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\$40 for three consecutive listings of the same event. \$30 for two consecutive listings of the same event. \$20 for one listing, or \$20 per month for events held every month (may include dates for current month and next month).

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Please arrange payment for ads and Grand Prix fees of \$1.00 per player with the Business Manager.

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On the front cover:

(L) Ananth Gottumukkala winner of the Open Section of the
2022 Washington Open with Josh Sinanan.
Photo credit: Chad Lykins.

On the back cover:

The Medina Elementary K-3 Championship Team of (L-R)
Ares Wang, Michael Zhang, Michael Xiong, and Ted Wang
celebrating their third place finish at Elementary Nationals with
Coach Josh Sinanan. Photo credit: Rongzhi Lu.

Submissions

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

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<https://www.idahoChessAssociation.com/>

		Rate
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	3 years	\$ 80.00
Junior	1 year	\$ 24.00
	<i>Age U/21 at expiration</i>	\$ 43.00
Scholastic	6 months	\$ 14.00
Senior	1 year	\$ 25.00
	<i>Age 65 or over</i>	\$ 65.00
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	3 years	\$ 25.00
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Junior (U/21 at expiration)	1 year	\$ 10.00
Senior	1 year	\$ 17.50
Additional Family Members	1 year	\$ 5.00
Non-Member Subscriptions		
U.S. addresses	1 year	\$ 30.00
	3 years	\$ 80.00
Canada	1 year	\$ 40.00
Foreign	1 year	\$ 60.00

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Northwest Chess Knights

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Carol Kleist

August 18, 1929 - May 30, 2022

The Seattle Chess Club mourns the passing of Carol Kleist, long-time club Secretary, club Life Member and devoted wife of Fred, our Tournament Director. Carol died peacefully over Memorial Day weekend.

—John Selsky, President of the Seattle Chess Club

*Carol Kleist at the 2015 Washington Women's Championship.
 Photo credit: Josh Sinanan.*



WASHINGTON *SUMMER SIZZLER* CHESS TOURNAMENT

JULY 16, 2022

ONLINE VIA  Chess.com



FORMAT:

A 5-round Swiss tournament in four sections:

K-4 U1100

K-4 Open

5-12 U1300

5-12 Open

ROUNDS:

Rd. 1 – 9:00am

Rd. 2 – 10:30am

Rd. 3 – 11:45am

Lunch break

Rd. 4 – 1:30pm

Rd. 5 – 2:45pm

TIME

CONTROL:

Game in 25 minutes with a 5-second increment per move.

ENTRY FEE:

\$35 by 7/13, \$45 after.

AWARDS:

Amazon Gift Card Prizes awarded in each section:

1st – \$50

2nd – \$40

3rd – \$35

4th – \$30

5th – \$20

RATING:

NWSRS Rated. Open sections also US Chess Online Rated. Highest of NWSRS, US Chess, or US Chess online rating will be used to determine section and pairings. US Chess membership required only for Open sections.

ELIGIBILITY:

Open to all students registered in grades K-12. A Chess.com account is required. Zoom monitoring with webcam required only for Open sections.

THE DETAILS

Procedure:

Zoom help desk available for all players to communicate with the tournament director (TD). Pairings will be released prior to the start of each round. Players will be paired automatically by the TD in the [Live Chess](#) area.

Fair Play Policy:

All players and parents are required to sign the [WCF Fair Play Agreement](#) prior to the start of the tournament. WCF's Fair Play Committee will review any suspicious games on a case-by-case basis. Fair play standards will be strictly enforced. Good sportsmanship by all players is highly encouraged!

Online Registration:

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

Registration, payment, and fair play agreement deadline is **Friday, July 15th by 5pm**. No registrations will be accepted after the deadline. Unpaid players will receive a zero-point bye for round 1.

Questions? Contact Rekha Sagar, WCF Tournament Director, 425-496-9160, Rekha4Chess@gmail.com

2022 Washington Open

Josh Sinanan

The 2022 Washington Open was held over Memorial Day weekend May 28-30 at the Redmond Marriott. This year marked the first time since 2019 that the three-day chess festival was hosted in-person after two years of being conducted online due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Chess players from throughout North America including parts of Washington, Oregon, Tennessee, British Columbia (CAN), were represented in the diverse field. The event was hosted by Washington Chess Federation, directed by Senior TD Fred Kleist, Oregon Scholastic Chess Federation President Chad Lykins, and

WCF Scholastic Director Rekha Sagar. WCF President Josh Sinanan and WCF Tournament Coordinator Valentin Razmov orchestrated the weekend's festivities with assistance from WCF Member-at-Large Ani Barua, WCF Treasurer Robert Allen, and junior TD trainee Gabriel Razmov. Amazing photographs were taken throughout the event by Chess Photographer Extraordinaire Meiling Cheng.

Over 200 players participated in the three-day chess festival which spanned the holiday weekend. The Washington Open main event, a six-round Swiss tournament across three sections, Open,

Premier (U1800), and Reserve (U1400), once again offered a flexible three-day or two-day option to accommodate even the busiest of schedules. The Washington Open Scholastic, co-directed by WCF Scholastic Director Rekha Sagar and Chess4Life Coach Lane Van Weerdhuizen, attracted 86 juniors on Saturday May 28!

A full slate of fun side events including the brand-new Adult-only Swiss, Chess960 (Fischer Random) Championship, Puzzle Solving Competition, Rapid Championship, and "Knight-Time" Blitz created a truly immersive "chessical" experience!

Henry Louie draws the next piece to determine the starting position in the Fischer Random Championship as Adult-only Swiss and Chess960 players look on. Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.



Ananth Gottumukkala (1841-2012, 6.0) of Sammamish surprised everyone and won the 67-player Open section with a sensational six points from six games! For his efforts, Ananth earns a coveted seed into the Championship section of the 2023 Washington State Championship. Along the way to his victory, Gottumukkala won against four higher-rated opponents—Nicholas Whale (2036), WFM Anne-Marie Velea (2201), Brandon Jiang (2177), and Havish Sripada (2006)—but somehow dodged the three strong masters who shared second-fourth place honors with five points each: IM Georgi Orlov (2507-2504, 5.0) of Sammamish, WIM Megan Lee (2346-2340, 5.0) of Bellevue, and FM John Readey (2288-2286, 5.0) of Seattle. A trio of up-and-coming juniors tied for fifth overall/first U2100/first U1900 with 4.5 points apiece: Brandon Jiang (2177-2180, 4.5) of Bellevue, Havish Sripada (2006-2041, 4.5) of Portland, and Michael Lin (1353-1618, 4.5) of Sammamish.

Seven was indeed the lucky number as a septuplet of players shared second U2100 honors with four points each: Yevgeniy Rozenfeld (2079-2063, 4.0) of Redmond, Nicholas Whale (2036-2036, 4.0) of Mountlake Terrace, David Arganian (2000-2017, 4.0) of Seattle, Austin Liu (2015-2011, 4.0) of Sammamish, David Paez (2000-1978, 4.0) of Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Brian Lee (1969-1949, 4.0) of Napavine, and Vidip Kona (1920-1939, 4.0) of Redmond. Ted Wang (1802-1844, 4.0) of Medina, Washington State's top second grader, won the second place U1900 prize with an undefeated score of two wins and four draws!

With many new players honing their chess skills online during the past few years, upsets abound in every section! Scoring the top three upsets in the Open section were: William Dann (561 points) of Kirkland, Zaki Maksyutov (459 points) of Redmond, and Finnegan Flavin (405 points) of Wenatchee. WCF would also like to recognize our top female players in each section by tournament performance rating (TPR). For the Open section, the winners were: Felicity Wang (1979) of Bellevue, Anne-Marie Velea (1940) of Sammamish, and Sophie Velea (1897) of Sammamish. The best annotated game prizes are still being decided and will be announced in an upcoming issue of *Northwest Chess*!

Travis Olson (1731-1727, 5.0) of Mukilteo and Nihanth Tatikonda (1480-1571, 5.0) of Bothell topped the 64-player Premier (U1800) section, each with an undefeated five points from six games. An upcoming playoff match between Travis and Nihanth will determine the seed into the Challengers section of the 2023 Washington State Championship. The two winners drew against each other in round five and pulled off clutch final

round victories to distance themselves from the chasing pack of fellow four-point scorers Daniel Wilke, Ozgun Ozusta, Lorenzo Patton Jr., and Varnika Jammalamadaka, all of whom drew their round six games.

Daniel Wang, who was half-a-point behind the chasing pack, was able to win his final round game to join them in the third-fifth/first-second U1650 winners circle, which consisted of Daniel Wilke (1644-1648, 4.5) of Sammamish, Ozgun Ozusta (1569-1613, 4.5) of Kirkland, Lorenzo Patton Jr. (1619-1612, 4.5) of Sammamish, Varnika Jammalamadaka (1507-1532, 4.5) of Redmond, and Daniel Wang (1476-1506, 4.5) of Mercer Island. Aarav Sai Bharathy Mohan (899-1180, 4.0) of Bothell captured the First U1500 prize with four points. Five players split the second place U1500 prize half-a-point back: Michael Rabadan (1475-1448, 3.5) of Yakima, Owen McDevitt (1333-1373, 3.5) of Pullman, Robert Hyslop (1336-1362, 3.5) of Kent, Don Hack (1204-1346, 3.5) of Surrey, BC, and Advait Krishnan (907-1178, 3.5) of Redmond. The best upset prizes in the Premier section were awarded to Aarav Sai Bharathy Mohan (390 points), Owen McDevitt (374 points), and Christian Fobian (313 points) of Port Angeles. The top female player prizes were presented to Sonia Devaraju (1688) of Kirkland, Anisha Sripada (1375) of Portland, and Miranda Meng (1366) of Bellevue.

This year's Reserve (U1400) section was dominated by adults for a change after many years of youth supremacy! During the tournament, several of the kids even complained to the organizers about the influx of underrated adult players. Perhaps the Northwest's "scholastic chess = pigeon, adult chess = statue" analogy is finally changing! Henry Hua (1303-1374, 6.0) of Seattle won the 41-player Reserve

section with an uncompromising six wins from six games! Henry took down his nearest rivals D. Ozusta (970), Deshusses (1095), Nakura-Fan (1016), and Morgan (738) in rounds two-five, clinching the tournament victory with a round to spare! Simon Deshusses (1095-1220, 5.0), originally from Missouri but now living in Seattle, captured second place honors a full-point back. Three adults tied for third-fifth place with 4.5 points apiece: Dilan Ozusta (970-1155, 4.5) of Kirkland, Andra Marinescu (1100-1115, 4.5) of Renton, and Hunter Morgan (738-924, 4.5) of Snohomish.

Laurion Burchall (1071-1099, 4.0) of Seattle won the first U1200 prize a half-point back. Four players split the second U1200 prize: Doug Henderson (1194-1133, 3.0) of Snoqualmie, Valentin Boulanger (886-822, 3.0) of Sammamish, Taylor Hopper (894-904, 3.0) of Seattle, and Stas Black (614-682, 3.0) of Bothell. Kyle Boddy (910-972, 3.0) of Seattle and Toby Martin (876-884, 3.0) of University Place shared the first/second U1000 prize half-a-point back.

Max Nakura-Fan (1016-1115, 4.5) of Bellevue won the first-place unrated prize with a very impressive 4.5 points. Two chess kings, Balbir Singh (1233-1220, 4.0) of Seatac and William Watts (unrated-1087, 4.0) of Bellingham, split the second-place unrated prize with four points each. The best upset prizes in the Reserve section were presented to: Toby Martin (555 points), Kyle Boddy (433 points), and Keith Ciani (318 points) of Olympia. Chess queens Deeksha Shankaranand (1044) of Redmond, Kaavya Lakshminarayanan (942) of Bellevue, and Kyrene Zhang (871) of Mercer Island were awarded the best female prizes.

Congratulations to the winners!



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 President
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Final Standings. Washington Open 2022: Open Section

#	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Total	Prize
1	Ananth Gottumukkala	1948	W44	W45	W13	W36	W5	W6	6	1st
2	IM Georgi Orlov	2507	W21	W10	D6	H---	W13	W12	5	Tied 2nd-4th
3	WIM Megan Lee	2350	W31	W37	W16	L5	W22	W15	5	Tied 2nd-4th
4	FM John L Readey	2288	W53	W42	W43	L15	W16	W8	5	Tied 2nd-4th
5	Brandon Jiang	2134	W26	W22	W35	W3	L1	D11	4.5	Tied 5th/1st U2100/1st U1900
6	Havish Sripada	2008	X---	W63	D2	W23	W15	L1	4.5	Tied 5th/1st U2100/1st U1900
7	Michael Lin	1691	L16	D28	W54	W38	W30	W20	4.5	Tied 5th/1st U2100/1st U1900
8	Kyle Haining	2294	H---	W62	H---	W52	W29	L4	4	
9	Viktors Pupols-Petzal	2200	L42	W53	W64	H---	D21	W29	4	
10	Brendan Zhang	2107	W43	L2	L42	W46	W56	W32	4	
11	Yevgeniy Rozenfeld	2079	L32	W61	W26	W24	D18	D5	4	Tied 2nd U2100
12	Austin Liu	2048	W55	D23	W38	H---	W33	L2	4	Tied 2nd U2100
13	Nicholas M Whale	2036	W56	W52	L1	W32	L2	W33	4	Tied 2nd U2100
14	David Paez	2033	D41	W54	L23	W59	W36	D18	4	Tied 2nd U2100
15	David Arganian	2000	W61	W32	W24	W4	L6	L3	4	Tied 2nd U2100
16	Vidip Kona	1945	W7	W33	L3	W35	L4	W34	4	Tied 2nd U2100
17	Brian Lee	1925	L45	W59	W44	L22	W41	W35	4	Tied 2nd U2100
18	Ted Wang	1895	W47	D36	D41	W42	D11	D14	4	2nd U1900
19	Austin Tang	2017	D57	L41	L49	W55	W59	W42	3.5	
20	Michael J Hosford	1970	H---	W57	L36	W41	W23	L7	3.5	
21	Daniel Qian	1908	L2	W40	D53	W62	D9	D22	3.5	
22	Valentin Razmov	1828	W65	L5	W58	W17	L3	D21	3.5	
23	Edward Cheng	1807	W66	D12	W14	L6	L20	W46	3.5	
24	Edward Li	1773	W60	W51	L15	L11	D43	W44	3.5	
25	Varin Nallabothula	1760	L36	L47	W48	W64	D44	W45	3.5	
26	Erik Liu	1758	L5	W65	L11	W60	D45	W43	3.5	
27	Arnold Yang	1714	L51	D60	L59	W53	W62	W39	3.5	
28	Harrison Toppén-Ryan	1912	L33	D7	D34	D47	D57	W56	3	
29	Luca Tessiore	1900	W34	L35	W45	W31	L8	L9	3	
30	Frederick A Davis	1895	D46	D58	L33	W50	L7	W57	3	
31	Orren Ravid	1767	L3	W48	W66	L29	L35	W58	3	
32	Felicity Wang	1755	W11	L15	W51	L13	W49	L10	3	1st Best Female Player (by TPR)
33	Keshav Beegala	1678	W28	L16	W30	W37	L12	L13	3	
34	Evan Chowdhury	1674	L29	H---	D28	W51	W37	L16	3	
35	Maxwell Collinge	unr.	B---	W29	L5	L16	W31	L17	3	
36	WFM Anne-Marie Velea	2207	W25	D18	W20	L1	L14	U---	2.5	2nd Best Female Player (by TPR)
37	Ethan Morehouse	1894	W48	L3	W47	L33	L34	D50	2.5	
38	Aaron Nicoski	1867	D58	W46	L12	L7	D47	D48	2.5	
39	Vihaan Jammalamadaka	1866	D59	D50	D62	D49	D42	L27	2.5	
40	Conor Mcavity	1783	L63	L21	B---	L45	W66	D47	2.5	
41	Jamie Zhu	1744	D14	W19	D18	L20	L17	H---	2.5	
42	Zaki Maksyutov	1741	W9	L4	W10	L18	D39	L19	2.5	2nd Best Upset
43	Ted Shi	1707	L10	B---	L4	W58	D24	L26	2.5	
44	Pace Lykins	1694	L1	W67	L17	W66	D25	L24	2.5	
45	Andrew Fletcher	1690	W17	L1	L29	W40	D26	L25	2.5	
46	Bohan Zhang	1652	D30	L38	W57	L10	W54	L23	2.5	
47	Owen Xu	1648	L18	W25	L37	D28	D38	D40	2.5	
48	Kylie Zhang	1635	L37	L31	L25	B---	W65	D38	2.5	
49	Sujan Saravanan	1634	L52	D56	W19	D39	L32	H---	2.5	
50	Aniruddha Barua	1625	H---	D39	L52	L30	W60	D37	2.5	
51	Fritz Scholz	2019	W27	L24	L32	L34	L58	W66	2	
52	WCM Sophie Velea	1876	W49	L13	W50	L8	U---	U---	2	3rd Best Female Player (by TPR)
53	Brandon Peng	1822	L4	L9	D21	L27	W67	D55	2	
54	Stephanie Velea	1807	H---	L14	L7	W61	L46	D59	2	
55	Harrison Keyser	1748	L12	L66	D67	L19	W61	D53	2	
56	Dave Juchau	1744	L13	D49	D60	W65	L10	L28	2	
57	Harishkumar Karthikeyan	1708	D19	L20	L46	W67	D28	L30	2	
58	William Dann	1458	D38	D30	L22	L43	W51	L31	2	1st Best Upset
59	Finnegan Flavin	1309	D39	L17	W27	L14	L19	D54	2	3rd Best Upset
60	Huy Le	unr.	L24	D27	D56	L26	L50	W65	2	
61	Robert Allen	1700	L15	L11	H---	L54	L55	B---	1.5	
62	Sharad Cornejo Altuzar	unr.	W67	L8	D39	L21	L27	U---	1.5	
63	FM Ryan W Porter	2263	W40	L6	U---	U---	U---	U---	1	
64	Andrew Jiang	1566	H---	H---	L9	L25	U---	U---	1	
65	Seshasayee Shreeraam	1107	L22	L26	B---	L56	L48	L60	1	
66	Tom Cornelius	unr.	L23	W55	L31	L44	L40	L51	1	
67	Greg Staley	1819	L62	L44	D55	L57	L53	U---	0.5	

Final Standings. Washington Open 2022: Premier Section

#	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Total	Prize
1	Travis Olson	1731	W43	W31	W28	D15	D2	W12	5	Tied 1st/2nd
2	Nihanth Tatikonda	1658	X---	D25	W45	W14	D1	W8	5	Tied 1st/2nd
3	Lorenzo Patton Jr	1745	D44	W54	W18	D11	W20	D5	4.5	Tied 3rd-5th/1st-2nd U1650
4	Daniel Wilke	1716	W51	D45	H---	W42	W21	D7	4.5	Tied 3rd-5th/1st-2nd U1650
5	Varnika Jammalamadaka	1694	W52	W35	D7	W25	D15	D3	4.5	Tied 3rd-5th/1st-2nd U1650
6	Daniel Wang	1644	W48	W53	D8	D9	D13	W15	4.5	Tied 3rd-5th/1st-2nd U1650
7	Ozgun Ozusta	1569	W59	W49	D5	D8	W9	D4	4.5	Tied 3rd-5th/1st-2nd U1650
8	David Merrikin	1752	W42	W12	D6	D7	W28	L2	4	
9	Shiv Mehrotra	1739	W50	D13	W26	D6	L7	W24	4	
10	Abhay Sankar	1654	D33	W29	L25	W32	D22	W30	4	
11	Emerson Wong-Godfrey	1649	W61	D24	W33	D3	L12	W31	4	
12	Ethan Pogrebinsky	1547	W36	L8	W53	W52	W11	L1	4	
13	Ujwal Garine	1542	W55	D9	D24	W26	D6	D14	4	
14	Sonia Devaraju	1539	W34	D18	W40	L2	W45	D13	4	1st Best Female Player (by TPR)
15	Hiruna Devadithya	1505	W57	W20	W22	D1	D5	L6	4	
16	Aarav Bharathy Mohan	1178	W41	L28	W31	L21	W52	W39	4	1st U1500 + 1st Best Upset
17	Loyd J Willaford	1679	L45	L27	W59	W35	W25	D21	3.5	
18	Jeffrey Kou	1646	W23	D14	L3	H---	W47	D27	3.5	
19	Gabriel Razmov	1562	L26	W61	D35	D34	W48	D23	3.5	
20	Nugen Tran	1556	W47	L15	W46	W23	L3	D22	3.5	
21	Eric Chang	1549	L53	W48	W36	W16	L4	D17	3.5	
22	Paul Gillen	1521	X---	W40	L15	D24	D10	D20	3.5	
23	Michael Rabadan	1475	L18	W44	W54	L20	W49	D19	3.5	Tied 2nd U1500
24	Advait Krishnan	1404	W38	D11	D13	D22	W39	L9	3.5	Tied 2nd U1500
25	Don Hack	1347	W39	D2	W10	L5	L17	W45	3.5	Tied 2nd U1500
26	Robert Hyslop	1336	W19	W37	L9	L13	W51	H---	3.5	Tied 2nd U1500
27	Owen Mc Devitt	1305	D30	W17	D37	L28	W42	D18	3.5	Tied 2nd U1500 + 2nd Best Upset
28	Carlos Alvarez	1573	W58	W16	L1	W27	L8	U---	3	
29	David Hendricks	1554	H---	L10	D43	D58	X57	H---	3	
30	Dann Merriman	1543	D27	L33	H---	W53	W36	L10	3	
31	Michael Xiong	1533	W62	L1	L16	W54	W34	L11	3	
32	Neel Borate	1527	L60	D59	W55	L10	W58	D33	3	
33	Vineesh Nallabothula	1459	D10	W30	L11	L39	W37	D32	3	
34	Hayul Lim	1453	L14	D47	W44	D19	L31	W50	3	
35	Bichen Liu	1418	X---	L5	D19	L17	D43	W51	3	
36	Neev Kodarapu	1307	L12	W50	L21	W41	L30	W52	3	
37	Shuyi Han	1641	W56	L26	D27	L45	L33	W58	2.5	
38	Vijay Nallappa	1576	L24	L52	W61	L47	W59	D46	2.5	
39	Emma Li	1568	L25	D51	W56	W33	L24	L16	2.5	
40	Jaikrishnaa Obulisamy	1561	W46	L22	L14	L48	D56	W59	2.5	
41	Haituka Anandkumar	1541	L16	D56	D51	L36	W53	D47	2.5	
42	Jack Eggleston	1518	L8	W58	W62	L4	L27	D49	2.5	
43	Sacchit Boddapati	1500	L1	D55	D29	H---	D35	D48	2.5	
44	Anisha Sripada	1486	D3	L23	L34	L59	W62	W56	2.5	2nd Best Female Player (by TPR)
45	Ivan Shneerson	1471	W17	D4	L2	W37	L14	L25	2.5	
46	Sanjay Urali	1460	L40	X---	L20	L49	W55	D38	2.5	
47	Arnav Gadde	1458	L20	D34	D57	W38	L18	D41	2.5	
48	Arlo Breslauer	1437	L6	L21	W50	W40	L19	D43	2.5	
49	Christian Fobian	1147	W64	L7	L52	W46	L23	D42	2.5	3rd Best Upset
50	Nikhil Ramkumar	1504	L9	L36	L48	W61	W54	L34	2	
51	Murlin Varner	1500	L4	D39	D41	W62	L26	L35	2	
52	Jerrold Richards	1473	L5	W38	W49	L12	L16	L36	2	
53	Tristan Jolly	1309	W21	L6	L12	L30	L41	W62	2	
54	Abhinav Mishra	1287	B---	L3	L23	L31	L50	W61	2	
55	Hannah Nami Gajcowski	1239	L13	D43	L32	D56	L46	B---	2	
56	Kenneth Yuodelis	1429	L37	D41	L39	D55	D40	L44	1.5	
57	Amana Demberel	1404	L15	B---	D47	U---	F29	U---	1.5	
58	Jeremy Chen	1400	L28	L42	W63	D29	L32	L37	1.5	
59	Miranda Meng	1379	L7	D32	L17	W44	L38	L40	1.5	3rd Best Female Player (by TPR)
60	Francisco J Lopez	1793	W32	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	1	
61	Selina Cheng	1449	L11	L19	L38	L50	B---	L54	1	
62	Zoe Xu	1169	L31	B---	L42	L51	L44	L53	1	
63	Seshasayee Shreeraam	1107	U---	U---	L58	U---	U---	U---	0	
64	Keith Ciani	698	L49	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	0	

