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On the front cover:

Team BC at the 2022 Washington vs British Columbia Chess Match. Back row: Jorge Nunez Asencio, Joe Oszvald, Zachary Liu, Gillian Mok, Arpak Worya Mohammed Qanee, Paul Leblanc (organizer), Ryan Yang, Henry Yang, Andrew Hemstapat, Quang Long Le, Penny Ngoc Pham. Front row: Joyce Zhang, Brian Yang, Raymond Kaufman, Hani Albitar, Eduardo Moura.

Photo Credit: Haiyong Wang.

On the back cover:

Team Washington at the 2022 Washington vs British Columbia Chess Match. Back row (L-R): Rushaan Mahajan, Kylie Zhang, Anne-Marie Velea, Austin Liu, Eddie Chang. Middle row: Nikhil Ramkumar, Owen Xu, Ted Wang, Michael Lin, Yiding Lu. Front row: Vignesh Anand, Josh Sinanan, Chouchanik Airapetian, John Readey, Sridhar Seshadri. Photo Credit:

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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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jeffreyroland9@gmail.com

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So What Really Are Deadlines Anyway?

Actually, I want to try to clarify something that I think has been confusing for people for a long time. Ads are one thing, but articles, games, and photos are a whole other matter. If you have material (articles, games, photos) to submit, do it now! It doesn't matter what the date is... it doesn't matter what the deadline is. Whenever I get the material, I have it and can consider it for publication. Let me worry about which issue it goes into. I "can" put something in right up until the moment I get the issue finalized and sent to the printers, and in some exceptional cases, the online issue is different than the printed issue, though ideally, they aren't that different!

I recently interacted with a contributor of material who missed the June 5 deadline, and he therefore was going to give me nothing. I found this to be perplexing and frustrating! So, I came up with a sentence I think clearly expresses how I think people should think about this going forward. It's based on the old typing exercise, "Now is the time for all good men to come to the aid of their country." Here it is:

"Now is the time to submit material to the editor of *Northwest Chess*." Now that might sound insultingly simple, but it's basically the truth and the way it really is. Again, ads are different. But deadlines for most things don't apply to the average contributor of material. As editor, I have deadlines I must meet for printing; advertisers have deadlines (listed on page two) to meet so that I can meet the print deadlines, and events must be timely for upcoming tournaments. But most of what goes into each issue doesn't have deadlines so to speak. When you really get down to it, if you are moved/inspired to write and submit material, do it now. Why wait? Just submit it now! I think that will be the best way to think of things. Submitting articles, games, and photos can be fun too! Submit by emailing me at jeffreyroland9@gmail.com.

— Jeffrey Roland, Editor

2022 WA vs BC Challenge Match

By Josh Sinanan, Team WA Captain

The sixth annual Washington vs British Columbia Challenge match took place at the Executive Airport Plaza Hotel in Richmond on the holiday weekend of July 1-3, 2022. The event was rescheduled from January due to the COVID-19 Pandemic and challenges crossing the US-Canada border last winter. The venue for the match was also changed from Victoria to Richmond, BC, to make it more accessible for the players and due to a good relationship between the Victoria Chess organizers and the hotel.

As has been the custom since 2019, the match was run as a single 15-player team Swiss match rather than multiple Scheveningen team matches. The shift was made to the team Swiss format for three primary reasons: 1) to enhance team spirit since it feels more like everyone is on one team, 2) to provide more opportunities for juniors to get experience against stronger players, and 3) to save on FIDE rating costs.

A team of fifteen Washington chess warriors braved the journey up to Richmond, BC for the match. Although heavily outrated on paper and facing a super strong BC team who had home field advantage, the Washington Team featured several strong up-and-coming junior players, led by high school phenoms WFM Anne-Marie Velea, NM Rushaan Mahajan, and Vignesh Anand. Washington State's second-grade all-stars—Ted Wang, Michael Lin, and Owen Xu—were particularly impressive,

Team Roster and Standings BC-Washington Match

	Team	Name	Score
1	BC	British Columbia	49
2	WA	Washington	26

#	Name	Rating	Team	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total
1	IM Quang Long Le	2420	BC	W20	W12	W16	W19	W8	5
2	NM Andrew Hemstapat	2241	BC	D18	W25	W24	W29	W12	4.5
3	NM Jorge Nunez Asencio	2284	BC	W16	W24	D19	D12	W14	4
4	WIM Bich Ngoc Pham	2239	BC	W26	W20	W14	L8	W19	4
5	NM Hani Albitar	2206	BC	W30	L16	W26	W24	W22	4
6	NM Eduardo Moura	2205	BC	W27	D14	D18	D20	W26	3.5
7	Jingyun [Ryan] Yang	2116	BC	W22	D19	W27	D18	D16	3.5
8	WFM Anne-Marie Velea	2070	WA	W11	W23	D13	W4	L1	3.5
9	Henry Yang	1836	BC	L12	W28	W30	D27	W29	3.5
10	CM Arpak Worya Mohammed Qanee	2143	BC	W28	W26	L12	L16	W27	3
11	Joyce Zhang	1747	BC	L8	W22	L29	W25	W28	3
12	NM Rushaan Mahajan	2215	WA	W9	L1	W10	D3	L2	2.5
13	Brian Yang	2035	BC	W29	W18	D8	L22	L20	2.5
14	Vignesh Anand	2023	WA	W21	D6	L4	W17	L3	2.5
15	Joe Oszvald	2021	BC	L19	D27	W25	L28	W30	2.5
16	Yiding Lu	1961	WA	L3	W5	L1	W10	D7	2.5
17	Zachary Liu	1905	BC	D24	W30	W28	L14	L18	2.5
18	Eddie Chang	1825	WA	D2	L13	D6	D7	W17	2.5
19	FM John Readey	2288	WA	W15	D7	D3	L1	L4	2
20	Austin Liu	2015	WA	L1	L4	D23	D6	W13	2
21	Gillian Mok	1738	BC	L14	W29	L22	W30	L25	2
22	Owen Xu	1488	WA	L7	L11	W21	W13	L5	2
23	IM Raymond Kaufman	2369	BC	W25	L8	D20	L26	L24	1.5
24	NM Josh Sinanan	2286	WA	D17	L3	L2	L5	W23	1.5
25	WFM Chouchanik Airapetian	1966	WA	L23	L2	L15	L11	W21	1
26	Ted Wang	1812	WA	L4	L10	L5	W23	L6	1
27	Michael Lin	1618	WA	L6	D15	L7	D9	L10	1
28	Kylie Zhang	1571	WA	L10	L9	L17	W15	L11	1
29	Nikhil Ramkumar	1237	WA	L13	L21	W11	L2	L9	1
30	AFM Sridhar Seshadri	1762	WA	L5	L17	L9	L21	L15	0



L-R: WA Team Captain Josh Sinanan vs IM Ray Kaufman during the final round. Photo Credit: Eddie Chang.

with Owen scoring two wins against higher-rated players and Ted claiming his first victory against an International Master! For the adult members of Team Washington it was a tough match, with several players wearing off the rust after two+ years of inactivity.

Despite a strong performance of 3.5/5 by WFM Anne-Marie Velea, Team Washington ultimately succumbed by a lopsided score of 26-49. Many of the games were quite close and could have gone either way, with BC catching the breaks in several key encounters. From the BC side it was IM Quang Long Le, who recently moved to Vancouver from Vietnam, leading the team with a perfect 5.0/5 score. National Master

Andrew Hemstapat, who is heading off to university this fall, drew his first game against Washington's Eddie Chang before going on a four-game winning streak, including a wild win versus Team Washington Captain Josh Sinanan in which he sacrificed a knight for a long-term attack. Eddie Chang, who was playing in his first tournament since 2006(!), scored a highly respectable 2.5/5 points, drawing against three higher-rated players along the way.

The match was organized by Paul Leblanc and directed by International Arbiter Stephen Wright with assistance from WFM Alina Calota. Many thanks to our gracious sponsors Sridhar Seshadri, the Washington Chess Federation, and Victoria Chess.

**Josh Sinanan (2286) –
Ray Kaufman (2369) [D85]**

WA vs BC Match
(R5), July 3, 2022
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5
5.e4 Nxc3 6.bxc3 Bg7 7.Nf3 e5 8.Bb5+
Bd7 9.Bxd7+ Nxd7 10.0–0 0–0 11.Bf4
Qa5 12.Qb3 b6 13.a4 cxd4 14.cxd4 e5
15.Bd2 Qa6 16.Bb4 Rfc8 17.d5 Qc4
18.Qb1 Bh6 19.Bd6 Nc5 20.Bxc5 Qxc5
21.Qb5 Qxb5 22.axb5 f6 23.Rfd1 Rc5
24.Rab1 Kf7 25.Ne1 Bf8 26.Nd3 Rc4
27.f3 Rac8 28.Ra1 R8c7 29.Rdc1 Rc3
30.Rxc3 Rxc3 31.Rxa7+ Kg8 32.Ne1
Bc5+ 33.Kf1 Rb3 34.Kc2 Rb2+ 35.Kd3
Rxb5 36.Nc2 Rb1 37.Ra1 Rb3+ 38.Kc4
Rb2 39.Kc3 Rb5 40.Kc4 Rb2 41.Kc3
Rb5 42.Rd1 Kf8 43.Ra1 Be7

I wonder... Did either player realize that 43...Kg8! produced a third repetition of the position?

44.Ne3 Rc5+ 45.Kb3 Rb5+ 46.Kc3 Rc5+

46...Bc5

47.Kd3 b5 48.Ra8+ Kf7 49.Ra7 Ke8
50.Rb7 h5 51.Nc2 Kd8 52.Nb4 Bd6
53.Nc6+ Kc8 54.Rxb5

Or 54.Rg7 g5 55.Rf7 g4 56.Rxf6 Kd7
57.fxg4 hxg4 58.Rg6.

54...Rc1 55.Rb2 Kd7

55...Ra1

56.h3 Rg1 57.Na7 Bc5 58.Nb5

58.Rb7+ Ke8 (58...Kd6?? 59.Nb5#)
59.Kc4 Bxa7 60.Rxa7 Rxc2 61.Kc5
looks winning.

