5 12.c5 Nc4 is about equal.

11.Qd2 Nf6 12.0-0 Qa5 13.d5



Position after 13.d5

13...Nd8

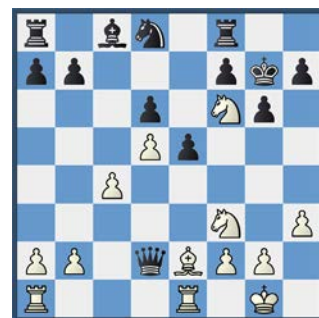
13...Ne5 14.Nxe5 dxe5 15.a3 Qc7 16.b4 is also very good for White; As is 13...Nb8 14.Rfe1 White has too much space and Black doesn't have good places to develop both his queenside pieces.

14.Rfe1 e5 15.Bxf6! Bxf6 16.Ne4 Qxd2 17.Nxf6+ Kg7

[See diagram top of next column]

18.Nh5+

White is winning.



Position after 17...Kg7

SVE—I missed the even better 18.Nxd2 Kxf6 19.Ne4+ Ke7 20.c5.

18...gxh5 19.Nxd2 f5

Necessary to stop White's knight from reaching e4. 19...h4 20.Ne4 wins the pawn on d6.

20.Bxh5 b5 21.Rac1 bxc4 22.Nxc4 Kh6 23.Nxd6 Nb7 24.Nxc8 Raxc8 25.Be2 e4 26.Rc6+1-0

**Steven Deeth (1999) –
Mike Morris (1939) [E84]**

Oregon Senior Open
(R4), May 3, 2026

[Steven Deeth]

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



Position after 4...d6

5.f3

The Sämisch Variation. White solidifies the center but slows down his development. Mike and I have had several games in this line. The Classical Variation is more popular, for instance 5.Nf3 0-0 6.Be2 e5 7.0-0 Nc6 8.d5 Ne7 White advances on the queenside, but Black generates a strong attack on the kingside with the moves like ...Ne8, ...f5, ...f4, ...g5. It's easy for White to end up winning some material on the queenside but getting checkmated on the kingside. This is what a lot of King's Indian players want from the game, so if you go into

that line, you have to know what you are doing.

5...0-0 6.Be3

In the Sämisch White sometimes castles queenside and goes for an attack on the h-file with Qd2, 0-0-0, g4, h4 and h5. Black has developed lines which avoid this in one way or another.



Position after 6.Be3

6...Nc6

The Panno Variation is one of the lines that Black can play to avoid White's h-file attack. Black retains the option of ...e5, but keeps the center open for now and might play on the queenside.

If Black plays more traditionally with 6...e5 7.d5 c6 8.Qd2 cxd5 9.cxd5 White has more chances to generate an attack along the h-file.; 6...c5 is another popular line, when White usually does not accept the pawn sacrifice as it gives Black a lot of play. 7.Nge2 (7.dxc5 dxc5 8.Qxd8 Rxd8 9.Bxc5 Nc6) 7...Nc6 8.d5 Ne5 Black has a Benoni structure which may not be what King's Indian players want, but it leaves the long diagonal open for the dark-squared bishop. White will probably not castle queenside in this line.

7.Nge2

White has to block in the light-squared bishop to avoid tactical problems. One of the points of the Panno is that White can't develop the light-squared bishop conveniently. 7.Bd3 e5 8.d5 Nd4 9.Nge2 Nh5. White is not ready to deal with Black's initiative.

7...a6 8.Qd2 Rb8

Black is ready to generate counterplay on the queenside with ...b5, particularly if White plays 0-0-0.

9.Rc1

This leads to a slower game. White makes the concession that he will not castle queenside, and reinforces the center. It

prevents ...b5 because the knight on c6 is hanging.

9...Re8

This may support ...e5 and allow ...Bf8, as seen in a variation on move 11. It may also allow tactical possibilities with ...e5, ...Nd4 and sacrificing a pawn on d4 to open the e-file. 9...b5? 10.cxb5 axb5 11.Nxb5 Rxb5 12.Rxc6; 9...Bd7 is the main line, protecting the knight. 10.Nd1 b5 (10...e5 11.d5 Ne7 12.Nf2) 11.c5 sidelining Black's rook on b8.

10.Nd1 Bd7 11.Nf2 e5

The most common move here is 11...b5 12.c5 dxc5 13.Rxc5 e5 This would not be possible without the rook on e8. 14.d5 Ne7 15.Qc1 Bf8

12.d5 Ne7



Position after 12...Ne7

13.Nc3

Finally releasing the light-squared bishop. However, the knight turns out to be a little in the way here. White may want to play Qb4 and c5 in some variations. Mike and I reached this position once before, when the game went 13.g3 c5 14.b4 b6 15.Bg2 Rf8 16.0-0 Ne8 17.Nd3 f5 Deeth-Morris Oregon Senior Open online (R3) 2020. This is another way of solving the problem with the development of the light-squared bishop. White has a very solid structure on the kingside compared to the Classical Variation.

13...Nh5 14.Be2

14.Nd3 may be better, keeping control of f4.

14...f5

Black is going for the kingside attack as in the Classical. It looks like his rooks are on the wrong squares for this, but White has spent a lot of time moving his knights around so it may not matter. 14...Nf4!? is a possibility.

15.Nd3 Rf8 16.0-0 f4

Black could consider holding up White's c5 advance with 16...c5.

17.Bf2 g5 18.c5 Nf6

We now have a position which could have come from the Classical Variation. Black has his kingside attack, and White needs to find a way forward before that attack becomes really threatening. I decided I wanted to get the knight from c3 to a4 somehow, so that I could exchange pawns on d6 and then play Nb6 without allowing Black to play ...b5.

19.b3



Position after 19.b3

This is one way to protect a4 for the knight, but at the cost of allowing doubled pawns if Black exchanges it with the bishop. However, it is a standard idea that Black needs his light-squared bishop for the kingside attack. For instance, if the black pawns reach f4 and g3 against white pawns on f3, g2 and h3, Black will need to sacrifice a piece on h3 to break through, and this is usually the light-squared bishop. So, I didn't think he would want to exchange. 19.Qd1 may be better, avoiding the possibility of doubled pawns and covering g4. 19...Ng6 and White still needs to find a way forward.

a) 19...g4?! 20.fxg4;

b) 19...h5 20.Qb3 Ng6 (20...g4?! 21.cxd6 cxd6 22.Bb6 and Black is in trouble. 22...Qc8 (22...Qe8 23.Bc7) 23.Nb5);

c) 19...Qe8 to prevent Na4 and to avoid the tactics following Bb6 in some variations. 20.Qb3 Ng6 21.cxd6 cxd6 22.Qb4 and the queen reaches b4 via an indirect route, so perhaps Nc3 on move 13 was not so good.; 20.b4 (20.Na4 g4 and now White can't take on g4 because e4 is not protected) 20...h5 21.Qb3 g4 22.b5 looks promising, with the idea of undermining the pawn chain with b6.

19...Qe8 20.Na4

Black now has this square attacked twice,

but I decided I could sacrifice a pawn there.

20...Qg6

20...Bxa4 21.bxa4 Qxa4 The idea is that once again Black no longer has the light-squared bishop, and the black queen has been diverted from the kingside. Black also has to be careful not to let the queen get trapped. But I don't think either of us spent much time on this variation. 22.cxd6 cxd6 23.Rc7 Rf7 24.Rb1 b6 (24...b5?! 25.Bd1 Qa3 26.Rc3 Qa5 27.Rc8+ winning the queen.) 25.Nb4 and White is doing well.; 20...g4 may be better, accelerating the attack.

21.cxd6

21.Qb4 may be a little better, adding pressure to d6.

21...cxd6 22.Nb6

This prevents Black from challenging White's control of the c-file, and it threatens to exchange the light-squared bishop. 22.Qb4 is still possible, but I had been planning on Nb6.

22...Bb5

22...Be8 preserves the bishop, but after 23.Rc7 Rf7 White is making a lot of progress on the queenside. Fritz gives a possible line 24.Nc4 Nh5 25.Qa5 b5 26.Nb6 g4 27.Qxa6 g3 28.Qa7 Rxb6 29.Qxb6 gxf2+ 30.Nxf2+--

23.a4

Finally getting rid of the bishop.

23...Bxd3 24.Qxd3

Now Black's light squares are quite weak and it is hard for his attack to make progress. On the other hand, White can play Rc7 to enter Black's position and then double rooks on the c-file.

24...g4!?

Pressing ahead with the attack, but this fails for tactical reasons. Black should probably defend against White's attack on the c-file and on d6, but the position is not promising. 24...Nc8 25.Qc4 Nxb6 26.Bxb6 Rf7 27.Qb4; 24...Rf7 25.Rc7 Ne8 26.Rd7

25.fgx4

Now any capture will leave d7 unprotected.

25...Qxe4? 26.Qxe4

An alternative which I did not notice is 26.g5 Qxd3 27.Bxd3 Ng4 28.Nd7.

26...Nxe4 27.Nd7

Winning the exchange. Mike said he didn't see this move, but that now he hoped to get compensation for the exchange with his center pawns.

27...Nxf2 28.Kxf2 Nxd5?

An oversight in a bad position. 28...e4 29.Nxb8 Rxb8 30.Rc4 e3+ 31.Kf3 b5 32.axb5 axb5 33.Rb4 and White is winning. 33...Nxd5? 34.Bc4 again.

29.Bc4

Black loses the knight as well as the exchange, so he resigned here.

1-0

Dale Bradley (1751) –

H.G. Pitre (1700) [A07]

Oregon Senior Open, U1800 Section

(R4), May 3, 2026

[Dale Bradley]

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.g3 g6 3.Bg2 Bg7 4.0-0 0-0 5.d3 d5 6.Nbd2 Nbd7 7.e4 e5 8.exd5 Nxd5 9.Nc4 h6 10.Re1 Re8 11.Ne3

What would Carlsen say about a move like this, "too weak, too slow"? The knight was well-placed on c4, but now White has lost his slight advantage. Either 11.a4; or 11.Bd2 were more active options.