Final Standings. Washington Open 2022: Reserve Section

#	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Total	Prize
1	Henry Hua	1269	W40	W5	W2	W6	W4	W7	6	1st
2	Simon Deshusses	1095	W36	W11	L1	W28	W18	W9	5	2nd
3	Andra Marinescu	1271	W39	L32	W29	W24	D9	W14	4.5	Tied 3rd-5th
4	Hunter Morgan	1237	W33	W27	W24	W23	L1	D6	4.5	Tied 3rd-5th
5	Dilan Ozusta	1034	W28	L1	D12	W19	W23	W18	4.5	Tied 3rd-5th
6	Maxwell Nakura-Fan	unr.	W20	W17	W18	L1	W8	D4	4.5	1st Unrated
7	Vladimir Fedorov	1211	W29	L9	X---	W10	W14	L1	4	
8	Laurion Burchall	1102	W25	W10	L14	W11	L6	W24	4	1st U1200
9	Balbir Singh	unr.	X---	W7	W32	D14	D3	L2	4	Tied 2nd Unrated
10	William Watts	unr.	W21	L8	W26	L7	W30	W25	4	Tied 2nd Unrated
11	Leo Saloranta	1338	W16	L2	W20	L8	D26	W27	3.5	
12	Andrew Smith	1233	W34	L23	D5	W21	L13	W26	3.5	
13	Rodrigo Roim Ferreira	unr.	W37	L18	W30	D15	W12	U---	3.5	
14	Taber Wilmot	unr.	W31	W30	W8	D9	L7	L3	3.5	
15	Arthur Yang	1333	W22	L24	D37	D13	D27	D23	3	
16	Vishnu Vijeyanandh	1280	L11	W22	D21	D27	H---	H---	3	
17	Eliot Amalo	1227	W41	L6	D27	H---	L24	W31	3	
18	Deeksha Shankaranand	1205	W38	W13	L6	W32	L2	L5	3	1st Best Female Player (by TPR)
19	Doug Henderson	1142	L23	H---	W35	L5	W38	H---	3	Tied 2nd U1200
20	Valentin Boulanger	1112	L6	W41	L11	L25	W33	W35	3	Tied 2nd U1200
21	Taylor Hopper	1088	L10	W25	D16	L12	D35	W30	3	Tied 2nd U1200
22	Stas Black	1035	L15	L16	W41	L30	W36	W29	3	Tied 2nd U1200
23	Kyle Boddy	800	W19	W12	H---	L4	L5	D15	3	Tied 1st/2nd U1000 + 2nd Best Upset
24	Toby Martin	778	W26	W15	L4	L3	W17	L8	3	Tied 1st/2nd U1000 + 1st Best Upset
25	Adam Hard	unr.	L8	L21	W33	W20	W29	L10	3	
26	William Ma	1127	L24	W33	L10	W36	D11	L12	2.5	
27	Keith Ciani	698	B---	L4	D17	D16	D15	L11	2.5	3rd Best Upset
28	Robert Smoot	1326	L5	W34	W31	L2	F32	U---	2	
29	Gaurav Godse	1325	L7	W39	L3	W31	L25	L22	2	
30	Michael M Zhang	1178	W35	L14	L13	W22	L10	L21	2	
31	James A Tucker	1084	L14	W36	L28	L29	W39	L17	2	
32	Luke Dale	1034	B---	W3	L9	L18	F28	U---	2	
33	Aavir Singh	995	L4	L26	L25	W41	L20	W38	2	
34	Kyrene Zhang	994	L12	L28	L36	L35	W41	W39	2	3rd Best Female Player (by TPR)
35	Kaavya Lakshminarayanan	812	L30	H---	L19	W34	D21	L20	2	2nd Best Female Player (by TPR)
36	Todd Hanssen	unr.	L2	L31	W34	L26	L22	W41	2	
37	Marvin Wilbur	1125	L13	W38	D15	U---	U---	U---	1.5	
38	Karen K Schmidt	827	L18	L37	B---	D39	L19	L33	1.5	
39	Sebastian Phillips-Acheson	861	L3	L29	H---	D38	L31	L34	1	
40	Isaiah Lopez	995	L1	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	0	
41	Oliver Wakeman	894	L17	L20	L22	L33	L34	L36	0	

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Washington Open Scholastic

The 2022 Washington Open Scholastic was held on Saturday, May 28, at the Redmond Marriott. Scholastic chess players in grades K-12 participated from throughout the Pacific Northwest, including the cities of Bothell, Redmond, Sammamish, Snoqualmie, Seattle, Bellevue, Kent, Issaquah, Kirkland, Yarrow Point, Marysville, Bainbridge Island, and Portland (Oregon)! The event was hosted by the Washington Chess Federation and co-directed by Lane Van Weerdhuizen and WCF Scholastic Director Rekha Sagar.

A total of 86 players competed across three sections parsed by grade level and rating: K-5 U1200, 6-12 U1200, and K-12 Open. Congratulations to the Amazon gift card winners:

K-5 U1200:

First: Dheeran Koripella, 5.0

=Second–Ninth: Ethan Marnadi, Mike Tie, Sean Cao, Travis Qiu, Aneesh Vashisht, Lakshana Anand, Shivam Chowdhary, Shashwat Pranav Iyer 4.0

=Tenth–12th: Yash Syal, Zhenyu Zhao, Anya Parson 3.5

Best Female Player: Veronique Joseph (1061 TPR)

Best Upset: Dheeran Koripella (478 points)

6-12 U1200:

=First/Second: Saumit Mahale and Salyh Saryyev, 4.0

=Third–Fourth: Zack Bukovec, Advait Vangala, Nehanth Kakani, 3.0

Best Female Player: Hamsini Ramanathan (900 TPR)

Best Upset: Hamsini Ramanathan (146 points)

K-12 Open:

=First/Second: Aaron Ren and Jaikrishnaa Obulisamy, 3.5

=Third/Fourth: Odbayar Yondon, Arnav Gadde, William Chen, Kate Wong, 3.0

Best Female Player: Emily Huang (1412 TPR)

Best Upset: Derek Fei (229 points)

Washington Open Adult-only Swiss

A brand-new side event called the Washington Open Adult-only Swiss was introduced this year to offer an opportunity for adult chess players to compete alongside the main tournament in a special adult-only (21+) section.

The event, which was run under the supervision of WCF Adult Chess Director Rekha Sagar, was sponsored by Henry Yan and the Seattle Chess Club and featured a guaranteed \$1000 prize fund. The slightly faster time control of G/90;+30 and tighter playing schedule with rounds at 11:00 AM and 4:00 PM were designed to appeal to the casual and serious adult chess player alike! Due to a modest turnout of just seven players in the six-round Swiss, the tournament had more of a round robin feel to it, with several players facing everyone else in the field.

Chess Ironman Viktors Pupols opted to “simul” the Adult Swiss and the two-day main tournament, which made for an interesting spectacle in several rounds in which he was playing two games simultaneously! Paul Harwood (1857-1882, 5.0) of Bellevue emerged victorious with an impressive five wins from six games, dropping only a single point to LaVoice in the penultimate round.

Rich LaVoice (1875-1884, 4.0) of Kirkland and Henry Yan (1760-1773, 4.0) of Bellevue tied for second place honors a full-point back. Jacob Gulotta (762-883, 2.5) of Seattle captured the U2000 prize with 2.5 points and scored the biggest upset (744 points) with a splendid third-round knockout win against the luckless Liotta! Nicholas Liotta (1506-1464, 2.0), originally from Rhode Island but now residing in Seattle, and Henry Louie (1300-1300, 2.0) of Mineral, a former logging camp and mining town located near the Pierce/Lewis County line, split U1700/U1400 honors with two points apiece.

Washington Open Chess960 (Fischer Random) Championship

The Washington Open Chess960 (Fischer Random) Championship, a four-round Swiss in one section, took place on Saturday May 28 at 2:15 PM under the

direction of WCF President Josh Sinanan.

Eleven players honored the great Bobby Fischer as they scrambled by the back-rank pieces and played from unorthodox starting positions each round! Pieces were drawn at random between rounds by the players and spectators out of a bag and then players were given two minutes to analyze the starting position before clocks were started. The positions drawn were as follows: round one, position 625: BRNBKQRN; round two, position 701: RQKBNNBR; round three, position 551: RNBKNQRB; round four, position 379: NRKRBNQB.

After four wild rounds of play, National Master Daniel Shubin (2241, 3.5) of Redmond was crowned the Washington Open Chess960 Champion with an undefeated 3.5 points from four games, conceding a single draw to Ted Shi.

Max Collinge (814, 3.0) of Gig Harbor and Ozgun Ozusta (1569, 3.0), originally from Turkey but now living in Kirkland, shared second/third place honors half-a-point back. A trio of players tied for first U1400/first unrated with two points apiece: Rodrigo Roim Ferreira (unrated, 2.0) of Bellevue, Henry Hua (1303, 2.0) of Seattle, and Michael Rodney (unrated, 2.0) of Blaine. Congratulations to the winners!

Washington Open Puzzle Solving Competition

On Saturday afternoon at 4:30pm, 17 intrepid competitors were given a maximum of 45 minutes to solve 16 chess puzzles. The puzzles, which were designed by WCF Tournament Coordinator Valentin Razmov, contained a challenging mix of tactical and strategic themes. Solutions were written on paper, and contestants were evaluated based on accuracy, completeness, and speed. Congratulations to the medal winners:

=First/Second: Austin Tang and Daniel Shubin 14.25

=Third/First U2000/First U1700: Edward Cheng, Vihaan Jammalamadaka, Varnika Jammalamadaka 13

First U1400: Max Collinge 12.25

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

Washington Open - Puzzle Solving Competition

May 28, 2022

Time allowed: 45 mins

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

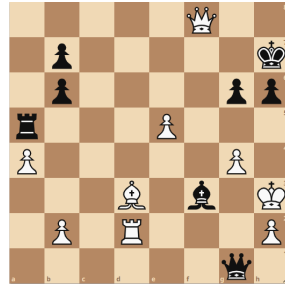
Puzzle #1: White to move and mate in 1.

Solution: 1. _____



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

Solution: 1. _____ 2. _____



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

Solution: 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____



Puzzle #4: White to move & force a checkmate. List the first 3 moves only.

Solution: 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____



Washington Open - Puzzle Solving Competition

Puzzle #9: White's queen seems surrounded from all sides. Black to move & trap that queen.

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

Brief explanation (optional): _____



Puzzle #10: Black to move and win. Explain the idea briefly.

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

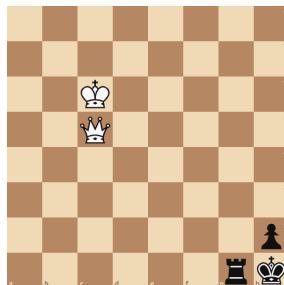
Brief explanation: _____



Puzzle #11: White to move and win. Explain.

Solution: 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

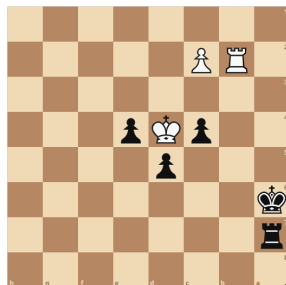
Explanation: _____



Puzzle #12: Black to move and win. Explain.

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

Explanation: _____



Washington Open - Puzzle Solving Competition

Puzzle #5: White to move and win. Explain.

Solution: 1. _____ 2. _____

Brief explanation: _____



Puzzle #6: White to move and win.

Solution: 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

Brief explanation (optional): _____



Puzzle #7: Black to move and win. Explain the idea briefly.

Solution: 1... _____ 2. _____

Brief explanation: _____



Puzzle #8: White is up some material, but their king is in danger. How to best defend? Explain.

Solution: 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

Brief explanation: _____

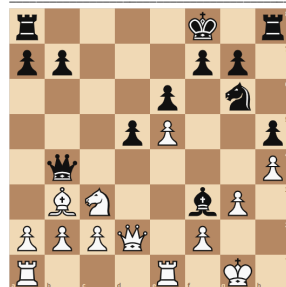


Washington Open - Puzzle Solving Competition

Puzzle #13: Black is poised to infiltrate near the white king. What is White's best defense?

Solution: 1. _____ 2. _____

Explanation (optional): _____



Puzzle #14: Black to move. What is Black's best plan? Explain briefly and provide a sample line.

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

Explanation: _____



Puzzle #15: White has clear areas of dominance. What plan gives Black the best counterplay?

Explanation: _____

Sample line: 1... _____ 2. _____ (or 2. _____)



***Bonus*:** Black to move. Which side is better and why? Explain and provide a sample line.

Explanation: _____

Sample line: 1... _____ 2. _____ 3. _____



Washington Open Rapid Championship

The inaugural Washington Open Rapid Championship, a five-round Swiss in one section, took place on Sunday afternoon at 2:00 PM under the direction of WCF Adult Chess Director Rekha Sagar.

Twenty-seven players ranging from unrated to master level competed in this popular new side event, which featured a time control of G/15;+5 and was US Chess Quick Rated! When the dust settled, two players emerged victorious with an undefeated 4.5 points from five games: Valentin Razmov (1640-1705, 4.5) of Seattle and Ozgun Ozusta (unrated-1663, 4.5) of Kirkland, who also won the best upset prize (672 points).

During the dramatic final-round game between Valentin Razmov and David Rupel on the first board, an interesting material imbalance occurred, with Razmov's rook and knight defending against Rupel's queen. In time pressure, with each player having less than one minute remaining, Rupel was preparing to penetrate decisively with his queen

when he accidentally made an illegal move. A spectator who shall go unnamed proclaimed, "impossible move!," and the two players shook hands, agreeing that Rupel had lost the game due to the illegal move.

It was later discovered by the tournament directors that a time penalty should have been assessed according to US Chess rules rather than a forfeit in the case of an illegal move, since it was a rapid instead of a blitz game. Of some consolation to David Rupel (2015-1995, 4.0) of Olympia was that he still tied for third place half-a-point back along with newcomer Qinsheng Chen (unrated-1401, 4.0) of Bellevue, whose kids were present to cheer him on in his rapid games!

Youngster Arjun Yadav (930-1085, 3.5) of Sammamish captured first U2000 honors with an impressive 3.5 points thanks to rattling off three consecutive wins in his final three games! Three players shared first U1700/first U1400 honors half-a-point back: Dann Merriman (1073-1087, 3.0) of Duvall, Selina Cheng (1011-1113, 3.0) of Seattle, and Dean Jackson (1187-1189, 3.0), originally from Arizona, but now living in Edgewood.

Newcomer Neha Kulkarni (unrated-1240, 3.0) won the best female prize with a tournament performance rating (TPR) of 1547 to round out the prize winners!

Washington Open "Knight-Time" Blitz

The massive 32-player Washington Open "Knight-Time" Blitz tournament, a popular perennial side event, wrapped up the weekend's festivities on Monday evening at 7:30 PM under the direction of WCF Adult Chess Director Rekha Sagar. The nine-round single Swiss tournament featured a time control of G/5;+3, which allowed for a bit more play due to the modest increment.

Speed chess wizard Vihaan Jammalamadaka (1672-1841, 8.0), a fourth-grader from Redmond, won the tournament with an amazing eight points from nine games, conceding only a single point to Sangeeta Dhingra in round three before winning his final six games! Young phenom Vidip Kona (1846-1896, 7.5) of Redmond captured second place honors half-a-point back. Finishing in clear third place was Minda Chen (1644-1782, 7.0)



*Rob Smoot (L) vs Siddharth Parikh in the Rapid Championship.
Photo credits Meiling Cheng.*

of Seattle, who came out to Redmond just for the blitz event. Orren Ravid (1582-1613, 6.0), originally from New Jersey but now residing in Redmond, claimed the U2000 prize with six points.

Two chess warriors, Ozgun Ozusta (unrated-1683, 5.5) of Kirkland and Gabriel Razmov (1239-1347, 5.5) of Seattle, shared U1700 honors a half-point back. Young Michael Zhang (968-987, 4.0) from Medina claimed the U1400 prize with four points. A trio of newcomers, Huy Le (unrated-1293, 4.0) of Seattle, Neha Kulkarni (unrated-1306, 4.0) of Kirkland, and Vishal Suram (unrated-1032, 4.0) of Bothell, tied for the U1100/unrated prize with four points apiece. The best female player prize was awarded to former Washington State Girls Champion Sangeeta Dhingra (1583-1632, 5.0) of Bellevue with a TPR of 1774. William Dann (1060-1259, 5.0) of Kirkland scored the Best Upset (349 points) to round out the prize winners.

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

**William Dann (1400) –
Fritz Scholz (2000) [B23]**
2022 Washington Open, Open
Redmond (R5), May 30, 2022
[William Dann]



This game has some significance to me—it was both my first time playing in the top section of a tournament and my first time playing a player rated over 2000. I very much wanted to win this game to prove to myself that the open section of the tournament is where I belong as a player.

**1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.Bb5 g6 4.Bxc6 bxc6
5.f4 Bg7 6.d3 d6 7.Nf3 e6**



Position after 7...e6

The idea of playing this way is to play Ne7 and control the f5 square. When I was researching my opponent on Opening Tree (<https://www.openingtree.com/>) I saw that my opponent played right into this ~160 or so times online and played nothing else. Josh and a few other early arrivers at the tournament could see me frantically studying this line in a book a few hours before the game. There is a really interesting idea after Ne7 that I knew existed, but I had never played.

8.0-0 Ne7 9.e5!

This is the idea. White plays simply for control of the c5 square. This works even better in this line because the e7 knight is not on a good circuit.

9...Nd5?



Position after 9...Nd5

I did not expect this move. My opponent commented after the game about the speed at which I had blitzed out the opening—I suspect maybe this took him by surprise and played a part in this mistake. 9...d5 10.Na4 c4 11.Be3 This is the kind of position I was expecting to play. I think this is much preferable to the 9...Ne5 line.

**10.Ne4 dxe5 11.fxex5 0-0 12.Nxc5 Ne7
13.d4 h6 14.c4 Qc7 15.Qe1 Rd8 16.g4!?**

No f5 square for you!

16...Qb6

Black has a sneaky idea with this move, can you spot it?

17.Na4

17.Bd2? Rxd4 18.Nxd4 Qxc5 This is the idea—this is not what White wants.

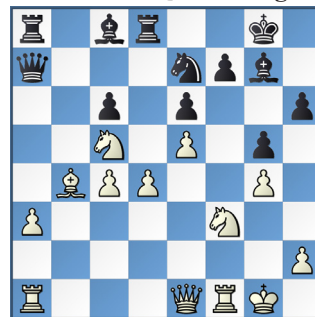
17...Qc7 18.Bd2

Notice the threat of a skewer on a5.

18...a5 19.Nc5 Qb6 20.b4

It was annoying to play b4 right away because after a5 the bishop is on c1 and a3 cannot be played because of the rook on a1. This way around none of that is an issue.

20...axb4 21.Bxb4 Qa7 22.a3 g5



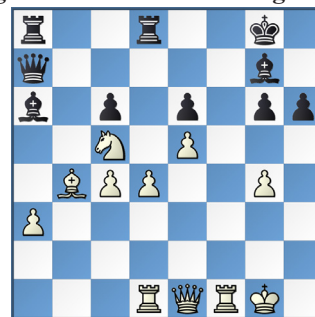
Position after 22...g5

It was a good thing that I was wearing a mask now—because the smile on my face was unmistakable! I have a great position against a strong player, this was my goal going into the game and achieving it for the first time in my life felt very good. I still need to be careful to finish the game though—so I had to keep my emotions in check here.

23.Rd1 Ng6 24.h4

No f4 square for you either!

24...gxh4 25.Nxh4 Ba6 26.Nxg6 fxg6



Position after 26...fxg6

27.Nxe6?

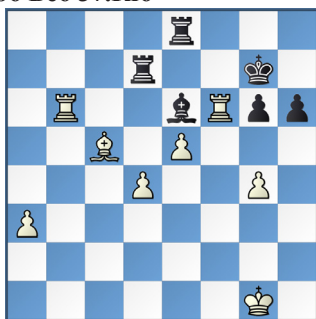
Stockfish has pointed out to me after the game that ...Qd7 is very strong for Black. My earlier g4 h4 could come back to bite

me now that the position has opened up! I did not do a very good job of keeping my emotions in check here, I think! Good thing it went unnoticed by us both.

27...Rd7 28.Bc5 Qb8 29.Nxg7 Kxg7
29...Rxg7 30.Rf8+ Qxf8 31.Bxf8 Rxf8
30.Qe4 Bxc4 31.Rf6 Bf7 32.Qxc6 Qb3
33.Qf3

No checks allowed.

33...Bd5 34.Qxb3 Bxb3 35.Rdf1 Re8
36.Rb6 Be6 37.Rf6



Position after 37.Rf6

My opponent resigned here. Winning this game was the highlight of my tournament and cemented an idea in my mind: I need to keep playing the difficult opponents in the top sections of tournaments! If I were to take something away from this game aside from the chess: (1) Taking a challenge about 110%–120% of your current skill level is the best way to improve—so play up next time!; (2) Opening Tree is a very powerful tool if you can find your opponent's online accounts.

1–0

Anne-Marie Velea (2207) –
Ananth Gottumukkala (1948) [B51]
2022 Washington Open, Open
Redmond (R4), May 29, 2022
[Ananth Gottumukkala]

After a shaky first round, I managed to stabilize and win my next two games without being in much danger. My confidence was high, so I entered round four in a very ambitious mood.

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bb5+

Moscow Variation. White usually plays this to avoid the sharp theoretical battles in the Open Sicilian.

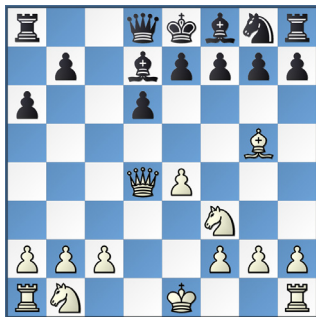
3...Nd7 4.d4

One of White's ambitious tries alongside 4.0-0 and 4.c3

4...cxd4 5.Qxd4 a6 6.Bxd7+ Bxd7

We have reached a very popular tabiya for the Moscow Variation. White has more space and slight lead in development, but Black has the bishop pair.

7.Bg5!?



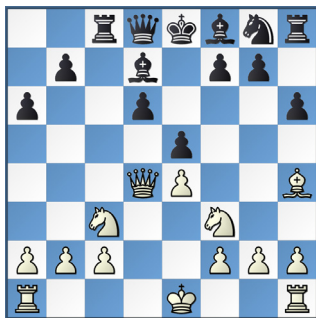
Position after 7.Bg5

A rare sideline that lays a positional trap. 7.c4 is most common and looks like a nice Maroczy Bind, but Black has many ways to equalize including the direct 7...b5!; 7.Nc3 e5 8.Qd3 Rc8 9.0-0 h6∞ is another mainline. Black stops Bg5 forever and finishes development smoothly.

7...h6!

Luckily I have faced this sideline in a few practice games so I knew how to respond. 7...Nf6?! is what White hopes for 8.Nc3 Now it's too late for ...e7–e5 because White always has Bxf6 and Nd5 later. This is why we insert ...h6 first. 8...e6 covering the d5–square 9.0-0-0 Be7 10.e5! The key move 10...dxe5 11.Nxe5± Black loses the bishop pair and probably has his pawn structure ruined.

8.Bh4 Rc8 9.Nc3 e5!



Position after 9...e5

By provoking Nc3 with ...Rc8, we can liberate our position with tactics.

10.Qd3

10.Bxd8?? exd4+ White loses a piece.

10...g5 11.Bg3 Nf6

A lot of high-level games have been

played from here. Black has the bishop pair and potential queenside attack with the open c-file, but White can play for control of the d5–square and sometimes attack our loose kingside pawns.

12.0-0-0

My opponent chooses to castle straight into my attack to finish development before playing Nd2–f1–e3. If 12.Nd2 immediately then White has to worry about counterplay such as Qb6 and Be6–c4.

12...Be6 13.Nd2 Qa5!?

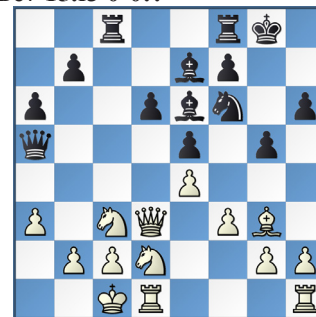
I chose to stay flexible with b5 but Black has many good choices.

13...b5 14.a3 Qb6 In hindsight I think this plan is even stronger than the game since b5–b4 is unstoppable on the next move. For example 15.f3 b4! 16.axb4 Be7! Now Qxb4 is a threat and we meet Qxa6 with 0-0 17.Nd5 Nxd5 18.exd5 Bd7. Black's attack is faster and he has the bishop pair to boot.

14.a3

During the game I thought it was premature to give me this hook but it's not easy to exploit.

14...Be7 15.f3 0-0!?



Position after 15...0-0

This isn't terrible, but ...Rfd8 followed by ...d6–d5 is stopped by Nf1–e3 so I was better off prioritizing ...b5–b4 first. 15...b5! All the variations in the game work so much better for me if I played this first. 16.Nf1 Bc4 17.Qe3 b4. White has no time for Be1 like in the game. I think Black wins most human games very smoothly from here.

16.Nf1 b5 17.Be1!

By exploiting the tempo I wasted on ...0-0, White holds everything together.

17...Bc4 18.Qe3

18.Nd5 I don't think my opponent was interested in a draw. 18...Bxd3 19.Nxe7+

Kh7 20.Bxa5 Rxc2+ 21.Kb1 Rd2+=

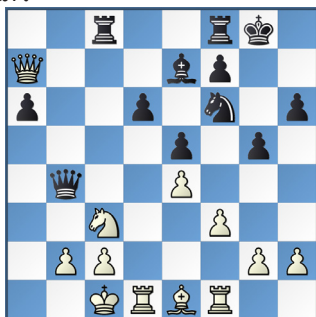
18...Bxf1?!

