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NWC Staff

Editor: Jeffrey Roland, jeffreyroland9@gmail.com
Games Editor: Ralph Dubisch, chesscoaching@gmail.com
Publisher: Duane Polich, publisher@nwchess.com
Business Manager: businessmanager@nwchess.com

Board Representatives

Aniruddha Barua, Alex Machin, Duane Polich,
Ralph Dubisch, Jeffrey Roland, Josh Sinanan,
Wilson Gibbins, Eric Holcomb.

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Ads and submissions must be received by the fifth of the month for the items to appear in the next issue:

August 5 for the September issue;
September 5 for October.

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Business Manager
Northwest Chess c/o Orlov Chess Academy
4174 148th Ave NE, Building I, Suite M
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Front Cover

IM John Donaldson (L) and current Washington State Champion Stephen Willy at the Washington Open.

Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.

Back Cover

Jai Dayal (L) and OCF President Wilson Gibbins.

Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.

Submissions

Submissions of games (PGN format is preferable for games), stories, photos, art, and other **original** chess-related content are encouraged! Multiple submissions are acceptable; please indicate if material is non-exclusive. All submissions are subject to editing or revision. Send via U.S. Mail to: **Jeffrey Roland, *NWC* Editor**
1514 S. Longmont Ave.
Boise, Idaho 83706-3732
or via e-mail to:
editor@nwchess.com

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WCF Membership Rates (includes monthly printed/online issue of Northwest Chess magazine):

- **Adult** - $33 or $88 for 3 years → $40 for 1 year or $75 for 2 years
- **Young Adult** (age 18-24) - $30 or $54 for 2 years → $37 or $65 for 2 years
- **Junior** (below age 18) - $27 or $50 for 2 years → $35 or $60 for 2 years
- **Scholastic** (6-month Junior) - $16 → $25 (excludes magazine)
- **Senior** (65+) - $27 or $70 for 3 yrs → $30 for 1 year or $55 for 2 years
- **Additional family** (at same address) - $11.00 each, $20.00 for 2 years (with $43.00 junior primary membership) or $28.00 for 3 years → $15 ea, $25 for 2yrs. (excludes magazine)
- **1-month (tournament/trial)** - $14.00 → $20 (excludes magazine)
- **Foreign** - USD$44.00 Canada, US$66.00 all others → $60 North America, $100 all others
- **Regular Affiliate (organization)** - $75 for 1 year (includes 8 copies)
- **Scholastic Affiliate (schools)** - $50 for 1 year (includes 5 copies)
- **Prison Affiliate** - $35 for 1 year (includes 3 copies)
- **Life Member** - $800 for 64 and under, $250 for 65+ (not taxable)
- **Benefactor Member** - $1,500 any age (not taxable)

Washington residents please add sales tax.

New rates in pink effective September 1st, 2026.

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.

Under Pressure

The Chess Friends

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

Howdy! It's The Chess Friends!

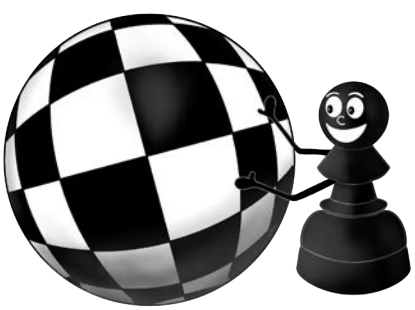
It is August already, and there's only a month left until school resumes! That means the pressure is on! Pressure to prepare for the next school year, pressure to cram as much chess training as you can before that, or pressure to savor the last summer month to its fullest!

Pressure is a very real part of life, and of chess. It can be a big thing; we all have been affected by it, and we all figured out how to handle it, or are trying to. In this article, we will talk about competitive pressure and how the three of us approach it in different ways. We will share mechanisms we use to deal with pressure in many aspects of our chess life and beyond, with the hope that some will resonate with you and help you in your chess journeys!

The Legend Vivaan

Bounce Back

Do I feel pressure? Of course I do. Everyone does. I get sad quite a bit when I do terribly at a tournament or miss a bunch of shots on the basketball court, but I **bounce back quickly**. Knowing that there's always another game and being excited for the opportunity to play is the best way for me to face pressure.



When I go into a chess game or tournament, my goal is to **have fun and enjoy playing** a game that I love. This is the same every time I step onto the basketball court. When I blunder a piece or miss a shot, I immediately bounce back and say to myself, *there's still a lot of game to play*. This approach always helps me stay motivated to keep on pushing through.

When you become higher-rated in chess and get to face lower-rated players, you tend to feel more pressure as you might lose a lot more rating points if the game doesn't go your way. Often stronger players over-press in equal positions due to pressure and mess up because of this feeling. After a win, you should enjoy yourself a bit, but don't get too overconfident. After a loss, remember, *it doesn't mean you're a bad player*. Losses happen to everyone. A lot. Being able to bounce back is everything.

Chess and basketball players, and really all athletes, get tilted often and perform worse because they're tilted. Part of that is getting upset about what might have been. Reflection is important and a key aspect of learning and growth. That said, I prefer reflecting after a tournament after I've had some time to think about everything. Critically analyzing every game as soon as it happens or getting upset midgame when you realize you've missed something, doesn't help in the moment, it just gets you more tilted.

Play free. Trust your training. Be you. Enjoy your style. Always remember you love this game and are fortunate for the opportunity to play. Pressure is real. It comes and goes. Don't let it stop you from being you and enjoying the game.

The Man Benji

Pressure Makes Diamonds

The right amount of pressure is a good thing. Even a useful thing. We can't live without pressure. That cozy gas blanket around our planet that, at sea level, applies 14.7 pounds of force per square inch, every single minute of every single hour, from every direction? Atmospheric pressure. Without it, everything would be bubbling up!

We also have useful pressure inside of us. That force that our blood applies to the walls of our arteries? Blood pressure. We need it to be just right, so we can think about our next chess move, or stroll around the chess playing hall.

But the kind of pressure we are talking about today is the harmful



pressure, the one that pins you down to your seat, replaces chess calculation in your head with unwanted thoughts, makes you want to quit. That pressure comes when you find yourself in a situation when the stakes are high, but the future is unknown, like in a wild chess position in a match for first place.

You know how to recognize that pressure. You might sense it physically, in your body. For example, it's your piano recital. You sit in the audience, surrounded by good sounding tunes, waiting for your turn, but you are worried about performing your own piece. You can't even enjoy the wonderful music because your heart is pounding so loudly you think someone forgot to turn off the metronome!

You might hear the pressure in your head. Imagine a tight volleyball match, and it's your turn to serve. If you miss, it is going to be game over for your team. Instead of thinking *I got this, I've done this thousands of times*, the only thought in your head is *what if I miss-what if I miss—what if I miss*. That's pressure talking.

Or you might feel the pressure. Like when you are in a big chess tournament, in sole first place, going into the last round, but if you lose now, someone else would take the top prize. Instead of feeling excited about your game, you feel anxious, and chess becomes no fun anymore.

How do you deal with this type of pressure that does you no good? Let me tell you a story.

It was 2023, my very first National Elementary Chess Championship, in Baltimore. I had to fly on an airplane to play chess, in a huge Convention Center that was more suited for racing car exhibits, not scholastic chess events! I hadn't seen so many chess tables in one place, so many chess players racing to get their games started. I was excited and a little anxious. *Just play your game*, my parents told me. *I guess I could get lost in this crowd and just play chess*, I thought. But the pairings had a different idea. In the first round, I got paired up against one of the top seeds, to play on an e-board, in a more spacious area separated by line dividers, near the trophies.

I couldn't hide in the crowd anymore, but what a great opportunity! When I got to my board, I started to have my doubts. *What if I blundered my queen? What if I sneezed really loudly? Worse, what if I spilled water on the fancy DGT board, frying the precious electronics?* My palms were getting so sweaty that the danger of a blundered queen slipping from my hands was becoming real. I was super stressed, feeling the pressure like a pinned knight on the center of the board, questioning what I had signed myself up for.

But when the game started, I realized that I was playing on those same 64 squares, and it was just me, the chessboard, and the pieces. I let myself be in that moment, on those 64 squares, and the pressure changed. Unknowingly, I had unlocked my superpower: **tune out everything except for what lies on the chessboard**. Focus on the here and the now. For me, a new kind of pressure took over. Not the old, toxic one that makes you feel like you can barely move, but one that comes from the excitement of playing chess in the present! That pressure was an extra boost that helped me lock in. In the end, it was a fun game, and I went home with a story to tell and a new experience!

That game took place over three years ago. I lost it, but back then I learned a valuable lesson: **Pressure is my friend**. It always comes during tournaments, to power me to do the best I can. The key is to let go of the future, stop thinking about the results, about your ego, about winning. Of course, when we compete, whether it's chess or any other sport, we want to win. But that's not why we compete. We don't play chess because of the glory we imagine winning a chess tournament. We play chess because we love the game, it's fun, and we want to become the best players we can be!

So, when you're playing in a chess, or any kind of tournament, and the pressure starts to pile up, remember that **you love the game, and at that moment, that's all that matters**!

Billie Jean King, a legendary tennis player and the former world #1, who was no stranger to all sorts of pressure during her decorated competitive career, once said: **"Pressure is a privilege—it only comes to those who earn it."** I didn't get that at first, but then I thought: when we compete, we choose this path, we train for that moment, we know it comes with pressure. Instead of chilling out on our couch, no pressure whatsoever, we practice hard, we put ourselves out there, into the unknown and unusual, where nothing is guaranteed. We work hard to experience this competitive pressure, so we should enjoy it! **"Pressure is the reward given to those who seek excellence,"** as Jim Murphy, a performance coach and the author of the *Inner Excellence* book writes.

So, on your competitive journey, with all outside and inside pressure, remember: you are here, you are brave, and that's already a big thing to be proud of!

You don't have to avoid pressure. Pressure is a good thing. Deep underground, 50 miles beneath the surface, **pressure makes diamonds**, the shiniest stone and the hardest material on Earth! Let the pressure turn you into a diamond, and nobody can crack you!

Now let's hear from Sarang about the ways you can take control of the pressure so you can shine like a diamond!

The Myth Sarang

Keep Calm and Play On

In chess, pressure is everywhere. Almost all chess players feel it often. Not going to lie, I tend to underperform



under pressure. First, I'll start with a few reasons I feel pressure on the board.

1. Time Trouble. When the clock gets low, even simple positions can feel stressful. A player may know the right ideas but still rush because the clock is ticking down very fast. That often leads to blunders, missed tactics, and costly mistakes.

2. High Stakes. Some games feel heavier because they affect a title, a rating, a team result, or a tournament standing. When the outcome matters a lot, players may put a lot of extra pressure on themselves. That can make them play more cautiously than usual or overthink moves that would normally be simple.

3. Stronger Opponents. Facing a higher-rated or very experienced opponent can create pressure before the game begins. A player may start expecting threats everywhere and doubt their own ideas. That can make them nervous, even in equal positions. I struggle with this a lot, so I usually just ignore my opponent's rating and sort of tune it out. Also, when "playing up," when you do get a better position, you often second guess yourself that you're winning.

4. Fear of Mistakes. Many players feel pressure because they do not want to blunder. The fear of one bad move can make them tense and overly careful. Sometimes, that caution can cause more mistakes because the player stops trusting their instincts and calculation.

5. Emotions Post Mistakes. A bad move, a missed tactic, or a losing position can shake a player's focus. Frustration and disappointment may lead to panic or "tilt," where the player stops thinking clearly. Once that happens, the pressure grows, and the game can slip away faster.

I used to struggle with this a lot... Until now! Here are some of the techniques to feel a lot less pressure!

One of the most effective tools for managing pressure I use is breathing. When you're stressed, your breathing becomes fast and shallow, which makes your brain feel rushed. Instead, try **controlled breathing**. Inhale for four counts, hold for four counts, and exhale for four counts. Repeat as often as you need. Another powerful method is using short mental resets during the game. After your opponent makes a move, don't immediately react. Sit back and take a deep breath.

Taking **a short walk** and drinking **a little water** are also techniques I use to reset and refresh. Just don't forget your calculations! Lots of strong players also use **visualization** techniques. Before tournaments, visualize tough positions and practice staying calm and finding good moves. This prepares your brain to handle real pressure situations, similar to how athletes train for big games or moments before they happen.

Another helpful way to combat pressure is the practice of building **good habits outside of games**. Regular exercise, like running, volleyball, basketball, tennis, or other sports, improves your ability to stay calm under stress. **Yoga and stretching** can also help with focus and breathing control, which I use often. Even practicing **timed puzzles** can simulate pressure and train your mind to stay steady.

Here's an example from last year. I was playing in a team tournament with my good friend Odbayar, my brother, and a couple of friends from the Midwest. Vivi was resting, as it was a very late round. Odbayar was on board one, I was on board three, and our Midwest friends were on boards 2 and 4. We were playing one of the top teams in our section. About an hour in, our Midwest friends drew and lost, putting us down 0.5–1.5. It was me and Odbayar. We had to win both games to secure a team victory.