11...N7b6 12.c3 c6 13.Bd2 Nxe3 14.Bxe3 Bg4 15.h3 Bf5 16.d4 e4 17.Nd2



Position after 17.Nd2

White threatens g4, winning the e-pawn. Black should parry with 17...g5, allowing the bishop to retreat to g6 or h7 with a very comfortable game. Instead, he plans an interesting sacrifice.

17...Nd5 18.g4 b5

I was very surprised to see this move. Black is looking to sac the bishop for a kingside attack, but it proves to be a bit too speculative.

19.gxf5 gxf5

At this point I thought about going on the defensive, considering moves like 20.f4 Qh4 or 20.Nf1 f4, which the engine says are both objectively fine for White, but I was unsure of Black's potential in these lines. I decided instead to avoid the attack altogether and immediately give back the piece, which would leave me a pawn ahead and with the initiative.

20.Qh5 f4 21.Bxe4

The engine likes 21.Nxe4 better, bringing the knight into the action.

21...fxe3 22.fxe3 Qg5+

I was happy to trade into the endgame a clear pawn up. 22...Nf6; or 22...b4 would have offered more resistance for Black.

23.Qxg5 hxc5 24.Bxd5 cxd5 25.e4

Trading the backward e-pawn for Black's weak d-pawn but the silicon stranger prefers 25.Kf2.

25...dxe4 26.Nxe4 Re6

The immediate 26...b4 was a better try for counterplay.

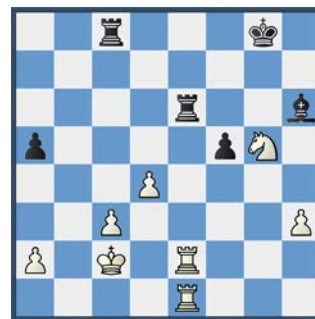
27.Kf2 Rg6 28.Re2 a5 29.Rg1 Bh6 30.Ke1 Rc8 31.Kd1

Stay off of those dark squares!

31...b4 32.Kc2 bxc3 33.bxc3 Re6 34.Rge1 f5

Overlooking a tactic.

35.Nxg5



Position after 35.Nxg5

Now White's conversion is easier.

35...Rxc2+ 36.Rxc2 Rb8 37.Nf3 a4 38.Re1 a3 39.Rb1 Re8 40.Ne5 Bg7 41.Rb5 f4 42.Kd3 Bh6 43.Ke4 f3 44.Kxf3 Bc1 45.Ke2 Bb2 46.Kd3 Rf8 47.Kc2 Rf2+ 48.Kb3 Rh2 49.Nc4 Bc1 50.Nxa3 Rb2+ 51.Ka4 Rxa2 52.Rb3 Rh2 53.Kb4 Rxh3 54.Kc4 Bh6 55.Rb7 Bf8 56.Nb5

1-0

Eastgate Cup



July 18-19, 2026
Embassy Suites Bellevue
3225 158th Ave SE, Bellevue, WA 98008



Format: A 5-round Swiss in three sections: **Newport Open**, **Somerset U1700**, and **Lakemont U1200**.

Entry fee: \$110 by 7/11, \$140 after. \$60 play-up fee if rated 1500-1699 or 1000-1199 in USCF and playing up in Newport Open or Somerset U1700, respectively. Players rated 2200+ USCF receive a \$50 discount. Maximum of 200 players, please register early to reserve your spot!

Schedule: Arrival: 9-9:45am. Rounds: Sat @ 10am, 2pm, 6pm. Sun @ 10am, 2pm. Eastgate Blitz Tournament: ~ 6pm or asap. Games that go long may request a late start for the next round.

Time Control: G/75; +30. Late default: 60 minutes.

Rating: Triple rated in NWSRS, USCF, and FIDE. Higher of July USCF or current NWSRS rating used to determine section, pairings, and prizes. CFC rating used for Canadian players if it is higher.

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

Prize Fund: \$5,500 based on 100 paid entries.

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

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

Lakemont U1200: 1st-4th: \$300-\$250-\$200-\$150, 1st-2nd U1000: \$100-\$75, 1st-2nd U800: \$100-\$75.

Special Prizes (per section): Forest Drive Biggest Upset Win: \$20/rd., Factoria Best Female Player (by TPR): \$50, Cougar Mountain Best Senior Player (by TPR): \$50, Newport Hills Best Dressed: \$20/day.

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

Registration: Online at nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration. Pay by SettleKing (Washington Chess Federation), Zelle (wa-chess), or mail a check to WCF. Registration and payment **deadline: Fri. 7/17 @ 5pm**. No registrations accepted or refunds offered after the deadline.

Eastgate Blitz: Sunday 6-8:30pm (after rd. 5 of main tournament). **Entry Fee:** \$30. **Format:** A 9-Round Single Swiss in one section, 2 half-point byes available. Dual USCF Blitz + FIDE Blitz rated. **TC:** G/3; +2. **On-site registration:** 5:00-5:45pm. Rds. Sun @ 6pm, 6:15, 6:30, 6:45, 7, 7:15, 7:30, 7:45, 8pm. Closing Ceremony ~ 8:15pm or asap. Current US Chess membership required. Higher of July 2026 USCF Blitz or Regular rating used to determine pairings and prizes.

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

1st - 3rd: \$170-140-100, 1st U2000/U1700/U1400/U1100/Unrated: \$50. Biggest upset win: \$10/rd.

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

Harmon Memorial (Vemparala Tops)

Josh Sinanan



*Harmon Memorial Champion Nikash Vemparala.
Photo credit: Ani Barua.*

It's rare to find someone as active in the Pacific Northwest chess community as Clark Harmon (1942-2007), a life master who served as the president of both the Oregon Chess Federation (OCF) and the Washington Chess Federation (WCF) during his tenure. To honor Harmon's legacy, the OCF and WCF take turns hosting the annual Harmon Memorial chess tournament, with Oregon hosting in the odd years and Washington in the even years. This year's Harmon Memorial was held at Hotel 116 in Bellevue April 11-12 and was expanded to three sections—the Gondor Open, the Rivendell U1700, and the Shire U1200—to accommodate players of all levels.

The tournament was directed by WCF FIDE Liaison Mani Atikankhotchasee and WCF Member-at-Large Ani Barua. With all three sections being triple-rated in NWSRS, USCF, and FIDE, the tournament drew an impressive turnout of 114 players, including many new players seeking to establish a FIDE rating. While it remains unknown whether Clark was a Lord of the Rings fan, the sections and prizes were named in honor of places and characters from the popular saga.

The event was once again run as a five-round Swiss tournament over two days, with three games on Saturday and two games on Sunday. To allow for longer and higher quality games deeper into the tournament, the first round was played with a faster G/60; +30 time control and rounds two-five featured a slower pace of 30/75; SD/30; +30. Top games from all three sections were broadcast on chess.com as several players opted to use the Clono tablets provide by WCF and operated by Mani. After the main event had wrapped up, the 36-player Legolas Blitz tournament on Sunday evening concluded the magical weekend.

Overlake High School sophomore Nikash Vemparala of Redmond was crowned king of the 45-player Gondor Open with an undefeated four-and-a-half points from five games, allowing only a single draw against Oregon's NM Jason Cigan (2272) along the way. Along his way to the throne, ring-bearer Nikash vanquished

dark lords Shenoy (1993), Yao (2142), and Jammalamadaka (2202). A four-man fellowship shared second-fourth place honors half-a-point back: IM Alex Costello of San Diego, NM Jason Cigan of Portland, NM Yiding Lu of Bellevue, and soon-to-be master William Summerfield of Mercer Island. A pair of chess wizards—Barath Subramanian Suresh the Grey of Coquitlam and CM Leonid Gavrysh the White of Brier—shared first/second U2100 with a solid “plus two” score. Bellevue chess elf Yuchen Zhou captured the first U1900 prize thanks to a strong start in which he scored three points from his first four games.

The second U1900 prize was split evenly amongst seven chess dwarves: Odbayar Yondon of Sammamish, Vijay Nallappa of Redmond, Ziqian Gao of Sammamish, Bichen Liu of Redmond, Andy Chen of Bellevue, Harry Wu of Bellevue, and Dr. Tejas Mulye of Seattle. The biggest Frodo upset winners included Arnav Gadde (round one, 391 points), Tejas Mulye (round two, 507 points), Yuchen Zhou (round three, 266 points), Leonid Gavrysh (round four, 298 points), and Andy Chen (round five, 177 points).

Bellevue’s Miranda Meng earned the Best Galadriel Female prize with a tournament performance rating (TPR) of 1772 while Leonid the White continued his impressive run and claimed the Best Gandalf Senior prize with a 2242 TPR. Classiness was on full display in the Gondor Open as Sangeeta Dhingra (Saturday) and Dr. Tejas Mulye (Sunday) won the Best Gimli Dressed prizes for their fleek attire.