A terrible and anti-positional move based on some calculation errors. 18...b4!? was my original intention 19.axb4 Qa1+ 20.Kd2 Qxb2 21.Rb1 I didn't visualize this correctly and thought my queen was trapped 21...Qa3 22.Nd5 Qxe3+ 23.Nfxe3 Nxd5 24.Nxd5 Bd8∞; 18...Qc7! I briefly considered this but didn't find it ambitious enough. We remove the queen from the Be1's gaze and d6-d5 is coming next move since Ne3 is now impossible 19.Ng3 d5! 20.exd5 Bc5 The bishops come alive, and I prefer Black.

19.Rxf1 b4 20.axb4 Qxb4

I was not happy about trading my bishop but the upside is that Nd5 is impossible with the Qe3 now undefended. I was still optimistic about my position with Rb8 coming until my opponent played her next move.

21.Qa7!



Position after 21.Qa7

Suddenly I'm in trouble. Now Nd5 is a threat, my Be7 is hanging, and so is my a6-pawn.

21...Rfe8!

This deals with the first two threats.

22.Qxa6!

This looks greedy but there is no way to exploit the open a-file. If I'm not careful, White will even force a queen trade. 22.Nd5?? Qa4 23.Nxe7+ Rxc7-+

22...Qc5!

The best chance, keeping queens on. 22...Rb8?? 23.Na4+-; 22...Ra8 23.Qb5 forces a queen trade.

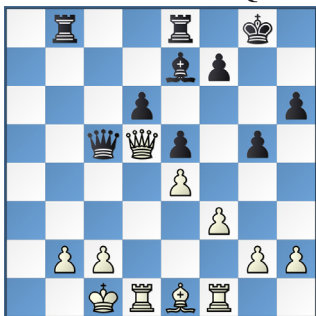
23.Qd3

23.Bf2! The only way to fight for an advantage. 23...Qc7 24.h4± Stockfish gives White an edge, but this looks perfectly playable for Black.



Ananth Gottumukkala ponders his next move during the final round of the Washington Open. Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.

23...Rb8! 24.Nd5 Nxd5 25.Qxd5



Position after 25.Qxd5

At this point we were both below ten minutes, so mistakes start piling up.

25...Qb6?!

25...Qe3+! 26.Bd2 (26.Qd2? Qb6-+) 26...Qa7 27.Bc3 g4!∞ Black has at least a draw with Bg5 coming.

26.Bc3 Rec8 27.g3

27.Kd2! is very hard to play during time

trouble 27...Rc5 28.Qd3 Rd8 29.Ke2!±.

27...Qe3+ 28.Qd2 Qa7 29.Qd3 d5!?

I was starting to get pessimistic about my position for whatever reason. 29...Bd8± After ...Ba5 we trade off the valuable Bc3 defender and have a good attack on the open files.

30.exd5!

30.Qxd5?? Rxc3-+

30...f6??

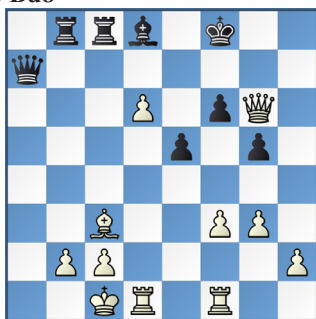
I started overthinking here and before I knew it I went from about three minutes on the clock to three seconds! I played this on reflex to avoid losing on time and the next second I realized to my horror what I had done. White has about a dozen ways to win, and I only have three seconds for the remaining ten moves until move 40 while my opponent still had a few minutes. To say I was doomed would be an understatement. 30...Bb4! was the obvious follow-up, but I must have

mistakenly been worried about Bxe5 during the time trouble 31.Bxb4 (31. Bxe5?? Qa1#) 31...Rxb4. With bishops traded, this looks very scary for White in time trouble.

31.Qg6+

There are about 100 things wrong with 30...f6, but maybe the one good thing is that it tempted my opponent to move her queen away from the defense of her king.

31...Kf8 32.Qxh6+ Kg8 33.Qg6+ Kf8 34.d6 Bd8



Position after 34...Bd8

35.d7??

Almost any move wins for White but to my shock, I was allowed to play the one

trick left in the position.

35...Rxc3!

I had no time to fully calculate this but I knew this was my only chance.

36.bxc3

My opponent hesitated to capture my rook so I knew she realized something went wrong.

36...Qe3+

White should have brought her queen back or played Re1 to stop my queen's invasion.

37.Rd2 Ra8

All of a sudden things are very scary for White!

38.Qe8+??

Now we were both down to seconds so nerves definitely played a role. Unfortunately, this check costs White the game since there is no more perpetual check. 38.Kb2 Qb6+ 39.Kc1 Ra1#; 38.Qh6+= Probably White should bail out with perpetual check.

38...Kg7 39.Rfd1 Qxc3

After a very topsy-turvy game I

somehow survived the time trouble with an unstoppable mate to follow so my opponent promptly stopped the clock. This was definitely my toughest game and the only game in the tournament where I was sure that I would lose after my horrendous move 30. I think I had good chances to take over the initiative early on but after missing them, Anne-Marie defended really well to get winning chances of her own.

0-1

**Ananth Gottumukkala (1948) –
Brandon Jiang (2134) [C53]**
2022 Washington Open, Open
Redmond (R5), May 30, 2022
[Ananth Gottumukkala]

After getting through the roller-coaster of round four, I had nothing to lose and realized I had chances to win the event if I kept playing ambitiously.

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.c3 Bb6

Having seen some of Brandon's games beforehand, I noticed that he plays very principled e4 openings as White but very dubious openings as Black like the Dutch and this strange sideline.

Vancouver Open

July 23 - 24, 2022

A Northwest Chess Grand Prix Event

Site: Hampton Inn & Suites, 315 SE Olympia Drive, Vancouver, WA 98684. (360) 891-3000.

HR: \$169 Standard King/Double Queen Room. Cut-off date July 8. Book a room [here](#).

Format: A 5-round US Chess Rated Swiss in two sections: Open and Reserve U1700. Maximum of 70 players, please register early.

Time Control: Rd. 1: G/60; d10, Rds. 2-5: 40/120, SD/30; d10.

Prize Fund: \$2,500 (based on 60 paid entries).

Open: 1st \$400, 2nd \$300, 3rd \$225

1st U2200/U2000: \$125

Reserve: 1st \$300, 2nd \$200, 3rd \$150

1st U1600/U1400/U1200: \$125, 1st Unrated: \$100

Special Prizes (per section): Biggest Upset: \$50, Best Female Player (by TPR): \$50

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

Entry Fee: \$75 if postmarked or online by 7/16, \$85 after 7/16 or at site. \$35 play-up fee. Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs.

Registration: Saturday 9:00 - 9:30 AM.

Rounds: Saturday 10:00 AM, 12:30 PM, 6:00 PM
Sunday 10:00 AM, 3:30 PM.

Rating: US Chess Rated. US Chess July 2022 rating supplement will be used to determine pairings and prizes. Foreign ratings used for players with no US Chess rating. Higher of US Chess or foreign ratings used at TD discretion.

Memberships: US Chess and WCF/OCF/ICA membership are required, other states accepted.

Procedure and Health/Safety Policy: Pairings will be posted before each round in the hallway near the play area. All players are required to sign the [WCF Health/Safety Protocols & Waiver of Liability](#) form prior to the start of the event.



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

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

Contact: Josh Sinanan, WCF President

Phone: 206-769-3757

Email:
WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com

Registration: Online at
nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration.

5.d4 Qe7 6.d5 Nd8



Position after 6...Nd8

Apparently this is the most popular move but it makes no sense to me since the knight is very miserable and hard to activate. I had no prior knowledge of this position but it's also very easy to play with the superior pieces.

7.0-0 d6 8.a4 a6 9.Nbd2 g6 10.Bd3!

Discouraging ...f5 and preparing Nc4.

10...Ba7 11.Nc4 Nf6 12.Bg5

Provoking ...h6 will discourage ...0-0 and weaken the g6-square if Black ever plays ...f5.

12...h6 13.Be3

I wanted to neutralize the Ba7 to kill Black's attack before it starts. 13.Bc1! In hindsight it's even better to kill Black's attack without trading pieces since I have the space advantage. For example, 13...Nh5 14.b4 Qf6 15.g3! Bg4 16.Kg2± Black has no counterplay and terrible coordination so White should win pretty easily even after a queen trade.

13...Nh5



Position after 13...Nh5

14.Re1

I just improve my pieces while I'm waiting to see what plan my opponent commits to. 14.Bxa7! is more direct and convincing 14...Rxa7 15.a5 0-0 16.g3 Ng7 17.Nh4± A typical plan to stop ...f7-f5, especially in King's Indian structures. Black's

position looks hopeless.

14...f6?

Brandon said afterwards that he wanted to get in ...Nf7 quickly, but I think he needed to be more patient.

15.Nh4 Qh7 16.Qf3?

I rushed this decision and kept playing good-looking moves when direct action was called for the past few moves. This does not even discourage ...Nf7 since the f6-pawn cannot be easily targeted. 16.Bxa7! Rxa7 17.g3! Nf7 18.f4 Ng7 19.f5+- Black is suffocated and White can slowly open the queenside to win.

16...Ke7?



Position after 16...Ke7

I don't understand this at all. 16...Bxe3 17.fxe3± Another idea behind Qf3 is to form a battery with Rf1 here; 16...Nf7 17.g3± Black is still suffering, but some of the advantage has slipped.

17.b4

With Black no longer castling, it makes sense to open lines on the queenside to attack it.

17...Bd7 18.Na5!?

I want to play b5 without letting Black take twice on b5 but it's a little slow. 18.b5! was my initial intent 18...Bxe3 19.fxe3 axb5 20.axb5 Rxa1 21.Rxa1 Bxb5 22.Qg4! I totally missed this from afar (22.Nxe5 fxe5 23.Bxb5± I saw this position and thought I could get more by avoiding trades.) 22...Rg8 (22...Bd7 23.Nxg6+-) 23.Qc8 Ke8 24.Nxd6+ cxd6 25.Bxb5+-.

18...Ng7 19.b5

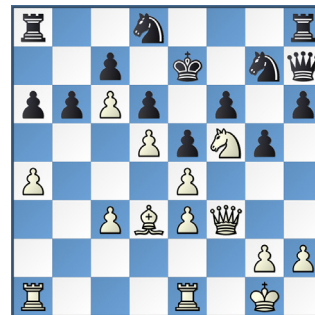
19.c4! is a much simpler way to win. c4-c5 is unstoppable and now it's impossible for Black to close the queenside. 19...b6 20.Nb3+-

19...Bxe3 20.fxe3 b6 21.Nc6+ Bxc6 22.bxc6 g5!

My opponent found the best chance to

survive. By this point I was furiously trying to sacrifice a piece with Rf1 or Qh3 to avoid closing the kingside.

23.Nf5+?



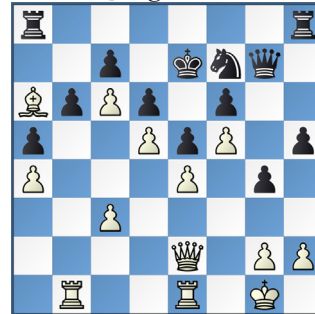
Position after 23.Nf5+

I was running out of time on the clock and resigned myself to the game being drawn but apparently I still had a few winning continuations. 23.Qh3 gxh4 24.Qd7+ Kf8 25.Qxc7 Ne8 26.Qxb6±. White has strong pawns but I'm not sure if I have any advantage; 23.a5!? I never considered this plan 23...gxh4 (23...b5 24.Rf1+- (24.Nf5+- Now this works since we can open the queenside with c4 at any time)) 24.axb6 cxb6 25.Rxa6 Rxa6 26.Bxa6 Nf7 27.Ra1 Ra8 (27...Ng5 28.Qg4 f5 29.Qxh4+-) 28.c7 Ng5 29.Qg4 Qxe4 30.Qxe4 Nxe4 31.c4+-; 23.Rf1! I should have made this work 23...gxh4 24.Qxf6+ Ke8 25.Rf3 I either missed or underestimated the plan of doubling rooks because now it's obvious that White is winning 25...Nh5 26.Qxh4 Qg6 Hoping for Rf8 or Nf7 but it's too late 27.Raf1+- Qh3 will be crushing. With the Nd8 and Ra8 completely paralyzed, it's irrelevant that we are a piece down. Black can resign.

23...Nxf5 24.exf5 a5!

After missing many winning lines, the position is suddenly very closed and drawish.

25.Qh5 Qf7 26.Qf3 h5 27.e4 Qg7 28. Rab1 Nf7 29.Qe2 g4 30.Ba6!?



Position after 30.Ba6

I probably should have forced a draw before the game got out of control, but I kept playing ambitiously. 30.Qe3!= pretty much kills the game. Black can only make progress with ...Qg5 or ...Qh6, and after trading queens, a draw is inevitable.

30...Ng5 31.Bb7 Rag8 32.Kh1

Avoiding Nf3+.

32...Qf8

I think my opponent started getting worried about Qa6 and brought back the queen for defense just in case. 32...g3! would put me under serious pressure 33.c4! (33.h3?? There's a decent chance I could blunder this since we were both in time trouble 33...Nxb3 34.gxh3 g2+ 35.Kg1 Qg3 36.Qe3 Qh4+ Rg3 is unstoppable and White collapses) 33...gxh2 (33...Nf7 34.h3∞) 34.c5! bxc5 35.Ba6∞ Rb7 is coming.

33.Qa6

In hindsight this is a waste of time. 33.c4! I should have started the attack immediately 33...h4 Black had to retreat with ...Nf7 which is almost impossible to play in severe time trouble 34.c5 h3 35.g3 White crashes through much more quickly than in the game 35...Qd8 36.cxb6 cxb6 37.Qa6 Nf3 38.Rec1+.

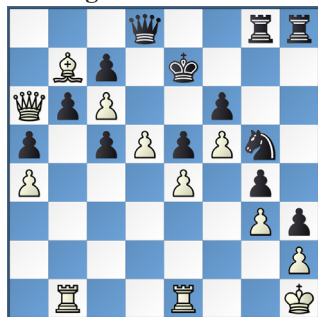
33...h4 34.c4

This is very ugly and slow compared to 33.c4 and my queen is cut off from defending the king.

34...Qd8

34...g3!? creates a crazy mess 35.h3 Nxb3 36.gxh3 g2+ 37.Kg1 Rg3 38.Qa7 Rxh3 39.Ba6 Qd8 40.Rxb6 Rg8 41.Kf2∞

35.c5! h3 36.g3 dxc5!



Position after 36...dxc5

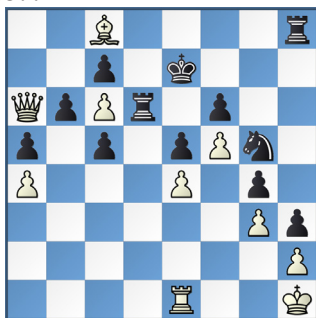
My opponent found a brilliant defensive resource.

37.d6+ Qxd6! 38.Rbd1 Rd8! 39.Rxd6 Rxd6

To my shock, even though Black only has

a rook for queen, he will form a deadly mating net in two moves. Unfortunately, I had barely any time to make this critical 40th move.

40.Bc8??



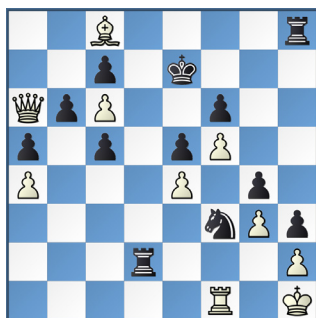
Position after 40.Bc8

The classic move 40 blunder. This prepares Qb7 or Qa7, and if Black ever tries ...Rhd8, then Bd7 jams the d-file. It sounds good conceptually, but there is a concrete refutation. 40.Qa7! The only defense. It's better to send the bishop to a6 where it defends my kingside 40...Nf3 41.Ba6! Rc8 42.Qb7! Rd2 (42...Nxe1 43.Qxc8+; 42...Rdd8 43.Rf1+-) 43.Be2! Rxe2! (43...Nxe1 44.Qxc8+-) 44.Rxe2 Rd8=.

40...Nf3

40...Rd2! 41.Rf1 stopping ...Nf3. 41...c4! 42.Kg1 c3+. The pawn will promote after we are forced to give the Rf1 for the black knight.

41.Rf1 Rd2??



Position after 41...Rd2

The final mistake. 41...b5! was the key winning move, once again cutting off our queen from communicating with the kingside. 42.Qxb5 (42.axb5 Rd2 43.Rxf3 Rd1+ Unlike the game, our queen doesn't guard f1 anymore. 44.Rf1 Rxf1#) 42...Rxc8 43.Rxf3 Rb8! 44.Rf1 Rxb5 45.axb5 Rd4+ The rook ending is hopeless.

42.Rxf3 gxf3

42...Rd1+ 43.Rf1+-

43.Kg1

Now my king is out of the mating net and during the game I was sure that I'm winning again.

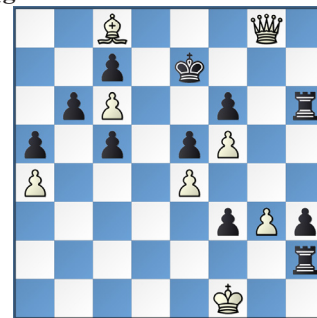
43...Rg2+ 44.Kf1 Rxh2 45.Qc4!

My opponent probably assumed I would invade with Qb7 and missed this entry point.

45...Rh6

A decent practical try, stopping Qxf6 and dreaming of promoting the h-pawn. 45...Rxc8 46.Qe6+ Kd8 47.Qd7#

46.Qg8!



Position after 46.Qg8

By far the simplest. I thought for about seven-ten minutes and was relieved to finally find this. In most variations I wanted Qe6+ first but in this special case I have a quicker invasion.

Shortly after seeing this move, my opponent resigned. 46.Qe6+ I was unable to find a forced win here 46...Kf8 47.Ba6! A very strong computer move. The obvious point is preparing a battery with Bc4 in some lines.

However, there is a deeper point. When Black plays ...h2 and ...Rf1+ to quickly promote, we can now play Bxf1 so the promotion doesn't come with check! For example: 47...Rh1+ 48.Kf2 h2 Rf1+ is a threat 49.Qc8+! (49.Bc4? Rf1+ 50.Ke3 Re1+ 51.Kd2 Rd1+=. Unfortunately the Bc4 jams our escape route!) 49...Kg7 50.Qxc7+ Kf8 51.Qd8+ Kg7 52.Qe7+ Kh8 53.c7 Rf1+ 54.Bxf1! h1Q 55.c8Q#; 46.Qg8 c4!

My opponent could have forced me to find one more good move. Black tries to run his king to c5. (46...Rh1+ 47.Kf2 h2 48.Qg7+ Kd6 49.Qd7#) 47.Bd7! The cleanest win 47...Rh1+ 48.Kf2 h2 49.Qe8+ Kd6 50.Qf8#

1-0

Nicholas Whale (2036) – Felicity Wang (1755) [A42]
 2022 Washington Open, Open
 Redmond (R4), May 29, 2022
[Nicholas Whale]

This game was certainly the most exciting one that I played this year. Felicity gets a lot for resisting very stubbornly in a very tough situation for a long time. I get credit for taking a great position with a large time advantage and transforming it into... not a smooth victory, but the madness that was the final 20 moves or so.

1.d4 g6 2.c4 Bg7 3.Nc3 d6 4.e4 Nd7 5.Be3

5.Nf3 is of course the main line, but I didn't feel like playing it.

5...e5 6.d5 Ne7 7.Qd2

7.g4!? simply directly playing against Black's...f5 is interesting too.

7...0-0 8.f3 f5 9.0-0-0 f4 10.Bf2

As usual, Stockfish is not a fan of the King's Indian-esque setup for Black. Proving this means anything in the real world is a different matter, though.

10...Nf6 11.Bd3?!

Here Stockfish really likes 11.g4! and if 11...fxg3? 12.hxg3 I can attack down the h-file, one of the points of castling queenside. If she doesn't take, I gain valuable kingside space and can switch plans to squeezing her to death. But I chose to not rock the boat like this.

11...Bd7 12.Nge2 Nh5?!



Position after 12...Nh5

I didn't really understand this move.

13.Kb1 a6

13...b6 to slow down my c5 break is worth considering too.

14.c5 Nc8!

A clever defensive move. 14...dxc5? 15.Bxc5 is awful for Black, and on other moves I can simply keep building up

behind my c5-pawn.

15.Bc4 Kh8

A careless move like 15...Nf6?? loses to 16.c6!

16.Rc1 dxc5 17.Bxc5 Nd6 18.Bb3 b6

Now I had a surprisingly hard choice to make about what to do with my bishop and chose wrongly.

19.Ba3?!

The subtle 19.Bb4! is better, trying to provoke 19...a5 20.Bxd6! cxd6 in much more favorable circumstances than the game.

19...Qb8

The oddball 19...Rf6 is what Stockfish likes.

20.Nd1?!



Position after 20.Nd1

I realized my pieces are just not working well together, but this maneuver is too slow to fix the problem.

20...Re8 21.Bxd6

Otherwise the knight is free and can do some damage.

21...cxd6 22.Nf2 a5!

Suddenly I'm the one being attacked.

23.a4 b5! 24.Nc3 bxa4?!

24...b4! 25.Ne2 Nf6 would be a role reversal from about ten moves ago—Black is the one able to slowly improve her position while I have to sit and wait.

25.Bxa4 Bxa4 26.Nxa4

The black light-squared bishop is always very dangerous in KID-type positions, so now I could breathe a little easier.

26...Qb5 27.Nc3

Apparently stronger is 27.Qc2!, a move I never considered.

27...Qb7

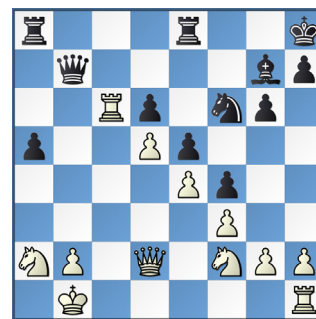
27...Qd7! to cover the d-pawn. It's always

the little details...

28.Na2

Trying to double up my rooks.

28...Nf6 29.Rc6!



Position after 29.Rc6

And now we see why 27...Qd7 was better.

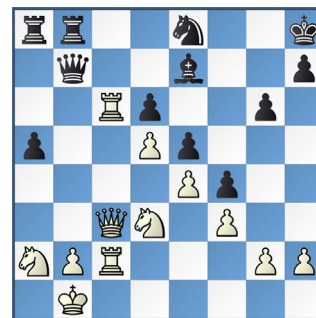
29...Bf8

A cool but very difficult to find idea is 29...Nd7! 30.Nd3! (I would surely have played 30.Rxd6?! which is met by a knight's tour: 30...Ne5! 31.Rc6 Nb3! 32.Qc3 Nd4 and Black gets a lot of very tricky counterplay. Of course, this whole concept is not at all easy for a human to appreciate several moves back.) 30...Bf8 when Black is worse but the game goes on.

30.Rhc1 Red8

30...Rec8? 31.Rxc8 Rxc8 32.Rxc8 Qxc8 33.Qxa5 wins me a pawn.

31.Rc7 Qb8 32.Qc3 Ne8 33.Rc6 Qb7 34.Rc2 Rdb8 35.Nd3 Be7?!



Position after 35...Be7

An unfortunate move, forgetting about my threat for a moment. 35...Bg7 is much tougher to break down.

36.Nxf4 Bd8 37.Ne6 Kg8

Now obviously my position is very close to winning. But the problem is that there are so many moves and plans to choose from, and instead of being patient and calculating the best one, I wanted to finish

the game and get out of there as soon as possible. In a few moves, this comes back to bite me.

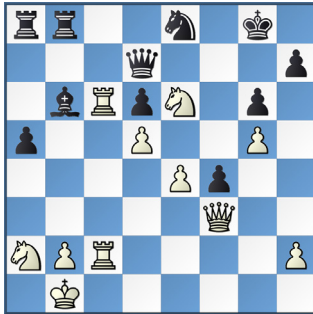
38.g4?!

38.Qe3 followed by bringing my wayward a2-knight back into action was the calmer and better approach.

38...Qd7 39.g5 Bb6 40.f4?!

Another very impulsive move, even though the computer doesn't hate this. 40.h4 would have been very helpful a few moves later.

40...exf4 41.Qf3?



Position after 41.Qf3

Another quickly made and mistaken move. I didn't want to trade queens after 41.Nxf4 Qg4 42.Qg3 Qxg3 43.hxg3, but this endgame is much better for White.

41...Ng7?

This should have lost on the spot, but I started tilting.

42.Nxf4?

I calculated 42.Rc7! Bxc7 43.Rxc7 Rxb2+!? 44.Kxb2 Qb5+, but for some reason, here I only saw 45.Ka1?? (Literally any other reasonable move wins, with the coolest looking being 45.Ka3!) 45...Rb8 when Black is winning.

42...Bd4

Even though I'm still objectively better, Black evidently has some hopes now, and I burned through nearly all of my time advantage in the next few moves.