We could have scored 1.5/2 to tie 2–2. In the tournament, if your opponent offered a draw, you could ask your team captain (in this case our dad) if we should take it or not. I was in a completely drawn rook endgame, and my opponent offered a draw. I was about to accept it as it looked like there was no way to win. I asked Captain Dad what to do, and he said: "Play." Here's where the pressure kicked in. A high-stakes moment. I had to win a dead drawn position for our team.

Under pressure, I was just wiggling my rook and king, making moves that did little to improve or worsen my position. When Dad said "play," I used my breathing techniques and tried to lock in and push for a win. I played active moves that could facilitate blunders, and my opponent made a mistake! I immediately capitalized on it, and it worked! I won! The match was tied 1.5–1.5! Odbayar had a huge attack against their strongest player and ended up winning too! We were all celebrating and excited after that!

Pressure is something you can feel very often during your games, but these practices on and off the board will help immensely in your games.

That's all for today, friends. We know that too much pressure can feel like a lot to handle, but hopefully, next time you feel it, you can turn that pressure from a foe to a friend, to help you in the moment! **Believe in yourself; you've got this!**

Peshka advises us that another good tool we can use to handle competitive pressure is a good knee-slapper! Here are a few for your enjoyment!

***

Why did the river sign up for the chess tournament?

Pier pressure!

***

Why did the tomato quit chess?

It was worried the pressure of competition would ketchup with it.

***

Why do soda cans play chess so well under pressure?

They know how to fizzle it out.

***

What technique do volcanoes use to handle chess pressure?

They vent.

***

Why do eggs never play chess?

They do not want to crack under pressure and get beaten!

***

Why are musicians so good at playing chess in time trouble?

They can perform well

Under Pressure.

***

Three Cheers, Fellow Future Master Chess Friends!

The Man Benji

The Myth Sarang

The Legend Vivaa

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

Cohosted by Eastside Oly Chess Club & WA Chess Federation

Washington State Governor's Cup

Saturday, September 19, 2026

The Rock Church - 1901 7th Ave SE, Olympia WA, 98501

Highest finishing WA resident in the Governor's Open seeded into the 2027 WA State Championship – Challengers section.

Format: A 5-round Swiss tournament in two sections: Governor's Open and Thurston U1200.

Entry fee: $35 by 9/12, $40 after. Need-based scholarships available upon request. Maximum of 30 players per section and 50 players total. Please register early to guarantee your spot!

Schedule: At-site registration & check-in: 9:15-10:15am. Rounds (5): 10:30am, 12pm, lunch, 2pm, 3:30pm, 5pm. Closing Ceremony ~ 6:30pm or asap. Players whose games run long may request a late start for the next round.

Time Control: G/30; +10 sec. increment per move starting from move 1.

Rating: NWSRS rated. Governor's Open is also USCF rated. Higher of current NWSRS or September 2026 USCF regular rating will be used to determine section, pairings, and prizes.

Memberships: US Chess membership required for Governor's Open. No membership required for Thurston U1200.

Prizes: $700 (based on 50 paid entries)

Governor's Open: 1st: $200 + trophy, 2nd: $150, 3rd: $100. 1st U1700/U1500/U1300: $85.

Thurston U1200: Trophies for 1st – 5th Place, 1st U900/U700/U500/U300/Unrated.

Special Medal Prizes (per section): Biggest Upset Win, Best Female Player & Best Dressed.

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

Concessions: Coffee, tea, and water will be provided courtesy of Eastside Oly Chess Club. Pizza lunch from Wicked Pies Pizza will be available for purchase (cash only) on-site. A variety of snacks will be available for purchase throughout the day.

Registration: Online at nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration. **Online registration + payment deadline: Friday, September 18 @ 5pm.** At-site registration: 9:15-10:15am. On-site payment available by cash, check made out to "WCF", SettleKing (Washington Chess Federation) or Zelle (ID: WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com).

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

Washington Open (Part One)

Josh Sinanan



William Dann.
Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.

The 2026 Washington Open was held over Memorial Day weekend May 23-25 at the Redmond Marriott. The centrally located Redmond Town Center, a popular Eastside hub known for its diverse cuisine, shopping amenities, and plentiful free parking, is a favorite of many local players who always have good things to report each year. Chess players from throughout North America including parts of Washington, Oregon, California, Hawaii, British Columbia, Montana, Maryland, and India were represented in the three-day chess extravaganza.

The event was hosted by Washington Chess Federation and directed by NTD Jacob Mayer with assistance from WCF Scholastic Director Allen Messenger, Member-at-Large Ani Barua, Co-Vice Present Rekha Sagar, FIDE Liaison Mani Atikankhotchasee, Co-Vice President Duane Polich, Registrar David Hendricks, Treasurer Robert Allen, Women's and Girls' Director Chouchan Airapetian, Des Moines Chess Club Founder Matthew Duran, Chess Mom Lingling Tong, Chess Coaches Tim Campbell and Mike Hosford, Chess Dad Siva Sankrithi, and former scholastic player turned volunteer TD Brynden Olson. NA Ani Barua managed the pairings for the main tournament while WCF President Josh Sinanan and Tournament Coordinator Valentin Razmov orchestrated the chaotic slate of events that spanned the holiday weekend. Chess media extraordinaire Meiling Cheng chronicled the event with hundreds of amazing videos and photos while her daughter Selina, who serves as a WCF Junior Ambassador, took part in the tournament.

A strong turnout of 315 players, a record for this venue, participated in the main three-day tournament, a six-round Swiss tournament across four sections: Elite, Premier U1800, Rising U1500, and Dynamos U1200. The record for the largest Washington Open, which took place in Sea-Tac sometime in the 90's, remains unbeaten for now. Players had the option of entering the three-day or two-day schedule to accommodate their busy weekend plans and had their preference of classical (30/90, SD/30; +30) or faster (G/55; +15) time controls.



Duane Polich (L) vs Oliver Wakeman at the Ignacio Perez Memorial Blitz. Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.

The Washington Open Faustino Oro Scholastic, run by WCF Co-VP Rekha Sagar, Tim Campbell, Lingling Tong, and Brynden Olson, attracted 71 juniors on Saturday, May 23. Former Washington resident and long-time US Olympiad Team Captain IM John Donaldson was this year's guest of honor, and he made the most of his time visiting Washington. During his stay, John gave two simuls, one at the Grand Knights Chess Academy in Bellevue and another at the Silverdale Chess Club. At the Washington Open, John gave a book signing featuring his new book: *Inside the Mind of Bobby Fischer* in addition to two presentations on the topics of Bobby Fischer and about the history of the Washington State Championship.

The immersive chess experience featured a non-stop frenzy of eleven fun side events including the Gary Dorfner Memorial Adult Novice Swiss, Fischer Chess960 Rapid, Zhu Jiner Chess Workshop for Girls and Women, Bobby Fischer talk by IM John Donaldson, Fourth Carol Kleist Memorial Adult Swiss, "The History of the Washington State Championship" talk by IM John Donaldson, Carlsen Rapid, Awonder Liang Bughouse, Casablanca Rapid, and Ignacio Perez Memorial Blitz!

Five chess masters topped the 91-player Elite 1800+ section, each with an undefeated 5-1 score: IM George

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Top boards of the Elite 1800+ section before the start of the final round. Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.

Orlov (2501 → 2503, 5.0) of Sammamish, FM Daniel He (2388 → 2394, 5.0) of Redmond, FM Stephen Willy (2323 → 2345, 5.0) of Sammamish, NM Nikash Vemparala (2267 → 2288, 5.0) of Redmond, and NM Vidip Kona (2233 → 2267, 5.0) of Duvall. Heading into the final round, each of the co-champs stood at 4.5/5, with several big matchups taking place on the top boards: Orlov–Willy on board one, He–Vemparala on board two, and Liu–Kona on board three. With such high stakes on the line, the players opted for solidity over risk, and no one was able to achieve a significant advantage, resulting in draws on the top five boards. A quintuplet of chess warriors shared the meme-ical sixth-seventh place prize with 4.5 points apiece: FM Tian Sang (2293 → 2293, 4.5) of Redmond, FM Ryan Porter (2269 → 2280, 4.5) of Bellevue, Zachary Liu (2068 → 2122, 4.5) of Coquitlam, Ananth Gottumukkala (2165 → 2176, 4.5) of Sammamish, and Luca Tessiore (2114 → 2132, 4.5) of Seattle. Three-time Washington Senior Champion Leonid Gavrysh (2081 → 2087, 4.0) of Brier captured the first U2100 prize while youngster Shawn Li (1803 → 1886, 4.0) of Bellevue took home the first U1900 prize, each with an impressive "plus two" score. Five chess fiddlers shared second U2100 honors with 3.5 points apiece: Miles Kuipers (2077 → 2107, 3.5) of Bellevue, Pratik Thorwe (1978 → 2000, 3.5) of Seattle, Gabriel Razmov (2015 → 2043, 4.5) of Seattle, Saahil Gupta (1989 → 1979, 3.5) of Portland, and Finnegan Flavin (1903 → 1954, 3.5) of Wenatchee. Portland chess powerhouse Emel Bayrambeyli (1802 → 1879, 3.5) earned the second U1900 prize for her mighty efforts. Several special prizes were also awarded in addition to the overall and class prizes.

The Biggest Upset Wins were achieved by Vijay Nallappa (round one—289 points) of Redmond, Elijah Barish (round two—364 points) of Portland, Zachary Liu (round three—306 points) of Coquitlam, Gabriel Razmov (round four—352 points) of Seattle, Nikash Vemparala (round five—270 points) of Redmond, and Finnegan Flavin (round six—295 points) of Wenatchee. The Highest USCF Rating Gain prizes were awarded to Moses Li (first place—87 points) of Bothell and Pragit Arunkumar (second place—86 points) of Portland. High chess fashion was on full display at the Washington Open, with three gentlemen taking home the Best Dressed prizes for their astute attire: Garrett Reynolds (Saturday) of Lakewood, Benjamin Frederick (Sunday) of Seattle, and OCF President Wilson Gibbins (Monday) of Portland. Gavin Shi of Seattle, always a kind and courteous fellow, was awarded the "Fair Play, Kindness & Spreading Joy" prize. Veronique Joseph of Seattle, who recently became a chess expert, won the Best Female prize with a 1943 tournament performance rating. Oregon chess legend Grandmaster Jim Tarjan won the Best Senior prize to fund his next chess adventure.

Bothell chess bouncer Rian Raja (1714 → 1782, 5.5) topped the 89-player Premier U1800 section with an undefeated five wins and one draw, which he conceded to Shanna Wu (1609) in the fourth round. Young Harvey Wang



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(1473→ 1654, 5.0), a third grader from Open Window School in Bellevue, bounced back with a vengeance after losing his first-round game and won his next five games to finish in clear second place. Six rising chess stars shared the combined =third-sixth + first U1600 prize with 4.5 points apiece: David Merrikin (1775 → 1756, 4.5) of Port Angeles, Evan Takayoshi (1627 → 1706, 4.5) of Edgewood, Brian Kelly (1717 → 1741, 4.5) of Redmond, Riaan Babbar (1736 → 1743, 4.5) of Sammamish, William Dann (1633 → 1666, 4.5) of Kirkland, and Ryan Wu (1439 → 1614, 4.5) of Bellevue. A quintuplet of up-and-comers split the second U1600 honors for their underrated efforts: Skandha Raj (1550 → 1595, 4.0) of Bellevue, Loida Guo (1564 → 1650, 4.0) of Bothell, Easton Ren (1648 → 1659, 4.0) of Sammamish, Abhiram Nerella (1380 → 1553, 4.0) of Bellevue, and Sanjay Urali (1430 → 1552, 4.0) of Bellevue.

The Premier section was once again comprised of many fast-improving youngsters, which made for prime upset conditions. Those claiming the biggest scalps were Warren Chung (round one—205 points) of Woodinville, Eric Spletstoser (round two—205 points) of Pendleton, Jacob Rish-Brown (round three—258 points) of Gig Harbor, Ryan Wu (round four—280 points) of Bellevue, Aryan Pande (round five—335 points) of Kirkland, and Harvey Wang (round six—163 points) of Bellevue. The highest USCF Rating Gains were achieved by Abhiram Nerella (first place—173 points) of Bellevue and Peng-Ruei Pan (second place—91 points) of Sammamish. Three snappy dressers took home the best dressed prizes for their stylish ensembles: Siva Sankrithi (Saturday) of Lake Forest Park, Kruti Thanikonda (Sunday) of Sammamish, and Ralph Anthony (Monday) of Mukilteo. Camano Island chess king Don Hack was awarded the Fair Play, Kindness, and Spreading Joy prize for his jolly disposition. Bellevue chess queen—Shanna Wu captured the Best Female prize with a tournament performance rating of 1580. Renton chess royal Vernon Vanpoucke claimed the Best Senior prize with a solid 1767 performance.



Junior players enjoy a bughouse break between rounds at the Washington Open. Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.