Two Elvish chess warriors—Jimmy Yang of Kirkland and Quinn Zhen Rampenthal of Seattle—merged victorious in the massive 48-player Rivendell U1700 section. Yang started off red-hot taking down chess orcs Chaudhuri

2026 Harmon Memorial Chess Tournament: Gondor Open

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total
1	1	CM Nikash Vemparala	2280	W31	W16	W12	D3	W6	4.5
2	2-5	IM Alexander Costello	2371	W43	W42	D6	W8	D5	4
3		NM Jason Cigan	2272	W22	W14	D18	D1	W15	4
4		NM Yiding Lu	2224	W33	L18	W21	W14	W17	4
5		William Summerfield	2149	W24	D32	W34	W13	D2	4
6	6-9	NM Vihaan Jammalamadaka	2202	W23	W20	D2	W18	L1	3.5
7		Andrew Yin	2193	H---	D15	W31	W16	D9	3.5
8		Barath Subramanian Suresh	2095	D17	W38	W19	L2	W18	3.5
9		CM Leonid Gavrysh	2046	H---	D17	W23	W29	D7	3.5
10	10-17	NM Vidip Kona	2248	L32	W24	D20	W34	D13	3
11		NM Viktors Pupols	2200	W44	D19	D32	L15	W20	3
12		Lucas Yao	2142	W25	W27	L1	W32	U---	3
13		Miles Kuipers	2070	W35	W29	H---	L5	D10	3
14		Brian Lee	2033	W37	L3	W40	L4	W31	3
15		Akim Pikh	2021	D38	D7	W41	W11	L3	3
16		Siddharth Shenoy	1993	W26	L1	W27	L7	W32	3
17		Yuchen Zhou	1776	D8	D9	W42	W30	L4	3
18	18-28	Pratik Thorwe	2013	W39	W4	D3	L6	L8	2.5
19		Leonardo Wang	1973	W40	D11	L8	H---	H---	2.5
20		Ujwal Garine	1958	W41	L6	D10	W37	L11	2.5
21		Vishnu Mohan	1913	L29	W35	L4	W28	D23	2.5
22		Odbayar Yondon	1897	L3	L37	H---	W44	W35	2.5
23		Vijay Nallappa	1856	L6	W26	L9	W40	D21	2.5
24		Ziqian Gao	1807	L5	L10	W36	D38	W37	2.5
25		Bichen Liu	1791	L12	D43	D33	D27	W38	2.5
26		Andy Chen	1709	L16	L23	B---	W43	D30	2.5
27		Harry Wu	1626	B---	L12	L16	D25	W34	2.5
28		Tejas Mulye	1622	H---	W45	L29	L21	W33	2.5
29	29-32	FM Stephen Willy	2344	W21	L13	W28	L9	U---	2
30		Aiden Yin	2063	H---	L34	W39	L17	D26	2
31		Aarav Bharathy Mohan	1904	L1	W36	L7	W41	L14	2
32		Arnav Gadde	1857	W10	D5	D11	L12	L16	2
33	33-41	Joanne Wangluo	1856	L4	D39	D25	D35	L28	1.5
34		Rian Raja	1785	D45	W30	L5	L10	L27	1.5
35		Duane Polich	1771	L13	L21	W44	D33	L22	1.5
36		Markus Li	1750	L42	L31	L24	B---	D41	1.5
37		Nathan Page	1741	L14	W22	H---	L20	L24	1.5
38		Miranda Meng	1727	D15	L8	D43	D24	L25	1.5
39		Shanna Wu	1712	L18	D33	L30	H---	D40	1.5
40		Riaan Babbar	1686	L19	W44	L14	L23	D39	1.5
41		Oliver He	1657	L20	B---	L15	L31	D36	1.5
42	42-44	Karson Lu	2042	W36	L2	L17	U---	U---	1
43		Sangeeta Dhingra	1948	L2	D25	D38	L26	U---	1
44		Austin Wentz	1845	L11	L40	L35	L22	B---	1
45	45	Shyam Pujara	2129	D34	L28	U---	U---	U---	0.5



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2026 Harmon Memorial Chess Tournament: Rivendell U1700									
#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total
1	1-2	Jimmy Yang	1537	W41	W26	W17	W5	D3	4.5
2		Quinn Zhen Rampenthal	1465	D27	W24	W28	W16	W12	4.5
3	3-5	Adam Venis	1559	W34	W11	D16	W10	D1	4
4		Deepak Sri Kartikeya Rao	1534	D24	W23	D30	W21	W17	4
5		Ziliang Ma	1521	W47	W36	W9	L1	W15	4
6	6-11	Kendrick Johnson	1594	D19	D28	W22	D11	W20	3.5
7		Terrick Evin	1587	W31	L17	W35	H---	W23	3.5
8		Warren Chung	1572	W38	D10	W42	H---	H---	3.5
9		Vidur Ganesan	1565	W33	W35	L5	H---	W28	3.5
10		Johnny James	1478	W25	D8	W27	L3	W26	3.5
11		Juan Marquina Cancino	1465	W37	L3	W43	D6	W25	3.5
12	12-21	Jackson Rish-Brown	1573	W22	L16	W32	W30	L2	3
13		Lewis Ma	1572	W32	L18	D34	H---	W31	3
14		Abhiram Nerella	1542	L35	W41	L20	W33	W32	3
15		Harvey Wang	1540	W40	D30	W18	H---	L5	3
16		Avyaan Roy Chowdhury	1514	W43	W12	D3	L2	H---	3
17		Liam Glaser	1509	W21	W7	L1	W36	L4	3
18		Ryan Lai	1502	W44	W13	L15	L20	W34	3
19		Mithran Anbuselvam	1465	D6	D20	L25	W35	W36	3
20		Atharva Singh	1274	D45	D19	W14	W18	L6	3
21		Rohan Bharadwaj	1234	L17	W38	W29	L4	W30	3
22	22-28	Samik Kulkarni	1444	L12	W44	L6	D41	W37	2.5
23		Benji Johnson	1330	H---	L4	W45	W42	L7	2.5
24		Eason Chen	1287	D4	L2	W39	L26	W41	2.5
25		Jerome Edwards	1229	L10	W33	W19	D34	L11	2.5
26		Bihe Liu	1224	W46	L1	H---	W24	L10	2.5
27		Sri Jayraj Sampathi Rao	1215	D2	W39	L10	H---	H---	2.5
28		Ved Dixit	1153	B---	D6	L2	W29	L9	2.5
29	29-37	Sambuddha Sekhar Das	1469	L36	W40	L21	L28	W42	2
30		Mikhail Lagzdin	1465	W48	D15	D4	L12	L21	2
31		Jacob Rish-Brown	1453	L7	W47	L36	W40	L13	2
32		Leo Saloranta	1382	L13	W37	L12	W43	L14	2
33		Aryan Pande	1378	L9	L25	W44	L14	W47	2
34		Sriharsh Gokulakrishnan	1335	L3	W48	D13	D25	L18	2
35		Emma Ge	1319	W14	L9	L7	L19	W45	2
36		Sai Priyanka Seethamraju	1218	W29	L5	W31	L17	L19	2
37		Viet Nguyen	1217	L11	L32	B---	W38	L22	2
38	38-44	Hem Chillakuru	1419	L8	L21	W47	L37	D40	1.5
39		Aariv Shah	1367	H---	L27	L24	D45	D43	1.5
40		Rohit Sreraman	1316	L15	L29	W48	L31	D38	1.5
41		Arihant Chaudhuri	1300	L1	L14	W46	D22	L24	1.5
42		Kaiyi Han	1270	H---	W45	L8	L23	L29	1.5
43		Kartika Kalakoti	1237	L16	W46	L11	L32	D39	1.5
44		Brannon Underwood	1229	L18	L22	L33	B---	D48	1.5
45	45-48	Baoshuo Yao	1524	D20	L42	L23	D39	L35	1
46		Martina Szeto	1469	L26	L43	L41	L47	B---	1
47		Rahul Sreraman	1273	L5	L31	L38	W46	L33	1
48		Anirudh Rengarajan	1206	L30	L34	L40	H---	D44	1

(1300), Liu (1224), Glaser (1509), and Ma (1521) before conceding a draw to Venis (1559) in the final round. Rampenthal recovered well after conceding a first-round draw against Rao (1215) and won his next four games in a row against chess Uruk-hais Chen (1287), Dixit (1153), Chowdhury (1514), and Rish-Brown (1573) to catch up with Yang in the final round.

A trio of Mirkwood guardians claimed the third/fourth/U1600 prize with four points apiece: Adam Venis of Seattle, Deepak Sri Kartikeya Rao of Bellevue, and Ziliang Ma of Seattle. A sextuplet of Middle-earth elf-folk shared the second U1600 prize with 3.5 points: Kendrick Johnson of Eugene, Terrick Evin of Redmond, Warren Chung of Woodinville, Vidur Ganesan of Bothell, Jonny James of Redmond, and Juan Marquina Cancino of Bellevue.

The first/second U1400 prizes were split between two future members of the chess Council of Elrond: Atharva Singh of Bothell, and Rohan Bharadwaj of Redmond. The Rivendell U1700 Biggest Frodo Upset prizes were awarded to the following chess elves for their heroic efforts: Sai Priyanka Seethamraju (round one, 251 points), Kaiyi Han (round two, 254 points), Atharva Singh (round three, 286 points), Ved Dixit (round four, 316 points), and Rohan Bharadwaj (round five, 231 points). Elvish chess queen Emma Ge from the realm of Sammamish won the Best Galadriel Female prize with a TPR of 1456. Elgin chess wizard Benji Johnson cast a few chess spells on his unsuspecting opponents and took home the Best Gandalf Senior Prize with a TPR of 1478. Elvish chess princes Jackson Rish-Brown (Saturday) and Quinn Rampenthal (Sunday) were recognized with the Gimli Best Dressed prizes for their dressy ensembles.



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In the hobbit hole-sized 21-player Shire U1200 section, two intrepid chess hobbits—Edwin Huang of Bellevue and Siana Razmov of Seattle—endured the dangerous journey across Middle-earth and shared the first place prize. During their time away from the safety of the Shire, both halflings won four games and lost only one. Razmov’s path to the title began strongly as she scored wins against Dibble (893), Smith (975), Johnson (739), and Sankar (1157) to set up a last-round showdown with Huang atop the slopes of Mount Doom in the heart of Mordor. Huang bounced back well after a second-round loss against his kinfolk Aaron Huang (1012) and won his next two games against McKendry (1128) and Rajan (1005) to meet Razmov at the Mount Doom summit for the fifth and final round.