58...Bb6 59.Na3 Bd4 60.Rc2

60.Rb7+

60...Rd1+ 61.Kc4 Ra1 62.Nb5 Bb6
63.Kb3 Rb1+ 64.Kc4 Ra1 65.Nc3 Bd4
66.Ne2 Be3 67.Kd3 Ba7 68.Rb2 Bc5
69.Rb7+ Ke8 70.Kc4 Be7 71.Nc3 Rc1
72.Kd3 Bc5 73.Nb5 Rg1 74.Rc7 Bf2
75.d6 Rxc2 76.Re7+

76.Kc4 Kf8 77.Kd5 Bh4 78.Ke6 Rd2
79.d7+–

76...Kd8 77.Nc7

77.Kc4!? again, heading to e6 and possible mate threats.

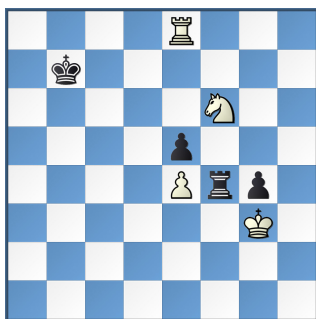
77...Bb6 78.Ne6+ Kc8 79.d7+ Kb8
80.d8Q+

80.Rf7

80...Bxd8 81.Nxd8 Rg3 82.Ke3 Rxb3
83.Nf7

83.Nc6+ Kc8 84.Rf7

83...g5 84.Kf2 g4 85.fxc4 hxc4 86.Nd6
Rf3+ 87.Kg2 Rd3 88.Ne8 Rf3 89.Rf7
Rf4 90.Nxf6 Kc8 91.Kg3 Kd8 92.Rd7+
Kc8 93.Rd6 Kc7 94.Re6 Kc8 95.Re8+
Kb7



Position after 95...Kb7

96.Rxe5??

White assumes he reaches the famous (winning) Lucena position with Black's king cut off along the d-file. As we will see in the next note, chess is not so simple, and assumptions may be cruelly punished.

The actual (and non-trivial) winning plan here is 96.Re6! Kc8

a) 96...Ka7 97.Kh4 Kb7

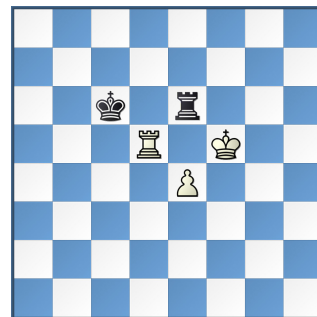
a1) 97...Ka8 98.Nd7! Kb7 (98...Rxe4
99.Ra6+ Kb7 100.Nc5+–) 99.Nc5+
Kc7 100.Rxe5 Kd6 101.Rd5+;

a2) 97...Kb8 98.Nd7+ Kc7 99.Nc5
does the trick.; 98.Nd7! Kc7 (98...Rxe4
99.Nc5+) 99.Nc5+–;

b) 96...Kc7 97.Nd5+ Kd7 98.Rxe5;

97.Rb6 Kd8 98.Rb8+ Kc7 99.Nd5+
Kxb8 100.Nxf4 exf4+ 101.Kxg4 Kc7
102.Kxf4 Kd7 103.Kf5 with the diagonal
opposition and a winning king and pawn
vs king ending.

96...Rxf6 97.Kxc4 Kc6 98.Rd5 Re6 99.
Kf5



Position after 99.Kf5

99...Rh6??

The fatal blunder, after which White does reach Lucena. Black simply does not have enough checking distance on the short side here. 99...Re8! creates sufficient space to check the king from in front. If White could reply by advancing the pawn to e5, the position is a win -- but that rook on d5 would be undefended. So Black wins a tempo (a d5–rook retreat) to begin the frontal defense: 100.Rd1 Rf8+ 101.Kg6 Re8! 102.Rd4 Kc5! 103.Rd5+ Kc6 104.Kf5 Rf8+ 105.Kg4 Rg8+ 106.Kf4 Rf8+ 107.Ke3 Rh8 (107...Kc7 108.Kd4 Rd8 is another trick, reaching a drawn king and pawn ending with the (distant) opposition: 109.Rxd8 Kxd8 110.Kd5 Kd7 111.Ke5 Ke7 112.Kf5 Kf7 113.e5 Ke7 114.e6 Ke8)

100.Rd1 Rh5+ 101.Kf6 Rh6+ 102.Kg5
Re6 103.Kf5 Rh6 104.e5 Rh5+ 105.Kf6
Rh6+ 106.Kg5 Rh2 107.e6 Re2 108.Kf6
Kc7 109.Kf7 Rf2+ 110.Ke8 Rf5 111.e7
Kc8

111...Rf3 brings into play the classic Lucena “building a bridge” maneuver. White wins: 112.Rc1+ Kb6 (112...Kb7 113.Rc4) 113.Rc4 Rd3 (113...Kb5 114.Rc8 Kb6 115.Kd7 Rd3+ 116.Ke6 Re3+ 117.Kf6 Rf3+ 118.Kg5) 114.Kf7 Rf3+ 115.Ke6 Re3+ 116.Kd6 Rd3+ (116...Re1 117.Rc8; 116...Kb7 117.Rc5 Kb6 118.Re5) 117.Ke5 Re3+ 118.Re4+–

112.Rc1+ Kb7 113.Rc4

White doesn't even need the bridge-building here: 113.Kd7 Rd5+ 114.Ke6 and promotes.

1–0

Letter To The Editor

Hi Jeff,

I've been thinking for some time that I am about burned out on chess cartoons. I'll be 80 this December, and I've been needing to devote more time to downsizing a life of collecting books and art, that no one in my family knows anything about, nor really cares to acquire. So, I have been working hard to find good homes for some of my better books and art. I want them to go to people who have a love of literature and art, while also trying to recoup some of the money spent on them.

I've loved working with you all these years and have appreciated your belief that what I submit is worth publication. But I know that if I were to try and carry on, I would not be as inspired, and it would eventually become a burden to me. I'm hoping that you might be able to reach out to some younger person with fresh ideas and allow them the opportunity to show their talent.

What has NOT grown old for me is chess, and I hope to still be pushing pieces as long as I have the strength to do so. You have been a great editorial partner, and I am going to miss working with you.

Brian Berger

Dear Brian,

It has been wonderful working with you as well. By the way, I nominated one of your cartoons for Best Cartoon again this year, so we'll see what happens. It's the one where the Knight says, "I played heavy metal before I played chess" or something like that... I'm going off memory for the exact words... Anyway, I really loved that cartoon and think it has a good chance at another prestigious award!

Well, I've kind of sensed this was coming. Nobody out there realizes more than me just how hard it is to do these things month after month, year after year, decade after decade... It's easy to do things now and then, but to be consistent, that takes something special, and you and I both have that, whatever that is!!

I know that you have really loved working on *Northwest Chess* for these past years... you have been wonderful for me. Having your cartoons has always been a super inspiration to me, and something I treasure very much that has been unique to *Northwest Chess*. I doubt anybody else had a cartoonist that came up with cartoons month after month, year after year like you did! I have matured over the years. Long ago (like in my 20's through 40's), this would have devastated me, however, because I feel so good at what you have done, and am so happy at the experience it has been working with your material, and the true friendship I know we have, that I am not sad or devastated at all... in fact, it makes me happy that you have come to terms with what you know you must do, and you did it. I realize it must have been hard to make such a decision, and I respect it very much.

I am so glad that you have been part of the team for all this time, and I am very proud of your work on the magazine all these years. I am so glad you drew the cartoon of me too (for my 100th issue) ... that was very special, even with the cigarette (I don't smoke!) I'll tell you right now, I have no clue or even idea of how to find a young cartoonist; you cannot be replaced!! But I will look, or maybe I'll try to learn how to draw myself, however, I don't think I have the talent for it, I appreciate the art, but I doubt I could actually do it!!

Anyway, I wanted you to know I am wishing you a great 80th year, and please know that I am so grateful for all you have done for me in the magazine over the years... I'm glad you still want to play chess.

I don't know if I want to do it, but is your email to me that I'm replying to here able to be published (like a letter to the editor)? It might be a good Segway for the readers for me to make a call to see if any young cartoonists want to take the plunge! :) Or at least to explain why there are no more new ones.

Again, I know I should be devastated at such a loss, but instead I'm just so happy for you that you have made a decision that

you feel is right. And all I can think of is how great it was all those years to have had you on the team...

I'll probably work on another compilation book of all your cartoons... so we'll have three volumes instead of just two. I did discover a cartoon I missed in the first batch, so I might even do an update on the first two collections as well...

Do you know of any younger cartoonists... or how could I find one? Anyway, I'll wrap up my again, long-winded email and just say thank you for everything!! I am so grateful for what you have done for me all these years, that's all I can say... One of these days, I hope to get to Oregon again and see you. Travel lately has been impossible because my dog needs me, and I know my dog couldn't handle being in public like Morgan The Dog could do! :)

Jeff Roland

Jeff,

Thank you so much for the long and thoughtful email. You can sense that I was struggling with my decision, because deep down I still want to continue with the magazine but know that this is the right decision at the right time. As for my email to you being used as a letter to the editor, I think it a very fitting idea, and it will help to explain my sudden departure to those that might still be looking forward to my cartoons. The only person who comes to mind (besides yourself) is David Murray, who I know has collected a number of them, and even has used one on the cover of one of his notebooks.

Your idea to go ahead with another collection of my work pleases me no end, also your recent submission for Best Cartoon. You have been what all good editors should be, one who understands the people he works with and is quick to praise what is praiseworthy. Thanks again.

Brian Berger

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.