Bothell chess prince Samik Kulkarni (1369 → 1467, 5.5) topped the 81-player Rising U1500 section with five wins and just one draw, which he allowed against Ferris Samara in the third round. Kulkarni, a star student of Sri Chess Academy based in Bothell and run by chess ironman Sridhar Seshadri, has experienced a rapid ascent over the past year. A trio of chess conquistadors shared second-fourth place honors a half-point back: Baoshuo Yao (1353 → 1417, 5.0) of University Place, Brendan Keane (1247 → 1398, 5.0) of Renton, and George Yeh (1388 → 1450, 5.0) of Seattle. Three chess musketeers split the fifth and sixth place prizes a half-point back: chess dad Shenghao Qin (1377 → 1378, 4.5) of Bellevue, Sammamish chess queen Emma Ge (1294 → 1391, 4.5), and Bellevue chess believer Kevin Zhang (1172 → 1278, 4.5). Redmond chess rover Nikhar Khamesra (1181 → 1350, 4.5) captured the first U1300 prize with an impressive "plus three" score thanks to a clutch final round draw with chess dad Siva Sankrithi (1400). Three



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rising chess stars shared the second U1300 prize with four points apiece: Sriharsh Gokulakrishnan (1184 → 1317, 4.0) of Black Diamond, Leo Luo (1094 → 1243, 4.0) of Clyde Hill, and Felix Chen (969 → 1205, 4.0) of Sammamish. The biggest upset-win prizes were awarded to Mercer Island chess mercenary Elon Tsay (round one—183 points), Lewis Porad-Brand (round two—234 points) of Seattle, David Wilson (round three—395 points) of Kalispell (MT), Henry Sun (round four—208 points) of Sammamish, Oliver Wakeman (round five—281 points) of Kenmore, and Vasishta Komara (round six—183 points) of Bothell. The highest USCF rating gains were achieved by Eastside chess improves Felix Chen (first place—236 points) of Sammamish and Rohan Karnik (second place—233 points) of Redmond. Three players went above and beyond the call of fashion duty and were recognized for their impeccable ensembles with the best dressed prizes: Kyle Jiang (Saturday) of Sammamish, Siana Razmov (Sunday) of Seattle, and Dillon Shipley (Monday) of Tacoma. Pranav Annapureddy of Bellevue was awarded the Fair Play, Kindness, and Spreading Joy prize for his wonderful attitude and ever-ready compliments. Beaverton chess bounty hunter Olivia Maokhampio won the Best Female prize thanks to her impressive 1464 tournament performance rating. The Best Senior prize went unclaimed this year, and we certainly hope to see the seniors return to the Rising U1500 again next year.



Tian Sang (L) vs Nicholas Bartochowski during their final round game.
Photo credit: Meling Cheng.

The Dynamos U1200 section, now in its second year of existence, attracted 53 players, with the majority opting for the expeditious two-day schedule. Five rising chess stars topped the field with five points apiece: Sarthak Kansal (1027 → 1100, 5.0) of Bothell, Elliot Lin (1074 → 1192, 5.0) of Bellevue, Serena Guo (1078 → 1184, 5.0) of Sammamish, Hrishaan Iyer (1015 → 1165, 5.0) of Bellevue, and Ishana Datta (993 → 1165, 5.0) of Bothell. A duo of chess daredevils—Evan Lin (979 → 1088, 4.5) of Bellevue and Dillon Weber (1041 → 1130, 4.5) of Seattle—split the sixth place prize a half-point back. The first and second U1000 prizes were split four ways between the following chess supernovas: Hridik Sarkar (793 → 901, 4.0) of Mill Creek, Silas Coberly (840 → 1007, 4.0) of Seattle, Kai Long (857 → 1093, 4.0) of Boise, and Naryn Ismailov (unrated → 937, 4.0) of Bellevue.

A pair of adult newcomers—Jacky Jiang (unrated → 720, 2.5) of Seattle and Jesse Salgado (unrated → 838, 2.5) of Port Angeles—shared the unrated prizes for their neophyte efforts. The explosive Dynamos section was action-packed with uncompromising play and sparse draws between the fearless chess gladiators taking part. The biggest upset wins were achieved by Kai Long (round one—270 points) of Boise, Eric Zhao (round two—261 points) of Sammamish, Anthony Sofronas (round three, 550 points) of Seattle, Silas Coberly (round four, 163 points) of Seattle, Naryn Ismailov





(round five, 196 points) of Bellevue, and Pi Nouveau (round six, 113 points) of Bothell. The highest USCF rating gains (amongst players with established USCF ratings) were achieved by Lynnwood chess longbowman Andrew Smith (first place—45 points) and Sammamish chess queen Salome Jacob (second place—16 points). Three chess fashionistas were recognized by judges and tournament directors for their vibrant runway dress: Yuwen Qu (Saturday) of Redmond, Vicky Yin (Sunday) of Bothell, and Yaswitha Suresh (Monday) of Coquitlam. Redmond chess rejuvenator Claire Wong was awarded the Fair Play, Kindness, and Spreading Joy prize for her unconditional warmth and never-ending friendliness. Two chess divas shared the Best Female prize for their fantastic 3.5-point performances and 1027 tournament performance rating: Deethya Sankar (1112 → 1094, 3.5) and Laya Sankar (972 → 952, 3.5) of Redmond. Esteemed chess elder Stephen Weller (1072 → 1080, 4.0) of Seattle won the Best Senior player prize with a TPR of 1148. The Best Annotated Game prizes are still being decided and will be announced in an upcoming issue!

The Washington Open once again featured the popular mixed doubles competition, in which the top three two-player mixed gender (including male-female) teams combined among all four sections qualified for a prize. A robust total of twenty-five mixed doubles teams threw their hats into the ring, which included a few family teams and many close friends joining forces! After the dust settled, three teams tied for first-third place honors with nine points apiece: the "Grand Knightmares" team of Serena Guo + Easton Ren of Sammamish, the "Guo-Wang" team of Loida Guo of Bothell and Harvey Wang of Bellevue, and the "Ge-Babbar" team of Emma Ge + Riaan Babbar of Sammamish.

WA Open Mixed Doubles Teams

	Name	Partner	Event	Section	Team Name	Halftime (/6)	Final (/12)	Place (and Prize)
1	Siana Razmov	Vivaan Sankrithi	2-day	U1500	The Nb4 Chess	2	5.5	T-12
	Vivaan Sankrithi	Siana Razmov	2-day	U1800				
2	Serena Guo	Easton Ren	3-day	U1200	Grand Knightmares	4.5	9	T-1
	Easton Ren	Serena Guo	3-day	U1800				
3	Deeksha Shankaranand	Sarang Sankrithi	3-day	1800+	Boarding Now	3	3.5	24
	Sarang Sankrithi	Deeksha Shankaranand	3-day	U1800				
4	Megan Lee	Siva Sankrithi	3-day	1800+	Opening Overture	4.5	6	T-10
	Siva Sankrithi	Megan Lee	2-day	U1500				
5	Elke Johnson	Lars Johnson	3-day	U1200	The Equinox	2.5	5.5	T-12
	Lars Johnson	Elke Johnson	3-day	U1200				
6	Shanna Wu	Harry Wu	3-day	U1800	The Woohoo Team	4	5	T-18
	Harry Wu	Shanna Wu	3-day	U1800				
7	Eevie Tare	Pragit Arunkumar	3-day	U1500	67AuraFarmers	3.5	7	T-6
	Pragit Arunkumar	Eevie Tare	3-day	1800+				
8	Andra Marinescu	Kshitij Narkhede	3-day	U1800		1	4	T-22
	Kshitij Narkhede	Andra Marinescu	3-day	U1800				
9	Salome Jacob	Stephen Willy	2-day	U1200		4.5	8	4
	Stephen Willy	Salome Jacob	3-day	1800+				
10	Loida Guo	Harvey Wang	3-day	U1800	Guo-Wang	4	9	T-1
	Harvey Wang	Loida Guo	3-day	U1800				
11	Elina Khudyev	Emil Khudyev	3-day	U1800	Pink Socks	0.5	2.5	25
	Emil Khudyev	Elina Khudyev	3-day	U1500				
12	Kaiyi Han	Lewis Ma	3-day	U1500	Somerset	1.5	5	T-18
	Lewis Ma	Kaiyi Han	3-day	U1800				
13	Prakrithi Balasubramanian	Pranav Balasubramanian	3-day	U1500	PB Jelly Tricks	2	5	T-18
	Pranav Balasubramanian	Prakrithi Balasubramanian	3-day	U1500				
14	Aditi Sembium	Vladimir Belous	2-day	U1500		2.5	5.5	T-12
	Vladimir Belous	Aditi Sembium	3-day	1800+				
15	Veronique Joseph	Vidur Ganesan	3-day	1800+		2	4	T-22
	Vidur Ganesan	Veronique Joseph	3-day	U1800				
16	Emma Ge	Riaan Babbar	3-day	U1500	Ge-Babbar	4	9	T-1
	Riaan Babbar	Emma Ge	3-day	U1800				
17	Pratik Thorwe	Sangeeta Dhingra	3-day	1800+		4	6	T-10
	Sangeeta Dhingra	Pratik Thorwe	3-day	1800+				
18	Olivia Maokhampio	Lucas Maokhampio	3-day	U1500		3	5.5	T-12
	Lucas Maokhampio	Olivia Maokhampio	3-day	1800+				
19	Corina Maokhampio	Bohan Li	3-day	U1200		2.5	6.5	T-8
	Bohan Li	Corina Maokhampio	3-day	U1800				
20	Kruti Thanikonda	Neevan R. Saddi	3-day	U1800	Team Grindmasters	2.5	5	T-18
	Neevan R. Saddi	Kruti Thanikonda	3-day	1800+				
21	Martina Szeto	Aiden Yin	3-day	U1500		3	7	T-6
	Aiden Yin	Martina Szeto	3-day	1800+				
22	Yang, Jimmy	Qu, Yuwen	3-day	U1800		3	7.5	5
	Qu, Yuwen	Yang, Jimmy	3-day	U1200				
23	Jenny Yin	Paul Ilnuma	3-day	U1800		3.5	6.5	T-8
	Paul Ilnuma	Jenny Yin	3-day	1800+				
24	Callie Jiang	Jacky Jiang	2-day	U1200		3.5	5.5	T-12
	Jacky Jiang	Callie Jiang	2-day	U1200				
25	Gao, Ziqian	Wong, Claire	2-day	1800+		2.5	5.5	T-12
	Wong, Claire	Gao, Ziqian	2-day	U1200				





Gary Dorfner Memorial Adult Novice Swiss

The Washington Open Gary Dorfner Memorial Adult Novice Swiss, named in honor of legendary Tacoma-based tournament director and WCF Board Member Gary J. Dorfner (1947-2022), took place on Saturday from 11:00 AM-4:00 PM. Several adult novice chess enthusiasts and chess parents whose kids were playing in the Faustino Oro Scholastic decided to jump in and register on-site to keep themselves busy while their kids engaged in the scholastic event next door. The six-player adult-only (18+) four-round Swiss featured a fun G/30; +5 time control and was unrated, which required no memberships and was perfect for new adult players just getting into the game!

The event was run under the supervision of WCF Scholastic Director Allen Messenger and took place in the main event playing hall. Newcomer Durga Buragadda and Hari Thotempudi topped the cottage-sized field and shared first/second place honors, each with three points from four games. Chess Dad Arvind Dhingra started off red-hot with two wins against the co-champs but cooled down in the second half and finished with two points. Karthick Balasubramanian, Arvind Dhingra, and Sudhakar Vaithiyanathan shared third/first U1000/first U700 honors with two points apiece. Rajshri Rajasekaran rounded out the prize winners for his royal efforts.



Faustino Oro Scholastic winners with chief TD Rekha Sagar.
Photo credit: Courtesy of Rekha Sagar.

Faustino Oro Scholastic

The 2026 Washington Open Faustino Oro Scholastic took place on Saturday, May 23 in Salon three of the Grand Ballroom at the Redmond Marriott. Scholastic chess players in grades K-10 participated from throughout the Pacific Northwest, including the cities of Sammamish, Woodinville, Redmond, Sherwood (OR), Bellevue, Seattle, Bothell, Lynnwood, Mount Vernon, Fall City, University Place, Clyde Hill, Kirkland, Portland, Olympia, Snohomish, Issaquah, Kenmore, Beaverton, Oak Harbor, Sultan, Milton, and Ethel.

The event was directed by WCF Co-Vice President Rekha Sagar with assistance from popular chess coach Tim Campbell and Chess Mom Lingling Tong, and Brynden Olson. Amazing photos and video footage were taken throughout the day by photographer extraordinaire Meiling Cheng. A solid attendance of 71 players competed across four sections parsed by grade level and rating: K-3 U800, 4-12 U900, K-3 Open, and 4-12 Open.