After a tense struggle, Huang emerged victorious to catch up with Razmov, and the two co-champions ensured the Ring’s destruction by tossing it into the belly of the volcano! A chasing pack of five Harfoots, the most numerous group of Hobbits, shared third/fourth/U1000 honors with three and a half points apiece: Deethya Sankar of Redmond, Hrishaan Arjun Iyer of Bellevue, Samuel Acevedo of Puyallup, Greg Smith of Seattle, and Leo Li of Kirkland. Redmond chess Took Brian Kruse earned the first U800 prize for his Tolkienly efforts. Gig Harbor chess Fallohide Elke Johnson won the second U800 prize with a par score. Joy and merriment were abundant in the Shire U1200 section as the following chess hobbits scored the Biggest Frodo Upset wins: Elke Johnson (round one, 294 points), Brian Kruse (round two, 350 points), Samvid Rajan (round three, 126 points), Leo Li (round four, 81 points), and Yaswitha Suresh (round five, 144 points). Redmond chess princess Laya Sankar won the Best Galadriel Female

2026 Harmon Memorial Chess Tournament: Shire U1200										
#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total	
1	1-2	Edwin Huang	1140	W16	L11	W9	W13	W2	4	
2		Siana Razmov	1113	W17	W6	W14	W3	L1	4	
3	3-7	Deethya R Sankar	1157	W13	W12	W11	L2	D7	3.5	
4		Hrishaan Arjun Iyer	1117	L7	W20	W12	W5	H---	3.5	
5		Samuel Acevedo	1068	W20	W7	H---	L4	W9	3.5	
6		Greg Smith	975	W19	L2	H---	W18	W15	3.5	
7		Leo Li	931	W4	L5	W15	W11	D3	3.5	
8	8	Brian Kruse	637	L11	W16	H---	D10	W18	3	
9	9-14	Matthew McKendry	1128	H---	W19	L1	W14	L5	2.5	
10		Pranav Bharadwaj	1033	L14	W17	D18	D8	D13	2.5	
11		Aaron Huang	1012	W8	W1	L3	L7	H---	2.5	
12		Pengyu Chen	1009	W18	L3	L4	W17	D14	2.5	
13		Samvid Rajan	1005	L3	W21	W19	L1	D10	2.5	
14		Elke Johnson	739	W10	W15	L2	L9	D12	2.5	
15	15-17	Laya R Sankar	1030	W21	L14	L7	W16	L6	2	
16		Yaswitha Suresh	987	L1	L8	W20	L15	W19	2	
17		Clifford Dibble	893	L2	L10	W21	L12	W20	2	
18	18	Leland Olney	unr.	L12	B---	D10	L6	L8	1.5	
19	19	Lars Johnson	1131	L6	L9	L13	W20	L16	1	
20	20-21	Siyang Chen	751	L5	L4	L16	L19	L17	0	
21		Zeynep Toprakbasti	673	L15	L13	L17	U---	U---	0	

prize with a TPR of 782 while fellow Redmonder Stoor Brian Kruse earned the Best Bilbo Baggins Senior Prize (TPR 1010) for his elderly efforts. Two chess hobbits were notably dressed to impress throughout the “Breeful” weekend: Siana Razmov (Saturday) and Elke Johnson (Sunday).

Legolas Blitz

Upon the conclusion of the main tournament, thirty-six diehard Elvish chess warriors put on their mithril armor forged by the Dwarves in Khazad-dûm and duked it out over seven rounds of dual USCF Blitz and FIDE Blitz rated G/3; +2 blitz chess. After the smoke cleared from the fire breathed by Smaug, the last dragon of Middle-earth, only the young Blitz prodigy Vidip Kona of Duvall remained unscathed and captured the first place prize with a perfect seven points from seven game, vanquishing his

nearest rivals Vemparala (2260), Costello (2371), Karthikeyan (2153), and Dhingra (1946) along the way. Vemparala’s fantastic weekend run continued in the blitz as he finished in clear second place with six points, dropping only a single game against Kona in the fourth round.

A trio of chess orcs shared third place honors a full-point back with five points apiece: IM Alex Costello of San Diego, NM Jason Cigan of Portland, and Harishkumar Karthikeyan of Redmond. Elvish chess queen Sangeeta Dhingra of Seattle brandished an especially accurate bow as she single-handedly slayed chess rangers IM Costello and NM Cigan in back-to-back rounds to claim the first U2000 prize. Three warriors loyal to the Elven king Thranduil—Shyam Pujara of Seattle, Walter Guity of Shoreline, and Harvey Wang of Bellevue—split the U1800/U1600 prizes each with a “plus one” score. Bellevue chess Beowulf Deepak Sri Kartikeya Rao finished strong



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2026 Legolas Blitz: OPEN													
#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	Total		
1	1	NM Vidip Kona	2248	W16	W8	W28	W2	W3	W5	W6	7		
2	2	NM Nikash Vemparala	2260	W19	W6	W7	L1	W10	W14	W9	6		
3	3-6	IM Alexander Costello	2371	W24	W12	W11	W4	L1	L6	W10	5		
4		NM Jason Cigan	2221	X---	W13	W20	L3	L6	W22	W11	5		
5		Harishkumar Karthikeyan	2153	W17	L20	W21	W10	W13	L1	W12	5		
6		Sangeeta Dhingra	1946	W26	L2	W24	W22	W4	W3	L1	5		
7	7-9	Pratik Thorve	2007	W34	W21	L2	D20	L14	W28	W19	4.5		
8		Aarav Bharathy Mohan	1880	W31	L1	W25	D19	L9	W15	W14	4.5		
9		Ziqian Gao	1807	W35	L10	W34	D11	W8	W19	L2	4.5		
10	10-18	Barath Subramanian Suresh	2095	W23	W9	W15	L5	L2	W21	L3	4		
11		Akim Pikh	2008	W25	W14	L3	D9	D20	W13	L4	4		
12		Vishnu Mohan	1913	W29	L3	L19	W34	W23	W20	L5	4		
13		Emerson Wong-Godfrey	1884	W30	L4	W17	W15	L5	L11	W23	4		
14		Shyam Pujara	1751	W27	L11	W33	W28	W7	L2	L8	4		
15		Walter Guity	1584	W18	W23	L10	L13	W33	L8	W27	4		
16		Harvey Wang	1494	L1	L31	W36	W27	L22	W33	W20	4		
17		Deepak Sri Kartikeya Rao	1391	L5	W36	L13	W18	L25	W31	W21	4		
18		Kishan Singh	unr.	L15	L26	W35	L17	W29	W25	W22	4		
19	19	Liam Glaser	1504	L2	W35	W12	D8	W28	L9	L7	3.5		
20	20-27	Yuchen Zhou	1774	W36	W5	L4	D7	D11	L12	L16	3		
21		Nathan Page	1741	W32	L7	L5	W26	W24	L10	L17	3		
22		Andy Chen	1675	W33	L28	W26	L6	W16	L4	L18	3		
23		Terrick Evin	1562	L10	L15	W31	W30	L12	W26	L13	3		
24		Ziliang Ma	1525	L3	W30	L6	W31	L21	L27	W32	3		
25		Aryan Pande	1334	L11	W27	L8	L33	W17	L18	W31	3		
26		Aariv Shah	1132	L6	W18	L22	L1	W35	L23	W33	3		
27		Hrishaan Arjun Iyer	997	L14	L25	W29	L16	W30	W24	L15	3		
28	28-30	Siddharth Shenoy	1974	X---	W22	L1	L14	L19	L7	D29	2.5		
29		Atharva Singh	1121	L12	L33	L27	W32	L18	W34	D28	2.5		
30		Sriharsh Gokulakrishnan	1120	L13	L24	W32	L23	L27	D36	W35	2.5		
31	31-33	Oliver Wakeman	1109	L8	W16	L23	L24	W34	L17	L25	2		
32		Yaswitha Suresh	unr.	L21	L34	L30	L29	W36	W35	L24	2		
33		Mohan Kumar Memangalam Balasubramani	unr.	L22	W29	L14	W25	L15	L16	L26	2		
34	34	Quinn Zhen Rampenthal	1303	L7	W32	L9	L12	L31	L29	D36	1.5		
35	35-36	Kartika Kalakoti	1079	L9	L19	L18	W36	L26	L32	L30	1		
36		Samuel Acevedo	1068	L20	L17	L16	L35	L32	D30	D34	1		

by winning his last two games to claim the first U1400 prize. A pair of up-and-coming Celtic swordsmen—Aryan Pande of Kirkland and Aariv Shah of Issaquah—tied for the first U1200 prize for their Nordic efforts. Young chess Viking Hrishaan Arjun Iyer of Bellevue earned the first U1000 prize with three points and scored multiple upset-wins along the way. Newcomer Kishan Singh of Redmond took home the first Unrated prize with four points.

Congratulations to the following Nordic hunters who scored the biggest upset wins: Oliver Wakeman (round two), Liam Glaser (round three), Shyam Pujara (round four), Sangeeta Dhingra

(round five), Hrishaan Arjun Iyer (round six), and Atharva Singh (round seven). Seattle's Sangeeta Dhingra won the Best Arwen Female prize to round out the Old English winners. Congratulations to the winners and thanks to all who contributed to this fantastic Middle-earthian event!

Games

**Arnav Gadde (1857) –
CM Vidip Kona (2248) [B12]**
2026 Harmon Memorial (Gondor Open)
Bellevue, WA (R1) April 11, 2026
[Arnav Gadde]

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 Bf5 4.h4 h5 5.Bd3

Bxd3 6.Qxd3 e6 7.Nf3 Qa5+ 8.Nbd2 Qa6 9.Qxa6

I did not play c4 because I did not want to pin my queen and complicate the position against a higher rated opponent.