WIM Megan Lee Simul

By Josh Sinanan

On Wednesday, July 6, the Issaquah Highlands Chess Club was honored to host Women's International Master Megan Lee for an exquisite evening of chess! The event took place at the beautiful Blakely Hall, located in the heart of the Issaquah Highlands, an urban village community in the foothills of the Cascade Mountains. Space was limited to 60 for the lecture and 30 players for the simul and was offered on a first come, first serve basis. At the courtesy of the Issaquah Highlands Chess Club and Washington Chess Federation, admission was free of charge. Complimentary pizza from Flying Pie Pizzeria in Issaquah was served along with Chessmen cookies to keep the players well fueled for the duration of the event.

The evening kicked off with a Q&A session in which Megan told her own personal chess story, offered tips for young up-and-coming players, and revealed several secrets to her success. This was followed by a lecture in which Megan presented two of her recent games focusing on prophylactic and positional themes, including a game from this year's National Open and a win against recently minted IM Anthony He! After a short

break, the 30-player simultaneous chess exhibition began shortly after 7 PM. Players of all ages (spanning four to 73!) and ratings (unrated – 1873) participated in the simul, which lasted just over three hours! When the dust had settled, Megan won 18, drew nine, and lost only three games.

Megan graciously proposed to let her opponents play with any color they desired (a rare thing for simul), and many chose to play White against her. The friendly spirit of this simul, inspired by Megan Lee, was notable and different from other conventional simul in which the simul-giver feels they should play super-competitive chess even at the expense of good relationships.

Nearly half of the games were still going at 10:15 PM, at which point the simul wrapped up due to time constraints, and the games still going were adjudicated by National Master Josh Sinanan. Congratulations to the following players who scored a win or a draw against WIM Megan Lee! Draws were achieved by: **Paul Lazarte** (1873, North Bend), **Gabriel Razmov** (1639, Seattle), **Chad Fondren** (1587, Sammamish), **Arnav Gadde** (1477, Redmond), **Arthar**



Rastogi (1458, Issaquah), **Andrew Kennedy** (1379, Weston, FL), **Henry Louie** (1309, Mineral), **Vayu Kakkad** (1122, Seattle), and **Karl Shiffler** (unrated, Seattle). Wins were achieved by: **Edward Cheng** (1832, Seattle), **Siva Sankrithi** (1522, Lake Forest Park), and **Dilan Ozusta** (1517, Kirkland). We have included some of the more interesting games for the Northwest Chess readers to enjoy. Megan Lee graciously signed autographs and took photographs with the simul participants upon completion of their games. Stay tuned for more quality events like this hosted by the IHCC in the future!



About Megan Lee

Megan Lee is a 26-year-old Women's International Master and the number one ranked female chess player in the Pacific Northwest. She is a two-time (2020, 2022) Washington State Champion and earned the WIM title in 2013 at the age of 17. She graduated from the Rhode Island School of Design with a degree in graphic design and recently opened her own embroidery business based in Woodinville, Washington. Last February, Megan became the 2022 Washington State Chess Champion by besting a field of Washington's top-ten chess players with a dominating eight points from nine games!

About Issaquah Highlands Chess Club

The Issaquah Highlands Chess Club (IHCC) is a 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization based in Issaquah, WA. Its purpose is to support and host chess events that promote chess for players of all ages and skill levels. IHCC was co-founded in 2021 by chess enthusiasts Chad Fondren from Sammamish and Daniel Kaseumsouk from Issaquah. For more information, please visit: <https://www.facebook.com/issaquahchess>.

Contact

To learn more about this amazing event, please see the [official flyer](#), or contact:

Chad Fondren, IHCC Co-Founder or Josh Sinanan, WCF President

chadfondren@gmail.com
washingtonchessfederation@gmail.com

Siva Sankrithi (1522) –
WIM Megan Lee (2344) [C56]
Megan Lee Simul
Issaquah, July 6, 2022
[Siva Sankrithi]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Bc4 Nf6
5.e5 d5 6.Bb5 Ne4 7.Nxd4 Bd7 8.Bxc6
bxc6 9.0-0 Bc5 10.Be3 0-0 11.f3 Ng5
12.f4 Ne4 13.Nd2 Nxd2 14.Qxd2

This was the end of my “prep” in the sense that I’ve played the Scotch Gambit

enough times in my chess career that up until this point was familiar and I felt fine.

14...Bb6 15.Nb3 Qe7 16.Rfe1 Rad8
17.Rad1

Silly move. Didn’t properly anticipate Bg4.

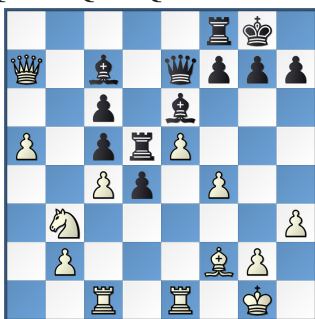
17...Bg4 18.Rc1 c5 19.h3 Be6 20.a4

This was dubious and likely weakened my position but fit into my eventual plan of Qa6 once the bishop retreated.

20...d4 21.Bf2 c6 22.a5 Bc7 23.Qe2 Rd5
24.Qa6

Yay! My plan actually came to pass! I felt pretty good here as I felt my pieces were reasonably active and I had a decent plan moving forward, especially considering my much stronger opponent was playing 30 games and this position was ripe with tactics.

24...Qd7 25.Qxa7 Qe7 26.c4



Position after 26.c4

I passed (we were allowed three for the

entire simul) the first time Megan came around before this move because I really needed time to calculate deeply here. That said, this was the first moment in the game where I felt I was better and possibly winning.

26...dxc3 27.Rxc3 c4 28.Rxc4

This was a tricky move for me too because I was worried about the discovery on my rook after she moved hers. That said, I really liked the idea of Rxc6 putting pressure on the c7 bishop and ideally getting my rook on the seventh.

28...Rb5 29.Rxc6 Bxb3 30.Rxc7 Qd8
31.e6

Now I’m confident I’m winning this game, theoretically speaking anyway, fully aware that her endgame play far exceeds my own.

31...Qf6 32.e7 Re8

I totally missed 33.Qa8 in this position while playing, which seems to win much faster in hindsight, but I felt in the moment 33.Rd7 would still convert my advantage seamlessly.

33.Rd7 Qc6 34.Rd8 f6 35.Bb6 Kf7
36.Rxe8 Qxe8

All in all, it was a lovely game and an even more wonderful experience for me to play Megan in this format, where I have a chance at a result despite her being a much stronger player. Experiencing it with both my boys on either side of me made it even more thrilling. I felt I played quite well and was able to execute my plans reasonably, even if there were some dubious moves in between. Cheers!

1-0

WIM Megan Lee (2346) –
Edward Cheng (1832) [B08]
Megan Lee Simul
Issaquah, July 6, 2022
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6 4.Nf3 Bg7
5.Be3 c6 6.h3 0-0 7.Qd2 b5 8.a3 Nbd7
9.Bh6

9.e5±

9...a5 10.g4

10.Bxg7 Kxg7 11.e5±

10...Bb7 11.Bxg7 Kxg7 12.g5?

12.e5∞

12...Nh5. 13.d5? b4≠ 14.axb4 cxd5
15.exd5



Siva Sankrithi begins his game with Megan Lee.
Photo Credit: Meiling Cheng.

15.Nxd5

15...axb4+ 16.Rxa8 Qxa8 17.Qd4+ Kg8 18.Ne4 Bxd5 19.Nfd2 Qa1+ 20.Ke2 Nf4+ 21.Kf3 Qd1+ 22.Kg3 Bxe4 23.Qxe4 Nh5+ 24.Kg2 Qxd2

0-1

Dilan Ozusta (1019) –
Megan Lee (2346) [C54]
Megan Lee Simul
Issaquah, July 6, 2022
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.c3 Nf6 5.d4 exd4 6.cxd4 Bb4+ 7.Bd2 Bxd2+ 8.Nbxd2 d5 9.Bb5?!

9.exd5 Nxd5

9...a6?

9...dxe4 10.Ne5 0-0.

10.Bxc6+ bxc6 11.e5/ Ng8?!

11...Nh5

12.0-0± Ne7 13.b4 a5 14.bxa5 Rxa5 15.Nb3 Ra3 16.h3 Ba6 17.Re1 Bc4 18.Qc1 Qa8 19.Nc5 Rxa2 20.Rb1

20.Rxa2 Qxa2 21.Qg5 Ng6 22.e6+-

20...0-0 21.g4?

21.Qg5±; 21.e6±

21...Ra3

21...Ng6∞

22.Re3

Ng6?? 23.Rxa3+- Qd8 24.Rb7 h6 25.Raa7 Nh4 26.Qe3 Nxf3+ 27.Qxf3 Qg5 28.Rxc7 Qc1+ 29.Kh2

1-0

WIM Megan Lee (2346) –
Gabriel Razmov (1639) [B15]
Megan Lee Simul
Issaquah, July 6, 2022
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Nf6 5.Nxf6+ exf6 6.Nf3 Be6 7.Bd3 Bd6 8.c3 0-0 9.Qc2 h6 10.Be3 Nd7 11.h3 Qc7 12.0-0-0

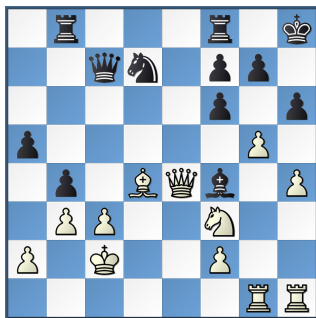
12.0-0!?

12...b5 13.g4 a5 14.b3 Rab8 15.Rdg1 c5 16.Bh7+ Kh8 17.h4 Bd5 18.Be4 Bxe4 19.Qxe4 cxd4

19...c4!

20.Bxd4 b4 21.g5 Bf4+ 22.Kc2

[Diagram top of next column]



Position after 22.Kc2

22...bxc3

Stockfish points out 22...Rfe8!, with a big attack based largely on getting the black rook to e2. 23.Qd3 Nc5 24.Qc4 (24.Bxc5 Qxc5 25.Nd4 bxc3 26.Qxc3 else ...Qa3 26...Qd5 and Black's super-active rooks

rule.) 24...Qb7 25.Bxc5 Qxf3 26.Re1 bxc3 27.gxf6 Bd2 28.Rxe8+ Rxe8 29.Rg1 Re2!, and now one cute line runs 30.fxc3+ (30.Rxc3 Bc1+ 31.Kb1 Qf5+ 32.Kal Bb2#) 30...Kg8 31.Kb1 Bg5! 32.hxc3 Qf5+ 33.Kal Qxc3! (33...Qc2 34.Qxe2 Qxe2+ is also quite sufficient.)