Gary Dorfner Memorial Adult Novice Swiss

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Total
1	1st	Durga Ram Teja Buragadda (3.0/0)	unr.	L4 (w)	W5 (b)	W6 (w)	W3 (w)	3
2	1T	Hari Krishna Thotempudi (3.0/0)	unr.	W3 (w)	L4 (b)	W5 (w)	W6 (b)	3
3	3rd	Karthick Balasubramanian (2.0/551)	551	L2 (b)	W6 (w)	W4 (w)	L1 (b)	2
4	3T	Arvind Dhingra (2.0/0)	unr.	W1 (b)	W2 (w)	L3 (b)	L5 (w)	2
5	3T	Sudhakar Vaithiyanathan (2.0/0)	unr.	W6 (b)	L1 (w)	L2 (b)	W4 (b)	2
6	6th	Rajshri Rajasekaran (0.0/0)	unr.	L5 (w)	L3 (b)	L1 (b)	L2 (w)	0

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Faustino Oro Scholastic: K-3 Open

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Total	T-Med
1	1-2	Kartika Kalakoti	1184	W9	W8	D2	W3	3.5	8.5
2		Divyansh Yadav	988	W16	W15	D1	W7	3.5	6.5
3	3-5	Arjun Raman	1190	W18	W7	W4	L1	3	8.5
4		Ardhikshwar Sudhakar	881	W17	W5	L3	W6	3	8
5		Kyle Liu	1111	W6	L4	W15	W14	3	6.5
6	6-12	Wesley Tang	934	L5	W10	W8	L4	2	5
7		Bobby Chai	958	W12	L3	W16	L2	2	5
8		Kristina Velichko	956	W11	L1	L6	W13	2	3.5
9		Wilson Tan	861	L1	W11	D13	D10	2	3.5
10		Andy Sang	834	D13	L6	W17	D9	2	3.5
11		Kushal Mummidi	500	L8	L9	B---	W16	2	3
12		Jacksen Mody	641	L7	W17	L14	W15	2	2.5
13	13-14	Nickrad Ahsant	1085	D10	D14	D9	L8	1.5	5.5
14		Emily Cai	1106	L15	D13	W12	L5	1.5	4.5
15	15-17	Arnav Premjith	843	W14	L2	L5	L12	1	6.5
16		Ayaan Krishna Thotempudi	715	L2	W18	L7	L11	1	4.5
17		Kyle Zhang	779	L4	L12	L10	B---	1	4
18	18	Kirill Kochanov	868	L3	L16	U---	U---	0	1

Faustino Oro Scholastic: 4-12 Open

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Total	T-Med
1	1	Weg Shukla	1725	W10	W9	W2	W5	4	7
2	2-4	Luka Lee Ferrell	1434	X19	W8	L1	W7	3	8
3		Brayden Blodgett	1438	L7	W12	W8	W6	3	6
4		Bright Weng	1317	W13	L6	W11	W10	3	6
5	5	Nathan Zhou	1405	D12	W7	W6	L1	2.5	8
6	6-11	Royden Lo	1217	W15	W4	L5	L3	2	5.5
7		Evan Liu	1196	W3	L5	W9	L2	2	5
8		Alisa Rachiba	1252	W11	L2	L3	W14	2	4.5
9		Bihe Liu	1300	W14	L1	L7	W12	2	3.5
10		Julian Chen	1202	L1	W15	W13	L4	2	3.5
11		Levi Madsen	940	L8	W14	L4	W13	2	2.5
12	12	Louis Liu	1019	D5	L3	W15	L9	1.5	5
13	13-16	Satvik Verma	719	L4	B---	L10	L11	1	4
14		Alston Margetan	1001	L9	L11	B---	L8	1	4
15		Drew Wirth	unr.	L6	L10	L12	B---	1	3.5
16		Gautham Alagumalai	1018	B---	U---	U---	U---	1	0
17	17-19	Vishnu Mohan	1881	U---	U---	U---	U---	0	0
18		Austin Deng	1482	U---	U---	U---	U---	0	0
19		Sarthak Kansal	1194	F2	U---	U---	U---	0	0

Faustino Oro Scholastic: K-3 U800

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total
1	1	Max Chen	736	W15	D11	W8	W5	W2	4.5
2	2-3	Akshata Tippabhotla	165	W10	W4	W3	W6	L1	4
3		Max Wu	577	W16	W5	L2	W9	W7	4
4	4	Arjun Karthik	632	D8	L2	W19	W14	W6	3.5
5	5-7	Kavir Mirchandani	728	W13	L3	W10	L1	W8	3
6		Alvin Nguyen	433	W19	W7	W9	L2	L4	3
7		Naga Kovidh Buragadda	600	W20	L6	W11	W12	L3	3
8	8-13	Keshav Narasimhan	339	D4	W13	L1	W11	L5	2.5
9		Saran Karthigeyan	712	W17	W12	L6	L3	D10	2.5
10		Sarvesh Gangineni	433	L2	W16	L5	W17	D9	2.5
11		Brayden Wei	539	W18	D1	L7	L8	W14	2.5
12		Gyana Dhaswika Buragadda	473	W14	L9	W15	L7	D13	2.5
13		Ary Cheng	528	L5	L8	W16	W15	D12	2.5
14	14-17	Krystal Wang	184	L12	W17	W20	L4	L11	2
15		Shinji Suehisa	386	L1	W18	L12	L13	W20	2
16		Srinivasan Kalyanasundaram	251	L3	L10	L13	W20	W18	2
17		Devashreetha Reddy Mallu	381	L9	L14	W18	L10	W19	2
18	18	Ronit Behera	238	L11	L15	L17	W19	L16	1
19	19-21	Luhas Kandula	unr.	L6	D20	L4	L18	L17	0.5
20		Caden Dightman-Kovak	283	L7	D19	L14	L16	L15	0.5
21		Rhea Prasad	192	H---	U---	U---	U---	U---	0.5
22	22-23	Jiyan Shah	435	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	0
23		Prarthana Shankar	184	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	0

Faustino Oro Scholastic: 4-12 U900

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total
1	1	Samay Sajeeth	792	W4	W2	D5	W6	W3	4.5
2	2	Jacob Z Wang	841	W16	L1	W7	W11	W6	4
3	3-5	Shankar Puranam	793	W14	D7	W8	W5	L1	3.5
4		Cooper James Smith	218	L1	B---	W13	W10	D7	3.5
5		Kenichi Suehisa	unr.	W15	W8	D1	L3	W11	3.5
6	6-8	Yassin Ahmed	858	W9	W13	W11	L1	L2	3
7		Allister Saint Clair	unr.	W12	D3	L2	W15	D4	3
8		Joshua Gerard John	833	X18	L5	L3	W9	X13	3
9	9-10	Adhiyan Rajkumar	559	L6	W17	D15	L8	W14	2.5
10		Malcolm Rehmeyer	873	L11	D16	W17	L4	W15	2.5
11	11-14	Annie Wu	568	W10	W12	L6	L2	L5	2
12		Kiaan Mirchandani	744	L7	L11	W16	L13	W17	2
13		Dax Chahlia	579	W17	L6	L4	W12	F8	2
14		Danylo Rybchak	309	L3	L15	B---	W16	L9	2
15	15-16	Rushank Reddy Mallu	650	L5	W14	D9	L7	L10	1.5
16		Venkatesh Srinivas	522	L2	D10	L12	L14	B---	1.5
17	17	Havisha Tirunagari	unr.	L13	L9	L10	B---	L12	1
18	18	Lars Hosea	514	F8	U---	U---	U---	U---	0

Fischer Chess960 Rapid

The Washington Open Fischer Chess960 Rapid, a four-round Swiss in one section, took place on Saturday May 23 at 2:15 PM under the direction of WCF President Josh Sinanan. Twenty Chess960 players honored the legacy of the great American World Champion as they scrambled up the back-rank pieces and played from randomly generated starting positions each round! Pieces were drawn at random from a bag between rounds by the players themselves, and two minutes were allowed to analyze the starting position before clocks were started.

The positions drawn were as follows: Round one—Position 104: QBNRBNKR, Round two—Position 410: RQNNBBKR, Round three—Position 253: NRKBQNBR, Round four—Position 138: NRQNBBKR. After four action-packed rounds of G/12; +3 rapid Chess960 games, two chess masters shared first/second place honors with 3.5 points apiece and were crowned Washington Open Fischer Chess960 Rapid Co-Champions: GM Vladimir Belous (2596, 3.5) of Woodinville and NM Samuel He (2269, 3.5) of Redmond. Two chess fishermen shared the third/U2000 prizes with three points apiece: FM Stephen Willy (2329, 3.0) of Sammamish and Gavin Shi (1786, 3.0) of Seattle. A pair of Bobby Fischer fans—Loida Guo (1530, 2.0) of Bothell and Hitesh Khamesra (1593, 2.0) of Redmond—shared U1700 honors with an even score. Seattleite Lewis Porad-Brand

Fischer Chess960 Rapid: Fischer Rapid

#	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Total
1	GM Vladimir Belous	2596	W4	D13	W3	W5	3.5
2	NM Samuel He	2269	H---	W18	W13	W6	3.5
3	FM Stephen Willy	2329	W12	W10	L1	W11	3
4	Gavin Shi	1786	L1	W15	W16	W10	3
5	Barath Subramanian Suresh	2139	W11	D7	W8	L1	2.5
6	CM Rafael Palathingal	2122	W19	D8	W7	L2	2.5
7	FM Daniel He	2388	W14	D5	L6	W13	2.5
8	NM Daniel Shubin	2264	W16	D6	L5	W15	2.5
9	Valentin Razmov	1811	H---	W20	L10	W16	2.5
10	Andrew Yin	1999	W17	L3	W9	L4	2
11	Loida Guo	1530	L5	W14	W12	L3	2
12	Hitesh Khamesra	1593	L3	W17	L11	W18	2
13	Yogi Saputra	2133	W20	D1	L2	L7	1.5
14	Sarang Sankrithi	1605	L7	L11	D19	W17	1.5
15	Gabriel Razmov	2014	H---	L4	W18	L8	1.5
16	Warren Chung	1582	L8	W19	L4	L9	1
17	Lewis Porad-Brand	1254	L10	L12	W20	L14	1
18	Olga Astafyeva	821	B---	L2	L15	L12	1
19	Siva Sankrithi	1400	L6	L16	D14	D20	1
20	Balbir Singh	1454	L13	L9	L17	D19	0.5

(1254, 1.0) from Detective Cookie's Chess School and Olga Astafyeva (821, 1.0) of Shoreline shared the first U1400 prize for their Fischeresque efforts. Congratulations to the winners!

Zhu Jiner Chess Workshop for Girls and Women

The Seventh Annual Washington Open Zhu Jiner Chess Workshop for Girls and Women, led by WCF Director of Chess for Women and Girls, WFM Chouchan Airapetian, took place on Saturday in two parts to accommodate the John Donaldson lecture. The first part of the workshop took place from 4:30-5:00 PM in the stylish and modern studio space of the Redmond Marriott and focused on the topic of: "How to develop and cultivate women's and girls' chess." The second part took place from 6:00-7:30 PM and featured an informal Q&A, complimentary pizza and refreshments, and ladies' bughouse.

A splendid turnout of about a dozen female chess players attended the workshop and enjoyed some delicious Pagliacci pizza and beverages courtesy of WCF. The friendly chess atmosphere and jovial conversation were well received by all and lasted deep into the enchanting evening.

Evening with IM John Donaldson

On Saturday evening from 5:00-5:45 PM, players, spectators, and guests were treated to a special presentation by our honored guest, IM John Donaldson! John Donaldson is a former Washington State Champion who coached the US Olympiad Team for many years.

John went in depth about the life and upbringing of Bobby Fischer, who is the focus of his new book: *Inside the Mind of Bobby Fischer*. The book features many of Fischer's lesser-known games and interesting tidbits about his life growing up in New York. After the lecture and slide-slow had concluded, John signed several copies of his new book for the Fischer fans in attendance.

Carol Kleist Memorial Adult Swiss

The Fourth Annual Washington Open Carol Kleist Memorial Adult Swiss took place May 24-25 alongside the main tournament in honor of the late Carol Kleist. Carol was a long-time board member of the Seattle Chess Club and a prolific chess organizer who was active on the Seattle scene for many decades after meeting her husband Fred, the love of her life. The 28-player adult-only (18+) four-round Swiss featured a marathon time control of G/120; +30 and provided an alternative event for adults seeking to avoid playing against those pesky underrated juniors!



WCF President Josh Sinanan (L) and IM John Donaldson. Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.

This year's edition was split into two-sections—the Botvinnik Open and the Korchnoi U1500—and saw modest growth from last year's event, which had 24 players. The event was run under the supervision of Des Moines Chess Club Founder Matthew Duran and was sponsored by the Seattle Chess Club with a generous guaranteed prize fund of $1000 donated by SCC board member and chess benefactor Henry Yan.