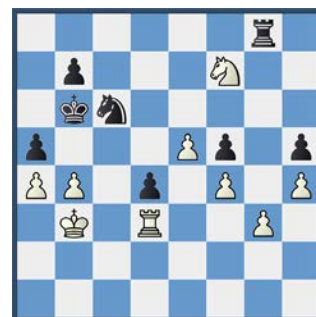
9...Nxa6 10.a3 Ne7 11.Nf1 Nf5 12.Ne3 g6 13.Nxf5 gxf5 14.c3 c5 15.Bg5 Be7 16.Ke2 Rg8 17.g3 Rc8 18.Rac1 Kd7 19.Rhd1 Nb8? 20.c4! Bxg5 21.Nxg5 cxd4 22.cxd5 Rxc1 23.dxe6+

Maybe Rxc1 was better instead. 23.Rxc1 exd5 24.Rc5 Nc6 25.Rxd5+ Ke7 26.f4

23...fxe6 24.Rxc1 Nc6 25.f4 Ke7 26.Kd3 a6 27.b4 Rc8 28.Rc4 Kd7 29.Nf3

29.Kd2

29...Rg8 30.Ng5 Rg6 31.Rc1 Kc7 32.Kc4 Kb6 33.a4 Rh6 34.Rd1 Rh8 35.Nxe6 Rc8 36.Kb3 Rg8 37.Ng5 Rd8 38.Nf7 Rg8 39.Rd3 a5



Position after 39...a5

40.bxa5+

40.Nh6 Nxb4 41.Nxg8 Nxd3 42.Kc4 Nc5 43.Kxd4 Nxa4 44.Nf6 Nc5 45.Nxh5 a4 46.Kc3

40...Kc5 41.Nd6 Nxa5+ 42.Kc2 Rf8 43.Rd1 Nc6 44.Nxb7+ Kd5 45.Nd6 Ra8 46.Ra1 Nb4+ 47.Kd2 Na6 48.Nxf5 Nc5 49.Ra3 Kc4 50.Nd6+ Kb4 51.Ra2 Nb3+ 52.Kd1 d3 53.Rb2! Rxa4 54.Rxb3+!! Kxb3 55.Kd2 Kb4 56.Kxd3 Kc5

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57.Ne4+ Kc6 58.Nc3 Rb4 59.f5 Rb8
60.f6 Kd7 61.Ke4 Ke6 62.Ne2 Rb4+
63.Nd4+ Kf7 64.Kd5 Ra4 65.Nc6 Ra3
66.Nd8+ Ke8 67.Ne6 Kf7 68.Ng5+
Kg6 69.f7 Kg7 70.Ke6 Ra6+ 71.Kf5
Ra5 72.Kf4 Ra4+ 73.Kf3 Ra3+ 74.Kg2
Ra2+ 75.Kh3 Rf2 76.e6 Re2 77.Nh7 Rf2
78.f8Q+ Rxf8 79.Nxf8 Kxf8 80.g4 Ke7
81.g5 Kxe6 82.Kg3 Ke5 83.Kf3 Kf5
84.Ke3 Ke5 85.Kd3 Kd5 86.Kc3 Ke5
87.Kc4 Ke6 88.Kd4 Kd6 89.Ke4 Ke6
90.Kf4 Kf7 91.Kf5 Kg7 92.Ke6 Kg6
93.Ke5 Kf7 94.Kd6 Kg6 95.Ke6 Kg7
96.Ke7 Kg8 97.Kf6 Kh7 98.g6+ Kg8
99.g7 Kh7 100.Kf7 Kh6 101.g8R!

My opponent resigned and this was my first win against a title player.

1-0

Vihaan Jammalamadaka (2202) – Alexander Costello (2371) [D20]
2026 Harmon Memorial (Gondor Open)
Bellevue, WA (R3) April 11, 2026
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4 3.e4

Aggressive. The more traditional approach to the Queen's Gambit Accepted runs 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.e3 e6 5.Bxc4 c5 6.0-0 a6, with some branching along the way, reaching a very well-tested position.

3...Nf6

3...e5 4.Nf3 exd4 5.Bxc4 is a gambit line in which White has good compensation.

4.e5 Nd5 5.Bxc4 Nb6 6.Bd3

6.Bb3 Nc6 7.Ne2 Bf5 is another line.

6...Nc6 7.Ne2 Bg4 8.f3

8.Be3, while less common, feels more enterprising. White develops, secures the center, and avoids any potential weaknesses associated with the f2-f3 advance. 8...e6 (8...Nd5 9.Nbc3 Nxe3 10.fxe3 is just a waste of time with the



(L) Vihaan Jammalamadaka vs Alex Costello during their third round encounter.
Photo credit: Ani Barua.

black knight, giving White a big center and half-open f-file in exchange for a bishop-pair that is unlikely to find any open-board play.) 9.Nbc3 Nb4 10.Be4 c6 looks like a solid continuation for both sides.

8...Bh5 9.Be4

9.Nbc3 e6 10.Be4 Bg6

9...e6 10.0-0 Qd7 11.Bg5!? h6?!

11...Bg6 is roughly balanced.

12.Bh4 g5?! 13.Bf2 0-0-0

Black's idea (hope?) is that the advance of the kingside pawns offers attacking chances in an opposite-sides castling configuration. Of course, castling the

king onto a file that's already open carries some risks.

14.Nbc3 Bb4

14...Be7

15.Qc2

15.Qb3 Bxc3 16.Nxc3± is supported tactically by 16...Nxd4? 17.Qa3! Kb8 18.Rad1+-

15...Bxc3 16.bxc3± Nc4 17.Ng3 Bg6 18.Bxg6 fxc6 19.Ne4 Ne7 20.Qb3

20.Qe2 Qc6 21.Rab1 Nd5 22.Nc5±

20...Qd5 21.Rfb1 b6 22.Qa4

22.Qb4! is a finesse suggested by Stockfish. 22...Nc6 (22...Rhe8 23.Qa4



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a5 24.Nf6±) 23.Qa4 a5?? (23...N4a5 24.Qc2± Black's knights get in each other's way.) 24.Nf6+- (or 24.Rb5+-)

22...a5



Position after 22...a5

23.Qd1

23.Rb5 Qc6 24.Nc5∞ attempts to retain the initiative through complications. 24...Nd2 (24...bxc5 25.Qxc4 cxd4 26.Rc5 Qb6 27.Bxd4±) 25.c4!? (25.Rd1 Nd5! 26.Rxa5 Qxa4 27.Rxa4 bxc5 28.Rxd2 Nxc3 appears to reach equal endings.) 25...bxc5 26.Rd1 Nxc4 27.Qxc4 with complications and initiative, as advertised.

23...Qc6 24.Qe2 g4

24...Qa4!? and it starts to be hard to find progress for White.

25.fxg4 Nd5 26.Nc5?! bxc5?

26...Nf4! 27.Qe4 forced 27...Nd5 when it's quite possible the game ends immediately through a repetition.

27.Qxc4 Rhf8

27...Nf4 28.d5 Nxd5 29.Rb2/ (29.Rb5? Nf4! again! 30.Qf1 Rd2! leaves White scrambling for equality.)

28.Rb2± Kd7 29.dxc5 Ke7 30.Qe4 Kf7 31.c4

31.Bd4 Kg7 32.h3±

31...Nb4 32.Qxc6 Nxc6 33.Rb7 Rd7 34.Bg3 Ke7 35.h3 Kd8

35...a4 36.Bf2 g5 (36...Nxe5?? 37.c6! Nxc6 38.Bc5+ Ke8 39.Bxf8 Kxf8+-) 37.Be3 Kd8

36.Rbb1 Ke7 37.Rf1 Rxf1+?!

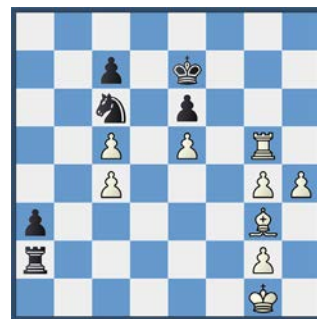
37...g5 38.Rxf8 Kxf8 39.Rf1+ Kg7±

38.Rxf1 g5 39.Rf6± a4 40.Rxh6 Rd4 41.Rg6 a3 42.Rxg5 Rd2 43.h4?!

The pawns do want to rush up the board, but not at the expense of ignoring defense.

That rook wants to play, too. 43.Rg7+ Kd8 44.Rg8+ Kd7 45.Ra8 Rxa2 46.g5+-

43...Rxa2



Position after 43...Rxa2

44.h5??

Too hasty. 44.Rg7+ Kd8 45.Rg8+ Ke7 46.Ra8+-

44...Ra1+ 45.Kh2 a2 46.h6 Rh1+ 47.Kxh1 a1Q+ 48.Kh2 Qb1 49.Rg7+ Kf8 50.Rxc7 Ne7 51.Bh4 Ng6 52.h7 Qb8 53.Rd7 Qxe5+ 54.Bg3 Qg5 55.c6 Qh6+

The white king can't escape checks. ½-½



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July 25 - 26, 2026

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Time Control: Rd. 1: G/60; +10, Rds. 2-5: 40/120, SD/30; +10.

Prize Fund: \$2,700 (based on 60 paid entries).

Lewis Open: 1st – 3rd: \$400, 325, 250.

1st U2000/U1800: \$150

Clark U1700: 1st – 3rd: \$300, 200, 150.

1st U1600/U1400/U1200: \$140, 1st Unrated: \$105.

Special Prizes (per section): Biggest Upset win: \$25, Best Female Player (by TPR): \$50, Best Senior Player (50+, by TPR): \$50.

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

Entry Fee: \$90 if postmarked or online by 7/18, \$100 by 7/24, \$110 at site. \$45 play-up fee if rated U1700 USCF and playing in Lewis Open. Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs, WIMs.

At-site registration: Sat.: 9 - 9:30 AM.

Rounds: Sat. @ 10 AM, 12:30 PM, 6 PM. Sun. @ 10 AM, 3:30 PM.

Rating: USCF rated. July 2026 USCF rating supplement will be used to determine pairings and prizes. Foreign ratings used for players with no US Chess rating. Higher of US Chess or foreign ratings used at TD discretion.

Memberships: USCF and WCF membership required, other states accepted.

Washington Senior Championship

Ani Barua

The 2026 Washington Senior Championship took place on April 16, 18, and 19 at the Orlov Chess Academy in Seattle. This year's schedule was slightly unusual, as the venue was not available on Friday, so the first round had to be played on a Thursday evening. As expected, the Thursday start led to several early bye requests, with seven players taking a half-point bye in round one.

The event was organized by the Washington Chess Federation and directed by Chief Arbiter Ani Barua, a newly appointed FIDE National Arbiter.