23.Rg4 Be5 24.gxh6 gxh6 25.Qe3 Kh7 26.Rhg1 Rg8 27.Rxc3

27.Nxe5 Nxe5 (27...fxe5 28.Qf3) 28.Qe4+ Kh8 (28...Ng6 29.h5) 29.Qf4+-

27...Rxc3 28.Rxc3 Kxc3 29.Qxh6

29.Nxe5 fxe5 30.Bxc3±

29...Bxd4 30.Nxd4 Qc5 31.Qe3 Qa3 32.Kxc3 Qxa2 33.Qg3+ Kf8 34.Qd6+ Ke8 35.Nc2 a4 36.bxa4 Qxa4 37.f4 Qa5+ 38.Nb4

½-½



Megan Lee. Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.

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.

Reflection On My Nationals

By IM Anthony He

The National Chess Championships are prestigious scholastic tournaments that are held annually by US Chess. They have a long history, and many well-known players left their marks on the Nationals in the early days of their chess careers, such as US Champions GM Hikaru Nakamura, GM Fabi Caruana and GM Sam Shankland.

My first National was the 2012 Elementary Championship held at the Gaylord Opryland Resort And Convention Center in Nashville, Tennessee. The experience was unforgettable. I remembered the tournament hall was so big that I always worried I could get lost and miss my game if I went to the restroom. On the front central stage, there was a mountain of trophies, many of which were even taller than the seven-year-old me. More than 2,000 players competed and many already had a high rating of US Chess 1500 in my K-1 section. I basically played in awe with a 900 rating at that tournament and couldn't

believe till today that I finished with a perfect score of 7.0/7, and won my first National Champion title.

Success in Nationals usually serves as a big motivator for young players. I played every elementary Nationals since then from 2013-2016 and won several blitz and bughouse awards except championship in main events although I was very close every time. Each year there may be new challengers coming up.

I made good progress in 2017 and achieved my FM title, thanks to my excellent performance in the tournament of the Washington State Championship, along with the magical powers of K40. I attended the K-12 championship section in that year's Super National VI. My highlight of the tournament was my round three win over top seed IM Andrew Tang, who was close to his GM title at that time. However, I lost two games in a row later and didn't get a satisfactory result. I was a sixth grader back then, I still get a lot of chances in the future, right?

Having been used to the classic Nationals for so many years, I started taking them for granted. I didn't participate in any middle school Nationals and thought I would just play Nationals again in my high school years. Well, we all know what happened in 2020 and 2021—pandemic hit, and Nationals got

canceled. Yes, sometimes we don't value what we have had in our lives until we lose it!

Time fast-forwarded to 2022, ten years after my first National and I am now a high school junior. Hard to believe I haven't been to Nationals for almost five years! The main event of the 2022 Nationals started on Friday, but the Blitz tournament was on Thursday. Therefore, I traveled to Memphis on Wednesday, and this would be my first trip since the pandemic. Soon after I arrived, I took a look at the playing hall, and the familiar old days came back to me. Yep, this is still the same classic Nationals in my memories from all those years ago. US Chess staff had already started working on setting up the tournaments and I even met some friends that I hadn't seen for years!

With a 2536 blitz rating, I was the number one seed in the blitz tournament. After the first four rounds, four players still had perfect scores. The situation would favor me greatly if I won both games in round five. However, having won the blitz championship a few times previously, I was overconfident and played recklessly in round five, assuming my "experience" would just win me the game. Instead, I basically got crushed. Fortunately, I was able to win the last game against Nico Chasin, and luckily achieved my goal of becoming the 2022 National High School Blitz Champion by getting 11.0/12.

The main event attracted over 1000 players to compete in six sections. Being second seed player, I could understand both my winning chances and losing pressure. Based on my previous national experiences and the lessons I learned from the blitz tournament, I knew I needed to be concentrated and to be patient in dealing with my tough opponents.

My first two games on Friday were relatively smooth and I got 2.0/2. Top seeds were holding up well on the first day. Three more rounds were scheduled on Saturday. It was also called the "brutal" Saturday as theoretically we could play up to 12 hours of chess and have only one hour of break between rounds. We squeezed time to eat and prepare for the stronger and stronger opponents. If my goal was to compete for the championship title, I needed to do well on Saturday.

In the third round I was paired against Nathaniel Shuman from New



K-1 Champion Anthony He in 2012. Photo credit: Xuhao He.

York City who was one of my chess friends. I got to know Nathaniel probably in some Nationals back in 2015. We and many other chess kids usually would have “party” after the closing ceremony, playing bug house or blitz, and throwing footballs inside the big playing hall. It had been kind of a tradition of the Nationals at this point. In terms of the game itself, Nate played a classical Sicilian variation that I used to play as Black, and I was able to capitalize on a blunder he made and won.

The fourth round, I faced NM Bijan Tahmassebi from Maryland with black pieces. It was a tough fight, but eventually I had a successful attack on his King in a Taimanov.

After four rounds, some top players started giving draws and only about ten players were left with a perfect 4.0/4. In the fifth game, I was paired against NM Ladan, Nicholas from Chicago with white pieces. I won a pawn quickly and entered a minor piece endgame, which seemed winning but not easy at all. Nicholas

defended very well, and we played for almost four hours until I found a way to penetrate. On board one, Arthur had an advantage, but his opponent, Vishnu Vanapalli, defended well and held a draw. Therefore, after an exhausting day, I was the only one that was unscratched with a perfect 5.0/5. At this point, all I cared about was getting rest for the next day.

I woke up in the morning and decided to “surprise” Arthur with a Caro-Kann in my sixth game, which backfired as I found myself confused by the fifth move. After some complications, I cracked under time pressure and eventually lost the game. The loss to Arthur put me in a dangerous position, as I was now tied with a lot of people at 5.0/6, and behind two people with 5.5/6. Despite this though, I was not too worried as I was confident I could win the next game no matter the opponent.

In the last game, I was paired against the talented Adi Murgescu. The opening was unappealing to say the least, but I tried hard and eventually managed to find a way to crack Adi’s super solid position

with some help of inaccuracies. After my opponent resigned, I learned I was one of the players who had final points 6.0/7. Thankfully, I was able to achieve my goal of winning the dual champion/co-champion in the High School Nationals, a great and worthwhile experience!

In spite of the excitement from the High School Nationals, I started to realize that the experiences I gained and friendships I built from the Nationals are greater than the titles, medals, and trophies. Chess and the national tournaments brought us together when we were seven or eight years old (or even younger for some players). It’s amazing to see some of these childhood friends still play chess after so many years. They’ve not only become very strong chess players, but also grown into well rounded young men who are ready to open their books of life to the new chapter. I have deep appreciation for all our chess players, the US Chess Federation, volunteers, our chess coaches, last but not the least, our chess moms and dads. They make chess part of our lives!



Left to right: Advait Karthik, Vishnu Vanapalli, FM Gus Huston, IM Anthony He, FM Nico Chasin, NM Bijan Tahmassebi. Not pictured: IM Arthur Guo. Photo credit: Xuhao He.

**Anthony He (2463) –
Adi Murgescu (2175) [B90]**
National High School Championship
Memphis, TN, (R7), April 10, 2022
[Anthony He]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6
5.Nc3 a6 6.h3 e5 7.Nde2 h5 8.g3 Be7
9.Bg2 Nbd7

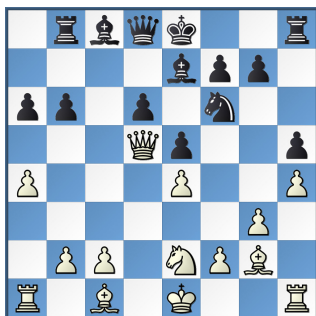
A bit unorthodox but still playable.

10.a4 b6 11.Nd5 Nxd5 12.Qxd5 Rb8
13.h4?!

I played this move immediately, but it turns out that it was pretty useless. There isn't really a point in playing this move as Black's threat of h4 is just a ghost.

13.0-0

13...Nf6?



Position after 13...Nf6

This move order is imprecise as my queen gets to d3 in one tempo. 13...Bb7 If he wanted to do what he did in the game this move order is just better as it prevents Qd3 due to Nc5 and also retains ideas related to f5. 14.Qd3 (14.Qd1 Nf6 (14...f5!? possible, but not sure if it that great here) 15.Nc3 And now my queen will need to spend another tempo to get to d3) 14...Nc5

14.Qd3 Bb7 15.Nc3 0-0 16.0-0 Qc7
17.b3?

A careless move, as now this move puts me under eternal pressure under the c-file, and threats with b6–b5 become very prevalent. 17.Bg5 This move made a lot more sense, but I wasn't sure about the trade of the dark squared bishops. 17...Ng4 18.Rad1 Rfd8 19.Qe2±

17...Rbc8 18.Bb2 Rfd8 19.Rad1 Qc5!
20.Rd2 g6 21.Rfd1 Ra8!? 22.Qe2 Bc6!

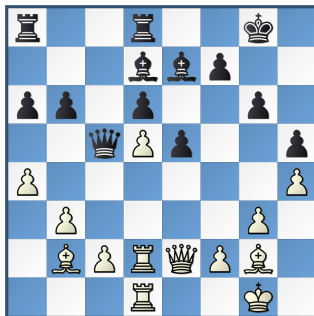
I missed this idea entirely, and now I wasn't too happy with my position.

23.Nd5?

Transforming the pawn structure in my opponent's favor. 23.Rd3 b5 24.Bc1

Probably what I should have done, but it takes some nerve to allow the destruction of my pawn structure. 24...bxa4 25.Nxa4 Bxa4 26.bxa4

23...Nxd5 24.exd5 Bd7



Position after 24...Bd7

25.Kh1

25.Bxe5 This move obviously doesn't work now, but this idea in general was what I was hoping for, until I realized that it almost never works.