Arlington (MA) native John Archibald (2079 → 2095, 3.5) topped the 10-player Botvinnik Open section with an undefeated 3.5 points from four games by virtue of winning three games against Patton (1651), Yan (1952), and Chabuk (1801) and allowing just one draw against the legendary Viktors Pupols (2200) in the third round. Kingston chess king Viktors Pupols (2200 → 2200, 2.5), who was "simuling" the Adult Swiss along with the main tournament, shared second/third place honors a full point back along with Jeffrey Yan (1952 → 1954, 2.5) of Sammamish and SCC Board Member Rich Lavoice (1755 → 1771, 2.5) of Kirkland. Viktors' longevity is truly remarkable as he recently celebrated his 92nd birthday and still competes in chess tournaments most weekends! Redmond chess Royal Hitesh Khamesra (1593 → 1596, 1.0) and Olympia chess king Michael Shaw (1553 → 1528, 1.0) split the first U1650 prize for their regal efforts.

In the sizable 18-player Korchnoi U1500 section, Seattle chess aficionado Olin Martin (1159 → 1174, 3.0) won his first-round game by forfeit, lost his second game to Mark Smith (1400), and finished strong with a pair of wins against Newland (765) and Dibble (938) to take home the first-place prize. Canadian undercover chess master Kaiqi Qin (unrated → 1830, 4.0) played in the U1500 section without disclosing his high Canadian rating and completed the tournament with a perfect four points but was ineligible for a prize due to his higher CFC rating. A dynamic duo of chess discoverers—David Lawson (1403 → 1395, 2.5) of Seattle and Josh Wilson (1157 → 1233, 2.5) of Kalispell (MT)—shared second/third place a half-point

4th Carol Kleist Memorial Adult Swiss : Botvinnik Open

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Total
1	1st	John Archibard	2080	W8	W4	D1	W6	3.5
2	T-2nd	NM Viktors Pupols	2200	D7	W10	D2	D4	2.5
3	T-2nd	Jeffrey Yan	1952	B	L2	W9	D1	2.5
4	T-2nd	Richard Lavoice	1700	D1	L6	W10	W9	2.5
5	T-2nd	Gerald Larson	2000	W9	H	W6	U	2.5
6	6th	Erkan Chabuk	1804	H	W7	L3	L2	1.5
7	-	Fred Kleist	1900	U	U	W8	U	1
8	T-7th	Lorenzo Patton Jr	1652	L2	L9	L5	W10	1
9	T-7th	Hitesh Khamesra	1593	L3	W8	L4	L7	1
10	T-7th	Michael Shaw	1545	B	L1	L7	L8	1

4th Carol Kleist Memorial Adult Swiss : Korchnoi U1500

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Total
1	n/a	Qin Kaiqi	2203	W8	W4	W2	W7	4
2	1st	Olin Martin	1168	X	L3	W15	W14	3
3	T-2nd	David Lawson	1403	W11	W15	L18	D10	2.5
4	T-2nd	Mark Smith	1400	W12	W9	D7	U	2.5
5	T-2nd	Josh Wilson	1157	W1	H	D14	D2	2.5
6	T-2nd	Jacob Yan	unrated	L7	W11	D5	W4	2.5
7	T-7th	Benji Johnson	1333	L14	W17	D16	D1	2
8	T-7th	Henry Louie	1300	W16	D14	D3	L18	2
9	T-7th	Matthew Wellander	1223	L18	H	D1	W17	2
10	T-7th	John Selsky	777	L3	W13	D4	H	2
11	T-7th	Clifford Dibble	733	W5	D7	D10	L9	2
12	T-7th	David Newland	595	W17	L2	L9	W13	2
13	T-13th	Kyle Boddy	1447	L10	D6	D8	D5	1.5
14	T-13th	Coleman Hoyt	1360	W13	L18	D12	L16	1.5
15	-	Matthew Duran	1306	H	D1	U	U	1
16	15th	Sameer Tare	771	L4	L12	W17	L15	1
17	T-16th	Matthew McKendry	1009	L2	L16	U	U	0
18	T-16th	Andre Berto	unrated	L15	L5	L13	L8	0

back. Canadian newcomer Jacob Yan (unrated → 1342, 2.5) of Oakville (ON) won the first Unrated prize with a solid "plus one" score. A quadruplet of chess conquistadors—Matthew Wellander (1238 → 1246, 2.0) of Kirkland, SCC President John Selsky (774 → 860, 2.0) of Shoreline, Clifford Dibble (938 → 1069, 2.0) of Bothell, and David Newland (765 → 806, 2.0) of Seattle—shared first U1300 honors with a par score.

Carlsen Rapid

The Washington Open Carlsen Rapid, a four-round Swiss in two sections—Kasparov Open and Anand U1600—took place on Sunday afternoon from 2:00-5:40 PM under the direction of NTD Jacob Mayer, WCF FIDE Liaison Mani Atikankhotchasee. Forty-seven players ranging from unrated to Grandmaster competed in the popular side event, which featured the "long rapid" time control of G/15; +5 and was dual USCF Quick and FIDE Rapid rated!

The Kasparov 1600+ section featured a stacked field, with titled players including GM Vladimir Belous, IM John Donaldson, FM Stephen Willy, NM Siddarth M. Sundaram, NM Vinesh Ravuri, NM Vidip Kona, and NM Nick Bartochowski taking part! Four chess swashbucklers—NM Siddarth M. Sundaram (2338 → 2322, 4.0) of Bellevue, NM Vinesh Ravuri (1892 → 1953, 4.0) of Bellevue, Barath Subramanian (unrated → 2002, 4.0) of Coquitlam, and Krishna Dhakshinamoorthy (1995 → 1984, 4.0) of Redmond—shared first-third/first U2100 honors with four points apiece. Lakewood chess legionnaire Garret Reynolds (1871 → 1918, 4.0) and Seattle chess prankster Ziliang Ma (1871 → 1918, 4.0) shared the merged first U1900/U1700 prize with an impressive "plus one" score. During the first-round encounter between Reynolds and GM Belous, the grandmaster blundered his queen early in the game but somehow created enough complications in time pressure to score a wild come-from-behind victory! Bellevue chess guy Yuan "Stephen" Jiang (1207 → 1219, 1.5) scored the biggest upset win by virtue of a topsy-turvy victory against one of the co-champions in the first round!

In the 21-player Anand U1600 section, Redmond-based third grader Mikhail Lagzdin (1177 → 1295, 4.5) channeled fellow Mikhail World Champions Botvinnik and Tal to claim victory with an undefeated 4.5 points from five games. Lagzdin started off strong with three consecutive wins against Iyer (unrated), Chung (1000), and Narkhede (1119) before conceding a draw against Seattle chess stud Jonathan Cirillo (1313) in the fourth round. A clutch final-round victory against Redmond chess rover Deepak Rao maintained Lagzdin's lead and clinched the victory.

A pair of Bellevue chess believers shared the second/third place prize a half-point back: Brayden Blodgett (1197 → 1312, 4.0) and Qinsheng Chen (1261 → 1276, 4.0). Coquitlam chess princess Yaswitha Suresh (557 → 869, 3.0) took home the first U1400 prize with an impressive three points to add to her royal winnings. Redmond chess returner Tejas Bharadwaj (363 → 540, 2.5), who used to play chess prolifically as a junior and is just getting back into it as an adult after a several-year hiatus, earned the first U1200 prize with an even score in addition to the biggest upset win prize thanks to a clutch final round 1000+-point upset victory. Rookie chess Dad Santosh Iyer (unrated → 519, 1.0) played in his first USCF-rated tournament and earned the first Unrated prize despite his only point coming from a full-point bye. Congratulations to the winners!



Tejas Bharadwaj during the Carlsen Rapid. Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.

Carlsen Rapid: Kasparov 1600+

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total
1	1-4	NM Siddarth M Sundaram	2424	W16	L5	W18	W7	W2	4
2		NM Vinesh Ravuri	2349	W17	W24	W11	W10	L1	4
3		Barath Subramanian Suresh	2139	L6	W25	W17	W13	W5	4
4		Krishna Dhakshinamoorthy	2079	L21	W23	W24	W20	X10	4
5	5-7	CM Rafael Palathingal	2122	W26	W1	D10	W6	L3	3.5
6		Kaiqi Qin	2203	W3	W20	D7	L5	W12	3.5
7		FM Stephen Willy	2329	W23	W21	D6	L1	W11	3.5
8	8-9	Garrett Reynolds	1892	L10	W9	L13	W18	W16	3
9		Ziliang Ma	1592	L12	L8	W19	W22	W17	3
10	10-15	GM Vladimir Belous	2596	W8	W12	D5	L2	F4	2.5
11		Andrew Yin	1999	W19	W13	L2	D12	L7	2.5
12		NM Vidip Kona	2237	W9	L10	W16	D11	L6	2.5
13		IM John Donaldson	2368	W22	L11	W8	L3	H---	2.5
14		Robin Tu	1830	H---	L18	W21	L16	W25	2.5
15		Santhosh Balasubramanyam	1566	L24	L16	W25	W23	H---	2.5
16	16-20	Valentin Razmov	1811	L1	W15	L12	W14	L8	2
17		Andy Chen	1763	L2	W19	L3	W24	L9	2
18		Gabriel Razmov	2014	H---	W14	L1	L8	D22	2
19		Mohan K M Balasubramani	unr.	L11	L17	L9	W21	W24	2
20		NM Nicholas Bartochowski	2219	W25	L6	W22	L4	U---	2
21	21-23	Yuan Jiang	1513	W4	L7	L14	L19	H---	1.5
22		Thrinay Subramanian	1785	L13	W26	L20	L9	D18	1.5
23		David Hirschowitz	1629	L7	L4	W26	L15	H---	1.5
24	24-26	Chad Fondren	1580	W15	L2	L4	L17	L19	1
25		Walter Guity	1653	L20	L3	L15	B---	L14	1
26		Loida Guo	1530	L5	L22	L23	H---	H---	1

Carlsen Rapid : Anand U1600

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total
1	1	Mikhail Lagzdin	1469	W21	W5	W7	D4	W8	4.5
2	2-3	Brayden Blodgett	1438	W11	W3	W10	L7	W4	4
3		Qingsheng Chen	1490	W14	L2	W15	W9	W7	4
4	4-6	Jonathan Cirillo	1452	W16	B---	W8	D1	L2	3.5
5		Warren Chung	1582	W17	L1	W14	D6	W10	3.5
6		Moses Li	1479	W18	L7	W16	D5	W14	3.5
7	7-9	Kshitij Narkhede	1596	W20	W6	L1	W2	L3	3
8		Deepak Sri Kartikeya Rao	1554	W19	W9	L4	W12	L1	3
9		Yaswitha Suresh	778	W12	L8	W17	L3	W18	3
10	10-13	Quinn Zhen Rampenthal	1582	D15	W13	L2	W11	L5	2.5
11		Kendrick Johnson	1579	L2	D15	W19	L10	W17	2.5
12		Suhaan Kesavan	1393	L9	W20	W13	L8	H---	2.5
13		Tejas Krish Bharadwaj	382	B---	L10	L12	D18	W19	2.5
14	14-16	Aariv Shah	1338	L3	W21	L5	W16	L6	2
15		Bryce Barlin	1275	D10	D11	L3	L17	W20	2
16		Pranav Balasubramanian	1163	L4	W18	L6	L14	W21	2
17	17-19	Aarit Shah	1400	L5	D19	L9	W15	L11	1.5
18		Varun Kumar	1493	L6	L16	W21	D13	L9	1.5
19		Samuel Acevedo	1104	L8	D17	L11	W20	L13	1.5
20	20-21	Rishi Iyer	181	L7	L12	B---	L19	L15	1
21		Santosh Iyer	unr.	L1	L14	L18	B---	L16	1

Awonder Liang Bughouse

The Washington Open Awonder Liang Bughouse tournament—named in honor of the versatile American Grandmaster Awonder Liang whose expertise spans numerous chess variants—was held on Sunday, May 24 from 3:00-4:15 PM and attracted fifteen two-player bughouse teams. The event was hand-paired by tournament directors Siva Sankrithi and Allen Messenger and run as a seven-round Single Swiss in one fun section. A maximum average team rating of 1800 was in effect to encourage balanced and friendly competition and to avoid the creation of "super-teams". The hypersonic G/3; +0 time control was utilized to make for wild and exciting bughouse action with a plentiful number of games to satiate the appetites of the bughouse competitors taking part.

After the dust had settled and all the bugs had left the house, two teams emerged victorious with six points from seven games to share the combined first/second place prize: Ryan + Jimmy (1800, 6.0) and Wade + Kirsten (1500, 6.0). Kirsten Parker and Wade Barrett, known locally as bughouse specialists, frequent meetups and gatherings where folks congregate to endless hours of bughouse, often lasting into the wee hours of the morning.

Two teams shared third place honors a point back: Minjun + Zachary (2100, 5.0) and Boas + Doron (1600, 5.0). Since the sections were combined into one single section due to the modest number of teams participating, separate K-12 scholastic prizes were awarded to the top-finishing K-12 scholastic teams. Winning first place amongst the K-12 teams were Lincoln High School chess teammates Gavin + Oscar (1800, 4.0).