A total of 21 seniors registered to play, including two titled women players: WCM Mary Kuhner and WFM Chouchanik Airapetian. The top seed was US Chess Candidate Master and defending Washington State Senior Champion Leonid Gavrysh, rated 2038 USCF. Also among the leading contenders was US Chess Candidate Master Geoff Gale, a former Washington Chess Federation president.

The tournament featured two sections: the Championship section and the Premier U1800 section. The event was a five-round Swiss with a time control of G/90; +30. For the first time, the Championship section of the Senior Championship was also FIDE rated.

Gavrysh entered the event as the favorite and fully lived up to that billing, scoring a perfect 5.0/5 to win the Championship section and retain the title of Washington State Senior Champion. The victory marked Gavrysh's third Washington Senior Championship title. With the win, he also earned a seed into the Invitational section of the 2027 Washington State Championship, as well as a \$750 travel stipend from the



*Washington Senior Championship Premier U1800 section winner Chad Fondren.
Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.*

Washington Chess Federation to attend the 2026 Irwin National Tournament of Senior State Champions.

The Championship section prize winners were Gavrysh in first place, Paul Harwood in second place, WFM Chouchanik Airapetian as the top U2000 finisher, and Richard Lavoie as the top U1900 finisher.

In the Premier U1800 section, Chad Fondren had an excellent tournament, taking first place with 4.0/5. Anthony Lamb and Don Hack shared the combined second-place and U1700 prizes, while Henry Louie won the U1500 prize and Allen Messenger won the U1300 prize.

A bit of historical context is also worth noting. According to available WCF records, the first Washington State Senior Championship listed by the federation was held in 2010, with Mark Trevor Smith as the champion. However, US Chess and *Northwest Chess* records show that a Washington Senior Adult Championship was held in 2004, with FM Paul Barton as the winner. The 2004 event was held in Tacoma.

The 2026 edition maintained its tradition of providing Washington's senior players with a meaningful state championship, while marking a new milestone: FIDE rating the Championship section for the first time.



(L) Michael Cummings ponders his next move against Don Hack during their second round game.
Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.



Championship section (L-R): Gerald Larson, Brian Kelly, Fritz Scholz, Chouhanik Airapetian, Leonid Gavrysh, Mary Kuhner, Paul Harwood, Geoff Gale. (Not pictured: Rich Lavoice, HG Pitre, Roger Hanson.) Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.



Premier U1800 section (L-R): Michael Cummings, Corey Bloom, Chad Fondren, Anthony Lamb, Mark Smith, Benji Johnson, Henry Louie, Michael Shaw, Don Hack, Allen Messenger.
Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.

2026 Washington Senior Championship: Championship										
#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total	
1	1	CM Leonid Gavrysh	2015	W7	W6	W4	W2	W8	5	
2	2	Paul Harwood	1847	H---	W8	W5	L1	W6	3.5	
3	3-5	NM Gerald Larson	2000	D11	H---	W9	W6	U---	3	
4		WFM Chouhanik Airapetian	1971	D8	W9	L1	D5	W10	3	
5		Richard Lavoice	1700	H---	W11	L2	D4	W9	3	
6	6-9	CM Geoff Gale	2031	W10	L1	W7	L3	L2	2	
7		Fritz Scholz	1800	L1	W10	L6	L9	B---	2	
8		Brian Kelly	1703	D4	L2	W11	D10	L1	2	
9		H G Pitre	1700	B---	L4	L3	W7	L5	2	
10	10	Roger Hanson	1800	L6	L7	B---	D8	L4	1.5	
11	11	WCM Mary Kuhner	1784	D3	L5	L8	U---	U---	0.5	

2026 Washington Senior Championship: Premier U1800										
#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total	
1	1	Chad Fondren	1426	W7	W10	W4	W3	L2	4	
2	2-3	Anthony Lamb	1724	H---	W6	D5	H---	W1	3.5	
3		Don Hack	1200	H---	W7	W10	L1	W4	3.5	
4	4-6	Corey Bloom	1733	H---	W8	L1	W5	L3	2.5	
5		Michael Shaw	1545	H---	W9	D2	L4	D7	2.5	
6		Henry Louie	1300	H---	L2	W8	D10	D9	2.5	
7	7-9	Michael Cummings	1561	L1	L3	D9	B---	D5	2	
8		Mark Smith	1400	H---	L4	L6	D9	B---	2	
9		Allen Messenger	1200	H---	L5	D7	D8	D6	2	
10	10	Benji Johnson	1330	B---	L1	L3	D6	U---	1.5	

BELLEVUE CHESS CLASSIC



SAT-SUN, AUGUST 15-16, 2026

EMBASSY SUITES BELLEVUE

3225 158TH AVE SE, BELLEVUE, WA 98008

Format: A 6-round Swiss in three sections:
Tiglon Open, Seirawan U1800 & Donaldson U1300.

Maximum of 200 players, please register early to guarantee your spot.

Schedule: Rounds (6): Sat @ 9am, 1pm, 5pm.
Sun @ 10am, 2pm, 6pm. Players whose games run long may request a late start for the next round.

Time Control: G/75; +30 sec increment.
Late default: 60 minutes.

Prize Fund: \$6,500 based on 100 paid entries

Tiglon Open: 1st – 3rd: \$650 – \$550 – \$450.
1st U2100/U1900: \$225.

Seirawan U1800: 1st – 3rd: \$550 – \$450 – \$350.
1st U1700/U1500: \$225.

Donaldson U1300: 1st – 3rd: \$450 – \$350 – \$250.
1st U1200/U1000: \$225, 1st Unrated: \$170.

Special Prizes (per section):

Biggest Upset Win: \$20 per round
Best Female Player (by TPR): \$75.
Best Senior Player (by TPR): \$75.
Best Dressed: \$20/day.

Entry Fee: \$125 by Aug 8, \$150 after. \$75 play-up fee if rated 1700-1799 USCF or 1200-1299 USCF and playing in Tiglon Open or Seirawan U1800, respectively. Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs, WIMs, or US Chess 2300+. 50% discount for Seniors (50+).

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

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

Rating: Triple rated in NWSRS, USCF, and FIDE. Higher of August USCF or current NWSRS rating used to determine section, pairings, and prizes. CFC used for Canadian players if it is higher.

Registration: Online at nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration. Pay by SettleKing (Washington Chess Federation), Zelle (wa-chess), or mail a check to WCF. Registration and payment deadline: Fri. 8/14 @ 5pm. No registrations accepted or refunds offered after the deadline.

Bellevue Classic Blitz: Saturday 8-9:30pm (after rd. 3 of main tournament). **Entry Fee:** \$30. **Format:** A 7-Round Single Swiss in one section, 2 half-point byes available. Dual USCF Blitz + FIDE Blitz rated. **TC:** G/3; +2. **On-site registration:** 7:00-7:45pm. Rds. Sat @ 8pm, 8:15, 8:30, 8:45, 9, 9:15, 9:30. Closing Ceremony ~ 9:45pm or asap. Current US Chess membership required. Higher of August 2026 USCF Blitz or Regular rating used to determine pairings and prizes.

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

1st – 3rd: \$170-\$140-\$100,

1st U2000/U1700/U1400/U1100/Unrated: \$50.

Biggest upset win: \$10/rd.

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

A DIARY OF A CHES S PAWNN



Dylan and matilda as well. I just had to pack a mini sword and shield. my 7 brothers had to pack the exact same thing. the other Dylan, the Knight, ~~behind me~~ had to pack a set of armor, and a shield. The King ~~Robert~~ only had to pack a helmet and a King-stick. Bob the bishop had to pack a wizard stick, and

1

CHAP 1

well, was a big day. The ^{dawn} game of chess was about to begin we were ~~beginning~~ beginning to pack our weapons and stuff. King Dylan was ordering everybody around and yelling orders. Queen matilda was the most tired. she had to pack armor, a shield, and a sword. Rocky the rook was also helping



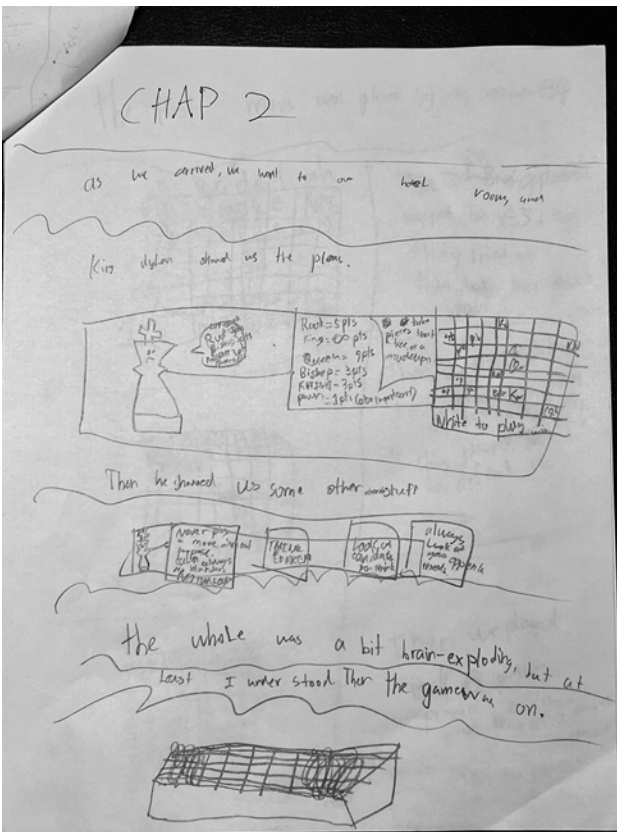
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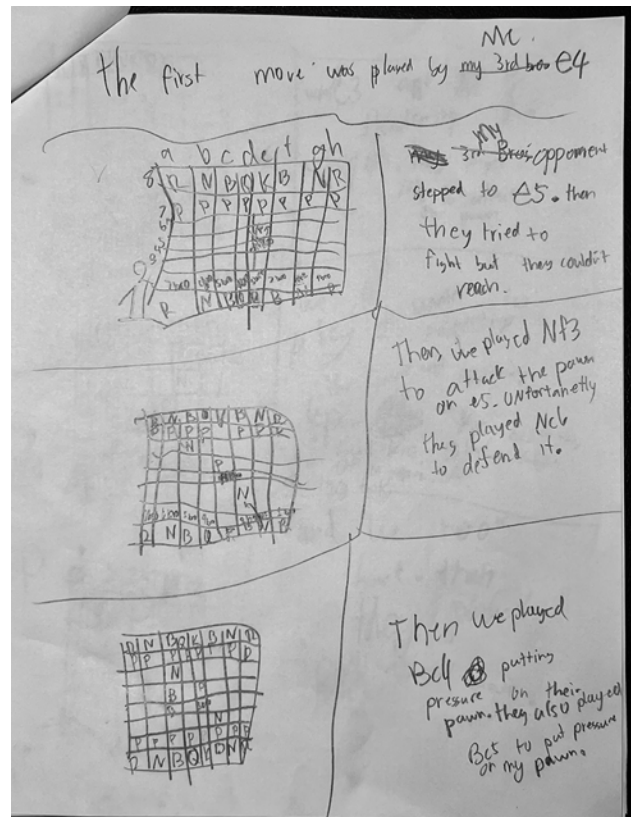
a Laser beam fire. When we were all set, we went on the bus. King Dylan Drove aaaaaaah!!!!!!!!!!!! the way to michigan. the drive was 5 hours, and the heat was super hot we all exploded in the bus. luckily King Dylan turned on chill mode to EXTREME and we were there.