43.R6c4

At least I managed to avoid losing instantly myself with 43.Rc7?? Rxb2+

43...Bb6 44.Qh3?

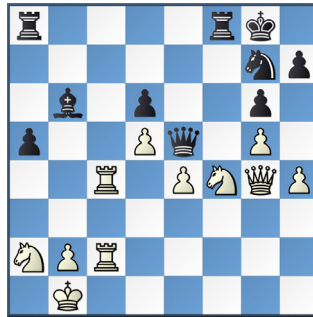
When things start to go south, simplifying is very tempting but often very wrong. 44.Qg3 or; 44.h4 are far better.

44...Qe7?

So hard to choose... 44...Qxh3! 45.Nxh3

Rf8! and both my knights on the rim are very grim. Stockfish thinks Black has enough counterplay for the missing pawn.

45.Qg4 Rf8 46.h4 Qe5?!



Position after 46...Qe5

This looks good, but after...

47.Nd3!

...she has to beat a hasty retreat, and I thought the situation was looking good again.

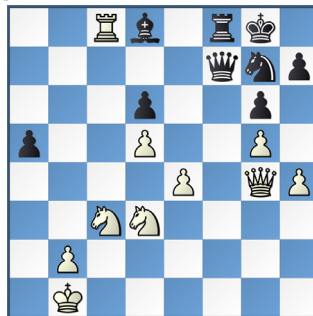
47...Qe7 48.Rc8

Not the best, but as I said, simplifying is easy.

48...Raxc8 49.Rxc8 Bd8 50.Nc3

Finally back from the queenside vacation.

50...Qf7



Position after 50...Qf7

Black's position is passive but not so easy to break down, and both of us were getting into time pressure, so I shuffled a bit.

51.Qh3

51.Ra8 threatening Qc8 to infiltrate, but it never occurred to me.

51...Qe7

51...Qb7 prevents the Ra8 move.

52.Qg4 Qf7 53.Kc2 Qe7 54.Nb5 Kh8 55.Nd4

Nc6 would be nasty for Black.

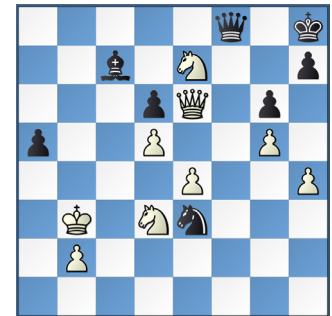
55...Bb6

Now it should be winning for me again. The tricky computer defense is 55...Qb7! 56.Nc6 Nf5!!

56.Rxf8+ Qxf8 57.Nc6 Nh5 58.Qd7?!

58.Qe6 gains a tempo on the game.

58...Ng3 59.Qe6 Nf1 60.Ne7 Ne3+ 61.Kb3 Bc7



Position after 61...Bc7

The critical moment. I have a lot of good-looking moves but only one way to crash through. Despite still having six minutes left, I couldn't work it out and instead made an objectively drawing (!) move.

62.Qf6+??

The winning move is 62.Nf4!! which I rejected because I couldn't see anything after 62...Kg7! However, the silent but deadly 63.Qd7!! forces mate: 63...Qxf4 64.Nf5+ Kf8 65.Qe7+ Kg8 66.Qg7#

62...Qxf6 63.gxf6 Ng4!

Uh-oh. The rest of the game was played in full time scramble mode; I think we had maybe two or three minutes left each. I tried reconstructing it after the game, but I'm not sure if what follows is accurate. In any case, there's not much positive that can be said for our play, so I'll just defer to the computer moves.

64.Nf4 Nxf6 65.Ne6 Bb6

65...Bb8?? 66.Nc6

66.Nc8 Bf2 67.Nxd6 Bxh4 68.Nc5 Be1?

68...h5!

69.Kc4 Ng4 70.Nd3 Bg3 71.Nb7?

71.e5!

71...Ne5+?

71...h5

72.Nxe5 Bxe5 73.b3??

73.d6! h5 74.d7 Bf6 75.e5! Be7 76.d8Q+! Bxd8 77.Nxd8 h4 78.e6 Kg7 79.e7

73...h5 74.Kd3??

74.d6! Bxd6 75.Nxd6 Kg7 76.e5!

74...h4 75.Ke2 g5 76.d6 g4??

76...h3 77.d7 Bc7

77.d7 Bc7 78.d8Q+ Bxd8 79.Nxd8 Kg7 80.Nb7??

80.Nc6! Kf6 81.Nd4! Ke5 82.Ke3! h3 83.Ne2 h2 84.Ng3

80...Kf6 81.Nxa5 Ke5??

81...h3!

82.Ke3! h3 83.Nc4+ Ke6 84.Kf2

At the end, we both had about 20 seconds left. What a hard game this is sometimes.

1-0

**WIM Megan Lee (2350) –
Valentin Razmov (1828) [C88]**
2022 Washington Open, Open
Redmond (R5), May 30, 2022
[Valentin Razmov]

This was a game of Goliath vs David: White was the current Washington State Champion, rated over 500 points higher. Black, however, had resolved to give it all and derive the most learning benefit from the experience. It worked. The game's

annotations capture some of those lessons worth keeping—for both sides! See a summary of the lessons at the very end.

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Be7 6.Re1 b5 7.Bb3 d6 8.c3 0-0 9.a4!?

Up to here, it is a main line of Ruy Lopez, and now White picks a rare yet decent line, likely intending to avoid much theory.

9...Rb8?!

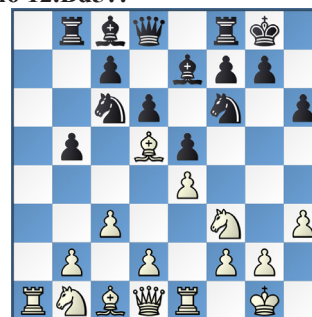
Theoretically speaking, this is not the best option, but it is not a mistake either. At this point, Black's decisions revolve around what to do with the b5-pawn, how to improve the position of Nc6, and how/where to develop the light-squared bishop, and above all how not to make concessions. As it turned out, the move in the game apparently surprised White, so it had the effect of both players no longer playing from memory. Reasonable alternatives include 9...b4, 9...Bb7, 9...Bd7, and 9...Na5.

10.axb5 axb5 11.h3

11.d4 exd4 12.cxd4 d5 13.e5 Ne4 14.Nc3

Nxc3 15.bxc3 Bf5 is another alternative. In many Ruy Lopez variations, as in this game too, White delays pushing d4, seeking a better moment for that central thrust.

11...h6 12.Bd5?!



Position after 12.Bd5

A rushed move. Black has several decent responses, all with little risk. Perhaps White was hoping for a quick win resulting from poor play or blunders, given the huge rating difference. This was not about to happen. 12.d4 is a common and far better move instead: 12...exd4 (12...Rb6?! is not so good here, unlike in the game itself, due to 13.Bd2 exd4

*(L) Washington State Champion Megan Lee vs Valentin Razmov.
Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.*

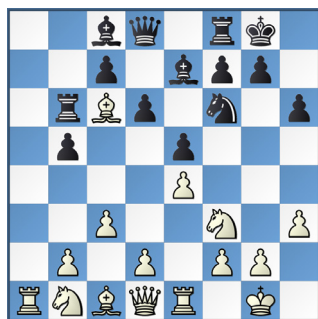


14.cxd4 d5 15.e5 Ne4 16.Ra8±) 13.cxd4 d5 14.e5 (14.exd5 Nxd5 15.Nc3 Be6) 14...Ne4

12...Rb6!?

An interesting move that attracted me because it solves several of Black's challenges: defending Nc6, making room for that knight to improve (Nc6–Nb8–Nd7), creating the possibility for counterplay along the a-file (via Ra6), and expelling (or exchanging) the white Bd5. Plus, there's the psychological effect of refusing to concede any ground to White, instead putting counterpressure. 12...Bb7 would be a fine and expected alternative, e.g., 13.d4 (13.d3 Qd7 14.Qb3 Bc8) 13...exd4 14.Nxd4 Nxd5 15.Nxc6 Bxc6 16.exd5 Bd7 and Black is quite well.

13.Bxc6?!



Position after 13.Bxc6

A somewhat unexpected decision, but perhaps White didn't like admitting the earlier mistake by returning Bd5–Bb3. 13.Na3 would have been a reasonable alternative, e.g., 13...Nxd5 14.exd5 Nb8 15.d4 putting some pressure on Black's center: what to do with the e5–pawn. 15...Nd7 16.dxe5 dxe5 and now another potential benefit of that earlier ...Rb6 is revealed: 17.Nxe5?! Nxe5 18.Rxe5 Rg6—a rook lift straight into White's king-side as compensation for the sacrificed pawn.

13...Rxc6 14.d4 Nd7?!

The desire was to keep the e5–pawn solid, but the cost of doing it this way was a concession to White. 14...Bb7 would be a good developing move, which also offers to exchange the e-pawns, if White is too eager to capture twice on e5: 15.d5 (15.Nbd2 Re8) 15...Ra6

15.Qe2 Ra6!

An intermediate move with the idea to improve the black rook's placement while also gaining a tempo to defend the b5–pawn.

16.Na3 c6 17.Bd2 Bb7

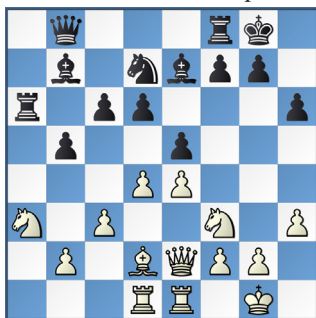
17...Qc7 looks worthwhile too, with the goal of adding pressure along the a-file via Qc7–Qa7.

18.Rad1

18.c4!? creates complications, which can fit certain game situations and playing styles but maybe it was not to White's taste and strategy for this game, e.g., 18...exd4 19.Nxd4 (19.cxb5 d3!? 20.Qxd3 Nc5 21.Qb1 cxb5 22.b4 Nxe4 23.Rxe4 Bxe4 24.Qxe4 Bf6 25.Ra2 Qa8=) 19...b4 and the b-pawn is immune due to the threat of c6–c5.

18...Qb8

A move that did not feel quite right even during the game, but I didn't see a better alternative. Black's goal was to remove the queen from potential discovered attacks along the d-file, while also reinforcing e5 and making room for the rook on f8. 18...Re8 is a normal move, activating the rook while remaining prepared to move the black queen.



Position after 18...Qb8

19.dxe5?!

Rushing a bit once again. Such simplifications often favor Black. 19.c4!? was once again a sharp option, requiring utmost precision from both sides, e.g., 19...Ra4 20.Nc2 (20.cxb5 exd4 21.Bxh6! —only move!— 21...gxh6 22.Nxd4 Rxd4 23.Rxd4 Ne5 with a dynamic balance) 20...c5 (20...Rxc4?? would give White a huge initiative and attack after 21.Ne3 Ra4 22.Nf5 Re8 23.Bxh6 etc.) 21.dxe5 Rxc4 22.exd6 Bxd6 23.Bc3 Rxe4 24.Qxb5 Rxe1+ 25.Nxe1 Bxf3 26.Qxb8 Bxb8 27.Nxf3 Nb6 with a slightly better endgame for White.

19...Nxe5 20.Nd4 Re8 21.Nf5 Bf8 22.Bf4 Bc8

Aiming to remove the intruder on f5 soon, while also creating room along the seventh rank for the transfer of heavy pieces. By this point, the black Ra6 was

seeking a better future.

23.Nc2 Bxf5

If this exchange isn't done quickly, White will bring the other knight to f5 (via Nc2–Ne3–Nf5). 23...c5 looks scary for Black, even if objectively okay according to the engines: 24.Nce3 Nc4 25.Qg4 (25.Nxc4?! Bxf5) 25...Nxe3 26.Rxe3 Re6.

24.exf5 Ra8 25.Nd4 Qb7 26.b3?!

Commentators often call such moves “too soft.” It is not clear that the c4–square is a high priority for White at this point. 26.Bg3 preserves the bishop and better chances for White.

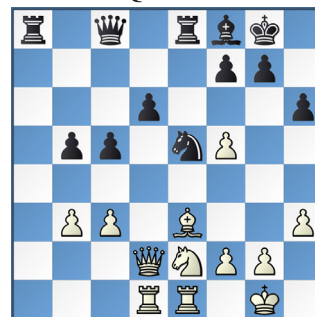
26...Ng6! 27.Be3 Ne5

27...Nf4?! is an alternative I decided against as it doesn't gain much but invites White's queen to improve its position with tempo. 28.Qf3 Nd5 29.Nxc6 Qxc6 30.Rxd5 Qxc3 31.Rb1±.

28.Qd2?!

28.f6!? g6 29.Bf4

28...c5± 29.Ne2 Qc8?



Position after 29...Qc8

For a moment missing White's threat. (I noticed f5–f6 but only after I had made my move.) At this point, White had 18 minutes left compared to Black's three minutes for the remaining 11 moves till the time control. 29...Nd7 30.Nf4 Re5 and Black stands better.

30.f6! Qe6!

Precision is now required.

31.fxg7 Bxg7 32.Nf4?!

Going to where? 32.Qxd6 Qxb3 33.Bxc5 looks attractive instead.

32...Qxb3 33.Rb1 Qc4 34.Qxd6 Rac8

It was also possible to trade c-pawns 34...Qxc3 35.Qxc5 Qxc5 36.Bxc5 Rab8, but I intuitively wanted to preserve my queen-side pawn majority as a potential source of counterplay.

35.Nd5?!

White likely wanted to use the time factor (Black had under two minutes for the remaining five moves), so opted for a move that creates some complications but also takes risk. Generally, it is not a good idea to play quickly purely because the opponent is low on time, yet so many players do so and many come to regret the consequences. Here too, White's chosen move is a mistake, shedding all of their advantage, and giving Black counterplay. Even though the play requires some precision, it is not an impossible task even in low time due to the forcing and concrete moves. 35.Red1

35...Rcd8

Simple and strong. White must now play precisely themselves or risk even losing! 35...Re6 was apparently even stronger for Black, according to the engines, but seeing the nuanced difference with the game continuation is not easy: 36.Ne7+ Kh7 37.Nxc8 Rxd6 38.Nxd6 Qxc3 39.Nxb5 Qc2 40.Rec1 Qa2=

36.Nf6+!

An only move, on which White spent five of their remaining 12 minutes. 36.Ne7+?? loses instead after 36...Kh7 37.Qxc5 Qxc5 38.Bxc5 Nd3+.

36...Kh8 37.Nxe8

37.Qb6 Rb8 38.Qd6 Rbd8 brings nothing more than a repetition of moves.

37...Rxd6 38.Nxd6 Qxc3 39.Nxb5

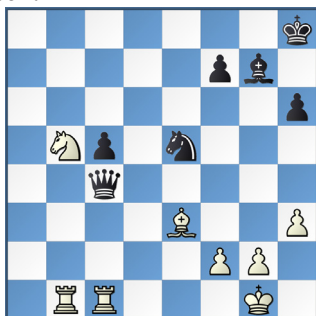
A complex endgame has emerged, where White's goal is to win the passed c-pawn and then to mobilize its rooks to overpower Black's queen, if possible by capturing the f7-pawn too. If successful, this would win for White. Black's goal is to not give ground and use their active queen and two light pieces to tie up White's pieces (some of which are also loose). Objectively, there is a state of dynamic equilibrium on the board, and in the next 50 moves the players manage to a considerable degree and with few exceptions to demonstrate this balance despite the complexity of choices ahead.

39...Qc4?

Correct idea, but an incorrect choice of which white piece to latch onto. 39...Qc2 does not allow White the pawn winning combination, which they missed on the next move: 40.Rbc1 Qb3 41.Rxc5 Nd3 42.Nd4 Qa4 43.Rc8+ (43.Nf3 Nxc5 44.Bxc5 Bc3) 43...Kh7 44.Nf3 Nxe1

45.Nxe1

40.Rec1?



Position after 40.Rec1

Although White had six minutes left for one move till the time control, this move was rushed, perhaps on the hopes that Black might make an error with only 20 seconds left for their remaining move 40. 40.Bxh6 Bxh6 41.Rxe5 simply wins a pawn for White.

40...Qa2

Precise and on time.

41.Nc3 Qa3?!

Defends the c-pawn, but leaves White with a more flexible hand on how to continue. 41...Qc4 would instead deny any useful squares to the white knight. 42.Nd1 Qa2 43.Rb2 (43.Rb8+ Kh7 44.Rxc5 (44.Bxc5?? Nd3) 44...Nd3 45.Rf5 Qc2 46.Rxf7 Qxd1+ 47.Kh2 Ne5) 43...Nf3+ 44.gxf3 Bxb2 45.Nxb2 Qxb2 46.Rxc5=

42.Rb8+ Kh7 43.Nb1?!

Attempting to connect and solidify the loose White pieces, but unsuccessfully. 43.Ne4 c4 44.Rb6±

43...Qa7?!

43...Qa2 would once again be stronger for Black.

44.Rb3 Qa4 45.Ra3

45.Nd2! poses bigger challenges before Black: 45...c4! —the only good response— 46.Rbc3 Qd7 47.R1c2 Qd5 48.Nxc4 Nd3 49.Nb6 (49.Rb3?? Ne1) 49...Qb5.

45...Qb5 46.Nd2 c4 47.Kh1!

A good practical decision—moving away from discovered checks, while making a move that forces Black to evaluate a lot of options with relatively little time on the clock. White had seven minutes left and Black had five for the remainder of the game.

47...f5?

While considering my options I felt that Black had to put pressure on White's position, but this move contains a serious weakness—exposing the seventh rank to the power of White's rooks. 47...Bf8 was instead a normal, activating move without uncontrollable consequences, preserving the dynamic balance status quo: 48.Rac3 Bb4 49.R3c2 Nd3

48.f4?

White didn't find the strongest continuation: placing rooks on the seventh rank. 48.Ra7! Qd5 49.Rb1 f4!? "muddying" the waters... 50.Rbb7!± (if 50.Bxf4?! c3! 51.Nf1 (51.Rbb7?! cxd2 52.Rxg7+ Kh8 53.Rh7+ Kg8 54.Rag7+ Kf8 55.Bxd2 Qxd2=) 51...Nc6 52.Rc7 Nd8 53.Be3 Qd6 54.Ra7 c2 55.Rc1 Nc6 56.Ra6 Qg6 57.Rb6! Qe4±).

48...Qb2!

Possibly the intermediate move that White missed...

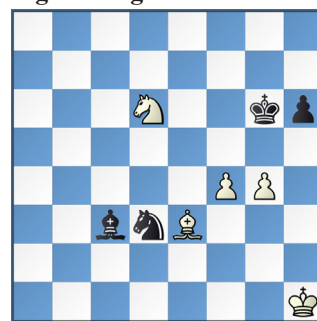
49.Rac3 Nd3!

Finally forcing much needed simplifications into an easier drawn ending. White has no choice but to go along.

50.Nxc4 Qxc3 51.Rxc3 Bxc3 52.Nd6 Kg6

Objectively, this endgame should be a draw, despite the extra pawn for White, given the overall balance of forces, the active black pieces, and all pieces being concentrated on one flank.

53.g4 fxg4 54.hxg4



Position after 54.hxg4

54...Bg7?!

Unnecessarily passive. The motivation was to add extra protection to the h6-pawn and thus free up Black's king, while still keeping the bishop along the main diagonal. But Black's king doesn't actually gain additional freedom in reality,

and the bishop becomes more constrained on g7. Instead, Black has a brilliant way to force a draw here. Can you find it?

54...Nxf4! The idea is that if White runs out of pawns and Black still has one piece (knight or bishop) on the board, it's a simple theoretical draw. Or if Black manages to exchange one of White's pieces and eliminate the pawns, it's a draw too. 55.Bxf4 h5 56.g5 In the two minutes I spent contemplating move 54, I did consider the line up to here, but didn't foresee the following game-saving continuation: 56...Ba5! (not 56...Bb4? 57.Nc8 guarding the e7 square) 57.Kg2 Bc7 (57...Bd8 58.Ne4 Kf5 59.Kf3 Be7!! Zugzwang in a very unusual context—the side with more pieces is in zugzwang! White has to give up their only pawn or repeat moves, in both cases leading to an instant draw.)

55.f5+ Kh7 56.Kg2 Ne5 57.Kg3 Nd7??

The knight aims to create a blockade on f6 and e5—which eventually works out. But more powerful in this moment is to stop the white king even earlier (e.g., if the black knight arrives on d5), while also putting pressure on the f5-pawn (from e7). Hence the alternative maneuver Ne5–Nc6–Ne7. 57...Nc6! 58.Nf7 (58.Ne4 Ne7) 58...Ne7 59.Bd2

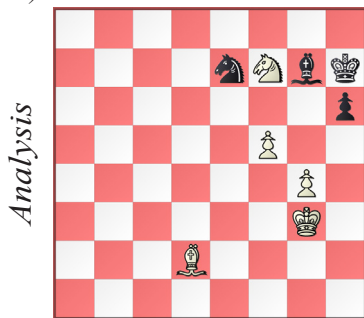


Diagram-analysis after 59.Bd2

And here once again Black can force a draw in composition style: 59...h5! 60.Bg5 Bf8 61.Bxe7 Bxe7 62.g5 (62.gxh5 Kg7 63.Ne5 Bd6=) 62...Kg7 63.g6 Kf6! —only move!— (63...Bf6? loses after 64.Kf4 Kg8 65.Ng5 Kg7 66.Ne4 Be7 (66...Bb2 67.Kg5+) 67.Ke5 h4 68.Kf4) 64.Ng5!? (64.Kf4 Bb4=) 64...Bd6+ 65.Kh4 Be5! —only move, covering the main diagonal— 66.Nf7 Bd4 67.Nh6 Bc5 68.Kxh5 (68.Nf7 Bf8) 68...Bf8 White is in zugzwang again! A draw follows instantly.

58.Ne8?!

58.Ne4 Ne5 59.Kh4 Nc4 60.Bf2 Be5

61.Kh5 Kg7

58...Be5+ 59.Bf4 Bc3?!

59...Bxf4+ leads to an easier endgame to defend 60.Kxf4 Kg8!=

60.Kh4 Nf6?

Trading knights can lose due to a subtle zugzwang, while trading bishops (but preserving the knight(s)) is a relatively easy draw. 60...Be5!; 60...Nc5 61.Kh5 Ne4

61.Nd6?

With less than two minutes on the clock, White misses their chance. 61.Nxf6+ Bxf6+ 62.Kh5 Bg7 63.Be3 Bf8 64.f6! is the game winning zugzwang.

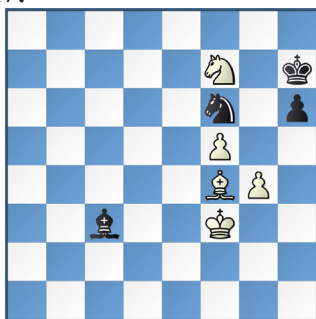
61...Be1+ 62.Kh3 Bc3 63.Nf7 Ng8 64.Nd6 Nf6 65.Kg3 Be1+?!

65...Kg7 is, at least, more useful, bringing the black king to a more active square.

66.Kf3 Bc3?

A second invitation for White to trade knights, if interested. 66...Bb4 maintains the status quo instead.

67.Nf7?



Position after 67.Nf7

The knight trade offer is again rejected, incorrectly. 67.Ne4! simplifies into a winning bishop endgame due to the same zugzwang idea.

67...Ng8 68.Ke3 Bb2 69.Be5!

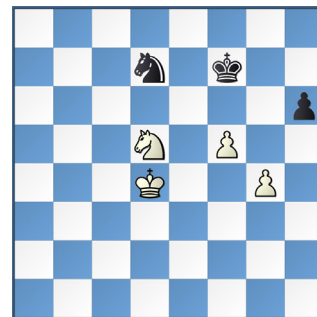
Not strictly necessary, but a good practical decision to change the scene, since White no longer sees how to make progress with both light pieces on the board, plus the 50-move rule has been “ticking” since move 55.

69...Bxe5 70.Nxe5 Kg7

Black's defensive stance here is easier: keep the white king out of e5 and e6 (e.g., via ...Nd7), while regularly attacking the weaker g4-pawn (via ...Nf6). The complicating factor is that both sides have less than one minute on the clock, so each

player has to consistently make moves within the ten-second delay given.

71.Kd4 Nf6 72.Ke3 Ne8 73.Kf4 Nf6 74.Nd3 Kf7 75.Nf2 Nd7 76.Ne4 Kg7 77.Ke3 Ne5 78.Nf2 Kf6 79.Kf4 Nd7 80.Ne4+ Kf7 81.Nd6+ Ke7 82.Ne4 Kf6 83.Ne3 Kf7 84.Nd5 Kg7 85.Ke4 Kf7 86.Kd4



Position after 86.Kd4

86...Nf6??

A sudden and critical miscalculation borne out of the time pressure and the excitement of perhaps ending this arduous endgame defense by forcing simplifications and a draw. 86...Kg7 would correctly continue the patient defense, while awaiting the moment when White's king ventures further out or the 50-move limit is reached to claim a draw 87.Ne3 (87.Kc4? Ne5+=) 87...Kf6 88.Kd5 Ne5 89.Ke4 Nf7=

87.Nxf6! Kxf6 88.Ke4 Kg5 89.Ke5!