Two teams of brothers—Sarang + Vivaan (3100, 3.0) and Varshith + Guru (3000, 3.0)—shared the second/third place K-12 prizes, each with an even three-point score. The underrated and friendly team of Harvey + Kyle (2600, 3.0) were commended for their unwavering kindness sportsmanship and scored the biggest upset win to collect the two special aforementioned prizes.

Casablanca Rapid

The Washington Open Casablanca Rapid took place on Monday, May 25 from 2:00-3:45 PM between rounds five and six of the main tournament. "Casablanca Chess" is a lesser-known chess variant in which each round starts in a new middlegame position from a historical game. Similar in format to Chess960, players were given two minutes before clocks were started to examine the initial position.

WCF President NM Josh Sinanan selected the starting positions to provide balanced middlegame play with chances for both sides. Players competed over the course of four rounds with a lickety-split time control of G/8; +3, which made for immensely exciting and imbalanced battles! The starting positions featured in the tournament were as follows.

Zukertort-Steinitz, 1886



Bronstein-Keres, 1955



Reshevsky-Bronstein, 1953



Boleslavsky-Geller, 1953



A couple of chess masters—NM Samuel He (2269, 4.0) of Redmond and FM Stephen Willy (2329, 4.0) of Sammamish—were crowned King of Casablanca chess, each with a perfect four points from four games in the 34-player field. Bellingham chess juggler extraordinaire Owen Scollon (1737, 3.5) captured third place a half-point back, allowing only a single draw against NM Daniel Shubin (2264) in the second round. A quintuplet of chess characters shared first U2100/U1800/U1500 honors with three points apiece: Joseph Frantz (2034, 3.0) of Seattle, Avyaan Roy Chowdhury (1618, 3.0) of Woodinville, Gabriel Razmov (2014, 3.0) of Seattle, Sriharsh Gokulakrishnan (1295, 3.0) of Black Diamond, and Andrew Yin (1999, 3.0) of British Columbia. Bellevue Chess Dad Pawan Kalakoti (unrated, 0.0) won the first Unrated prize for rookie efforts while surreptitiously watching the nearby games of his son, Kartika Kalakoti, for whom he no doubt provided encouragement and moral support while playing in his first OTB tournament. Congratulations to the winners!

Ignacio Perez Memorial Blitz

The Fourth Annual Ignacio Perez Memorial Blitz tournament, held in honor of the late great Pacific Northwest chess legend FM Ignacio Perez, was held on Monday evening at 8:00 PM. The popular blitz side event concluded the weekend's busy slate of chess activities and provided an outlet for fun and friendly blitz action amongst friends and competitors alike. Ignacio certainly loved to play speed chess and regularly played all-night marathon blitz sessions even during tournaments. The fantastic 61-player turnout in this year's edition is once again a testament to Ignacio's legacy and close connection with many in the local chess community. The organizing team of Mani Atikankhotchasee, Ani Barua, and Josh Sinanan ran the event, which featured the popular blitz time control of game in three minutes with a two-second increment. The marathon ten-round Single Swiss event was split into two sections, the Nakamura 1600+ and the Tal U1600, to accommodate players of all levels. Both sections were USCF Blitz rated, and the Nakamura section was also FIDE Blitz rated. Ignacio's presence and spirit could be felt throughout the evening, as he no doubt was kibitzing the games with Misha Tal and others as they looked on from above.

Two Bellevue-based chess masters emerged victorious atop the 36-player Nakamura 1600+ section, each with eight points from nine games: NM Siddarth M. Sundaram (2190 → 2222, 8.0) and NM Andrew Fletcher (1867 → 2001, 8.0). Sundaram started off undefeated through seven rounds and lost a key game to Fletcher in the eighth round, who had recovered well after a sixth-round loss against Ravuri (2171). The two co-champions finished strong with two wins apiece in the final two rounds to leapfrog the dangerous Duvall blitz phenom Vidip Kona (2356 → 2350, 7.5), who finished in third place a half-point back. Vancouver chess vagabond Minjun Koo (unrated → 2000, 6.5) vanquished his nearest rivals to claim the first U2100 prize with 6.5 points. A pair of aspiring chess professionals—Owen Scollon (1704 → 1811, 6.0) of Bellingham and Ziliang Ma (1640 → 1704, 6.0) of Seattle—shared the combined first U1900/U1700 prize, each with a solid "plus two" score.

In the 25-player Tal U1600 section, Axl Arun (1363 → 1426, 7.5) of North Plains (OR) and Ishan Joshi (1469 → 1476, 7.5) of Seattle emerged victorious, each with an impressive 7.5- points score from ten games. Joshi bounced back after a first-round setback at the hands of Redmond's Varshith Avula (1273) and won his next seven (!) games in a few to set up a showdown with Arun on the top board in the ninth round. Arun's clutch victories in the final three rounds enabled him to catch up with Joshi, who ran out of steam and conceded a draw against Bothell's Loida Guo (1362) in the final round. A couple of chess captains—Guru H.R. Avula (1455 → 1457, 7.0) of Redmond and Kai Long (unrated → 1301, 7.0) of Boise—shared third/first U1400 honors a half-point back. Bothell chess bulldozer Sarthak Kansal (unrated → 1283, 6.0) plowed his way to the first U1200 prize with six points thanks to an on-demand win in the final-round win against Dixit (1185). Coquitlam chess courier Yaswitha Suresh (770 → 803, 3.0) won the first U1000 prize thanks to two impressive upset victories along the way. Congratulations to the winners!

The Washington Open story continues next issue with annotated games in Part Two, so stay tuned!—Editor.

PRECISION MASTERS SCHOLASTIC

CHESS TOURNAMENT

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 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-2 U700
3-5 U700
K-5 Open
6-12 U900
6-12 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 2026-27 school year. Out-of-state players welcome!

ENTRY FEE

$50 by 9/6, $60 after.
Room for 120 players.

AWARDS

Section 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. ***Top player (by TPR) in each of the K-5 Open and 6-12 Open sections wins free entry into the 2026 SPFNO!***

RATING

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

CLOCKS + NOTATION

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

REGISTRATION

Register online at
NWchess.com/OnlineRegistration/
Pay by Zelle/Cash/Check.
100% pre-registered, no on-site entries or payments. Entry + payment deadline Fri September 18 @ 5:00pm.
No registrations accepted or refunds offered after the deadline.

PROCEDURE

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

WA State Elementary Qualifier!

Questions?
Contact Rekha Sagar, MCC Founder,
Monroechessclubllc@gmail.com,
425-496-9160

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

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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 |

	- - - - - - - 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
2-Day EF		$190	$190	$190	$190	$190	USCF Dues

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: $ _____

Idaho Open

Jeffrey Roland

The Idaho Open was the first tournament run by the new Idaho Chess Federation (aka Idaho Chess Network) and was played at the Riverside Inn in Boise over the June 27/28 weekend. Jeffrey Roland was Chief Tournament Director with Brian Lange as Chief Assistant Tournament Director. ICF President Jeff Price was also in attendance, accessible to all, though not playing or directing, enjoying the history-making first-ever tournament held by this new organization!

There were 66 players total (32 in the Open Section and 34 in the U1400 Section), which was the maximum players allowed according to the fire code of the hotel, so we did have to turn two players away who thought they could just show up and pay at the door. Four players paid $30 extra to "play up" to the Open Section and got plenty of bang for their buck as this tournament brought some fantastic talent.

Top-rated and legendary Viktors Pupols, 92 years old, attended all the way from Kingston, Washington. In fact, we had no less than five players rated between 2000-2200, and another five rated between 1900-1999, another four players rated between 1800-1899. And lots of strong players rated lower. The perception at the time the event was being played was that this was the strongest tournament in Idaho in living memory. There may in fact have been stronger tournaments in the past, but nobody can remember it! So, the current tournament may or may not be the strongest ever, but it certainly was impressive, and besides, ratings aren't everything!

In the Open Section, first place went to James Wei of Meridian, with 4.5/5 points followed by a three-way tie for second-third place between Christian Campos of Meridian, William Aepli of Wilson, Wyoming, and Makaio Krinke of Boise, each with 4.0/5 points.



Ryan Wu (L) vs. Cody Gorman. Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.

In the U1400 Section, first place went to Samuel Pinson of Ammon, with 4.5/5 points followed by a four-way tie for second-third between Reyansh Upadhyay of Meridian, Lindon Smith of Meridian, Jordon Ingwersen of Meridian, and Jack Oien of Boise, each with 4.0/5 points.

Ryan Wu (1439) –
Cody Gorman (1900) [C24]
2026 Idaho Open (Open Section)
Boise, ID (R1), June 27, 2026
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.d3 d5 5.exd5 Nxd5 6.0-0 Be7

6...Bg4 7.Re1 Be7 8.h3

7.Re1 Nb6 8.Bb5

8.Bb3±

8...f6 9.Bxc6+

9.d4

9...bxc6 10.d4 Bg4 11.dxe5 Qxd1 12.Rxd1 Bxf3 13.gxf3 fxe5 14.Re1 0-0 15.Rxe5 Bd6 16.Re2 Rxf3 17.Kg2 Raf8 18.Be3 R3f5 19.Nd2 Nd5 20.Rf1?!

20.Ne4

20...Nb4

A neat tactical opportunity: 20...Bxh2! 21.Kxh2 Nxe3 22.Rxe3 Rxf2+ 23.Rxf2 Rxf2+ 24.Kg3 Rxd2 25.Rc3 Rd6∓ This would be clearly winning for Black, if not for those pesky pawn weaknesses.

21.c3 Nxa2?

21...Nd5

22.Nc4 Bc5 23.Bxc5

23.Ra1 Bxe3 24.Nxe3 Ra5 25.Nc2 *(25.Kf1 Ra6 26.Nc2±)* 25...c5 26.Na3±

23...Rxc5 24.Na3 Rg5+ 25.Kh1 Rf3 26.Rc2

26.Ra1±

26...Rd3 27.Nb1

27.Ra1±

27...Rgd5 28.Re2 h5

28...Rd1! 29.Ree1 Rxe1 30.Rxe1 Rb5.

29.Na3 h4

29...Rd2 30.Rxd2 Rxd2 31.Nc4 Rc2 32.Kg2 Rc1

30.Ree1 Rd2

30...h3 31.Nc4 Rc5 32.Re4∞

31.Nc4 R2d3 32.Ra1 Rc5 33.Na3 Nxc3 34.bxc3 Rcxc3 35.Nb1 Rc2 36.Rxa7 h3 37.Rxc7

37.Kg1 c5 38.Na3 Ra2 39.Nb5 Re2 40.Rxc7±

37...Rxf2 38.Rg1 Rf7

38...Rc2 39.Rcxg7+ Kf8 40.R7g3 Rxg3 41.Rxg3± is a different unclear technical problem.

39.Rxc6 Rfd7 40.Rcg6

Or 40.Nc3±

40...Kh7 41.R6g3 Kh6 42.Nc3 g5

42...Rxg3 43.Rxg3 Re7 44.Rxh3+ Kg6 45.Kg1 Re6±

43.Ne4

43.Rxd3 Rxd3 44.Rg3 Rd7 45.Rxh3+±

43...Rxg3 44.Rxg3 Rd1+ 45.Rg1 Rd5 46.Nf2 Kh5 47.Nxh3 Rf5 48.Rg2 Rf1+ 49.Ng1 g4 50.Re2 Rb1 51.Kg2 Kh4 52. Rf2 Kg5 53.Ne2 Rb3 54.Ng3 Kh4 55. Rf5 Rb2+



Position after 55...Rb2+

56.Kg1??

56.Rf2+- allows White to continue the torture indefinitely... but is it objectively winning? Yes! 56...Rb4 57.Re2 Ra4 58.Ne4 Rb4 *(58...Kh5 59.Nf2)* 59.Nf2 Rc4 *(59...Kh5 60.Re5+; 59...Rb8 60.Re4 Rg8 61.h3)* 60.Re4 suggests the start of the winning plan.

56...Rg2+!! 57.Kh1 Rxh2+! 58.Kxh2

Black is saved by stalemate.

½–½

James Wei (2120) –
Candice Liang (1807) [B34]
2026 Idaho Open (Open Section)
Boise, ID (R2), June 27, 2026
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 g6 5.Nc3

5.c4 enter Maroczy Bind territory.

5...Bg7 6.Be3 Nf6 7.Nxc6!?

7.Bc4 0-0 8.Bb3 d6 (8...a5 9.0-0 d6 *(9...a4 10.Nxa4 Nxe4 11.Nb5* is something you need to study before you attempt.*)* 10.Ndb5) 9.f3 Bd7 10.Qd2 is a main line.

7...bxc6 8.e5 Ng8

8...Nd5 9.Nxd5 cxd5 10.Qxd5 Rb8 offers a gambit approach. 11.Bc4 0-0 12.0-0 Bb7 13.Qd3 Bxe5 14.Bxa7 Rc8 15.Bd4 Bxh2+ 16.Kxh2 Qc7+ 17.Kg1 Qxc4 18.Qxc4 Rxc4 19.c3 is a fun line settling with about equal chances, but there are other possibilities.