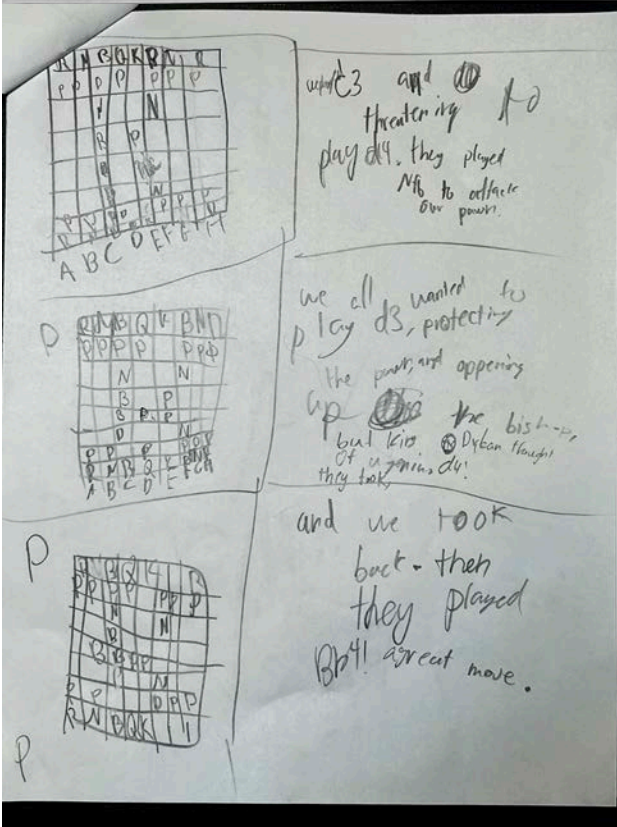
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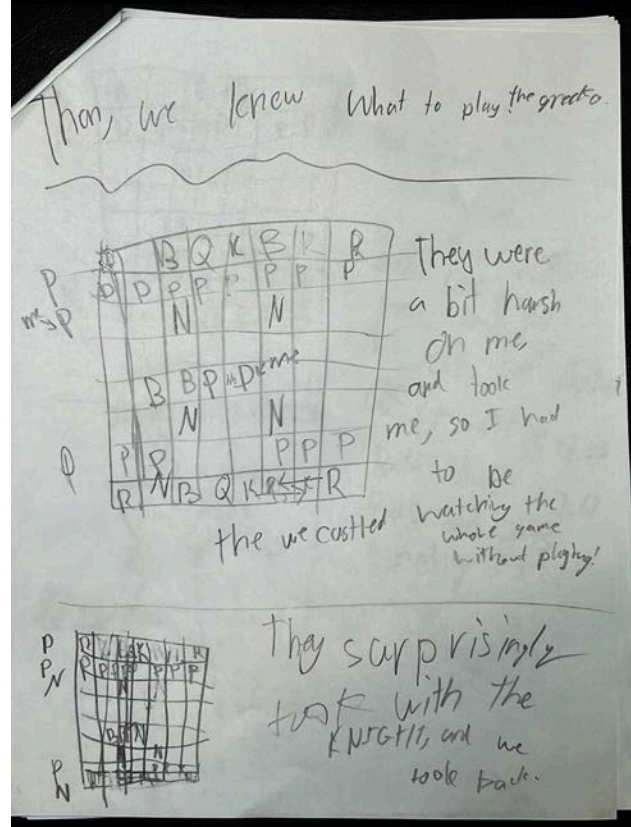
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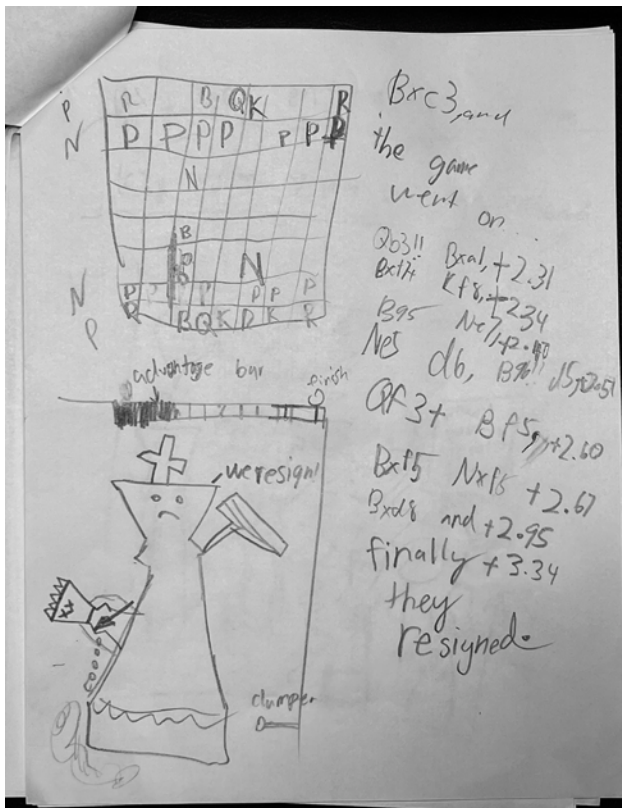


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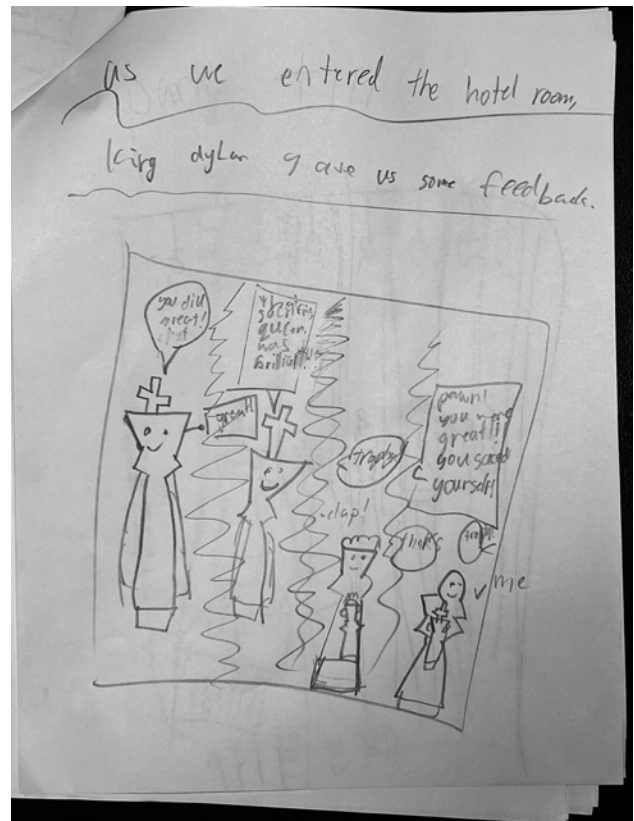