The winning move for White, which Black missed in the few seconds of calculating the consequences of move 86.

89...Kxg4 90.f6 h5 91.f7 h4 92.f8Q

and Black resigned. To summarize the lessons: (1) A higher-rated player isn't necessarily much stronger, and a lower-rated player isn't to be underestimated. A well-played game (even if eventually lost) builds your confidence and puts you one step closer to attaining a higher level. You can do it!; (2) Playing quickly in the opponent's time trouble—when you have enough time yourself—could spell trouble for you in the end.; (3) The effect of a surprise can be a powerful tool psychologically, even against strong opponents. People of all levels tend to err more when put under pressure.; (4) Be patient, especially when the opponent is provoking you toward rash actions.; (5) If time permits, seek out zugzwang ideas in an endgame—they are common in that stage and are very powerful.

1-0

**Rodrigo Roim Ferreira –
Marvin Wilbur (1125) [D02]**
2022 Washington Open, Reserve
Redmond (R1), May 28, 2022
[Rodrigo Roim Ferreira]



1.Nf3 d5 2.d4 Nc6 3.Bf4 Nf6 4.e3

White transposes into a London system where ...Nc6 prevents the common response ...c5, made popular recently by Agadmator in a YouTube video on how to beat the London.

4...e6 5.Bd3 ΔBe7

Black wants to castle short. ...Bd6 is a common move leading to the opening of the h file. To avoid that, Black plays the passive ...Be7. 5...Bd6 6.Bg3 Bxg3 7.hxg3

6.0–0 0–0 7.Ne5 ΔNxe5 Δ8.dxe5

White damages his structure to align his bishops towards the black king. ...Ne4 would lead to trades giving up the structural advantage, so Black plays the passive ...Nd7, blocking his white-square bishop from developing.

8...Nd7

8...Ne4 9.Bxe4 dxe4 10.Nc3

Δ9.Qh5

Baits the pawn to weaken Black's king.

9...g6 10.Qe2 Nc5 11.Nd2?!

White can play Bg6 to continue their attack but prefers to activate their knight and connect rooks. 11.Bh6 Re8 12.Nd2 Nxd3 13.cxd3

11...Nxd3 12.cxd3

Black can now play Kg7 to prevent Bh6, which is why 11. Bg6 would have been more accurate.

12...c5? 13.d4!?

Bh6 is still an option. White baits 13...cxd4 14.exd4. g5 is a defense but makes Black's king look very weak. Other options look very passive.

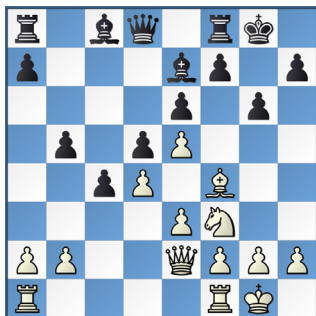
13...c4

Inaccuracy. ...g5 was best. 13...cxd4 14.exd4; 13...g5 14.Bg3 cxd4 15.exd4

14.Nf3?!

Similar to move 12, Black can now play 14...Kg7, so Bh6 would be more accurate. However, Black already chose not to play ...Kg7, and ...Kg7 wouldn't help with Black's lack of development.

14...b5?



Position after 14...b5

White tries to help their white-square bishop develop but allows Bh6.

15.Bh6 Re8 16.a3

White wants to attack kingside but is afraid of ...b4 leading to five connected pawns, or opening up the queenside. 16.g3 b4 17.a3 b3; 16.h3 b4 17.a3 bxa3 18.bxa3

16...a5?

Black decides to counterattack queen side, hopefully activating his bishops.

17.g3?!

Prepares h4, but is a slow move and Black can counter attack queen side with Ba6 and c3.

17...Bd7 18.h4 b4 19.Kg2!?

White wants to open the back rank for his rooks, but oversees Bb5 x-raying queen and rook which leads to several tactical ideas, but requires calculation.

19...bxa3

Inaccuracy. Bb5 was best. 19...Bb5 20.Rh1 c3 Black can even sacrifice the white-square bishop, locking White's rook in place and threatening a promotion. 21.Qxb5 cxb2 22.Ra2 bxa3

20.bxa3 Rb8 21.Rh1 Rb3 22.h5↑

White plays for initiative, trusting their attack is faster than Black's threats on the queenside.

22...g5

...g5 is the best move, but allows for a tactical sequence weakening Black's king, which requires precise play to defend.

23.Nxg5! Bxg5 24.Qg4 f6 25.exf6 Qxf6 26.Bxg5

White doesn't want the endgame after a queen trade, thinking Black can take their king to safety and take advantage of their c-pawn.

26...Qg7?

Black can force a queen trade with ...Qf5, but doesn't. 26...Qf5 27.Qf4

27.h6!?

White attacks the queen and uses the pawn to cut g7 from Black's king. Black can counterattack with ...e5, but White argues that their king safety is an advantage.

27...Qg6?

Too slow, allows White to keep the initiative. 27...e5 28.Qh4 Qg6

28.Rh4 Rb2!?

Black tries to counterattack by aiming at f2.

29.Bf6?

White is setting up a mating net. Bf6 and Bf4 both look promising, but Bf6 is much stronger. 29.Bf4 Qxg4 30.Rxg4+ Kf8 31.Bd6+ Kf7 32.Rg7+ Kf6 33.Be5+ Kf5 34.Kf3

29...Qxg4 30.Rxg4+ Kf7 31.Rg7+?!

White trades bishops while luring Black's king into a mating net, but now Black can equalize with their c-pawn after 32..Rc8.

31...Kxf6 32.Rxd7 Kg6?!

Afraid of a promotion, Black decides to deal with the h-file instead of equalizing with counterplay on the c-file, which loses the game. 32...Rc8 33.Rc1 c3

33.Rh1 Rh8

Defends the pawn to free up his king.

34.Rh4 Ra2

Mate in two.

35.Rg7+ Kf5 36.Rf4#

1–0

Valentin Boulanger (1112) – Maxwell Nakura-Fan [B12]
 2022 Washington Open, Reserve
 Redmond (R1), 28.05.2022
[Maxwell Nakura-Fan]

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 Bf5 4.Nc3 e6 5.Nf3??

Not the most challenging move. g4! would have been theory I knew.

5...Ne7?!

Walking right into a pin, although ...Qb6 would have been an interesting reply. 5...c5

6.Bg5! a6

Preventing Bb5 and preparing c4-c5, but I'm not so sure it was necessary. 6...Qb6 Question: Is ...Qb6 a good move? Answer: It is not a good move due to 7.Na4! (7.Be2 Qxb2 8.Rb1 Qxc3+) 7...Qb4+ 8.c3 Qa5 9.b4 Qc7 why allow this queenside expansion?

7.Bd3 Bxd3 8.Qxd3 Qb6?

Not as bad as 6...Nb6 since the white queen is no longer on d1, but still a waste of a few moves. 8...Qc7 9.Na4 (9.Bxe7 Bxe7) 9...Nf5 (9...Ng6) 10.g4

9.Na4 Qb4+ 10.Nc3 Ng6 11.0-0 h6 12.Bd2 Qb6 13.Na4 Qc7 14.Qb3 b5! 15.Nc5 Bxc5 16.dxc5 Nd7 17.Be3 Ngxe5 18.Bf4 Nxf3+ 19.Qxf3 e5 20.Bg3 0-0



Position after 20...0-0

20...e4 Question: is ...e4 a good move? Answer: It's interesting at best, and I think it might even be slightly dubious because you allow White a good amount of counterplay. 21.Qxe4+!! this is an incredible queen sac! I didn't even notice it comes with check. They don't win back a pawn, but Black looks over-extended, and White's rooks are more active (21. Bxc7 exf3 22.gxf3 Nxc5 23.Bd6 Ne6) 21...dxe4 22.Bxc7 Nxc5 23.Bd6 Ne6 24.Rfe1 f5 25.Rad1 (25.f3 Ng5 26.h4 (26.f4) 26...Nxf3+ 27.gxf3); 20...Nxc5?? 21.Bxe5 (21.Qf5 Nd7 22.Rfe1 0-0) 21...Qxe5 (21...Qd7 22.Bxg7 Rg8

23.Rfe1+ Kd8 24.Bf6+ Kc8) 22.Rfe1

21.b4 Qd8 22.Qf5 Re8 23.Rfe1 e4 24.Bd6 Nf6 25.a4 Qc8 26.Qxc8 Rexc8

26...Raxc8 27.axb5 axb5 28.Ra6

27.a5 Re8 28.c3 Re6 29.Bc7 Rae8 30.f4 exf3 31.Rxe6 Rxe6 32.gxf3 Nd7 33.Kf2 Ne5 34.Re1?? Nd3+ 35.Kf1 Rxe1+ 36.Kg2 f5 37.c4 dxc4 38.f4 c3 39.h4 c2 40.h5 c1Q 41.Be5 Qd2+ 42.Kh3 Rh1+ 43.Kg3 Qf2#

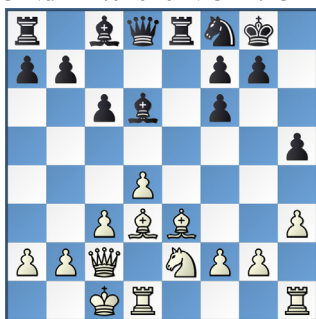
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Laurion Burchall (1102) – Maxwell Nakura-Fan [B15]
 2022 Washington Open, Reserve
 Redmond (R5), May 30, 2022
[Maxwell Nakura-Fan]

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Nf6 5.Nxf6+ exf6 6.c3 Bd6 7.Bd3 0-0 8.Qc2 Re8+ 9.Ne2 h5

I think my prep I remember ended here. Next few things are still prep though I think?

10.Be3 Nd7 11.0-0-0 Nf8 12.h3



Position after 12.h3

Question: How would I have dealt with h4 instead? Answer: h4 is not scary if f3 is played to support a g4 push, but that hangs the e3-bishop which can be exploited. Rhg1 is a bit scarier as it seems White can sac their rook for the bishop and open up the g-file. Question: How would I deal with Nf4? Answer: 12.h4 Be6 13.Rhg1 (13.f3?? e3 hangs so we can win a pawn or two; 13.g4 Bxg4 14.f3 Bxf3 15.Rhg1 Rxe3) 13...Bg4

a) 13...Bxa2?? 14.g4 (14.b3) 14...hxg4 (14...a5 15.b3) 15.Rxg4 (15.b3 Ba3+ 16.Kd2) 15...Be6 16.Rg2 Bh3 17.Rgg1;

b) 13...Bh2 14.Rh1 Bd6 15.Rhg1;

c) 13...Qa5;

d) 13...b5 14.g4 Bxg4 15.Rxg4 hxg4 16.Rg1 b4 17.c4;

14.f3??

a) 14.Bd2 Bxe2 15.Bxe2 Rxe2;

b) 14.Bf4 Bxe2 (14...Bxf4+ 15.Nxf4 Bxd1 16.Qxd1 Qa5 (16...Qd6 17.Nxh5; 16...g6 17.Nxh5 gxh5 18.Qxh5 Qd5 19.Qg4+ Kh8 20.h5 Qg5+ 21.Qxg5 fxg5) 17.g4) 15.Bxd6 Bxd1 16.Rxd1 Qxd6;

c) 14.Nf4?? Bxd1 15.Kxd1;

14...Rxe3 (14...Bxf3?? this is bad because it opens the g-file for the rooks and queen. The extra pawn is not worth it. 15.gxf3 Rxe3) 15.fxg4 hxg4 16.h5; 12.Nf4 h4 13.g3 (13.g4 g5; 13.Nh5 Qc7 14.Nxg7 Kxg7) 13...h3

12...Be6 13.g4 h4! 14.Rhg1 g5!

Thought pushing my kingside pawn was brave, but it turned out alright.

15.Qd2 Be7 16.f4 Bxa2

Been stubbornly defending, but this seems like the right moment to take the a2-pawn.

17.fxg5 fxg5 18.Rfd1 a5

Rfd1 allows me a momentary turn to continue my attack before I have to return to defending.

19.Rf5 Ne6 20.Rgf1 Rf8

Some more stubborn defending.

21.Qc2

Threatening to trap the bishop...

21...a4 22.Ng1

Ng1 allows me another opportunity to continue my attack.

22...Bb3

22...a3 23.bxa3 Bxa3+ 24.Kd2 and my attack disappears?

23.Qf2 Ng7



Position after 23...Ng7

I think Qf2 traps the f5-rook with ...Ng7, which is also a cheeky attempt to trick the opponent... Ng7 simultaneously attacks the rook on f5 and defends f7 with the

bishop on b3.

24.Rxf7

24.Rf3 Bd5; 24.Re5 f6 25.Rxe7 Qxe7

24...Rxf7 25.Qxf7+ Bxf7

0-1

**Aarav Sai Bharathy Mohan (1178) –
Emma Li (1568) [C53]**

2022 Washington Open, Premier
Redmond (R6), May 30, 2022
[Aarav Sai Bharathy Mohan]



1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.c3 d6
5.d4 exd4 6.cxd4 Bb4+!?

My opponent played an inaccuracy move here. The best move is ...Bd6. After ... Bb4+, we get out of the opening (Giuoco Piano Game: Main Line).

7.Nbd2!?

I played Nbd2, which is an inaccurate move where Nc3 would be better.

7...Bg4 8.d5 Ne5??

A very quick blunder of a bishop from the opponent.

9.Qa4+!

I took advantage of the blunder by playing Qa4+! (a great move as per stockfish) that will win the bishop. From this point onwards, I continued to play with 93% accuracy trying to capitalize on the bishop that I took.

9...Qd7 10.Qxb4 Bxf3 11.Qxb7 Rc8
12.Bb5 c6 13.dxc6 Nxc6 14.Qxd7+

Kxd7 15.Bxc6+ Rxc6 16.Nxf3 Nf6 17.e5
Re8 18.Bf4 Ng4 19.0-0 Nxe5 20.Nxe5+
dxe5 21.Rfd1+ Kc7 22.Be3 a6 23.Rac1
Rb8 24.b3 Rxc1 25.Rxc1+ Kd6 26.f4
e4 27.Bd4 Rd8 28.Bxg7 Ke6 29.Be5
Ke7 30.Re1 f5 31.Kf2 Rd2+ 32.Re2
Rd3 33.g3 Ke6 34.Rc2 Kd5 35.Ke2 h5
36.Rd2 Rxd2+ 37.Kxd2 Kc5 38.Bc3
Kd5 39.Ke3 Kc5

And the way to close everything up.

40.a4

And Black resigns. 40.a4 Kc6 41.Kd4
Kd6 42.Bd2 Ke6 43.Bb4 Kd7 44.Ke5

1-0

**Rodrigo Roim Ferreira –
Andrew Smith (1233) [A38]**

2022 Washington Open, Reserve
Redmond (R5), May 30, 2022
[Rodrigo Roim Ferreira]

1.Nf3 c5 2.c4

Nf3 was played with the intent of avoiding a Sicilian defense, so White transposes to the English.

2...Nc6 3.g3 g6 4.Bg2 Bg7 5.0-0 Nf6
6.Nc3 d6 7.Rb1!?

d4 is the most popular option, with ~250 master games in the database and a 28% win rate for White. Rb1 has 11 games with a 45% win rate and is an interesting sideline.

7...Bf5 8.d3 0-0 9.b3

Last move in the database (Samame Jose 2215-IM Maharramzade Javad 2415, 1996). a3 is the more popular option.

9...Rb8 10.Bb2 a6 11.Nd5 Nxd5
12.Bxg7?!

Gets rid of the g7-bishop, hoping to weaken Black's king. Works, except for 12...Ne3!

12.cxd5 Nd4 13.Nxd4 cxd4=

12...Kxg7?

12...Ne3!≠ Black can attempt a win with counterplay. After 13.fxe3 White has a damaged structure and a weaker king. 13.Qc1!! (13.fxe3 Kxg7≠) 13...Nxf1 14.Qh6 White threatens mate, equalizing the position. 14...f6! 15.Bxf8 Qxf8 16.Qxf8+ Kxf8 17.Kxf1=

13.cxd5 Nd4 14.Nxd4 cxd4 15.Qd2 Rc8
16.Rbc1?

White hopes for 16...Rxc1 fixing his structure. Qb4 is the strongest move as it

wins the pawn immediately. 16.Qb4 Rc2
17.Qxd4+ Kg8 18.Rb2±

16...Qb6

16...Rxc1 17.Rxc1 Qb6 18.Qb2 Rc8
19.Rc4 Rxc4 20.dxc4± White has more control of the board and can win the d4-pawn, but Black might play ...Bb1 attacking the pawn chain.

17.h4?!→

White attempts to attack with h4-h5 while Black's queen is taking a stroll. Attacking d4 is more precise as it wins the pawn. 17.Rc4 Rxc4 18.dxc4 a5 19.Rd1 a4 20.Qxd4+ Qxd4 21.Rxd4 axb3 22.axb3 Bc2 23.b4+-

17...h6

Prepares for 18...g5

18.Qf4

18.h5 g5= White's attack halts. There are tricks such as 19.f4 gxf4, but they damage White's king and Black can punish it (19.f4 g4). 19.f4 gxf4 (19...g4 20.Be4 Bxe4 21.dxe4 Rc3≠) 20.Qxf4 Rxc1 21.Rxc1 Bd7 22.Rf1+-

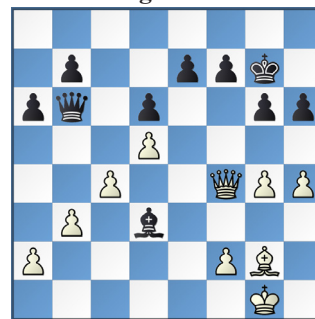
18...Rxc1 19.Rxc1 Rc8 20.Rc4!?

Not as strong as 17.Rc4 since no rooks are left, making an attack harder. 20.Rxc8 Bxc8 21.Qe4 Kf8 22.g4 Qc5 23.Kh2±

20...Rxc4 21.dxc4 d3?!

Black doesn't want to use his queen to defend a pawn, so decides to trade. However, after 22.exd3 Bxd3, Black now has a vulnerable bishop, and still needs his queen for defense.

22.exd3 Bxd3 23.g4!?



Position after 23.g4

Attempts to trap the bishop by targeting the g5 square. Black has to protect with the queen, which is contrary to piece activity, or give up a pawn. 23.Qd2↑ Bf5 24.b4± Black is running out of moves while White can make progress.

23...Qb4??

Loses the game. Black might have thought his bishop was already trapped. 23...Qc5 Waiting. 24.Qd2 Qd4= Looks like a draw. Black's queen is skewered but can escape with checks and force a queen trade.; 23...a5! An improvement over Qc5. Uses the tempo to defend b4, making a draw easier. 24.Qd2 Qd4 25.Qxa5 Qa1+ 26.Kh2 Qe5+ 27.Kg1 Qa1+=; 23...Bb1?? White's trap, winning the bishop. 24.Qc1 Bxa2 25.Qb2+-; 23...Be2?! 24.Qe4 Bd1 25.Bh3 h5 26.gxh5 Bxh5 27.Qxe7±; 23...h5?! 24.gxh5 gxh5 25.Qg5+ Kf8 26.Qxh5 Qd4 27.Qh6+ Ke8±; 23...g5? 24.hxg5 hxg5 25.Qxg5++-

24.Qd4+ f6 25.Qxd3 Qe1+ 26.Bf1 Qa5 27.Qe2 Qc7 28.h5 Qd7 29.hxg6 Qe8 30.Qe6 Kxg6 31.Bd3+ Kg5?!

Black's king is trapped and there are several mating ideas, most precise is 32.Qe3+.

32.Kg2

32.Qe3+ Kh4 33.Qg3+ Kg5 34.f4#

32...Kh4 33.g5 hxg5 34.Qh3#

1-0

Michael Zhang (1178) – Rodrigo Roim Ferreira [B15]
2022 Washington Open, Reserve
Redmond (R3), May 29, 2022
[Rodrigo Roim Ferreira]

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 g6!?

Interestingly, this is the second most common move in the database, but modern engines say White is already winning after 4.h4 or 4.Bd3, both of which have bad results in human play.

4.Nf3 Bg4 5.h3 dxe4?!

A strategic blunder (played twice in Master games, and leading to a loss both times.)

6.Nxe4?!

Brings the game back to equality. 6.hxg4 exf3 7.Qxf3+- White has a lead in development, better control of the center, and an open h-file. 7...Qxd4 8.Be3 Qf6 9.Qg3 Qd6 10.Bf4 Qe6+ 11.Be2+- A sample variation (the engine's top line after 7...Qxd4) which makes White's advantage clearer.

6...Bxf3 7.Qxf3 Qxd4 8.Bd3?

8.Ng5 White could have threatened mate to win a pawn and weaken Black's structure. 8...Nf6 9.Qb3 e6 10.Qxb7

8...Bg7

Last move in the database. Present in two games both of which went 9.0-0

9.c3 Qb6?!

Black attacks the b2-pawn to prevent White from developing their bishop. White's best option is to gambit that pawn, which leads to a winning position. 9...Qd5 Qd5 is the more accurate option. It pins White's knight and keeps the attack on the bishop.

10.0-0

10.Be3 Qxb2?? 11.0-0 Nf6 12.Rfb1 Qa3 13.Bc5 Qa5 14.Rxb7+- recovers the pawn with a massive lead in development and a strong pair of bishops in an open board.

10...Nf6 11.Nxf6+ Bxf6 12.Re1 Nd7 13.Bh6!

Prevents castling.

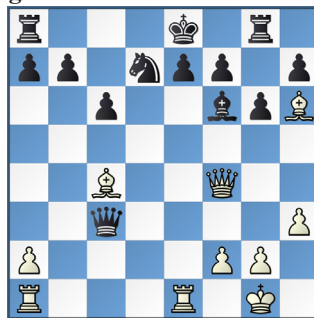
13...Qxb2 14.Bc4?!-+

White played for tactics. There are several options to sacrifice with Check, and Black has to be careful. However, with precise play Black will win too much material and get a winning endgame. The key for Black is that Long Castling is an option for safety, and White has no option to prevent that in the future.

14...Qxc3 15.Qf4?!

Avoids a trade of queens which would damage White's structure.

15...Rg8??



Position after 15...Rg8

Black was winning (see notes on 15...Qd4), but now equalizes the position after 16.Rac1. 15...Qd4 16.Qxd4 Bxd4 17.Rad1 c5 Black should have offered a queen trade again and gone for the winning endgame.

16.Bg5?

Black can now long castle to safety, and play a game where they're simply up two pawns. White should have played for

initiative with 16.Rac1↑ Qa5 (16...Qd4 17.Re4 Qc5 18.Bxf7+ Kxf7 19.Rxc5 Nxc5± A fun line that uses the tactics White put on the board. Objectively White has a small advantage due to the safer king and piece activity. In practice, the queen also makes the game much easier to play for White.) 17.Rcd1 Ne5 The correct defense, leading to an equal but imbalanced position.

16...0-0-0 17.Bxf6??

Leads to a losing endgame. 17.Bxf7 is still losing but gives White more options to equalize. 17.Bxf7 Rgf8 18.Be6 Bxg5 19.Qxg5 Qf6 20.Qe3 Kb8±

17...Qxf6 18.Qxf6 exf6 19.Bxf7 Rgf8 20.Re7 Nb6?

White can now check with tempo and win a pawn. Black could have prevented this with 20...Nc5 21.Rc1 Rd7 22.Re8+ Rxe8 23.Bxe8 Rd5 24.Bf7 Nd3+-

21.Be6+ Kb8 22.Rxh7 Rd6 23.Bf7 g5 24.Bb3 Rd7 25.Rxd7 Nxd7 26.Rb1 Nc5 27.Bd1 Rd8 28.Bf3 Kc7 29.Rd1 Rxd1+ 30.Bxd1 a5 31.g3 Kd6 32.h4 gxh4 33.gxh4 Ke7 34.Kg2 Kf8?

White can now equalize with Kf3. The key is noticing that White can threaten the queen side pawns, and Black has to use their knight to defend, which halts progress.

35.Kg3?

White decides to defend their king side pawns instead, which loses the endgame.

35...Kg7 36.Kg4??-+

White commits to the queenside and now has lost the game.

36...Ne4 37.Bf3 Nxf2+ 38.Kh5 Nh3

Attempts a mating trick if 39.Bg4, while also bringing the game closer to the 40th move time increment.