9.Bd4

9.f4 Nh6 *(9...f6 10.Bd4)* 10.Qd2 0-0

9...c5

9...f6 is also played here.

10.Bxc5 Bxe5?

10...Qc7 11.Bd4 Bxe5 12.f4 *(12.Qd2 Nf6 13.0-0-0∞)* 12...Bxd4 *(12...Bf6 13.Qd2 Bb7 14.0-0-0)* 13.Qxd4 Nf6 14.0-0-0±

11.Qd5 Qc7

11...Bxc3+ 12.bxc3 Qa5 13.Bc4 Qxc3+ 14.Kd1 Qxa1+ 15.Kd2 Qf6 16.Qxa8 Qc6 *(16...Qf4+ 17.Kc3 Qc7 18.Qxa7±)* 17.Qxc6 dxc6±

12.Qxa8?!

12.Nb5! Qb8 13.Bc4 Nh6 *(13...e6 14.Qd3 d5 15.0-0-0! Ne7 16.Qa3! Nf5 17.Nc3±* since *17...dxc4?? 18.Qa4+* forces mate.*)* 14.0-0-0 a6 15.Rhe1 Bf4+ 16.Kb1 0-0 17.Nc3 White should enjoy a fair advantage due to piece activity and centralization.

12...Qxc5 13.Ne4

13.Ba6!? Bxc3+ 14.Kf1 Nf6 15.Qxc8+ Qxc8 16.Bxc8 Bxb2 17.Rb1 Bd4 18.Ke2±; 13.Qf3

13...Qc7 14.c3 e6 15.Ba6 Ne7 16.Bxc8 Nxc8 17.Nd2?

17.f4!? Bxf4 18.Nf6+ Ke7 19.Qe4 with some complications, but the engine now says Black has good chances.

17...d5 18.c4 0-0?

18...Bxb2 19.Rd1 *(*Or *19.Rb1 0-0 20.0-0 Nb6 21.Qxf8+ Kxf8 22.Rxb2 dxc4,* when Black's queen and pawns, especially that dangerous passed c-pawn, tend to outweigh the two rooks.*)* 19...dxc4 20.0-0 0-0 21.Qe4 Nd6 22.Qc2 c3∓ gives Black more than sufficient compensation for the exchange.

19.cxd5 Bxb2 20.Rd1 Qe5+ 21.Kf1 Qd4 22.Qc6?!

22.d6!? Nxd6 (22...Qd3+ 23.Kg1 Nxd6 *(23...Qe2? 24.Qf3 Qa6 25.Ne4±)* 24.Qf3 Qa6) 23.Qf3∞

22...Qd3+ 23.Kg1 Qe2 24.Qc2 Bd4 25.Rf1 Nd6?!

25...Ne7 26.Qc1 *(26.d6 Nd5 27.Qc1 Nf4∓; 26.Qd1?? Bxf2+)* 26...Rc8 *(26...Nxd5 27.h4∞)* 27.Qe1 Qxe1 28.Rxe1 Bc3 and Black regains material.

26.Qc1

26.Qc7!? Qxd2 27.Qxd6 Rc8 *(27...Bxf2+ 28.Rxf2 Qd1+ 29.Rf1 Qd4+ 30.Rf2 Qd1+)* 28.h4 Rc1 *(28...Bxf2+ 29.Rxf2 Rc1+ 30.Kh2 Rxh1+ 31.Kxh1 Qxf2 32.Qd8+ Kg7 33.d6)* 29.Kh2 Rc5

26...exd5 27.Nb3?!

27.h4!? Rc8 28.Qe1 Re8 29.Qxe2 Rxe2 30.Nb3 Bb6 31.Nc1. White is still a bit befuddled.

27...Bb6 28.Qd2 Qb5

28...Qe6; 28...Re8

29.h4

29.Qf4 Ne4 30.g3 Qe2∓ Black will pick up another pawn, while White must still untangle somehow.

29...Ne4∓ 30.Qf4



Position after 30.Qf4

30...Nc3?

Much of the advantage goes away with this. 30...Qe2∓ Black can put quite a bit of pressure on f2. For example 31.Nc1 Qc2 32.g3 Bxf2+ 33.Rxf2 Nxf2 34.Qxf2

(34.Rh2 Nh3+!! *(34...Rc8* works less spectacularly.*)* 35.Rxh3 Re8! 36.Qf1 Re3!-+ Black threatens...Qe4 or...Qc3, in both cases suggesting...Re1, pinning the queen.) 34...Qxc1+

31.Nc1 h5

31...Qc4! 32.Qxc4 dxc4 Black can envision an arrangement of...Rd8–d2,...Ne4, possibly with...f5 supporting the e4–knight. This should offer full compensation, given the tangle of white pieces, the weaknesses on f2 and a2, and the squares controlled by the passed c-pawn.

32.Rh3 d4

32...Ne4∞

33.Re1 Qb1?

Fortunes shift. 33...Re8 34.Rxe8+ Qxe8 35.Qd2 With the pressure on f2 alleviated, White's losing chances are much reduced. Winning chances? Not yet really in evidence.

34.Qd2

34.Rf3 Nxa2?! 35.Nd3± Suddenly White's pieces are coordinated, with f7 looking like a target. (Stockfish points out the unlikely tactic 35.Qh6! Nxc1 36.Rxf7!! Ne2+! *(36...Rxf7 37.Re8+; 36...Kxf7 37.Qh7+ Kf6 38.Qe7+ Kf5 39.Qg5#)* 37.Kh2! Rxf7 38.Rxb1 Rf6 39.Qg5 White should win.)

34...Ba5 35.Nd3 Qb6 36.Qc2 Kg7 37.Ne5?!

37.Rf3

37...Qb7?!

37...Re8! 38.Nd3 (38.Rf3 Qe6 39.Nd3 *(39.Rxf7+? Qxf7 40.Nxf7 Rxe1+ 41.Kh2 Kxf7∓)* 39...Ne2+. regains the exchange.) 38...Rxe1+ 39.Nxe1 Qe6 40.Nd3 Nxa2∞

38.Rf3 Nxa2?

38...Re8!?

39.Ra1

More complicated: 39.Rxf7+ Qxf7 (39...Rxf7 40.Qxg6+ Kf8 41.Qh6+ Ke8 *(41...Ke7 42.Nc6+ Kd7 43.Qe6+ Kc7 44.Nxa5+-)* 42.Nxf7+ Bxe1 43.Nd6+) 40.Nxf7 Bxe1 41.Ng5 Bxf2+ 42.Kh2+-

39...Nb4 40.Qc5 f6 41.Rxa5 Na6 42.Rxa6 Qxa6 43.Qe7+ Kg8 44.Nd7 Qa1+ 45.Kh2 Rf7 46.Nxf6+

1–0

James Wei (2120) –
Josh Price (1986) [B02]
2026 Idaho Open (Open Section)
Boise, ID (R5), June 28, 2026
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 Nf6 2.Nc3

2.e5 is more common by an order of magnitude. 2...Nd5 3.d4 d6 4.Nf3 is the most likely continuation against the Alekhine Defense.

2...d5

We've shifted into a Scandinavian line, usually reached by 1.e4 d5 2.Nc3 Nf6. Black could have created a Vienna Game with 2...e5. Transpositions abound.

3.exd5

3.e5 Nfd7 4.d4 c5 5.f4 cxd4 6.Nb5 Nc6 7.Nf3 is a different path.

3...Nxd5 4.Bc4 Nb6 5.Bb3 g6

The fianchetto is slightly suspect due to the game continuation. 5...Nc6 6.Nf3 *(6.Qf3!? e6 7.Nge2 Be7 8.d3)* 6...Bf5 7.d4 e6 8.0-0 Be7 looks normal.; 5...c5 6.Qh5!? e6 *(*The move White's queen sorting is designed to discourage, *6...c4!? 7.Bxc4 Nxc4 8.Qb5+ Nc6 9.Qxc4 e5∞,* actually seems a decent gambit. White's queen is out early, providing a target for developing black pieces. The central space and half-open c- and d-files guarantee Black pressure.*)* 7.d3 Nc6 8.Nf3

6.Qf3 e6 7.d4 Bg7

After 7...Qxd4?! 8.Nge2, White will complete development and start working the dark squares, with more than sufficient compensation for the pawn.

8.Be3 0-0

8...Bxd4?! 9.Rd1 *(9.0-0-0 Bxe3+ 10.Qxe3 Qe7)* 9...Bxc3+ 10.bxc3 Qe7 11.h4±

9.0-0-0± c6 10.h4 a5 11.a4 h6 12.Bf4

12.h5 g5 13.Ne4 f5 14.Nxg5 hxg5 15.h6 is an interesting piece sacrifice.

12...Nd5 13.Be5 Nd7 14.Bxg7 Kxg7 15.Nge2 N7f6

15...b5!? tries to get something going against the white king.

16.g4 Nxc3 17.Nxc3 Nd5 18.Ne4 f5 19.gxf5 exf5 20.Nc5± Qd6 21.Nd3

White denies the queen exchange, but 21.Rhe1 Qf4+ 22.Qxf4 Nxf4 23.Nxb7 is also pretty good.

21...f4 22.Ne5

22.Rhe1 Bf5 23.Re5±

22...Bf5 23.Rdg1 Kh7

23...Rf6 24.c3 b5∞ Just defending on the other wing isn't a recipe for success.

24.c3 Rad8 25.Bc2 Ne7 26.Bxf5 Rxf5 27.h5 g5



Position after 27...g5

28.Qd3?

28.Re1±

28...Qf6?

28...Qxe5!? doesn't win a piece, but it's still Black's best chance to simplify and change the narrative. 29.Re1 Qf6 30.Rxe7+ Qxe7 31.Qxf5+ Kh8∞

29.Re1 Nd5

29...Ng8 30.Re2 *(30.Ng4 Qf7 31.Re5±)* 30...Kg7 31.Rhe1±

30.Ng4 Qf7 31.Re5 Rf8 32.Rhe1

32.Qe4!? Kg7 33.Re6 may be even stronger.

32...Kg7 33.Re6

33.Qe4 Rxe5 34.Qxe5+ Nf6 35.Qd6 Ng8 36.Re6 Qxh5 37.Ne5+-

33...Qxh5 34.Rg1 f3 35.Rxh6 Nf4

35...Qxg4 36.Rxg4 Kxh6 37.c4 Nf4 *(37...Ne7±; 37...Nb4 38.Qe3±)* 38.Qxf3±

White is clearly for choice, but resistance is still possible.

36.Qxf3 Qe8

36...Qxg4 37.Qxg4 Kxh6 38.Kb1 should be winning for White. This is similar to the last note, if perhaps more solid and with slightly better coordination.

37.Kb1

Editor's note: This is where the score sheets ended due to severe time trouble. However, Josh and James reconstructed the ending, and both players agreed this is what actually happened. The notes from here to the end are by Josh Price.

37…Ng6 38.Qh3 Rh8 39.Ne3 Qe4+



James Wei (L) vs. Josh Price. Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.

40.Ka1 Rxf2 41.Rxh8 Nxh8 42.Rxg5+ Ng6 43.Ng4??



Position after 43.Ng4

This move is a blunder due to 43...Qe1+ 44.Ka2 Rxb2+!! 45.Kxb2 Qd2+ 46.Kb3 Qxg5 winning back the rook and probably a draw. This variation was barely missed, as I had five seconds on the clock.—JP

43...Rg2 44.Qh6+ Kf7 45.Qh7+ Ke6 46.Rxg6+ Kd5 47.Qf7+

1–0

A worthy game for the top board in the final round for all the marbles!—Editor.