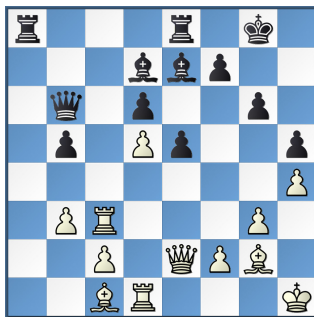
25...Re8?!

25...Bf8 More precise, now Bh6 ideas are also a thing and he doesn't risk his bishop hanging on e7 in whatever complex lines may arise.

26.Rd3

I came up with the idea to sacrifice an exchange to open up my bishops, seeing the potential of Black's weak king.

26...b5 27.Rc3 Qb6 28.axb5 axb5 29.
Bc1



Position after 29.Bc1

29...f5?

Weakening his king a lot. This move was uncalled for, and although this idea is thematic, it is not appropriate in such positions.

30.Rc6 Bxc6 31.dxc6 e4

31...Kg7 32.Bd5±

32.Qd2

This move was missed.

32...Bf8?

This move seals the deal. 32...Kf7
33.Qd5+ Kg7 34.Be3 Qa5 35.Bf1±

33.Qd5+ Kh7 34.Qf7+ Bg7 35.Rxd6
Qa7 36.Qxg6+ Kg8 37.Rd7 Qa1
38.Qf7+ Kh8 39.Qxh5+ Kg8 40.Kh2
Qe5 41.Qf7+ Kh7 42.Bf4 Qc3 43.Qxf5+
Kg8 44.Bxe4 Qf6 45.Bd5+

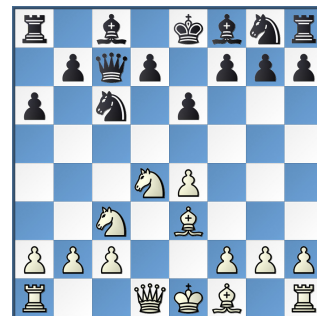
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**Bijan Tahmassebi (2234) –
Anthony He (2463) [B48]**
National High School Championship
Memphis, TN, (R4), April 9, 2022
[Anthony He]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nc6
5.Nc3 Qc7 6.Be3

6.g3

6...a6



Position after 6...a6

7.g3?

Usually g3 is played without the bishop going to e3 as to avoid Ne5–g4 idea with tempo.

7...Nf6 8.Bg2 h5?!

Probably premature. Clearly White isn't going to castle next but I underestimated his next move.

9.f4! b5

9...Ng4 Such ideas which are normally effective against something like f4 no longer work. 10.Bg1

10.Qd3?!

Gives me a tempo with Nb4 later on, making e5 not a threat. 10.Nxc6 Qxc6 11.Rg1 I was slightly worried about this idea. 11...Bb4 (11...Bb7 12.e5; 11...Ng4 12.Bd4; 11...e5 12.fxe5 Ng4 13.Bd4+-) 12.Bd4 Bb7 13.Qd3±

10...Bb7 11.0-0-0 Rc8 12.e5 Nb4 13.Qe2
Nfd5 14.Nxd5 Nxd5 15.Bd2 Bc5±

Now Black's position is much better due

to the surprising lack of coordination between White's pieces.

16.Nb3 Bb6 17.Na1 g6

Prophylaxis against future f5

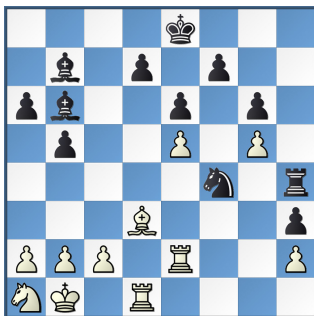
18.Kb1 h4 19.g4 Qc4

Trading queens makes attacking the remaining weaknesses exponentially easier.

20.Rhe1 h3 21.Be4 Qxe2 22.Rxe2

Probably overlooked by my opponent

22...Rh4 23.g5 Rc4 24.Bd3 Rxf4 25. Bxf4 Nxf4



Position after 25...Nxf4

26.Be4

26.Ree1 Ng2 27.Re2 Bf3 The main problem for White besides being down a pawn is the presence of the h3 pawn, meaning that even though there are opposite colored bishops, in the long term the h3 pawn will become too powerful of a passer. 28.Ree1 Bxd1 29.Rxd1 Ne3+

26...Nxe2 27.Bxb7 a5

27...Rd4 Maybe a bit cleaner 28.Re1 Rg4 29.Bxa6 Nd4 30.c3 Nf3

28.Ba6 Rb4 29.Rd3 Rg4 30.c3 Rg1+ 31.Kc2 Rg2 32.Kd1 Nf4 33.Rf3 Rg1+ 34.Kd2 Rg2+ 35.Ke1 Nd5 36.Bxb5 Rxb2 37.Nb3 Rxh2 38.c4 Rh1+ 39.Kd2 h2 40.Rh3 Be3+ 41.Kc2 Nb4+ 42.Kc3 Bf4 43.Nxa5 Nxa2+ 44.Kb2 Bxe5+

0-1

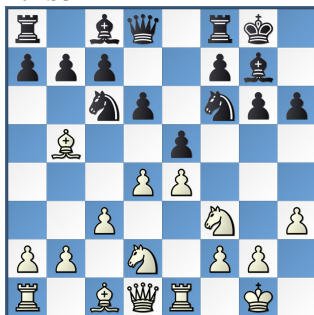
Anthony He (2463) –
Nicholas Ladan (2274) [C55]
National High School Championship
Memphis, TN, (R5), April 9, 2022
[Anthony He]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.d3 h6 5.0-0 d6 6.c3 g6

I saw that my opponent had never played this move before, and that he had always played lines relating to g5, but I

had predicted that under the tournament circumstances he would opt for this “safer” variation.

7.d4 Qe7 8.Re1 Bg7 9.Nbd2 0-0 10.h3 Qd8 11.Bb5



Position after 11.Bb5

11...Bd7?

Miscalculation that loses him a pawn. 11...Re8 12.Bxc6 bxc6 13.dxe5 dxe5 14.Qa4±

12.Bxc6 Bxc6 13.dxe5 dxe5 14.Nxe5 Bxe4 15.Nxe4 Nxe4



Position after 15...Nxe4

16.Nxg6



Anthony He at 2022 National High School Championship.
Photo credit: Xuhao He.

16.Bxh6 This was also a candidate, and probably the best and most clear cut one. 16...Qxd1 17.Raxd1 Bxh6 18.Rxe4+-; 16.Qxd8 Raxd8 17.Rxe4 Rd1+ 18.Kh2 Re8 19.f4 f6 20.Rd4 Rxd4 21.cxd4 fxe5 22.dxe5 g5 23.g3 gxf4 24.gxf4 Rd8 25.Be3 Rd3 26.Re1 Kf7 27.Kg2 Ke6 28.Kf3 Kf5 Was the line that I had calculated from afar, but I wasn't so sure how winning it was given the blockade. However, I misjudged this position, and due to the connected passers, White should be winning comfortably. 29.Ke2 Rd7 (29...Ke4 30.Bxa7 b6 31.Bb8 Rd7 32.e6 Re7 33.Bxc7 A nice addition.) 30.Rg1 Bf8 31.Rg8+-

16...fxg6

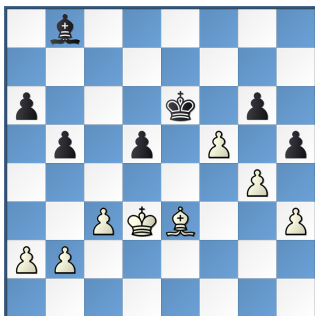
16...Nxc3! The move I was scared of the most. 17.Qb3 The move I was probably going to play. (17.Qxd8 Rfxd8 18.bxc3 Bxc3 19.Ne7+ Kh7 20.Be3 Bxa1 21.Rxa1 White should be better here, but it is no easy task given the connected passers on the queenside.) 17...Re8 18.Rxe8+ Qxe8 19.bxc3 Qe1+ 20.Kh2 Qxc3 21.Ne7+ Kf8 When I saw this line I found it difficult to believe that I wasn't just winning as in material wise, but it turns out that there really was no way to end the game immediately. 22.Qxb7 Re8 23.Rb1 Rxe7 24.Be3± Probably what I was going to resort to.

17.Qb3+ Kh7 18.Rxe4 Qd3 19.Qc4

Now I have a no risk position, and with a lot of maneuvering around I slowly make progress.

19...Qc2 20.Qe2 Qxe2 21.Rxe2 Rad8 22.Be3 Rfe8 23.Kf1 a6 24.Ke1 Kg8 25.Rd1 Kf7 26.Red2 Rxd2 27.Rxd2 Ke6 28.Ke2 h5 29.Bf4 c6 30.Rd6+ Kf7+ 31.Kf3 Re6 32.Rd1 Bf6 33.Be3 Re8 34.Bb6 Re5 35.Be7 Rd5 36.Rxd5 cxd5 37.Ke3 Ke6 38.g4 b5 39.Kd3 Bh4 40.f3 Bf2 41.Bf4 Bb6 42.Be3 Bc7 43.Bc5 Bf4

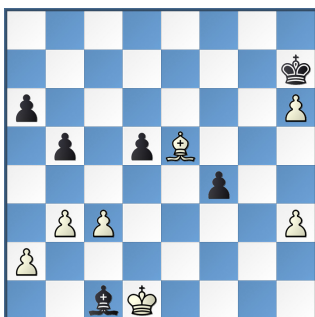
44.Kc2 Kd7 45.Kd3 Ke6 46.Be3 Bc7 47.f4 Bb8 48.f5+



Position after 48.f5+

Maybe not necessary, but I think it was a mistake to allow for an outside h-pawn.