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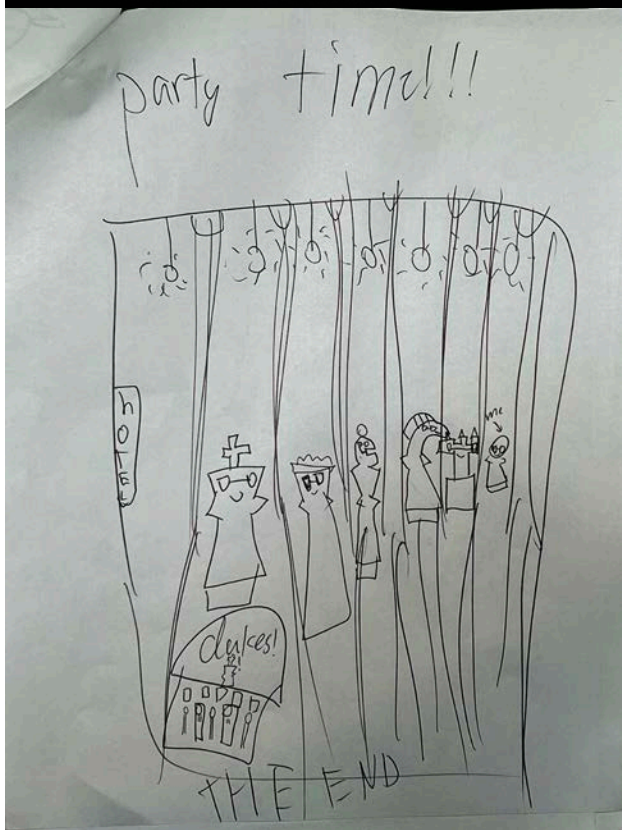
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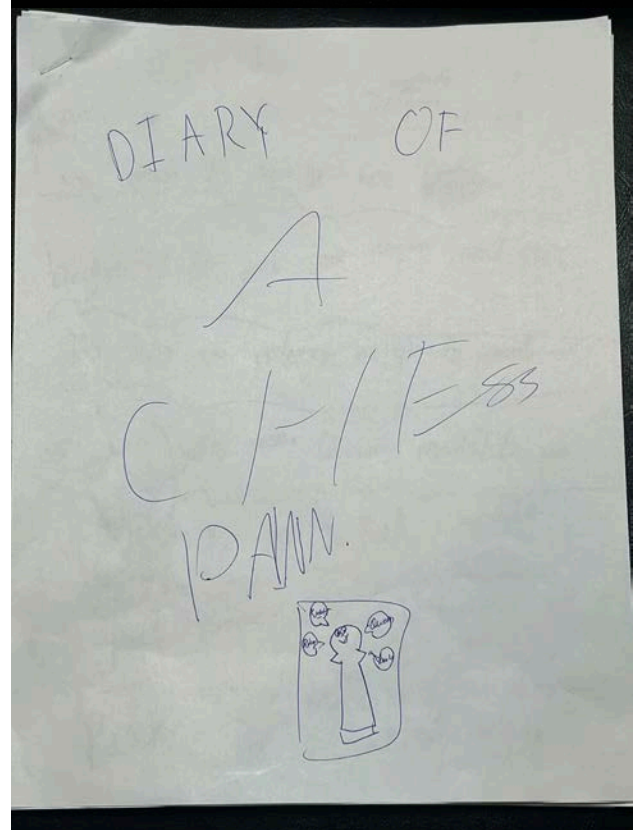
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The 76th Oregon Open

September 5-7, 2026, Labor Day Weekend

Check the OCF website (<https://oregonchessfed.org/>) for the most up-to-date information, including links to the registration website. Sponsored by the Oregon Chess Federation (OCF) and Portland Chess Club (PCC).

FORMAT: The tournament is a 6-round Swiss paired event with two rounds per day 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 five sections: 2000+, U2000, U1700, U1400, and U1100. **Players may play up one section for a \$25 play-up fee (can't play up more than one section).** The official September US Chess over-the-board regular ratings are generally used for section eligibility, pairings, and prize eligibility. Unofficial US Chess over-the-board regular ratings, US Chess online regular ratings, or converted foreign ratings are generally used for players with no official US Chess over-the-board regular rating. The late arrival default time is 60 minutes in all sections.

TIME CONTROL: G/100;inc30 (one-hour forty minutes per player with thirty seconds added for each move).

SUPPLIES: 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 for \$20 each. Players are responsible for knowing how to set their clock. Notation sheets and pencils provided.

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 and 3:30pm each day.

RATED: All the sections are US Chess regular rated. The 2000+ and U2000 sections are also FIDE standard rated.

ENTRY FEE: \$130 if registered by Friday, August 15; \$140 from August 16 until Friday, September 4 at 1:00pm PDT. Free entry for GM's and IM's with up to \$130 deducted from any prize won. US Chess membership is required for all players. Oregon Chess Federation membership is required for Oregon residents.

PRIZES: \$18,000 total prize fund based on 200 players. The prize fund is adjusted proportionally if there are a different number of players, but \$9000 is guaranteed.

2000+ Section: 1st-\$2150, 2nd-\$1500, 3rd-\$1150
U2150: 1st-\$550, 2nd-\$400, 3rd-\$250

U2000 Section: 1st-\$850, 2nd-\$550, 3rd-\$400
U1850: 1st-\$550, 2nd-\$400, 3rd-\$250

U1700 Section: 1st-\$850, 2nd-\$550, 3rd-\$400
U1550: 1st-\$550, 2nd-\$400, 3rd-\$250

U1400 Section: 1st-\$850, 2nd-\$550, 3rd-\$400
U1250: 1st-\$550, 2nd-\$400, 3rd-\$250

U1100 Section: 1st-\$850, 2nd-\$550, 3rd-\$400
U950: 1st-\$550, 2nd-\$400, 3rd-\$250

Unrated players are eligible for all prizes in their section except the U950 prizes in the U1100 section. Prizes are combined and/or split if there is a tie. Players winning \$600 or more must complete an IRS form with their Social Security number before receiving their prize. Foreign players may be subject to withholding taxes. Prizes are paid via check or PayPal.

QUALIFIERS: The 2000+ section is a qualifier for both the Championship and Challengers sections of the Oregon Closed. All the sections are qualifiers for the Oregon Scholastic Chess Federation (OSCF) State Championship.

LOCATION: Holiday Inn Portland Airport, 8439 Columbia Blvd, Portland, OR 97220. There is free parking in the hotel parking area. Hotel rooms for any of the nights of September 4- September 8 are available at a special chess rate of \$84 plus tax per night for single or double rooms. The hotel chess rate is not guaranteed to be available after July 30, or even earlier if the room block is sold out. After the room block is sold out, the rate increases to \$99 plus tax per night. Use [this link](#) or call 1-888-465-4329 to reserve a room. If reserving by phone, use the following group SRP code: CHS.

REGISTRATION: Register online at onlineregistration.cc (no mailed or on-site registrations are allowed). **The deadline to register is Friday, September 4 at 1:00pm PDT.** Email support@oregonchessfed.org if you encounter any issues while trying to register online, need to withdraw after having already registered, or are unable to pay the entry fee online via credit card, debit card, or PayPal.

TOURNAMENT RULES: The FIDE rules are used in the 2000+ and U2000 sections while the US Chess rules are used in the U1700, U1400, and U1100 sections. The following applies to all sections: **1) 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. **2) 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.** If you decide to withdraw or skip a round and are not on-site, send us an email to support@oregonchessfed.org letting us know. Any player who forfeits a game without a valid reason in the judgement of the chief tournament director will not be allowed to play in the Oregon Open next year.

SIDE EVENTS: Blitz – starts at 8:30pm on Saturday, September 5. See detailed information at oregonchessfed.org.

Oregon Junior Open: – September 5-6, see <https://chessa2z.org/event/oregon-junior-open-2026/>

QUESTIONS: Send an email to support@oregonchessfed.org if you have any questions.

TOURNAMENTS



venue & mail

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

info & events calendar

www.seattlechess.club

club & tournament inquiries

contact@seattlechess.club

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

July 3, 10, 17, 24 (Fri.)

Hot at Hades

One U.S. Chess-rated round per night, 4 rounds per month, at 7:30pm.
Time control: 40 moves in 90 minutes w/10sec. increment, then sudden death 60 minutes w/10sec. increment. SCC members free, \$5/night others. Play in any or all rounds! **Sign up** at contact@seattlechess.club.
Venue: Seattle Chess Club, 28 players max.

July 18 (Sat.)

July Quads

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). 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:** Seattle University, Sinegal Bldg. room 100. US Chess rated, US Chess membership req'd. **Sign up:** <https://nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration/>.

July 27 (Mon.)

Simul with GM Samy Shoker

A 1-hour lecture followed by a 3-hour clock simul with GM (and chessboxer!) Samy Shoker. Lecture at 6pm, simul at 7pm. 14 simul players max, 20 for lecture. **Venue:** Seattle Chess Club. Details on our events calendar. **Sign up** at contact@seattlechess.club.

July 31 (Fri.)

Fifth Friday G/15

Time Control: Game/15, no inc. 4 or 5 rounds depending on turnout. US Chess Quick rated. SCC members free, \$5/night others. 7:30pm start. **Sign up** at contact@seattlechess.club. **Venue:** Seattle CC, 28 players max.

August 8-9 (Sat.-Sun.)

Seafair Chess Classic

See below.

Coming up:

- **August Quads** – August 1; tentative, 2B confirmed
 - **SCC Masters tournament** – September 5-7; details to follow
 - **SCC Fall Open** – September 26-27; tentative, 2B confirmed
- Check our events calendar periodically for confirmed dates.*

SEAFAIR CHESS CLASSIC

AUGUST 8 - 9, 2026

A 5-round Swiss in 3 sections – Championship, Reserve (U1800) & Rising/Unrated (U1200)

All sections USCF rated, Championship section also FIDE rated

PRIZE FUND: \$5,500 BASED ON 120 PAID ENTRIES

SEAFAIR BLITZ CHAMPIONSHIP

AUGUST 9, 2026 (approx. 6pm after main tournament)

A 7-round Single Swiss in 1 section. FIDE and USCF rated

PRIZE FUND: \$500 BASED ON 50 PAID ENTRIES

Both events at Embassy Suites Hotel SeaTac Airport, 15920 W. Valley Hwy, Seattle, WA 98188

Details and registration info at <https://nwchess.com/calendar/2026%20Seattle%20Chess%20Classic.pdf>

43rd Annual Reno Western States Open

An American Classic and Heritage Event

Oct 2-4 or Oct 3-4, 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 9/4 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. 10/30: 7:00 pm - GM Sergey Kudrin Clock Simul w/ complete analysis of YOUR Game (Only \$30!-bring clock)

Thursday 10/1: 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 10/3: 3 - 4:30 pm - Game/Position Analysis - IM John Donaldson (FREE)

 **Main Tournament** 

Registration: Thursday (10/1) 5 - 8 pm. - Friday (10/2) 9 - 10 am. - Saturday (10/3) 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: Westernchess1026

Hotel Rates: Sunday-Thursday \$104.01, Friday-Saturday \$138.06, all taxes and fees included. Reserve by 9/18

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

ENTRY FORM - 43rd Annual Western States Open - Reno, Nevada - Oct 2-4 OR Oct 3-4, 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 -----

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

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

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 September 4, 2026. Add \$11 after 9/4. Add \$22 on site.

Do not mail after 9/25 or email after 9/29. 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: \$ _____