2026 Idaho Open (Open Section)

(in tie-break order)

No.	Name	Rate	Rnd1	Rnd2	Rnd3	Rnd4	Rnd5	Pts
1	James Wei	2120	W19	W20	W22	-H-	W5	**4.5**
2	Christian Campos	1975	W32	W16	W3	L5	W8	**4.0**
3	William Alexander Aepli	2140	W21	W15	L2	W11	W9	**4.0**
4	Makaio Krienke	2169	W6	L22	W19	W12	W10	**4.0**
5	Josh Price	1986	W28	W13	D9	W2	L1	**3.5**
6	Carter Brennan Burgess	1641	L4	W23	D13	W21	W14	**3.5**
7	Ryan Wu	1439	D11	L10	W28	W13	W16	**3.5**
8	Viktors Pupols	2200	W31	D14	D11	W15	L2	**3.0**
9	Alex James Machin	1802	W30	W12	D5	D10	L3	**3.0**
10	Finn Belew	1994	D29	W7	W14	D9	L4	**3.0**
11	Cody Austin Mitchell	1900	D7	W29	D8	L3	W19	**3.0**
12	Eric Jean Billaux	2052	W26	L9	W21	L4	W20	**3.0**
13	Ari Guzek	1728	W18	L5	D6	L7	W27	**2.5**
14	Caleb Kircher	1966	W25	D8	L10	W20	L6	**2.5**
15	Zygmond Mayer	1843	W27	L3	W18	L8	D17	**2.5**
16	Ethan Neff	1757	W17	L2	W26	-H-	L7	**2.5**
17	Louis Michael Bash	1175	L16	W32	L20	W29	D15	**2.5**
18	Trenton Gregg Cluff	Unr.	L13	W28	L15	D25	W26	**2.5**
19	Dustin Lindgren	1628	L1	W24	L4	W23	L11	**2.0**
20	Candice Liang	1807	W24	L1	W17	L14	L12	**2.0**
21	Jesse Benjamin Brent	1633	L3	W27	L12	L6	W25	**2.0**
22	Travis James Miller	1849	W23	W4	L1	---	---	**2.0**
23	Christopher Pentico	1423	L22	L6	W30	L19	W29	**2.0**
24	Daniel Francisco Fernandez	1303	L20	L19	L25	-B-	W28	**2.0**
25	Jamie Lang	1458	L14	L31	W24	D18	L21	**1.5**
26	Keneth Paul Sengendo	1566	L12	W30	L16	D27	L18	**1.5**
27	Griffin Rhys Baldwin	1415	L15	L21	-B-	D26	L13	**1.5**
28	Tom R Booth	1500	L5	L18	L7	W30	L24	**1.0**
29	Dewayne Derryberry	1500	D10	L11	-H-	L17	L23	**1.0**
30	Theodore S Arney	1262	L9	L26	L23	L28	-B-	**1.0**
31	Zackary Thomas Semancik	1645	L8	W25	-N-	---	---	**1.0**
32	Steven Wlodek	1481	L2	L17	-H-	---	---	**0.5**

2026 Idaho Open (U1400 Section)

(in tie-break order)

No.	Name	Rate	Rnd1	Rnd2	Rnd3	Rnd4	Rnd5	Pts
1	Samuel Pinson	1345	W22	D7	W2	W6	W3	**4.5**
2	Reyansh Upadhyay	946	W21	W31	L1	W11	W12	**4.0**
3	Lindon Smith	1113	W34	W15	W12	W10	L1	**4.0**
4	Jordon Donovan Ingwersen	1319	W32	W19	L10	W21	W9	**4.0**
5	Jack Oien	Unr.	L29	W23	W14	W19	W10	**4.0**
6	Derek Kamena	1356	D13	W25	W7	L1	W17	**3.5**
7	Jared W. Coburn	1052	W28	D1	L6	W20	W16	**3.5**
8	Kevin Pinson	750	W20	L10	W31	D16	W19	**3.5**
9	Dru Wright	1257	W30	W14	W11	-H-	L4	**3.5**
10	Joshua William Kern	1202	W27	W8	W4	L3	L5	**3.0**
11	Luis Fernando Lozano	Unr.	W17	W16	L9	L2	W22	**3.0**
12	Anthony Kenji Nakashima	1312	W26	W29	L3	W13	L2	**3.0**
13	Paxten Pipitone	779	D6	D17	W15	L12	W21	**3.0**
14	Elliana Stella Solis	780	W24	L9	L5	W26	W23	**3.0**
15	Juan Jose Morales	Unr.	W25	L3	L13	W27	W20	**3.0**
16	Jonah Hochhauser	1165	W23	L11	W22	D8	L7	**2.5**
17	Liam Nosarev	878	L11	D13	W18	W29	L6	**2.5**
18	Kiaan Singh Ahluwalia	437	L31	W30	L17	D28	W29	**2.5**
19	Kiaan Upadhyay	928	W33	L4	W26	L5	L8	**2.0**
20	Lucia Inez Solis	847	L8	W27	W28	L7	L15	**2.0**
21	Alessio Barboni	Unr.	L2	W33	W29	L4	L13	**2.0**
22	Jonas Wen	598	L1	W24	L16	W30	L11	**2.0**
23	Yoonhoo Oh	Unr.	L16	L5	W34	W24	L14	**2.0**
24	Yen Lee	Unr.	L14	L22	W25	L23	W33	**2.0**
25	Nolan Finkelnburg	1198	L15	L6	L24	W34	W28	**2.0**
26	Richard Cordova	Unr.	L12	W34	L19	L14	W30	**2.0**
27	Thejonidhisri Yeddula	Unr.	L10	L20	W32	L15	W34	**2.0**
28	Brett Elliott	Unr.	L7	W32	L20	D18	L25	**1.5**
29	John W. Longhurst	807	W5	L12	L21	L17	L18	**1.0**
30	Khileshwar Yeddula	Unr.	L9	L18	W33	L22	L26	**1.0**
31	David Allen Zaklan	1341	W18	L2	L8	---	---	**1.0**
32	Oakley Yang	371	L4	L28	L27	L33	-B-	**1.0**
33	Giuliana Merlo	Unr.	L19	L21	L30	W32	L24	**1.0**
34	Declan Merlo	Unr.	L3	L26	L23	L25	L27	**0.0**

20th Annual SPICE Cup Open

November 4-9, 2026

Hilton Bellevue

A US Chess Grand Prix Event

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

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

Entry fee:

- GMs: Free entry.
- Foreign IMs: $245 by 9/4, $345 by 10/4, $445 after.
- US Flag IMs: $345 by 9/4, $445 by 10/4, $545 after.
- Foreign FIDE-rated players (2000+): $445 by 9/4, $545 by 10/4, $645 after.
- US players 2200+ FIDE: $795 by 9/4, $895 by 10/4, $995 after.
- US players 2000-2199 FIDE: $995 by 9/4, $1,095 by 10/4, $1,195 after.

Schedule:

Wednesday 11/4: Arrival & Check-in – 3:00-4:30 PM, Rd. 1 – 5:00 PM.
Thursday 11/5: Rd. 2 – 10:00 AM, Rd. 3 – 4:00 PM.
Friday 11/6: Rd. 4 – 10:00 AM, Rd. 5 – 4:00 PM.
Saturday 11/7: Rd. 6 – 11:00 AM.
Saturday 11/7: SPICE Cup Blitz Championship (9SS, G/3; +2, FIDE + USCF Blitz rated) – 7:00 PM.
Sunday 11/8: Rd. 7 – 11:00 AM
Sunday 11/8: SPICE Cup Rapid Championship (5SS, G/15; +5, FIDE Rapid + USCF Quick rated) – 5:00 PM.
Monday 11/9: Rd. 8 – 10:00 AM, Rd. 9 – 4:00 PM, Closing Ceremony – 8:00 PM or ASAP.

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

1st – 3rd: $5000-3000-2000, Top U2450: $500-250, Top U2300: $500-250.
Special Prizes (which can be won in addition to a place or class prize)**:**
Top Female: $500, Top Senior (50+): $500, Brilliancy Prize: $100.

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

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

Rating: Dual USCF and FIDE rated. November 2026 FIDE ratings will be used to determine pairings and prizes.

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

Hotel: Hilton Bellevue: 300 112th Ave SE, Bellevue, WA 98004. $239 for a King room or 2 Queens. Complimentary guest room Wi-Fi and event day parking. Discounted overnight parking of $20 per vehicle per night. Many restaurants are within 1-2 miles of the hotel. For online hotel reservations, use the **booking link**. Group Code: CHESRL. For phone reservations, call 425-455-1300 and reference the 2026 SPICE Cup. Cut-off date for discounted hotel reservations is **October 14, 2026**.

Registration: Online at nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration or send registration form and payment to: Washington Chess Federation, 4174 148th Avenue NE, Building I, Suite M, Redmond, Washington 98052. Limited space available; please register early. Registration will stay open until capacity is reached or by the **deadline of 11/3** at 12:00 PM PT. Partial refunds (less PayPal fees + $20 processing fee) are available until the registration deadline.

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

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

Co-hosted by Susan Polgar Foundation & Washington Chess Federation

21st Susan Polgar Foundation National Open for Girls & Boys

Saturday-Sunday, November 7-8, 2026

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

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

2–day Championship sections

K–5 Open **K–5 Girls**

K–8 Open **K–8 Girls**

K–12 Open **K–12 Girls**

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

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

1–day Scholastic sections (Sat-only)

K–1 U700 **K–3 Open**

2–3 U700 **4–6 Open**

4–6 U700 **7–12 Open**

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

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

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

WA State Scholastic Qualifier!

Hotel Rates: Hilton Bellevue for $179 (1 King/2 Queen) per night, address above. Complimentary guest room Wi-Fi and event day parking. Many restaurants within 1–2 miles from hotel. Phone: 425.455.1300, request SPFNO room block. Group Code: CHESCI. Booking link for online hotel reservations. Cut–off date for discounted hotel reservations is **October 14, 2026**.

Entry Fees: (by Oct. 7 | Oct. 8 – 31 | Nov. 1 or after)

- **2-Day Championship sections** EF: $99 | $129 | $159
- **1-Day Scholastic sections (Sat-only)** EF: $65 | $80 | $105

Registration & Payment: Registration and payment deadline Fri 11/6 @ 5pm at ChessReg.com (pay by credit/debit/PayPal).

Fun Side Events!

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

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

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

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

SPFNO Puzzle Solving Competition: Sat @ 5:30-6pm.
EF: $25 by 11/1, $40 after.

SPFNO Blitz Championship: Sat @ 6:30-9pm.
EF: $35 by 11/1, $50 after.

GM Susan Polgar Simul: Sun @ 1-4pm.
EF: $75 by 11/1, $100 after. Max 20 players.

Special Offer: Stay two nights or more in the Hilton Bellevue and receive one free entry into the main tournament!

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 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 https://nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration .

August 7, 14, 21, 28 (Fri.) — **Dog Days**

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.

August 8-9 (Sat.-Sun.) — **Seafair Chess Classic & FIDE Blitz**

Our premier tournament of the year! See full-page ad adjacent.

August 22 (Sat.) — **August 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, 2pm, 6pm. **Byes:** 0 – must play all 3 rounds! **Venue:** TBA. US Chess rated, US Chess membership req'd. **Sign up:** https://nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration/ .

September 5-7 (Sat.-Mon.) — **SCC Masters Open**

See below.

Coming up:

- **September Quads** – September 12; tentative, 2B confirmed
- **SCC Fall Open** – September 26-27; tentative, 2B confirmed

Check our events calendar periodically for confirmed dates.

SCC Masters Open

September 5-7, 2026

A 6-round Swiss in 1 section, USCF + FIDE rated. Minimum 2000 USCF rating required, with limited exceptions

- **Time Control:** G/90 + 30-second increment
- **Rounds:** Saturday & Sunday 12 noon and 6pm; Monday 10am and 4pm.
- **Entry Fee:** Before 8/21 – $175. Rating, title, SCC member discounts available; see flyer. After 8/21 – $200.
- **Play up:** 3 seats max available for USCF 1800-2000. Play up fee – $75.
- **Byes:** 1 half-point bye available. Commit before end of Round 2.
- **Prize fund:** $2,100 guaranteed. 1st: $1,000; 2nd: $700; 3rd: $400.

FIDE Bonus Blitz

September 7, 2026 (approx. 8-10pm after main tournament)

- A 7-round Single Swiss in 1 section. FIDE and USCF rated. 28 players max. Open to players of all ratings.
- **Time Control:** G/3+2
- **Entry Fee:** $30, or free if in main event
- **Prize fund:** $300 guaranteed. 1st: $150; 2nd: $100; 3rd: $50.

Both events at Seattle Chess Club. Organizer and question fielder: FM Megan Lee (meganleechess@gmail.com)

More details and registration info at https://nwchess.com/calendar/2026%20SCC%20Masters%20Open.pdf

SEAFAIR CHESS CLASSIC

AUGUST 8-9, 2026 • 5-SS G/75+30

Embassy Suites Hotel Seattle-Tacoma Airport, 15920 W. Valley Hwy, Seattle, WA 98188. Free Parking!

3 sections – Championship, Reserve (U1800), Rising/Unrated (U1200)
All sections USCF rated, Championship section also FIDE rated.

Prize Fund: $5500 based on 120 paid entries

Championship: 1st $1000 | 2nd $600 | 3rd $300
Top U2200: 1st $200 | 2nd $100 | Top U2000: 1st $200 | 2nd $100

Reserve (U1800): 1st $700 | 2nd $400 | 3rd $200
Top U1600: 1st $150 | 2nd $75 | Top U1400: 1st $150 | 2nd $75

Rising/Unrated (U1200): 1st $460 | 2nd $270 | 3rd $140
Top U1000: 1st $90 | 2nd $50 | Top Unrated: 1st $90 | 2nd $50

Brilliancy Prize $100

SEAFAIR BLITZ CHAMPIONSHIP

AUGUST 9, 2026 • 7-SS G/3+2

USCF and FIDE rated, approx. 6PM after main tournament ends

Prize Fund: $500 based on 50 paid entries

1st $200 | 2nd $120 | 3rd $80 | Top U1800: $60 | Top U1400: $40

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