48...gxf5 49.gxh5 f4 50.Bd4 Kf5 51.h6 Kg6 52.Bg7 Ba7 53.Ke2 Be3 54.Kf3 Bc1 55.b3 Kh7 56.Be5 Bd2 57.Kg4 Kg6 58.Kf3 Kh7 59.Ke2 Bc1 60.Kd1



Position after 60.Kd1

60...f3

60...Be3 61.Bd4+- ends the game instantly.

61.Ke1 Kxh6 62.Kf2 Bb2 63.Kxf3 b4 64.Bf4+ Kh5 65.cxb4 Ba3 66.Bd2 Kh4 67.Kf4 Kxh3 68.Ke5 Kg2 69.Kxd5 Kf3 70.b5 axb5 71.Kc6 Ke2 72.Ba5 Kd3 73.Kxb5 Kc2 74.Bb4 Bc1 75.Kc4 Kb2 76.a4 Be3 77.Bc5 Bf4 78.a5 Bb8 79.a6

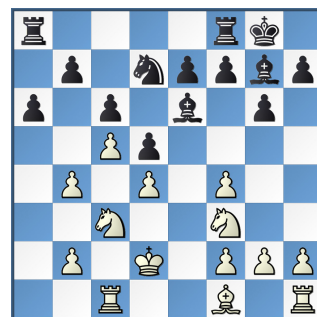
1-0

Nico Chasin (2390) – Anthony He (2466) [D93]
2022 National HS Blitz Championship
Memphis, TN (R6), April 7, 2022
[Anthony He]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.Bf4 Bg7 5.e3 0-0 6.Rc1 Be6 7.Nf3 c6 8.Qb3 Qb6 9.c5 Qxb3 10.axb3 Nh5 11.b4?

The start of White's problems. There isn't really a point in giving up the bishop pair. 11.Be5; 11.Bc7

11...Nxf4 12.exf4 a6 13.Kd2 Nd7



Position after 13...Nd7

14.Bd3?

Overlooking my next move, in which the game is relatively straightforward after. 14.g3?! prepares f4 in the following line, but still too slow 14...Bg4?! 15.Ne5 Nxe5 16.fxe5 f6 (16...Bh6+ 17.f4); 14.h3! stopping Bg4.

14...Bg4 15.Ne5 Nxe5 16.dxe5 f6 17.f3 Bd7 18.Rce1 fxe5 19.fxe5 Rf4 20.Na2 a5 21.b5 cxb5 22.Nc3 Bc6 23.Bxb5 Rb4 24.Bxc6 bxc6 25.Kc2 Rab8 26.Rb1 Bxe5 27.Rhe1 Bf6 28.b3 Bxc3

Or else White maybe gets Na4. 28...Kf7 29.Na4

29.Kxc3 Kf7 30.Kc2 R8b5 0-1

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Carol Kleist Feisty In Chess And Life

By John Selsky

No eating at the chess board! As the “den mother” of our casual chess evenings, Carol could be commanding. I learned this soon after I began turning up about five years ago.

SCC Board member Chad Boey said, “She was the first person to greet new people who came to casual nights at the club. She was always there with her welcoming smile. You could forget about your problems and just play chess in the atmosphere she created there.” SCC Board member Austin Cluff agrees: “She was the first person I met when I came to the club, and she was the one I played the most—two or three games every Wednesday for a couple years. She taught me a lot about chess, including endgames.” I learned a lot about chess and chess etiquette from Carol. She took it seriously—it was touch move and little talking even in her casual games.

August Piper, long-time SCC President while Carol was Secretary, commented, “She was someone we all knew and loved. She was feisty and would defend her ground with vigor. (I saw some heated sword-clashes between the two of them at Board meetings. They knew how to push each other’s buttons.) She devoted herself to the oeuvre of chess—and to the club. She and Fred made for a powerful ‘duumvirate’.”

Karen Schmidt’s article mentions that Carol taught in the Seattle Public School system for some years. When she retired she took on the daunting tasks of a chess organizer. In the late 1990s and early 2000s she was the Tournament Coordinator for the Washington Chess Federation, where she would handle the myriad of logistics involved in mounting big (and small) tournaments. During this time she was also Secretary of the Seattle Chess Club. Carol took the SCC Board minutes diligently for many years, and she enjoyed reading them at the meetings—

always with a flourish! The SCC Board awarded her a Life Membership of the club in September 2021 for her many years of dedicated service.

Carol’s husband Fred relates that in chess she was a fighter. (She definitely benefited from having an expert tutor in the house!) She set a goal for herself to get to Class B status, and she achieved it in 2011 with a 1605 rating. During her chess career she had three wins against >2000 players (vs. about 50 losses). She won a game against Nakamura at the U.S. Open in Hawaii in 1998. No, not Hikaru, but his brother Asuka, an expert player in his own right. Her style? She liked to be active, but not too sharp in attacking. She was fond of playing the Four Pawns Attack against the King’s Indian, and she often played the Exchange Variation against the Grünfeld to get the big center. Recently she had been trying out the Accelerated Dragon as Black against 1.e4. Chad Boey commented that Carol was strongly devoted to the Queen’s Gambit when playing White. “You had to be careful—she could run you over with it!”

Fred says Carol was as feisty in life as she was in chess. He claims Carol was one of the first people to fly out of Sea-Tac after 9/11. She was off to the J.C. Thompson Memorial tournament in Dallas, which started on the 14th! Late in her life, when they would go to the hospital for tests and wound care, she would wave away the wheelchair offered.

She was going to march in on her own walker, thank you.

I have such fond memories of Carol Kleist from working with her on SCC matters over the past five years. She liked to speak German—there is a small group of German speakers around the club. As fractured as my German is, she loved it when I would *spreche Deutsch* with her. She loved singing the French national anthem, La Marseillaise. We would make a date to sing it together every Bastille Day. I sang it alone this year—*Aux armes, citoyens!* Hey, was that an echo I heard?

**Edwin Sasaki (1512) –
Carol Mayer-Kleist (1413) [C02]**
National Open (Booster)
Las Vegas, NV (R4), March 9, 2002
[Fred Kleist]

Carol played the French Defense for much of her chess career. Here she plays against the Advance Variation in one of her favorite tournaments, the National Open.

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.Bb5+ Bd7
5.Bxd7+ Qxd7 6.Ne2 Nc6 7.0-0 cxd4
8.f4 Bc5 9.Kh1 Nge7 10.Nd2 Nf5 11.Nb3
Bb6 12.g4 Ne3 13.Bxe3 dxe3 14.c3 0-0-0
15.Nbd4 Kb8 16.a4 f6 17.Nxc6+ Qxc6
18.a5 d4+ 19.Kg1 d3 20.axb6 dxe2
21.bxa7+ Ka8 22.Qxe2 Rd2 23.Qxe3??
23.Qf3 e2 24.Rf2 Qxf3 25.Rxf3 Rd1+
23...Qg2#
0-1



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

In Memory Of Carol Kleist

By Karen Schmidt

It was with great sadness that I learned of the passing of Carol Kleist, long time Seattle Chess Club (SCC) member and devoted wife of our Tournament Director (TD) Fred Kleist. I considered Carol a true friend and always looked forward to seeing her at Novice tournaments over the years, where she served as TD herself. Carol would have been 93 on August 19, 2022.

When I did a phone interview with Carol in early 2021, she had just retired from the SCC Board. Carol told me a bit about her life and her experiences in the local chess scene. Carol's mother and her four children were living in Baker, Oregon, their father having died of tuberculosis when Carol was five years old. Carol's high-school-age brother, Gene, taught her the rudiments of the game of chess. She was in elementary school, and he would call her in from playing outside to play chess with him.

When her mother died in 1941, Carol, age 12, moved to Seattle and lived with her older sister, who was 25 and worked at Boeing at the time. Carol majored in music at Cornish and got her music degree there. After Cornish, she also attended the University of Washington (UW) and majored in Philosophy. She later received her PhD in German at the UW. As a college student, Carol rented a studio in the Paramount Building downtown, where she taught piano lessons; she was also teaching music classes at Cornish. By virtue of teaching music classes and private lessons (and eventually selling her grand piano) Carol was able to travel to Germany in the 1950's, where she studied music. Piano and violin were her main instruments. She married a German journalist who spoke only German with her (although he also spoke English and had been a translator after the war).

After her return to the United States, she became a Teaching Assistant in the German Department at the UW and taught the first two years of German while she studied for her PhD. After completing the PhD, she had an opportunity to teach at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, but was not able to, as she

had two small children at the time. She thought it better to stay in Seattle where she knew people. The children's father died before they were grown. Carol taught music, German and English in the Seattle Public Schools, at all three levels: first in middle school and then high school, and later fourth and fifth grades. As an orchestra teacher in the schools, she literally learned to play all the stringed instruments, as well as all the woodwinds and brass. In later years Carol was a member of the Bellevue Symphony, playing violin.

One day she picked up a chess book and began to read all about wonderful things like the King's Gambit and the Queen's Gambit Accepted. So, this is what her brother had been talking about when she was a child! She read on and was hooked. She visited the SCC where she met Fred Kleist. She told me that she fell in love with him in a parking lot one night, as he stood outside her car and expounded on the numerous variations of the Ruy Lopez, oblivious to the heavy rain pounding down on them! Thus, in 1985, she dropped out of the symphony and took up chess in a serious way. She was still doing full-time teaching and giving private piano and violin lessons at the time.

Carol was a Seattle Chess Club member since the 1980s, when the club was meeting in the Ravenna neighborhood. There she met Fred, who was club Tournament Director. (He still is.) After several years she joined the Board. Over the years Carol served as Secretary, Treasurer, and Co-treasurer, and as the informal "Helper with Everything Else" until she retired from the Board in early 2021. After getting her US Chess TD certificate, she often served as TD on Friday evenings if Fred was going to play in the Quads the next day; I always looked forward to her serving as TD for the quarterly Novice Tournaments, which my son Peter and I played in. Through discussions of chess and music and other topics, Carol and I became good friends. Once, she literally talked me out of dropping out of a tournament, as I cried on her shoulder in the hallway! (I had registered for the Novice with the

intention of winning it, and I had just lost Round One to a nine-year-old boy. After her pep talk in the hall, I went on to win the next three games. She had wisely counselled me to just "play the board" and not pay any attention to who my opponent was.)