39.Kg4

39.Bg4 Nf4#

39...Nf2+ 40.Kh5 Nd3 41.Kg4 Ne5+ 42.Kf4 Nxf3 43.Kxf3 b5 44.Ke3 Kg6 45.Kd4 Kh5+- 46.Kc5 Kxh4 47.Kxc6 f5 48.Kxb5 f4 49.Kxa5 f3 50.a4 f2 51.Kb6 f1Q 52.a5 Qb1+ 53.Ka7 Qh7+ 54.Kb6 Qg6+ 55.Ka7 Qf7+ 56.Kb6 Qe6+ 57.Kb5 Kg4 58.a6 Qd5+ 59.Kb6 Qa8 60.a7 Kf5 61.Ka6 Ke6 62.Kb5 Kd6 63.Ka5 Qxa7+ 64.Kb4 Qc5+ 65.Kb3 Kd5 66.Ka2 Qb4 67.Ka1 Qb8 68.Ka2 Kc4 69.Ka3 Qb3#

0-1

WASHINGTON SUMMER

RAPID CHAMPIONSHIPS

SATURDAY AUGUST 6TH, 2022

ONLINE VIA  Chess.com



FORMAT:

A 7-round Swiss tournament in four sections:

K-5 U1000

K-5 Open

6-12 U1200

6-12 Open

ROUNDS:

Rd. 1 – 9am

Rd. 2 – 10am

Rd. 3 – 11am

Lunch break

Rd. 4 – 1pm

Rd. 5 – 2pm

Rd. 6 – 3pm

Rd. 7 – 4pm

TIME CONTROL:

Game in 15-minutes with a 10-second increment per move.

BYES:

Up to 2 half-point byes available. If interested, request before end of round 2.

ENTRY FEE:

\$25 by 8/3, \$30 after.

AWARDS:

Amazon Gift Card Prizes awarded in each section:

1st – \$60

2nd – \$50

3rd – \$40

4th – \$30

RATING:

NWSRS & Chess.com Unrated. Open sections US Chess Online Quick Rated. Highest of NWSRS, US Chess, or US Chess online rating will be used to determine section and pairings. US Chess membership required only for Open sections.

ELIGIBILITY:

Open to all students registered in grades K-12. A Chess.com account is required. Zoom monitoring with webcam required only for Open sections.

THE DETAILS

Procedure:

Zoom help desk available for all players to communicate with the tournament director (TD). Pairings will be released prior to the start of each round. Players will be paired automatically by the TD in the [Live Chess](#) area.

Fair Play Policy:

All players and parents are required to sign the [WCF Fair Play Agreement](#) prior to the start of the tournament. WCF's Fair Play Committee will review any suspicious games on a case-by-case basis. Fair play standards will be strictly enforced. Good sportsmanship by all players is highly encouraged!

Online Registration:

[NWchess.com/OnlineRegistration/](https://www.nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration/)
Pay by Credit/Debit/PayPal.

Registration, payment, and fair play agreement deadline is **Friday, August 5th by 5pm**. No registrations will be accepted after the deadline. Unpaid players will receive a zero-point bye for round 1.

Questions? Contact Rekha Sagar, WCF Scholastic Director, 425-496-9160, Rekha4Chess@gmail.com

2022 Washington Barber + Rockefeller Qualifier

Josh Sinanan

The 2022 Washington Barber + Rockefeller Qualifier chess tournament was held in-person on Easter Sunday April 17 at the Redmond Marriott. Scholastic chess players in grades K-12 participated from throughout the Pacific Northwest, including the cities of Redmond, Bellevue, Sammamish, Bothell, Issaquah, Seattle, Snoqualmie, Medina, Mercer Island, Newcastle, Kirkland, Auburn, Duvall, Federal Way, Woodinville, and Renton!

The event was hosted by the Washington Chess Federation, organized by WCF President Josh Sinanan, and

directed by Chess Dad Liang Shi, with assistance from WCF Member-at-Large Ani Barua and WCF Tournament Coordinator Valentin Razmov. Volunteer judges included Minh Pham, Kyle Haining, Minda Chen, Angela Chen, Melina Li, Sophie Szeto, Lane Van Weerdhuizen, and Michael Hosford.

Amazing photographs were taken throughout the day from several parent volunteers including Deepa Patil, Karsten Huttelmaier, and Meiling Cheng. A total of 140 players competed across six sections separated by grade level and rating: K-3 U800, K-3 Open, 4-12 U900, 4-12 Open, K-5 Open Rockefeller

Qualifier, and 6-8 Open Barber Qualifier.

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

Note: the qualifiers were:

K-5 Open (Rockefeller Qualifier)
first place - Yiding Lu (4.0/4!!): 2022 Washington State Rockefeller Rep!

6-8 Open (Barber Qualifier)
first place - Stephen Willy (4.0/4!!): 2022 Washington State Barber Rep!

NORTHWEST SUMMER CHESS960 OPEN



Info: Josh Sinanan, WCF President

Phone: 206-769-3757

Email:
WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com

Registration: Online at nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration
Registration **deadline Sat. 8/6 @ 5 PM.**

SUNDAY AUGUST 7, 2022

Site: Online via [Chess.com](https://www.chess.com)

Format: A 5-Round Swiss in two sections: Open and Reserve U1500. Sections with less than seven players will be played as RR's with no half-point byes allowed.

Entry Fee: \$35 before 8/4, \$40 after. \$15 play-up fee. Free entry for GMs/IMs/USCF 2400+.

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

Rounds: 9 AM, 11 AM, 1 PM, 3 PM, 5 PM.

Byes: Two half-point byes available, except as specified in the Format above. If interested, request before end of round 2.

Prize Fund: 60% of paid entries returned as prizes.

Open: 1st 25%, 2nd 18%, 3rd 13%
Best NW Player (by TPR) 5%

Reserve: 1st 20%, 2nd 12%, 3rd 7%

Memberships: Working Chess.com and Zoom account required. No US Chess or State membership necessary. Zoom monitoring with webcam required in all sections.

Rating: Unrated. Section eligibility and pairings based on the highest of August 1st NWSRS, US Chess Online, or US Chess rating.

Procedure: Pairings will be released prior to the start of each round. Each round features a different randomized starting position of the back-rank pieces! Players will have 5 mins before clocks start to examine the opening position. Games will be started automatically by the TD in the [Live Chess](#) area.

Fair Play Policy: All players are required to sign the [WCF Fair Play Agreement](#) prior to the start of the tournament. All players will be monitored by Zoom during the games. WCF's Fair Play Committee will review any suspicious games on a case-by-case basis. Fair play violators will be haunted for life by the ghost of Bobby Fischer!

Useful Chess960 links:

📌 <https://chess960.net/how-to-play/>

📌 <https://www.chess.com/article/view/chess960-fischer-random-explained>

SEATTLE CHESS CLASSIC

A NORTHWEST CHESS GRAND PRIX EVENT



AUGUST 13-17, 2022

ORLOV CHESS ACADEMY (2 LOCATIONS)

SEATTLE: 7212 WOODLAWN AVE NE, SEATTLE, WA 98115
REDMOND: 4174 148TH AVE NE BLD. I, STE. M, REDMOND, WA 98052

Dual Format: A 9-round Swiss in two sections. Max 30 players in Open section, max 25 players in Reserve (U1800) – please register early!

Open (in Seattle): NWSRS, US Chess & FIDE Tri-Rated. Time control: 40/100, SD/30; +30.

Reserve U1800 (in Redmond): NWSRS & US Chess Dual-Rated. Time control: 30/90, SD/30; +30.

Schedule: Rounds 1-8: Sat/Sun/Mon/Tue @ 10 AM + 5 PM; Round 9: Wed @ 10 AM.

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

Prize Fund: \$3,500 (based on 55 paid entries)

Open: 1st \$600, 2nd \$450, 3rd \$300
1st U2400/U2200/U2000: \$200

Reserve: 1st \$400, 2nd \$300, 3rd \$200
1st U1600/1400/U1200/U1000: \$100
1st Unrated \$100.

Special Prizes (per section):

Biggest Upset: \$20 per round, Best Female Player (by TPR, provided at least 3 qualifying players): \$100. Best Dressed: \$20/day

Entry Fees: Must be paid by Aug 10th: no late or on-site registrations or payments. \$125 by Aug 6, \$150 after. \$50 play-up fee. Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs, or US Chess 2400+.

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

Rating: Highest of current NWSRS, or US Chess Regular/Online August supplement rating will be used to determine section, pairings, and prizes.

Registration: Online at nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration **Registration, payment, & Health/Safety Form deadline: Wed, Aug 10 @ 5pm.** Unpaid players will be removed from the roster after the deadline, and players from a Waitlist will be offered a spot.

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

Health/Safety Protocols: All players and parents (if U18) are required to sign the [WCF Health/Safety Protocols & Waiver of Liability](#) form prior to the start of the tournament.

Northwest Regional Scholastic Chess Championship

Josh Sinanan

The 2022 Northwest Regional Scholastic Chess Championships were held on Saturday, June 4 online via Chess.com. Scholastic chess players in grades K-12 participated from throughout the Pacific Northwest Region, including the cities of Snohomish, Bainbridge Island, Bothell, Bellevue, Seattle, Sammamish, Redmond, and Salem (Oregon)! The event was hosted by the Washington Chess Federation and directed by WCF Scholastic Director Rekha Sagar with assistance from local high school chess player Andrew Jiang. A total of 16 players competed across two sections separated by rating: K-12 U1200 and K-12 Open.

Sean Cao, a fourth grader from Terrace Park Elementary School in Mountlake Terrace, won the K-12 U1200 with an impressive five points from five games! Snohomish fifth grader Aya Aelion from Salem Woods Elementary School in Monroe captured second place honors with 3.5 points. Two up-and-coming 800-rated players shared third place with three points apiece: Artem Janson-Kovalev from Salem and Arnav Kannapiran from Sammamish. In the tiny K-12 Open section, Drew Bunch from Bainbridge Island swept the competition with a perfect five-point score. Sammamish eighth grader Lakshya Wahi took second place with three points from five games while Anika Kulkarni, a third grader from the Eton School in Bellevue, finished in third place with two points. Congratulations to the winners!



Northwest Regional Scholastic Chess Championships Prizes



Individual Prizes - Amazon Gift cards (1st-3rd) awarded in each section.

1st \$50, 2nd \$35, 3rd \$25

Section	1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place
K-12 U1200	Sean Cao	Aya Aelion	Artem Janson-Kovalev + Arnav Kannapiran: \$12.50 each
K-12 Open	Drew Bunch	Lakshya Wahi	Anika Kulkarni

Chandra Alexis Chess Club

Upcoming *Northwest Chess Grand Prix* Tour Events

<https://chandraalexischessclub.org>

All tournaments rated by both US Chess and FIDE: July 4 — December 26, 2022

Every Monday of the month beginning at 5 p.m. - G/90;+30; Sponsored by Mexinsurance.com

July – [The Stronger You Get](#); August – [Ce Russe Impossible](#);

September – [Genise Wynell Memorial](#); October – [Wonders of Blunders](#);

November – [Wellington Served Rare](#); December – [Fishing for FIDE](#);

EF: \$37.50; \$300 b/10 players

[\\$15,725 MexInsurance FIDE Open December 16-18, 2022, 6-SS 40/90,SD/30;+30](#)

Seattle Classic Scholastic Chess Tournament



August 27-28, 2022

Online via  Chess.com



2-day Classic Sections: A 5-round, 2-day G/75; +30 Swiss in 2 sections: **K-5 Open** and **6-12 Open**.

Rounds: Sat. 9:15am, lunch break, 1:30pm, 5:30pm. Sun. 10:00am, 2:00pm.

Entry fee: \$50 by 8/24, \$60 after.

Byes: Two half-point byes available for rounds 1-5. If interested, request before the end of round 2.

Highest finishing WA State resident in both the K-5 Open and the 6-12 Open will win free entry into the 2022 Susan Polgar Foundation National Open for Girls & Boys.

1-day Scholastic Sections: A 5-round G/25; +5 Swiss in 4 sections: **K-3 U1000**, **K-3 Open**, **4-12 U1200**, **4-12 Open**.

Rounds: Sat. 9:15am, 10:45am, 12:00pm, Lunch break, 1:45pm, 3:00pm.

Entry fee: \$25 by 8/24, \$30 after.

All Sections:

Eligibility: Open to all students registered in grades K-12. Grade is based on 2021-2022 school year. A Chess.com and Zoom account are required. Zoom monitoring with webcam required only for Open sections.

Prizes: Amazon gift card prizes awarded in each section: 1st Place - \$50 gift card, 2nd Place - \$35 gift card, 3rd Place - \$25 gift card, 4th Place – NWC Digital Issue.

Rating: NWSRS Rated. Open sections also US Chess Online Rated. Highest of current NWSRS, US Chess, or US Chess online rating will be used to determine section and pairings. US Chess membership required only for Open sections.

Procedure: Zoom help desk available for all players to communicate with the tournament director (TD). Pairings will be released prior to the start of each round. Players will be paired automatically by the TD in the Live Chess area.

Fair Play Policy: All players and parents are required to sign the WCF Fair Play Agreement prior to the start of the tournament. WCF's Fair Play Committee will review any suspicious games on a case-by-case basis. Fair play standards will be strictly enforced. Good sportsmanship is highly encouraged!

Online Registration: nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration/ – pay by Credit/Debit/PayPal. **Registration, payment, and fair play agreement deadline Fri. Aug 26 @ 5:00pm.** No registrations or payments will be accepted after the deadline. Unpaid players will receive a zero-point bye for round 1.

Questions? Rekha Sagar | WCF Scholastic Director | 425.496.9160 | Rekha4Chess@gmail.com

Washington Players Shine at Elementary Nationals

Josh Sinanan

The 2022 National Elementary (K-6) Championship was held May 13-15 in Columbus, Ohio. Twenty-eight Washington players competed in the three-day, seven-round Swiss tournament. NM Josh Sinanan and IM Georgi Orlov were in attendance as well coaching several Washington players.

Here are the complete results:

K-6 Championship:

Neeraj Harish (1792-1835, 5.0) – tenth place

Nikash Vemparala (1986-1980, 4.5) – 12th place

Luca Tessiore (1795-1788, 3.5)

K-6 U1000:

Arnav Joshi (313P14-856P21, 6.0) – fourth place

Rohan Kancherla (606P20-875, 5.0) – 16th place

Vaidehi Joshi (103P5-264P12, 2.5)

K-5 Championship:

Vihaan Jammalamadaka (1710-1699, 5.0) – 16th place

Yiding Lu (1961-1923, 4.5) – 20th place

Dheeran Koripella (Unrated-1417P6, 4.0) – first place U1000

Samuel Cha (1148-1270, 4.0)

Ethan Zhang (1126-1212, 3.5) – third place 1300-1399

Yuntao Liu (1206-1241, 3.0)

Tai Shih (1015P7-1116P14, 3.0)

K-3 Championship:

Ted Wang (1812-1802, 5.5) – sixth place

Michael Lin (1337-1353, 5.0) – 13th place

Michael Xiong (1126-1188, 5.0) – 16th place

Ares Wang (843-943, 4.0)

Bei Shih (758P7-928P14, 4.0) – second place 1100-1199

Michael Zhang (1064-991, 3.0)

Sarang Sankrithi (758-836, 3.0)

Ian Gagnier (602P5-818P12, 3.0) – first place 800-899

K-3 U1000:

Harry Li (306P25-496, 2.5)

K-3 U700:

Christian Lee (Unrated-464P7, 3.0)

Tazmin Sohal (Unrated-212P7, 2.5)

K-1 Championship:

Vayu Kakkad (741-954, 4.5)

Samarth Bharadwaj (810-956, 4.0)

Kei Shih (Unrated-508P7, 3.0)

K-1 U500/Unrated:

Vivaan Sankrithi (Unrated-134P7, 3.0)

Other Highlights:

Medina Elementary Team Wins Third Place In K-3 Championship

The Medina Elementary chess team, represented by second grader Ted Wang and third graders Michael Xiong, Ares Wang, and Michael Zhang, won third place in the K-3 Championship section with a score of 17.5 points!

St. Thomas School Team Wins Eighth Place In K-5 Championship

The St. Thomas School chess team from Medina was coached by IM Georgi Orlov and represented by fourth graders Samuel Cha, Ethan Zhang, and Yuntao Liu. They scored 10.5 points and won eighth place in the K-5 Championship section!

Congratulations to the Team Washington players on a successful showing at Elementary Nationals!



(L-R) Georgi Orlov, Mike Klein, and Josh Sinanan at the ChessKid area of Elementary Nationals. Photo credit: Siva Sankrithi.

Oregon Senior Open

Tarjan and Gibbins tie for first

Tarjan beats Gibbins in a two-game playoff to determine the Irwin representative

Wilson Gibbins

The 12th annual Oregon Senior Open was held May 13-15 at the Portland Chess Center. Only 20 players entered this year compared to 29 last year, but we compensated with quality, as Grandmaster Jim Tarjan topped the wallchart ahead

of two masters. He eventually won the nomination to the Irwin Tournament of Senior State Champions, but the process took longer than you might have expected.

After two rounds there were four perfect scores: Jim Tarjan, Wilson

Gibbins, Carl Haessler, and Lennart Bjorksten. SwissSys made the unintuitive pairing of Tarjan vs Gibbins and Haessler vs Bjorksten, so when Gibbins drew Tarjan and Haessler beat Bjorksten, Carl found himself all alone in first place after three rounds. His reward was to play Tarjan with the black pieces. Carl had his chances, but untitled players rarely do well with the black pieces against Grandmasters, and this was no exception.

Jim and Wilson finished tied with 4.5-0.5 scores. They scheduled a playoff match to determine the Irwin representative. That went true-to-form, as Jim won both games to send him to Rancho Mirage, California, on July 30 to defend the honor of Oregon along with Calvin Chang in the Denker, Zoey Tang in the Haring, Ishaan Kodarapu in the Barber, and Hayul Lim in the Rockefeller.

Other prizes winners were:

James Nelson: Under 1800 and clear third place

H G Pitre: Under 2000

Jon Strohbahn: Under 1600

Kenneth Hines and James Tucker: Under 1400

Thanks to Dave Murray for directing. And thanks to everyone for attending. We hope to see you back next year.



(L) Jim Tarjan, Wilson Gibbins. Photo credit: David Murray.

Jim Tarjan (2458) –
William Dwyer (1798) [B07]
Oregon Senior Open
Portland (R1), May 13, 2022
[Jim Tarjan]

1.e4 d6 2.d4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.Be3 Nf6
5.f3

Gawain Jones says 5.Qd2 with more flexibility: f3 may not be needed.

5...c6 6.Qd2 h5



Position after 6...h5

Not so common, but also not unreasonable.

7.Bd3

7.0–0–0; 7.h4; I wonder about the position after 7.Nh3!? Bxh3 8.gxh3

7...Qa5 8.Nge2 Nbd7 9.Nd1!?



Position after 9.Nd1

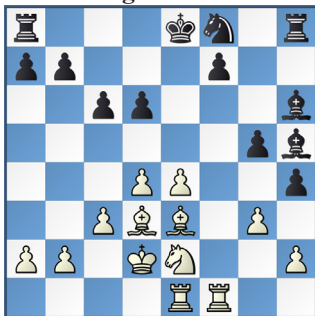
Far away from any sort of specific preparation, not comfortable with my last couple of routine moves nor with the usual lines after castling on one side or the other, I cop out in a sense, trading queens and entirely altering the course of the game. But practically speaking the decision worked well. He did not adjust to the new situation, and in any case the proper plans in the queenless middlegame are far from obvious. After some moves, I stood clearly better.

9...Qxd2+ 10.Kxd2 e5 11.c3 h4

11...d5

12.Nf2 Bh6 13.f4 exf4 14.Nxf4 Nf8 15.
Rae1 g5 16.Ne2 Ng4 17.Nxg4 Bxg4

18.Rhf1 Bh5 19.g3



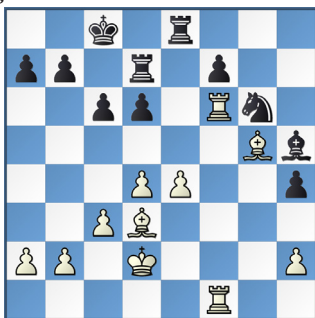
Position after 19.g3

A good move, the computer's first choice. I considered 19.Rf6 which almost wins a pawn by force, but then saw 19...Nd7! 20.Rxd6? Bf8 which is far from clear and a bad choice to make in a clearly superior position; 19.d5!? is a strong alternative I saw just after moving. The N is coming to d4 and again looks to be likely winning a pawn, but White would have to calculate accurately -- he is giving up the e5 square. The way I played it is straightforward and one-sided: no counterplay.

19...0–0–0 20.gxh4 gxh4 21.Nf4 Bxf4
22.Rxf4± Ng6 23.Rf6 Rhe8

23...Nf8

24.Bg5 Rd7 25.Ref1



Position after 25.Ref1

Maybe not the best but White's position is overwhelming now and my moves were good enough to finish the job. 25.e5 dxe5 26.Bf5

25...Bg4 26.Rxf7 Rxf7 27.Rxf7 Be6
28.Rf6 Nf8 29.Bxh4 Nd7 30.Rh6 c5
31.a3 c4 32.Be2 Nb6 33.Rxe6

1–0

Jim Tarjan (2458) –
Carl Haessler (2200) [E14]
Oregon Senior Open
Portland (R4), May 15, 2022
[Jim Tarjan and Wilson Gibbins (WG)]

1.c4 c5 2.Nf3 b6 3.e3 Nf6 4.d4 e6 5.d5
exd5 6.cxd5 d6 7.Nc3 g6 8.h3



Position after 8.h3

Believe it or not, the position is already new in Megabase. 8.Bb5+!?

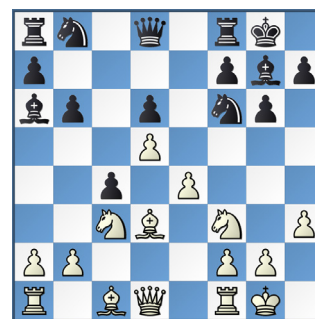
8...Bg7 9.Bd3 0–0 10.0–0

Now we have transposed into many games. Looks like Black most often plays ...g6, ...Bg7, and ...0–0 before ...e6.

10...Ba6 11.e4

This position is far more often seen with White to move, having played e2–e4 in one move.

11...c4



Position after 11...c4

A double-edged decision, but my computer's first choice.

12.Bc2 b5?!

Probably it is this one that is doubtful? 12...Nbd7

13.a3 Nbd7 14.Nd4 Qb6 15.Be3

15.Nc6!? Nc5 (15...Bb7 16.Bf4) 16.Bf4 Rfe8 17.Re1!? All this is predicated on the B being better on f4, rather than e3

15...Nc5 16.Qd2 Rfe8 17.f3 Nfd7
18.Kh1 Qb7

18...Rac8

19.Nc6 Qb6 20.Rab1 Bb7 21.Nd4

21.b4!? cxb3 22.Bxb3

21...a6

I have allowed him to normalize his arrangement on the queenside, but the game continues with somewhere around even chances.

22.Rfd1 Rac8 23.Bg1 Qd8 24.f4



Position after 24.f4

24...Nf6

24...Nb3!? Slight edge for Black says the computer. *WG: My computer says the game is about equal after 25.Qe1.*

25.Re1 Rc7

This is where Black starts to lose the thread.

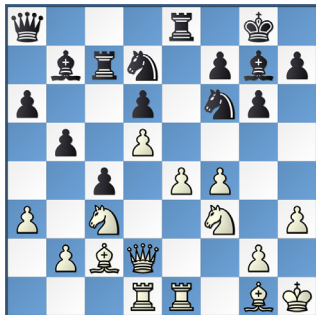
26.Rbd1 Qa8



Position after 26...Qa8

Trying to justify 25...Rc7, he misplaces his queen as well. Clearly he did not anticipate 26...Rce7 27.Nc6± so the plan of piling up on the e-pawn does not work, and the Rc7 is simply misplaced.

27.Nf3 Ncd7?



Position after 27...Ncd7

Oregon Senior Open

Place	Name	Rating	State	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total
1	James Edward Tarjan	2458	OR	W14	W7	D2	W4	W5	4.5
2	Wilson K Gibbins	2215	OR	W3	W19	D1	W6	W4	4.5
3	Mr. James Nelson	1680	OR	L2	W12	W18	W14	H	3.5
4	Carl A Haessler	2200	OR	W10	W13	W6	L1	L2	3
5	Jose Miguel Gatica	2104	OR	W12	H	W19	H	L1	3
6	Lennart Bjorksten	2111	OR	W17	W15	L4	L2	W14	3
7	Alan Knowles	2008	OR	W20	L1	H	W10	D8	3
8	H G Pitre	1815	WA	H	L9	W13	W15	D7	3
9	Ivan Wijetunge	1858	MN	H	W8	L14	H	D10	2.5
10	Ralph Anthony	1701	WA	L4	W17	W16	L7	D9	2.5
11	Stephen J Buck	1700	WA	H	L14	L17	W20	W16	2.5
12	Kenneth P Hines	1367	OR	L5	L3	W20	H	W17	2.5
13	James A Tucker	1084	WA	B	L4	L8	D17	W20	2.5
14	William T Dwyer	1798	OR	L1	W11	W9	L3	L6	2
15	Jon D Strohhahn	1400	WA	W16	L6	H	L8	D18	2
16	Dennis R Petersen	1190	OR	L15	B	L10	W18	L11	2
17	Dale R Wentz	1511	OR	L6	L10	W11	D13	L12	1.5
18	Allan Michael Leland	1287	WA	L19	W20	L3	L16	D15	1.5
19	Anthony Gross	1969	OR	W18	L2	L5	U	U	1
20	Tony Midson	1337	OR	L7	L18	L12	L11	L13	0

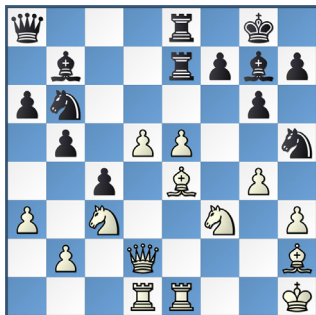
But this is the big mistake.