Carol still played piano for her own enjoyment. She spoke English and German and read French and a little Spanish and Greek. At age 65 she began auditing language and poetry classes at UW.

Carol remained actively playing online chess, on [chess.com](https://www.chess.com). Her [chess.com](https://www.chess.com) daily rating ranged from 1600 to 1798. I am a bit lower on the rating scale and can honestly say that I never beat Carol in the several times we played over the years. I had been hoping that Carol and I would have a chance to play over the board again.

I had the great pleasure of a long phone chat with Carol's daughter Dani, who now lives in sunny Eastern Washington. We had a positive emotional connection while sharing memories and talking about her mother.

A couple of things stood out in my conversation with Dani: Carol emphasized truth, beauty and kindness—in her own life, and in bringing up her two children, Dani and her younger brother, Marcus. Carol had overcome huge adversities in life, growing up without a lot of money—and especially being orphaned at the age of 12. She instilled the belief in her children that you "can always attain your first priority in life." I always marveled at Carol's indomitable spirit and zest for life. Dani related that in recent times, Carol had to receive periodic shots in her eye for macular degeneration. The shots had to be given without anesthesia, and Carol was supposed to hold very still. Dani and I agree that this was a horrific scenario—and with my lifelong case of needle phobia I would probably have chosen to go blind—but Carol's philosophy was: "This is my opportunity to practice being brave."

Carol's nephew David Rupel also contributed detailed information about Carol's life and many accomplishments. David's dad, Gene Rupel, taught Carol to play chess when she was a little girl and taught his son David to play. David

recalled how proud Carol was that he himself made the cut to play in the Washington State Championship four times in the later 1970s through the mid-1980s.

In 2002, Carol and David played in the U.S. Senior Open in Ventura, California (taking his dad Gene along for the ride) —and they played again along with Fred in 2004 in Boca Raton, Florida. Third and fourth trips to the Senior Open were taken in 2006 to Nashville, and 2009 to Indianapolis. In between rounds in all four cities, they took time to visit local sites of interest—the Santa Inez Mission, a tropical bird exhibit in Florida and the zoos in Nashville and Indianapolis.

In conclusion, I just want to say that Carol will be greatly missed by the local chess

community, and certainly by her large extended family and her friends. I will look forward to writing more about her amazing life in a future issue of *Northwest Chess*. I am gratified to know that she lived such a long and zestful life—and was sharp as a tack even in her last days. I was grateful to learn that she passed peacefully at home and without pain over Memorial Day weekend. I hope that I too will be auditing classes at the UW into my seventies and playing chess (and music) into my nineties!

**Michael Belcher (1576) –
Carol Mayer-Kleist (1485) [A36]**
46th Annual American Open (U1600)
Los Angeles, CA (R2), Nov. 25, 2010
[Fred Kleist]

Carol scored six out of eight over Thanksgiving weekend in Los Angeles, finishing tied for second/third and gaining over 100 rating points. Just six points shy of 1600, she gained ten in the SCC's December Friday night event, the C.B. Bagley Memorial.

1.c4 c5 2.g3 g6 3.Bg2 Bg7 4.e3 e6 5.Ne2
Ne7 6.Nbc3 Nbc6 7.a3 a6 8.Rb1 0-0
9.b4 cxb4 10.axb4 Rb8 11.b5 axb5
12.Nxb5 d5 13.cxd5 exd5 14.0-0 Be6
15.Bb2 Ne5 16.Ned4 Qd7 17.Nxe6 fxe6
18.f4 Nd3 19.Bxg7 Kxg7 20.Rb3 Nc5
21.Qa1+ Kg8 22.Rbb1 Ra8 23.Qd4 b6
24.Nc3?? Nc6 25.Bxd5 Nxd4 26.Bxa8
Nc6 27.Bxc6 Qxc6 28.d4 Ne4 29.Nxe4
Qxe4 30.Rxb6 Qxe3+ 31.Kg2 Qxd4
32.Rxe6?? Qd5+

0-1



2015 Washington State Women's Championship
**L-R (regardless of row): Carol Kleist, Minda Chen, Naomi Bashkansky, Kerry Van Veen,
Karen Schmidt, Anjali Walsh, Chouchanik Airapetian, Badamkhand Norovsambuu.**
Photo credit: Josh Sinanan.



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Format: 5SS Round 1 G/5;d0 Double Saturday, 11:00 am

Round 2 G/10;d5 Saturday, 11:30 am

Round 3 G/30;d5 Saturday, 1:00 pm

Round 4 G/45;d5 Saturday, 2:30 pm

Round 5 G/60;d5 Sunday, 10 am

Round 6 G/90; d5 Sunday, 1 pm

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North Idaho Championship

By Adam Porth

We have a new “King of the North” and he ain’t a Stark! (*Game of Thrones* reference) Caleb Kircher, Nampa, won the tournament with a 4.5/5 points after upsetting our former kings, Ken Erickson and Michael Cambareri.

Despite the fact that the venue was not Winterfell, the Coeur d’Alene Library Community Room was a beautiful facility to hold a chess tournament for the 23 competitors. Players were from Texas, California, Washington, and Idaho. Many communities and clubs were represented. CDA Chess Club advisor Jim Maki stopped in to observe the competition and Jeremy Burnett even quipped, “I keep getting paired with Spokane Chess Club players!” I cheekily replied, “Well then, you should have lost to me.”

I would characterize this tournament as one of upsets. There were nine! That is a whopping 20% of the games! If you care about ratings... experts beware! The under-rated are finally starting to rise and this is great for everyone as the ratings will become a bit more accurate.

Individual Upsets	
Name	Points
Nick Hunt (1394)	409
Caleb Gabrie Palm (1232)	325
Dakota Wickel (1666)	265
Caleb Kircher (1764)	261
Emilia Jansen (1171)	192
Braeden Marver (1115)	165.5=
Ryan Ackerman (1825)	106
Kenneth Erickson (1831)	97.0=
Logan Faulkner (1497)	60



Linus Wannamaker. Photo credit: Adam Porth.

The tournament was G/45;d5 in order to accommodate library hours and it proved challenging and exciting to watch several games float with seconds for *minutes* due to delay and the shorter time controls. Players really needed to manage time. On board one, Michael Cambareri (over a minute) and Kenneth Erickson (five seconds) played nearly 20 moves in a blitzed ending that resulted in an exciting draw after Ken scooped up a king-rook fork in “stark” contrast to a Game of Thrones fork! In another part of the room, Cody Gorman had two seconds for nearly ten moves finally succumbed to Ryan Ackerman with Ackerman’s clock dwindling from three minutes to nearly 30 seconds. One game even went down to one second!

Caleb Kircher (1764) scored three upsets in this tournament. Cambareri (2025) fell in a king-bishop-pawn ending versus king’s and connected pawns in an interesting endgame with Kircher in round two. Erickson (1831) and Kircher amiably ended a draw in round three. And highly rated Daniel Oshima (1803) lost to Caleb in round four. In the last game, Dakota Wickel (1666) was hoping to score a second upset using the Fromm’s Gambit, but couldn’t beat the f4 opening that Caleb mustered.

The largest upset came from Nick Hunt (1394) versus Daniel Oshima (1803).

Caleb won \$100, and Ken Erickson and Ryan Ackerman split the second and third place prize of \$62.50. Michael Cambareri won a book donated by DeWayne Derryberry for fourth place. Two books from the Senior Master Dan Mayers collection were provided as raffle door prizes, won by Ryan Ackerman and Emilia Jansen.

“Winter is coming,” and so too are some high caliber tournaments in Spokane and Coeur d’Alene. The Eastern Washington Open will be held September 24, sponsored by Spokane Chess Club, and the ICA’s Norman Friedman Memorial will be played October 8-9 in Coeur d’Alene. Play more chess!

**Michael Cambareri (2024) –
Caleb Kircher (1764) [A03]**
North Idaho Championship
Coeur d’Alene, ID (R2), July 9, 2022
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.f4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.e3 g6 4.d4 Bg4 5.Bd3 Bg7 6.0-0 0-0 7.b3?!

White voluntarily weakens the long

2022 North Idaho Championship (Open)

#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total	T-Solkoff	T-Cumul.	T-Op. cumul.	T-Med
1	1	Caleb Kircher	1764	W13	W4	D2	W9	W5	4.5	15.5	13.5	50.5	13.5
2	2-3	Kenneth Erickson	1831	W16	W12	D1	W3	D4	4	15.5	13	49	14
3		Ryan Ackerman	1825	W8	W10	W5	L2	W6	4	15.5	13	49	13
4	4	Michael Cambareri	2025	W21	L1	W7	W14	D2	3.5	14.5	10.5	43.5	13.5
5	5-9	Dakota Wickel	1666	W11	W6	L3	W7	L1	3	17	11	51.5	14.5
6		Cody Austi Gorman	1931	W17	L5	W10	W8	L3	3	14	10	43.5	12.5
7		Nick Hunt	1394	W15	W9	L4	L5	W12	3	13.5	10	40.5	11.5
8		Caleb Gabriele Palm	1232	L3	W18	W12	L6	W14	3	12.5	8	41	11
9		Daniel T Oshima	1803	W20	L7	W16	L1	W13	3	11	9	35.5	11
10	10-11	Linus Wannamaker	1446	W18	L3	L6	D11	W17	2.5	12.5	7	36.5	7
11		Braeden Marver	1115	L5	L17	W15	D10	W16	2.5	10.5	5	30.5	6
12	12-15	Logan Faulkner	1497	W14	L2	L8	W13	L7	2	14	7	45	10
13		Emilia Jansen	1171	L1	W21	W20	L12	L9	2	10.5	7	29.5	6
14		Jeremy Cl Burnett	1557	L12	W20	W17	L4	L8	2	10	7	30	6.5
15		Scotty Hohman	unr.	L7	L16	L11	W20	W18	2	8.5	3	24	5.5
16	16-18	Steven Dahlstrom	1271	L2	W15	L9	D18	L11	1.5	13	5	34	9
17		Adam Porth	1285	L6	W11	L14	H---	L10	1.5	10	4.5	29	7
18		Tyler Anderson	unr.	L10	L8	W21	D16	L15	1.5	10	4	23	7
19	19	Griffin Grec Herr	1666	U---	U---	U---	U---	W20	1	0	1	0	0
20	20-23	Benjamin Shedlock	1218	L9	L14	L13	L15	L19	0	12	0	27	9
21		John A Macphee	1363	L4	L13	L18	U---	U---	0	7	0	21.5	3.5
22		Neal Bonrud	1758	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	0	0	0	0	0
23		Caleb Ja Courtney	1514	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	0	0	0	0	0

diagonal.