28.e5 dxe5 29.fxe5 Nh5 30.Bh2!

I did a decent job in this tournament of being patient and careful. 30.g4 is possible, but what I played is better. No counterplay!

30...Nb6 31.Be4 Rce7 32.g4?

But not this move! 32.d6+; 32.Qf2+-



Position after 32.g4

32...f5?

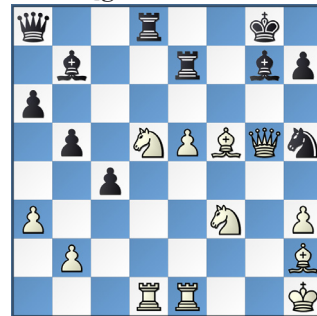
I figured this was his idea, and he played it at once. But he has a better try: 32...Nf6! 33.exf6 Bxf6 One pawn for the piece so far, a second if d5 falls, and no weaknesses. And the White king's pawn cover has been blown. The computer

manages to keep White's advantage, but would I have? 34.Bg1! Bxc3 35.bxc3 Na4! 36.Qd4! Nb2 (36...Nxc3 37.Qxc3 Rxe4 38.Rxe4 Rxe4 39.Be3+-) 37.Rd2+- (or 37.Ng5+-)

33.gxf5 gxf5 34.Bxf5

Now his tactics fall short.

34...Rd8 35.Qg5 Nxd5 36.Nxd5



Position after 36.Nxd5

36...Rxd5

36...Bxd5 37.Rxd5 Qxd5 38.Qxh5

37.Rxd5 Bxd5 38.Qxe7 Bxf3+ 39.Kg1

He resigned. 39.Kg1 Bf8 might introduce some chaos, if not for 40.Qxh7#

1-0

**Wilson Gibbins (2215) –
Lennart Bjorksten (2111) [A14]**
Oregon Senior Open
Portland (R4), May 15, 2022
[Wilson Gibbins]

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.g3 d5 4.b3 Be7 5.
Bb2 0–0 6.Bg2 Nbd7 7.0–0 c6



Position after 7...c6

Black's moves are natural, and White's moves are natural if you are a crazy Reti player, yet this position is nowhere to be found in *The English Opening, Volume Two* by Marin. But it appears over 500 times in my database.

8.d3 Qc7 9.Nc3 Re8 10.Rc1 dxc4

This gives White more center pawns than Black, which I hoped was a strategic advantage. But unfortunately for me, the pawns are not easily advanced, so they are not a real advantage. I should not have been surprised, as my wife keeps telling me that hope is not a strategy.

11.bxc4 e5 12.Qc2

Stockfish and Leela prefer 12.e3 to my move, though they still rate the position as equal.

12...Bf8

12...Nc5=

13.e3 e4?!



Position after 13...e4

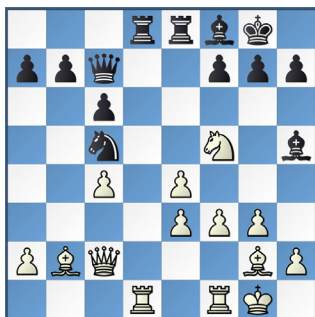
After the game Lennart told me that he knew this sacrifice wasn't fully sound. But he thought he would get some play

for it and knew that if he could convert that play into recovering the pawn, he would stand better due to his better pawn structure. In the game he never recovered the pawn, but he did reach equality.

14.Nxe4

14.dxe4 is a little better than what I played according to the Stockfish.

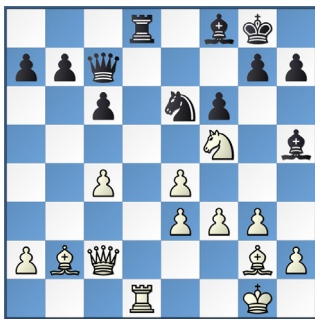
14...Nxe4 15.dxe4 Nc5 16.Nd4 Bg4 17.f3 Bh5 18.Nf5 Rad8 19.Rcd1?!



Position after 19.Rcd1

I am methodically hacking material off the board to make my extra pawn count, but this plan will get me into trouble. As pieces come off the board, my soft underbelly (the squares e2, d2, e1, d1) becomes harder to defend and Lennart's queenside majority becomes more significant. Perhaps the right plan is to keep pieces on and advance on the side of the board where I have extra pawns. 19.g4 Bg6 20.Bd4

19...f6 20.Rd4 Ne6 21.Rxd8 Rxd8 22.Rd1?



Position after 22.Rd1

Continuing my bad plan of hacking pieces. 22.Nd4

22...Bf7?

22...Rxd1+! 23.Qxd1 Qa5= though White still has an extra pawn and his queen controls the only open file, Black's queen controls the queenside and the soft underbelly squares on d2 and e1. Black is fully equal.

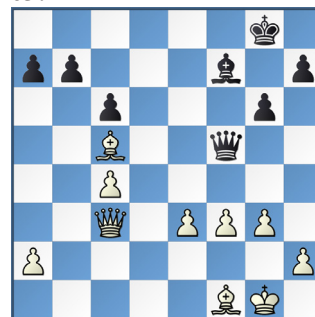
23.Bf1?

23.Nd4±

23...Rd7?

23...Rxd1 24.Qxd1 Qa5=

24.Rxd7 Qxd7 25.e5 fxe5 26.Bxe5 g6 27.Nd4 Bc5 28.Qc3 Nxd4 29.Bxd4 Qf5 30.Bxc5?



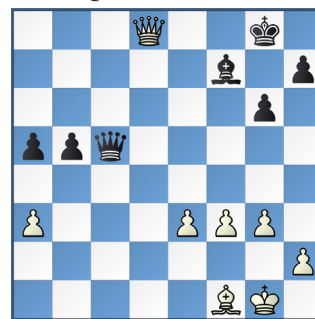
Position after 30.Bxc5

Yet more misguided piece hacking to enhance Black's queenside majority and superior pawn structure. 30.Kg2 Bxd4 best says Stockfish 31.exd4 improves my pawn structure.

30...Qxc5 31.Qd3 b5= 32.cxb5 cxb5

Black's queenside majority is rolling fast. I wondered if I was losing. Luckily Black's kingside dark squares are sufficiently weak so his pieces can't simultaneously defend his king and support the advance of his queenside pawns, Stockfish says 0.00 for White's five best alternatives.

33.a3 a5 34.Qd8+



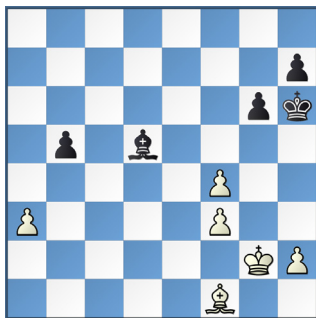
Position after 34.Qd8+

White's best try to keep the game alive is to eliminate Black's queenside majority, but his weak kingside pawn cover means that he has no legitimate winning chances.

34...Kg7 35.Qxa5 Qxe3+ 36.Kg2 Bd5 37.Qc7+ Kh6?

37...Bf7= 38.Bxb5 Qd2+ and Black has a perpetual.

38.Qf4+! Qxf4 39.gxf4



Position after 39.gxf4

I wasn't sure if this was winning since I end up with four isolated pawns, two of them doubled. But I hoped for the best, as I can use the principle of two weaknesses to stretch the defense. Weakness one — his isolated pawn on b5 is fixed on an attackable light square, while my isolated pawn on a3 is not easily attacked. Weakness two — he must defend against me playing f4–f5 and undoubling my pawns at a time when I can recapture after g6xf5. Lucky for me there is no principle of four weaknesses :-)

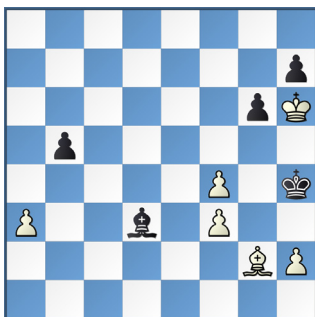
39...Bc6 40.Bd3 Bd7 41.Kf2 Kh5 42.Ke3 Kh4 43.Bf1

As Dan Voje back in Minnesota would say, "Access Denied." But stronger is 43.f5 gxf5 44.Kf4.

43...Bc6 44.Bg2 Bd7 45.Ke4

My original plan was to take my King towards his b-pawn, but I started to see greener pastures on the kingside.

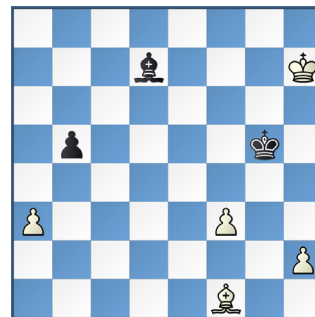
45...Bf5+ 46.Ke5 Bd3 47.Kf6 Be2 48.Kg7 Bd3 49.Kh6



Position after 49.Kh6

A mean-spirited move. 49.Kxh7 allows 49...g5+ but after 50.Kg7 gxf4 51.Kf6 Kh5 52.Bh3 white is still winning.

49...Bf5 50.Bf1 Bd7 51.Kxh7 g5 52.fgx5 Kxg5



Position after 52...Kxg5

Even here I wondered if his superior king placement might allow him to hold, but two pawns is too many.

53.Bd3 Kf4 54.Be4 Ke3 55.h4 Kd4 56.h5

1-0

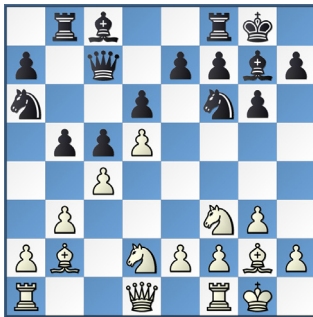


Tournament Hall, Photo credit: David Murray.

**James Nelson (1680) –
William Dwyer (1798) [A49]**
Oregon Senior Open
Portland (R4), May 15, 2022
[Wilson Gibbins]

This game determined third place in the tournament. Bill Dwyer had a great result in the 2021 Oregon Senior Open, playing for the championship in the final round and gaining 98 rating points in the process. This year he proved it was no fluke, gaining a few more rating points while facing a brutal schedule (see game one against James Tarjan). But in this game, he runs into James Nelson who through perseverance holds off Black's dangerous queenside activity to notch the win.

**1.d4 g6 2.Nf3 Bg7 3.g3 Nf6 4.Bg2 0–0
5.0–0 d6 6.b3 c5 7.Bb2 Na6 8.Nbd2 Qc7
9.c4 Rb8 10.d5 b5**



Position after 10...b5

White is doing his best to obtain a solid position, and Black is doing his best to create dynamic chances. An immovable object vs. irresistible force game.

**11.Ne1 Bg4 12.f3 Bd7 13.Rb1 Rb7 14.e4
bxc4 15.Nxc4 Bb5 16.Nd3 Bxc4 17.bxc4
Rfb8**



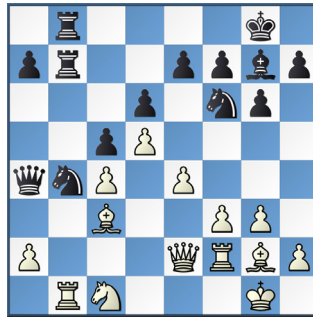
Position after 17...Rfb8

In spite of White's best efforts to keep the game under control, Black has reached a good Benoni position. White's defensive task will not be easy.

18.Qe2 Nb4 19.Bc3 Qa5

19...Nxd3 20.Qxd3 Nd7 ♠ Black should be able to use his control of the b-file and the weak dark squares to wreak havoc on the queenside before White can get sufficient kingside play.

20.Nc1= Qa4 21.Rf2?



Position after 21.Rf2

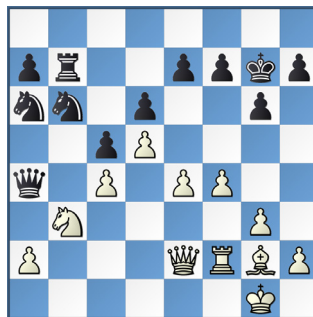
21.Rb3!±

21...Nd7?

21...Nxe4! 22.fxe4 (22.Bxg7 Nxf2 23.Bh6 Nd1 ♠) 22...Bxc3-+; 21...Ng4! is also strong.

**22.Bxg7 Kxg7 23.f4 Na6 24.Rxb7 Rxb7
25.Nb3 Nb6**

25...Nb4=



Position after 25...Nb6

26.Bf1±

White survived the queenside onslaught. The counterattack in the center begins.

**26...Nb4 27.e5 Qd7 28.a3 Na6 29.Na5
Rc7 30.Qb2 dxe5 31.Nc6 Rxc6**



Position after 31...Rxc6

Not forced, but it is unpleasant to leave the knight on c6, patiently waiting for the right moment to inflict damage. White is winning even if Black does not sacrifice the exchange.

**32.dxc6 Qxc6 33.Qxe5+ Kg8 34.Qxe7
Nc8 35.Qe5 Nd6 36.Rd2 Ne8 37.Bg2
Qe6 38.Qxe6 fxe6 39.Rd7 Nac7 40.Bc6
h6 41.Rd8 Kf7 42.Bxe8+ Nxe8 43.Rd7+
Kf6 44.Rxa7 Nd6 45.a4 Nxc4 46.a5 g5
47.fxg5+ hxg5 48.a6 Ke5 49.Rg7 Kf6
50.Rg8**

1–0

**Jose Gatica (2104) –
Jim Tarjan (2458) [D58]**
Oregon Senior Open
Portland (R5), May 15, 2022
[Jim Tarjan]

This last round game was for me in part an attempt to answer a question on my mind for a long time. Playing Black against 1.d4, is it possible, or sensible, to play for a win with the solid, old-school Queens Gambit Declined that I have studied, and often use against strong players? Or is White's position simply too solid for Black to create any sort of real winning chances?

By way of contrast, one might note that my prior game with Black in this event began 1.d4 f5 2.Bg5 g6 3.Nc3 Nh6. There are many Black wins in the QGD, even against the strongest opposition, by such as Short, Vaganian, Beliavsky, Geller.

And now I see Andrew Tang among many others playing his same solid openings against all levels of players, including the QGD. Perhaps this entire concept of "sharp, double-edged" Black openings vs. "solid, drawish" Black openings is a thing of the past?

Players are so much better prepared in the openings now, and, regardless of the opening, things often come down to a close-to-equal endgame that one manages to win, or not.

**1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Be7 4.Nf3 Nf6
5.Bg5 h6 6.Bh4 0–0 7.e3 b6 8.Bd3 Bb7
9.0–0 Nbd7 10.Rc1**

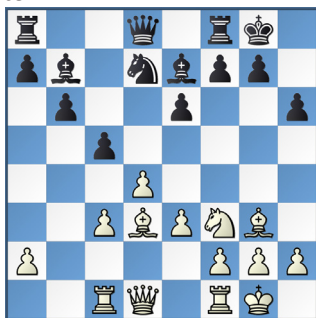
10.Qe2 as Novikov, a lifelong specialist on the White side, played against me in the US Senior; 10.Bg3

10...c5 11.cxd5 Nxd5 12.Bg3 Nxc3

The third most popular choice in this position.

At Gronigen 1993 Beliavsky played 12...cxd4 and eventually won the game — against Yermolinsky!; 12...N7f6 is logical.

13.bxc3

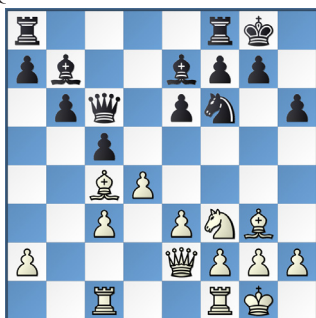


Position after 13.bxc3

Now the results, and the computer, start to slightly favor White, with the pawn center. But I was thinking, at least I have permanently unbalanced the pawn structure. A draw by attrition that's much farther away...

13...Nf6 14.Qe2 Qd5 15.Bc4 Qc6

15...Qh5!?

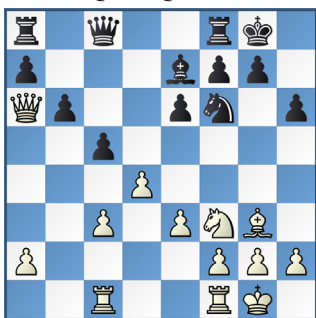


Position after 15...Qc6

16.Ba6

16.Bb5 I was thinking to avoid the repetition by 16...Qc8 (Probably I need to go back 16...Qd5 and then to h5) but the computer rightly does not think much of it 17.Ne5±

16...Bxa6 17.Qxa6 Qc8



Position after 17...Qc8

This reflects my understanding of the position, for better or worse: if Black is going to win this, it will be in an endgame.

18.Qe2 Qb7 19.Nd2

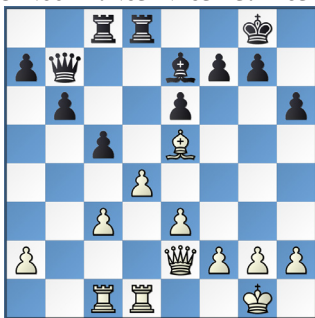
19.Bh4

19...Rac8 20.Rfd1 Rfd8 21.Be5 Nd7

22.Bg3 Nb8

Overly elaborate 22...b5

23.Nf3 Nc6 24.Ne5 Nxe5 25.Bxe5



Position after 25.Bxe5

25...Qc6

On 25...Bd6 right away I was unhappy with 26.Bxd6 Rxd6 27.dxc5 Rxd1+ 28.Rxd1 Rxc5 29.Rd8+ Kh7 30.Qd3+ f5

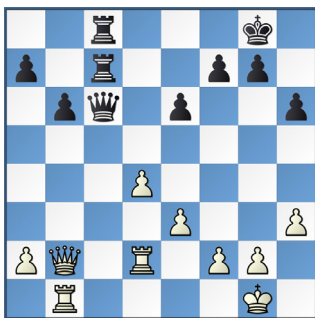
26.Qb2

Passive. 26.Qg4

26...Bd6 27.Bxd6 Rxd6

So here we are. For the first time in the game, I was content with my prospects. Though, even so, a long way away from victory.

28.h3 Rd7 29.Rb1 cxd4 30.cxd4 Rdc7 31.Rd2



Position after 31.Rd2

I got this far, but now...how to play? I couldn't figure it out and made a few random moves. Should Black trade queens, and if possible, a pair of rooks as well, to a position with White's rook tied down to an a pawn (or b pawn, if a trade of queens on b3)? Then bring the king to the center, push the queenside majority,

and win?? Or keep all the major pieces on, just to make it complicated? It seems my shuffling back and forth for a couple of moves did not diminish my chances, at least in practice.

31...Qd5

31...Qe4; 31...Qa4

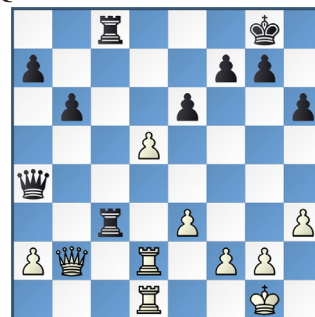
32.Rbd1 Rc3 33.Re2

One thing for sure: White cannot wait forever; at some point, preferably soon, he needs to push his central majority, and make a passed pawn of his own, or at least some rook activity. 33.Qb1

33...Qc4 34.Red2

Here if 34.e4 Rc2

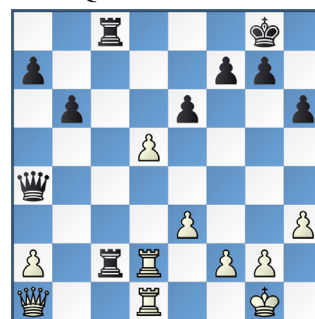
34...Qa4 35.d5



Position after 35.d5

The first choice of my computer; but as is sometimes the case with computer moves, when one looks at the details, one wonders whether in practical terms it was in fact a mistake.

35...Rc2 36.Qa1?



Position after 36.Qa1

His first clear error of the game. The computer claims equality with 36.Qb3 Qxb3 37.axb3 exd5 (37...Rxd2 38.Rxd2 exd5 39.Rxd5=) 38.Rxd5 Rb2 39.Rd8+ Rxd8 40.Rxd8+ Kh7 41.Rd7 a5 But this is at a minimum scary for White: I saw this position at the board and wondered about the two passed pawns 42.Rxf7 (42.Rd3 Kg6.) 42...Rxb3 43.Ra7 the computer

blithely claims equality; maybe so, but I would not want to go here voluntarily as White.

36...exd5

Now White is losing a pawn, without clear compensation. Whatever he had planned or calculated, it is not there.

37.Rxd5 Qxa2 38.Rd8+ Rxd8 39.Rxd8+ Kh7 40.Qd4 Qb1+ 41.Kh2 Rxf2

Now suddenly completely over: two pawns down, and White's king more exposed than Black's.

42.Rd7 Qg6 43.Qd5 a5 44.Rd6 Rxd2+ 45.Qxg2 Qxd6+

0-1

**Jim Tarjan (2458) -
Wilson Gibbins (2215) [C02]
Oregon Senior Playoff
Portland (G1), June 6, 2022**

[Jim Tarjan (JT) and Wilson Gibbins (WG)]

1.e4 e6

WG: I had three weeks to prepare for this game, so I had good intentions about making the most of my opportunity to play a Grandmaster. In reality, I didn't start preparing until the day before it was played. My guidelines were (1) try to avoid his preparation by playing something that he wouldn't expect (probably a mistake), (2) play something that I had at least studied before — so no Petroff's or Berlins, (3) avoid memorizing any long forcing lines that I would forget immediately after the game, to maximize the chance of some lasting value from the effort.

2.d4 d5 3.e5

WG: One of the reasons I chose the French is that I had noticed Jim played the Advance Variation. I figured Black must have an easy route to equality in the Advance French.

3...c5 4.c3 Nc6 5.Nf3 Bd7 6.Be2 Nge7 7.0-0 Ng6 8.g3

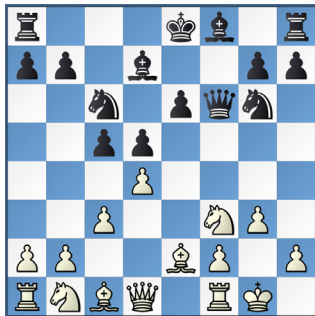
JT: 8.Na3, Tarjan vs. L. Ming Redmond 2022

8...f6

WG: I was working from the book *Playing the French* by Aagaard & Ntirlis, who recommended 8...Be7 9.h4 cxd4 10.cxd4 0-0 11.h5 Nh8. With the idea of unwinding with ...f7-f6 and Nh8-f7.

But when I actually started looking at this position with Chessbase at 11:00 PM the night before, I noticed that Stockfish shows a clear edge for White, and the game statistics concur. At this point it dawned on me that perhaps there was no easy route to equality for Black in the Advance variation of the French. But I noticed Rapport had won a rapid game against Shevchenko in 2022 with 8...f6, so I decided to give it a try if this position came up. But I could not absorb all the nuances in the small amount of prep time I had remaining.

9.exf6 Qxf6



Position after 9...Qxf6

10.Bg5

JT: In this position Jones recommends instead 10.Be3!? cxd4 11.Nxd4 He has some tactical reasons in mind as to why he prefers Black's queen on f6 rather than f7. His main line of analysis goes: 11...Bd6 12.Nb5 Bb8 13.Nd2 (13.c4!? a6 14.cxd5 exd5 and White is already practically forced to sacrifice a piece, which should be playable actually: 15.N1c3 Shevchenko vs. Rapport, 2022: 0-1 eventually) 13...a6 (13...0-0 14.Ne4! One of the reasons Jones wants Black's queen on f6 14...Qd8 15.Nc5 Bc8 16.Nd4± Jones) 14.Nd4 e5 15.Nxc6 bxc6 (15...Bxc6 16.Bc5 Ba7 17.Bxa7 Rxa7 18.c4± Jones) 16.c4 and Jones claims a slight edge (the only game so far: 16.Bc5 Ba7 Nasuta vs. Piorun 2022: 0-1 eventually; so the score so far for Jones' analysis is 0-2, though both White players varied from his exact line.)

10...Qf7 11.h4

JT: Looking at it now I would play 11.Be3 cxd4 12.cxd4 intending Ng5 and f4.

11...Bd6 12.Na3

JT: 12.Be3!?

12...cxd4

12...a6!?

13.Nb5 Bb8 14.cxd4

JT: 14.Nbxd4!?

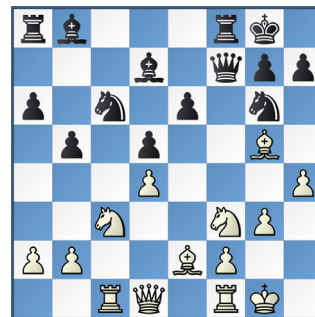
14...0-0=

JT: White has accomplished nothing in the last few moves.

15.Rc1

JT: 15.Be3

15...a6 16.Nc3 b5



Position after 16...b5

WG: I was pleased to gain some space and prevent the White knight from invading on c5 or b6. But 16...h6 is a little safer, discouraging White knights from hitting the g5 square. I didn't want to weaken the g6 square and the b1-h7 diagonal, but defending the g5 square is often more important. Skip ahead to move 27 if you want to see why.

17.h5?

JT: 17.Be3! Nge7 (17...h6 18.h5 Nge7 19.Nh4 and for example 19...Ba7 20.Bg4 Qf6 21.Ne2) 18.Ng5 Qf6 19.Bd3 Nf5 20.Ne2 close to equal.

17...Nge7 18.Nh4 Ba7

JT: Black has not had to stop for ...h6, and the extra tempo renders White's position very doubtful.

19.Be3

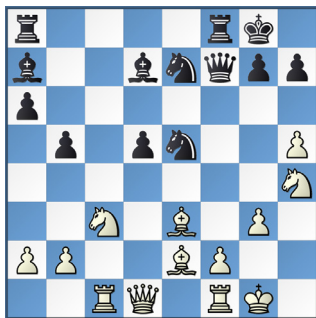
WG: Stockfish suggests 19.Bg4 Bxd4 20.Bxe7 Qxe7 21.Nf3 WG: But I don't think many players would choose these artificial moves just to drop the d-pawn.

19...e5!?

WG: This move identifies me as a Sicilian player, not a French player. French players would automatically look to attack White's isolated d-pawn (see Jim's notes below). Sicilian players look for central pawn breaks when White decentralizes his pieces.

JT: 19...Qf6! is strong, and simple: Black is piling up on the d-pawn 20.Nf3 Nf5

20.dxe5 Nxe5?



Position after 20...Nxe5

JT: But the two tactical lines are indeed very complicated and difficult, and not better for Black in a clearcut way. 20... Bh3 21.Bxa7 Bxf1 22.Bc5 Bxe2 23.Qxe2.

My computer finds resources for White, and says the game is equal 23...Rad8 (23...d4 24.Ne4 Qxa2? 25.Bxe7 Nxe7 26.Qg4+-; 23...Qe6 24.f4=) 24.h6!=; 20...d4 21.Bf4 dxc3! (21...Bh3 22.Ne4 Bxf1 23.Bxf1± clear advantage to White according to my Deep Fritz) 22.Qxd7 Rad8! developing 23.Qb7 (23.Qg4 cxb2

24.e6 (24.Rb1 Qxa2?) 24...Qf6 25.Rb1. The computer prefers Black in this position, but all is far from obvious.) 23...cxb2 24.Rxc6 Nxc6 25.Qxc6 Qxa2 26.Bg4! — enormous complications — 26...Bxf2+! 27.Kg2! Kh8! 28.Rxf2 b1Q 29.Rxa2 Qxa2+ 30.Kh3.

“Black is slightly better” says the oracle!; 20...Bxe3! 21.fxe3 Qe6. 22.Bf3 Qxe5 23.Bxd5+ Kh8 24.Bg2 Qxe3+ 25.Kh2.

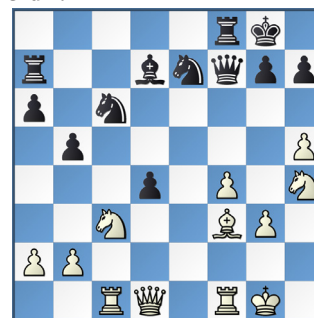
21.Bxa7 Rxa7 22.f4±

WG: White is now in control.

22...N5c6

JT: 22...Nc4 23.Qd4! Nc6 24.Qc5!? (24.Qxd5 Qxd5 25.Nxd5 Nxb2±) 24...Nxb2 25.Nf3!±

23.Bf3 d4?



Position after 23...d4

WG: Gives White’s knight access to the e4 square followed by the g5 square. 23...Be6? 24.f5! Nxf5? 25.Bxd5 Nce7 26.Nxf5 Nxf5 27.g4+-; 23...Rd8±

24.Ne4 Rc7?

24...Qxa2 25.b3± (25.Rf2±)

25.a3?!

JT: An unnecessary precaution, though apparently it does not spoil White’s advantage.

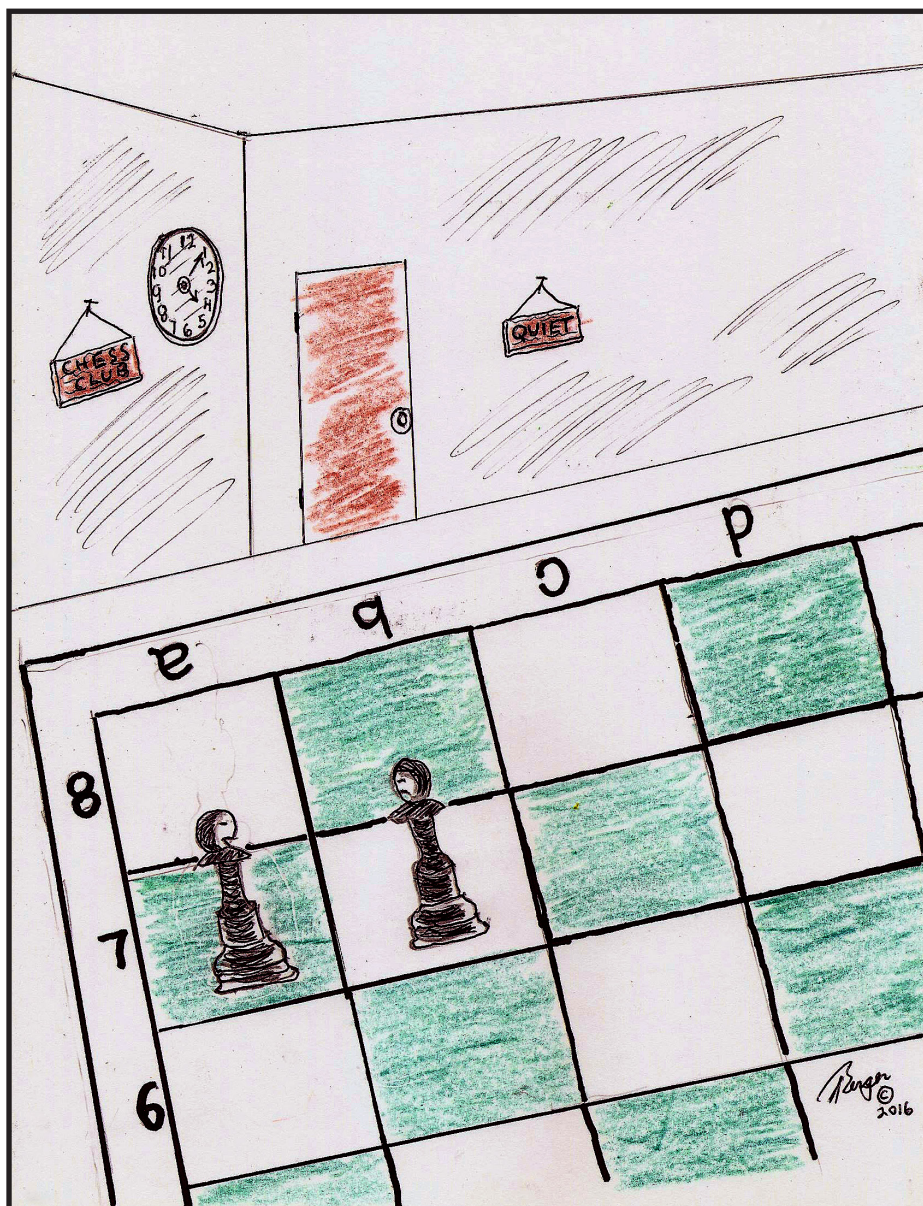
25.Ng5 Qf6 (25...Qxa2 26.Qd3+-) 26.Be4! Nf5 (26...Bf5 27.Nxf5 Nxf5 28.Qf3!+- Rfc8 29.Rxc6 Rxc6 30.Bxc6 Qxc6 31.Qb3+ Qc4 32.Re1!) 27.Nxf5 Bxf5 28.Qf3!+-

25...Kh8

JT: Not a good move, though the more the computer thinks about the position, the more lost for Black it finds it, regardless of what move is played here. 25...h6 26.Re1

26.Re1 Rd8 27.Ng5 Qf6 28.Qd3 g6 29.hxg6 Nxg6 30.Bxc6

1-0



I CAN'T SHAKE THIS FEELING THAT I AM MERELY A PAWN, IN SOME LARGER, GRANDER PLAN.

Planting A “S.E.E.D.”

(Detective Cookie’s Story)

Karen Schmidt

Since volunteering at the Susan Polgar Foundation National Open scholastic chess tournament in September 2021, Seattle’s rather famous Detective Denise “Cookie” Bouldin (Detective Cookie) and I have become fast chess friends. The Detective Cookie Chess Club has resumed meeting weekly on Saturdays from noon to 2:00 PM, at the Rainier Beach Community Center. It is free and open to ages from seven years old to adults. I have found myself volunteering recently at a number of scholastic chess events (Presidents’ Day Cup in Bellevue; April 30 Elementary State Scholastic Open at the Tacoma Convention Center) as well as Rainier Beach Community Center activities (the first in-person Detective Cookie Chess Club event in two years since the pandemic, on April 16; and the “Father and Sons Together” event on May 21.).

But the event I am writing about today took place at the Swedish Club, which is located at the western base of Queen Anne Hill, on May 18. I received an invitation to attend the dinner and program, at which Detective Cookie was the guest speaker. Once I called and made my reservation, and relayed this information to Detective Cookie, I suddenly found myself in charge of collecting any contributions that might come in for her chess program that evening. (I digress here, but I had not been to the Swedish Club for about 25 years; in a previous lifetime when all family vacations were fishing trips, I had been to the Northwest Fly Anglers holiday dinner there a number of times.)

Since I was new to charitable contribution collecting, I made phone calls to both the Swedish Club, and to the non-profit organization which

handles donations to the Detective Cookie Chess Club [S.E.E.D. \(SouthEast Effective Development\)](#). Everyone was very friendly and helpful on the phone. I volunteered to show up early at 4:00 PM and help set up for the evening. However, when I arrived, no one would let me do a thing! After exploring the fabulously beautiful mid-century-modern (1961) venue and taking photos, I spent from 5:00 PM until 6:30 PM in the bar, meeting and chatting with several Swedish Club members and friends of Detective Cookie over a glass of wine.

There were about 51 people in attendance, including three tables reserved for 23 friends of Detective Cookie. The banquet room, upstairs, with wall-to-wall windows, had a tremendous 180-degree view of downtown, Lake Union and the University District. The classic northwest dinner was delicious:



*Detective Cookie.
Photo credit: Karen Schmidt.*

a lovely green salad, cold baked salmon with tartar sauce, asparagus spears, new potatoes, rolls, and a rhubarb crumble for dessert. I was honored to sit at the head table, between the CEO of the Swedish Club and Detective Cookie. Also at the head table was Senator Rebecca Saldana, from District 37. She has, with her family, attended many of the Detective Cookie Chess Club events to play chess. As I chatted with Kristine Leander, CEO, I learned that the rhubarb had come from her family farm in Monroe, Washington—to which she hopes to retire in the near future. (I even sent her my own rhubarb dessert recipe afterwards! How very “old school.”)

After dinner, a very short business meeting was held, and then Detective Cookie was introduced. I think it is probably fair to say that quite a few of the club members are not avid chess players, and possibly not chess players at all. Learning that she had about 25 minutes to speak, Detective Cookie asked Kristine to give her a signal at 20 minutes in order to wrap up. Her presentation was titled “Against All Odds.” Suffice it to say that no signal was needed, because the audience was riveted by the personal, autobiographical presentation which began with a frank look at Detective Cookie’s childhood, growing up in the “Projects” of Chicago. Her early life exposed her to being around drugs, gangs, violence, prostitution, poverty, and strict rules on the part of her father—which could not be broken unless she and her six siblings wanted to risk a whupping (not a “time-out” or a spanking). No one in the Projects liked the police, who were in the habit of stopping and searching black people for drugs or weapons—including occasionally her five brothers, when they were standing in front of their own apartment building. However, after being mentored by a friendly cop at her high school, Detective Cookie set her sights on one day becoming a police officer just like the one at her high school.

She achieved that goal after joining the Seattle Police Department. She also achieved several of her earlier goals: college; being a dancer on the popular TV variety show “Soul Train;” becoming a model for Ebony and Jet magazines; getting her teaching credentials; and teaching anti-violence classes in several schools. After a number of years on the Seattle police force, she was detailed with organizing a community event: Detective



All three photos on this page, courtesy of Detective Cookie.

Cookie put together a basketball game between inner city teens and Seattle police officers. The police got whupped. The following year, the teenagers told her they would rather do a chess tournament than a basketball game—because they were not “just about basketball.”

Thus began her chess career. At the first chess gathering, over 20 kids and teenagers showed up at a local park for the chess tournament they had requested. But only two or three actually knew how to play chess! Detective Cookie didn't know how to play chess either, but she soon mastered the basics in a short workshop taught by Wendy Fisher of the American Foundation for Chess. At this point, Detective Cookie decided to start the Detective Cookie Chess Club at the Rainier Beach Seattle Public Library. The number of kids and teenagers attending her chess club grew quickly and exponentially from six to eventually over 60 kids and teenagers. That was about sixteen years ago, in 2006. I am happy to report that at her first in-person chess club gathering since Covid, in April, there were approximately 80 youth and adults in attendance, including myself and six of my friends from our Sunday coffee-and-chess group, which meets at Caffe Umbria in Pioneer Square (from 9 AM to 3 PM). Off the record, most of my chess guy friends got whupped that day in chess by a couple nine- and ten-year-olds who attend the Detective Cookie Chess Club.

I am absolutely amazed by the impact that this inner-city chess club has had on hundreds of young lives. Detective Cookie

knows each kid, their parent or parents, and their personal stories and histories. Many former chess club members have gone to college and on to successful careers. And many of them attribute their success story to Detective Cookie's Chess Club and her mentorship. Several of these youths sometimes stop by to play chess and mentor the younger boys and girls. At the Swedish Club, she related how one of her previous club members asked if she would come and speak to his class at Bellevue Community College. She agreed, and when she arrived, she was amazed to learn that it was literally “his class.” He was the college professor.

I don't know how long Detective Cookie spoke at the Swedish Club, but it was way longer than 25 minutes. No one was bored. Everyone was transfixed by



DETECTIVE COOKIE'S CHESS CLUB



her personal, emotional story. She teaches life lessons and values as well as chess at her club: good sportsmanship, patience, concentration, strategy, looking at all options in chess and in real life situations, and making not just “a good move,” but the best move.

I will do all I can to support Detective Cookie's community outreach efforts, and her free chess and non-violence program. If you would like to contribute to her program, visit the S.E.E.D. website at <https://www.seedseattle.org/> to donate. Or you can mail a check to S.E.E.D. (SouthEast Effective Development) at 5117 Rainier Ave S., #1928, Seattle WA 98118. Be sure to indicate on the memo line that the contribution is for the Detective Cookie Chess Club. If you would like Detective Cookie to speak at your school, club, or chess event, she can be contacted at gabrielle2004@aol.com.

Seattle Chess Club Tournaments

→ Address ↙
 7212 Woodlawn Ave NE ←
 Seattle WA 98115
 ↗ Info ↘
www.seattlechess.club
Addresses for Entries
 SCC Tnmt Dir
 2420 S 137 St
 Seattle WA 98168
 ---or---
www.seattlechess.club

Seafair Open August 6-7, 2022

A one section, 4-round Swiss with time controls of 40/90 & SD/30; +30. The prize fund of \$600 is based on 25 paid entries, 6 per prize group. Limit, 25 players.

a Northwest Grand Prix event

First	\$200
Second	\$100
Third	\$70
U1900	\$60
U1600	\$60
U1300	\$60
Unrated	\$20

Best Upset (Rds 1-3) \$10/rd

Entry Fees: \$46 if received by 8/1, \$58 thereafter. **GMs, IMs, WGMs & WIMs**—FREE. **Unrated**—Free with purchase of 1-yr US Chess & 1-yr WCF. **SCC Members**—subtract \$11. You can register online at www.seattlechess.club.

Reg.: Sat. 9-9:45 a.m. **Rds:** Sat. 10-4, Sun. 10-4.

Byes: 1 (Sunday rounds, commit at reg.). **Misc:** US Chess & WCF memb. req'd. OSA. No smoking. No computers.

♣**July 2** **Saturday Quads**♣
Format: 3-RR, 4-plyr sec. by rtg. **TC:** G/120;d5. **EF:** \$9(+\$7 fee for non-SCC). **Prizes:** Free quad entry. **Reg:** 9-9:45 a.m. **Rds:** 10:00-2:15-6:30. **Misc:** US Chess, WCF; OSA. NS, NC.

July 3 **SCC G/20 Hexes**
Format: 5-RR in 6- or 5-player sections. **TC:** G/20;+8. **EF:** \$12 (+\$6 fee for non-SCC). **Prize Fund:** \$\$54 b/6. **Prizes:** \$36-18. **Reg:** 12-12:45 p.m. **Time Frame:** 1 to ~6:30 p.m. **Byes:** 0. **Misc:** US Chess. NS, NC.

July 16 **SCC Novice**
Format: 4-SS. Open to U1200 and UNR. **TC:** G/75; d5. **EF:** \$15 by 7/11, \$20 at site. (-\$2 SCC mem., -\$1 mem. other NW dues-req'd CCs). **Prizes:** SCC membership(s). **Reg:** 9-9:45a.m. **Rds:** 10-12:45-3:30-6. **Byes:** 1 (Rd 3/4—commit at reg.). **Misc:** US Chess memb. req'd. NS, NC.

♣**July 17** **Sunday Tornado**♣
Format: 4-SS. **TC:** G/60; d5. **EF:** \$18 (+\$7 fee for non-SCC). **Prizes:** 1st 35%, 2nd 27%, Bottom Half 1st 22%, 2nd 16% (\$10 per EF to prize fund). **Reg:** 10:30-11:15 a.m. **Rds:** 11:30-1:50-4:10-6:30. **Byes:** 1 (Rd 3/4—commit at reg.). **Misc:** US Chess, WCF; OSA. NS, NC.

Adult Swiss

July 23-24, 2022

A four-round Swiss open to those born before

7/24/2004 with a prize fund of \$320.

First	\$100
Second	\$70
U1800	\$50
U1600	\$45
U1400	\$40
U1200/Unr	\$15

Time Control: G/120; +30.

Entry Fees: Free to SCC members. \$12 for non-members.

Registration: Sat. 10-10:45 a.m.

Rounds: 11-4:30, 11-4:30.

Byes: 1 (Sunday rounds, commit at registration).

Miscellaneous: US Chess req'd. NS. NC.

Sponsored by Henry Yan.

The 2022 Ignacio Perez Memorial Northwest Chess Grand Prix

Murlin Varner, assigner of points

Every person on the Washington leader board (and quite a few of the “Others”) played in the Washington Open over the Memorial Day weekend. Actually, many more did, a total of 180. That accounts for almost a third of all Grand Prix entries to this point in the year. With a 5x multiplier, the Washington Open was very impactful on the first half standings.

In June, there were eight more events, with four scheduled for Boise, three in Seattle and one online. The first Seattle event, the SCC June Quads, was held on June 4 and is included in the standings below. The others should be done by the time you read this and will be included in next month’s standings. None of these had multipliers.

July’s big event is the Vancouver Open, with a \$2500 prize fund based on 60 players. This gives it a 3x multiplier, and another good opportunity to leap forward with your Grand Prix points. The Vancouver Open is being held on July 23-24. In addition, there will be the usual Seattle Chess Club Quads (7/2) and Tornado (7/17), and FIVE (!) weekend swisses in Boise, should enough entries be received. Peeking into August, we see the annual Seattle Seafair Open on the first weekend (8/6-7).

Next month, the standings will reflect the half-year totals. Of the remaining events, the largest will be the Washington Class in November, with a 4x or 5x multiplier. Meanwhile, keep playing and keep moving up the leaderboard. If you are not yet among the top five in your class, check out the standings on the *Northwest Chess* website. I provide a full listing every month.

Data below are current through June 4.

Washington			Idaho			Other Places						
last	first	pts.	last	first	pts.	last	first	state	pts.			
Masters			Masters			Masters						
1	Pupols	Viktors	70.0			1	Donaldson	W. John	CA	21.0		
2	Lee	Megan	35.0									
2	Orlov	Georgi	35.0									
2	Ready	John L	35.0									
5	Haining	Kyle	30.0									
Experts			Experts			Experts						
1	Jiang	Brandon	52.5	1	Cambareri	Michael E	23.0	1	Sripada	Havish	OR	32.5
2	Liu	Austin	52.0	2	Parsons	Larry R	5.5	2	Zhang	Brendan	MN	30.0
3	Arganian	David G	48.0					3	Tang	Austin	OR	27.5
4	Paez	David	33.0					4	Yu	Peter C	CA	10.0
5	Two Tied At		30.0									
Class A			Class A			Class A						
1	Wang	Ted	64.5	1	Kircher	Caleb	25.5	1	Merwin	Steven E	NV	18.0
2	Tessiore	Luca G	60.0	2	Bodie	Brad R	6.0	2	Nazriev	Rasul	MT	15.0
3	Lee	Brian	55.0					3	Carpenter	Romie G	MT	6.0
4	Gottumukkala	Ananth S	53.0					4	Aiello	Roberto	OR	5.0
5	Kona	Vidip K	51.0					5	Terzakis	Athanasios	PA	4.0
Class B			Class B			Class B						
1	Chowdhery	Evan M	53.5	1	Herr	Griffin G	16.5	1	Ravid	Orren	NJ	25.0
2	Willaford	Loyd J	42.5	1	McKenzie	Niall	16.5	2	Lykins	Pace	OR	22.5
3	Li	Edward S	38.0	3	Barrett	Evan	11.5	3	Rankin	Andrew J	MT	16.5
4	Olson	Travis	35.0	4	Presutti	Michael J	0.0	4	Skovron	James J	MT	15.0
5	Wang	Felicity	34.0					5	Two Tied At		MT	12.0
Class C			Class C			Class C						
1	Zhang	Michelle	43.0	1	Lundy	George	47.5	1	Yang	Arnold T	OR	27.5
2	Tatikonda	Nihanth	35.0	2	Minichiello	Anthony J	16.5	2	Morehouse	Ethan	OR	22.5
2	Varner	Murlin	35.0	3	Longhurst	Corey K	10.5	2	Sripada	Anisha	OR	22.5
4	Li	Emma S	34.5	4	Forster	Manfred	5.5	4	Driscoll	Jesse	MT	15.0
5	Ozusta	Ozgun	34.0					5	Wagner	Eric	MT	13.5
Class D and below			Class D and below			Class D and below						
1	Marinescu	Andra	58.0	1	Widdifield	Tristen A	13.5	1	Deshusses	Simon M	MO	39.0
2	Sankar	Abhay	55.0	2	Blue-Day	Alexander P	13.0	2	Hack	Don	CAN	27.5
2	Vijayanandh	Vishnu	55.0	3	Roberts	Liam	11.0	3	Kodarapu	Neev	OR	25.0
4	Nallabothula	Vineesh	51.5	4	Zhou	Angela	6.0	3	Lim	Hayul	OR	25.0
5	McDevitt	Owen	50.0	5	Marino	Joshua	5.5	3	Yang	Arthur T	OR	25.0
Overall standings												
1	Pupols	Viktors	70.0	1	Lundy	George	47.5	1	Deshusses	Simon M	MO	39.0
2	Wang	Ted	64.5	2	Kircher	Caleb	25.5	2	Sripada	Havish	OR	32.5
3	Tessiore	Luca G	60.0	3	Cambareri	Michael E	23.0	3	Zhang	Brendan	MN	30.0
4	Marinescu	Andra	58.0	4	Herr	Griffin G	16.5	4	Hack	Don	CAN	27.5
5	Lee	Brian	55.0	4	McKenzie	Niall	16.5	4	Tang	Austin	OR	27.5
5	Sankar	Abhay	55.0	4	Minichiello	Anthony J	16.5	4	Yang	Arnold T	OR	27.5
5	Vijayanandh	Vishnu	55.0	7	Widdifield	Tristen A	13.5	7	Kodarapu	Neev	OR	25.0
8	Chowdhery	Evan M	53.5	7	Blue-Day	Alexander P	13.0	7	Lim	Hayul	OR	25.0
9	Gottumukkala	Ananth S	53.0	9	Barrett	Evan	11.5	7	Ravid	Orren	NJ	25.0
10	Jiang	Brandon	52.5	9	Roberts	Liam	11.0	7	Yang	Arthur T	OR	25.0
11	Liu	Austin	52.0	11	Longhurst	Corey K	10.5	11	Lykins	Pace	OR	22.5
12	Nallabothula	Vineesh	51.5	12	Bodie	Brad R	6.0	11	Morehouse	Ethan	OR	22.5
13	Kona	Vidip K	51.0	12	Zhou	Angela	6.0	11	Sripada	Anisha	OR	22.5
14	McDevitt	Owen	50.0	14	Forster	Manfred	5.5	14	Donaldson	W. John	CA	21.0
15	Han	Shuyi	49.5	14	Marino	Joshua	5.5	15	Merwin	Steven E	NV	18.0
				14	Parsons	Larry R	5.5					

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