7...c5

7...c5!? seems more enterprising.

8.Nbd2 f5 9.Bb2 Nd7 10.Qe1 Bxf3

11.Nxf3 e6 12.Ne5

12.c4±

12...Nxe5 13.fxe5

13.dxe5

13...Qg5 14.Rf3 Rf7 15.c4 c6 16.Rc1

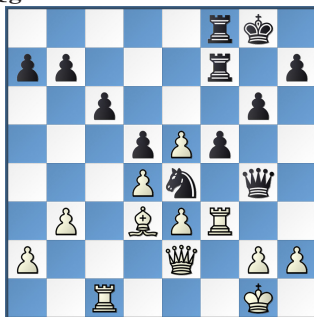
Re8 17.cxd5 exd5 18.Ba3 Bf8 19.Bxf8

Rexf8 20.Qe2

20.Bxe4 dxe4 (20...fxe4 21.Rxf7 Rxf7

22.Rc3±) 21.Rf4±

20...Qg4



Position after 20...Qg4

21.Rf1?

This ends up misplacing the rook from f3.

21.Rf1 Qxe2 22.Bxe2∞ looks balanced.

21...Ng5 22.Rg3 Qxe2 23.Bxe2 Ne4

23...Ne6!



*The new "King of the North" Caleb Kircher.
Photo credit: Adam Porth.*

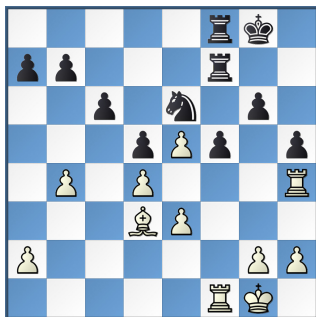
24.Rh3 Ng5 25.Rh4 Ne6 26.b4?

26.g3!??

26...h5

26...f4! 27.Bg4 Nc7

27.Bd3



Position after 27.Bd3

27...a6?!

One option for Black is ...a5/...Ra8 to open another front. Perhaps first 27...Kg7, guarding the g-pawn while hinting at ...f4 again (or even ...Kh6 to make the h4-rook nervous), followed by the queenside action if White finds an adequate defense.

28.Rh3?!

28.a4

28...Kg7! 29.Rhf3 f4! 30.exf4?

30.Kf2!?

30...Rxf4 31.Rxf4 Rxf4 32.Rxf4 Nxf4

33.Bc2 Ne2+ 34.Kf2 Nxd4 35.Bd3 Nf5

36.Kf3 Kf7 37.Kf4 Nd4 38.Kg5?

38.a4 Ne6+ 39.Ke3 and Black will need to demonstrate good technique to convert the pawn into a win.

38...Ne6+ 39.Kh6 Nf4 40.Bc2 Nxe2?!

40...d4! 41.Bb3+ Nd5-+

41.Bxg6+ Ke6 42.Bxh5 Kxe5 43.Kg5 d4

44.h4 d3 45.Bf3 Nxh4! 46.Kxh4 d2??

46...Kf4!

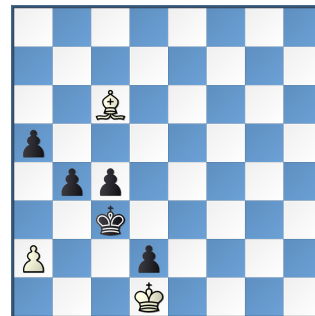
47.Kg3 Kd4 48.Kf2 Kc3 49.Bd1??

White holds now by activating the king: 49.Ke3! Kxb4 (49...Kc2 50.Kd4 d1Q+ (50...b6 51.a4 Kb3 52.a5 bxa5 53.bxa5 Kb4 54.Kd3) 51.Bxd1+ Kxd1 52.Kc5 Kc2 53.Kb6 Kc3 54.Kxb7 Kxb4 55.Kxc6 a5 56.Kd5 a4 57.Kd4 Ka3 58.Kc3 Kxa2 59.Kc2) 50.Kxd2 Ka3 51.Bg4 Kxa2 (51...b5 52.Be6) 52.Bc8

49...Kxb4 50.Ke2 Kc3 51.Bb3 c5 52.Kd1 b5 53.Bc2 a5??

53...c4-+

54.Be4 c4 55.Bc6 b4



Position after 55...b4

56.Ba4??

White misses a final chance based on some tricky pawn-down king-in-the-corner endings that are unwinnable. 56.Bd5! a4

a) 56...Kd3 57.Bxc4+! Kxc4 58.Kxd2;

b) 56...b3 57.a3! b2 (57...a4 58.Bxc4! Kxc4 59.Kxd2) 58.Be4 a4 59.Bb1 Kb3 60.Kxd2 c3+ 61.Kd3 Kxa3 62.Kxc3; 57.Bxc4 Kxc4 58.Kxd2 Kd5 59.Kd1

56...Kb2 57.Kxd2 Kxa2 58.Kc1 b3 59.Bb5 b2+

0-1

72nd Oregon Open: September 3-5, 2022

Format: 6-round Swiss in five sections: Open, U2000, U1700, U1400, U1100.

Time Control: G/100;inc30. Bring an increment capable digital clock.

Schedule: A players meeting is at 9:45am on September 3. The rounds start at 10am and 3:30pm each day.

Rated: US Chess rated. The Open and U2000 sections are also FIDE rated.

Prizes: \$10,000 prize fund based on 150 players.

Registration: Register at onlineregistration.cc or through the mail. Registration deadline is the end of the day on Thursday, September 1. **No on-site registration on the day the tournament.**

Side Events: Rapid and Blitz.

Location: Lloyd Center DoubleTree Hotel, 1000 NE Multnomah St, Portland, OR 97232.

See detailed information about the tournament at oregonchessfed.org or pdxchess.org.

Longest Day Fundraiser

By Scotty Hohman

A local comedian and chess enthusiast Scotty Hohman noticed an advertisement on Facebook from the Alzheimer's Association that said Chess is a new activity that they were interested in having for fundraisers in 2022. While he had never competed in an over the board tournament, and was learning from his coach online, Scotty decided to work with the Alzheimer's Association to create a community chess-based event titled — "Scotty Can't Do Comedy Presents: Checkmate Alzheimer's" a rapid chess tournament that was single round elimination and bracket based on players approximate rapid ELO. The idea was to have an event that brought the community of chess players together to raise awareness for an important cause. It wasn't until later that Scotty would learn that he was the first in the nation to register with a fundraising through chess, with less than 20 other chess events registered at the time.

The Longest Day is the summer solstice (June 21) and is an important day for events that fundraise and support the Alzheimer's Association in their fight against Alzheimer's and Dementia. The amount of people who showed up to the event with stories of loved ones they either know or have lost due to the disorder was nothing short of inspirational. Between the chess event and the comedy show which followed, this community helped to raise \$420 for the Alzheimer's Association.

In order to make prizes for contestants, he reached out to FIDE Master James



Scotty Hohman. Photo courtesy of Scotty Hohman.

Canty III, as well as National Master Nicholas Gross, to offer an hour of their time providing lessons to first and second places respectively. The attendance was significant and many people who were experienced, as well as people who played casually over the board or online with friends in attendance. While the more experienced players were initially thrown off by the set up and structure of the event, they were quick to help set up a playing area and ensure that games could be played smoothly. As for the results, our first-place winner was local Kenneth Erickson, a very talented and tactical player, second place was awarded to his opponent Eric Barnes.

Will there be a fundraiser next year? While we are still a full year away from knowing any specific details, Scotty

hopes to work with the Idaho Chess Association, to have a proper tournament, likely with longer time controls, and Swiss pairing. In a statement about the event Scotty said this "It was a truly humbling experience overall. I planned to make this tournament an annual event when I started; however, there was certainly dismay with the pairings and structure of the event. I plan to work with the ICA and find a solution that allows for this event to be known across the area. A fundraiser so big, people will travel miles away to play in it. As I learn more about tournaments as well as ways to set up official and rated events, it is my hope that we can use the power of chess to not only bring the community together, but raise awareness and donations for a cause that so many people are impacted by."

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Rusty Miller Memorial

By Josh Sinanan

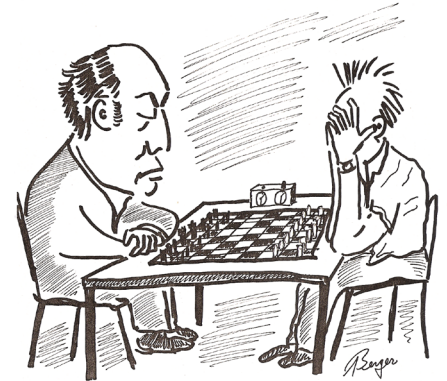
The 2nd Annual Rusty Memorial Chess Tournament took place online via Chess.com on Father's Day/Juneteenth weekend, June 18-19, 2022. The event was held in honor of Russell "Rusty" Miller (1942-2020), the Godfather of Northwest Chess and longtime Washington State chess patriarch. This year's event featured a new six-round, double Swiss format, in which players faced each other twice during each round, once with white and once with black. The tournament

was co-hosted by Northwest Chess and Washington Chess Federation under the direction of WCF Adult Chess Director Rekha Sagar. A total of five players participated remotely in one open section from cities throughout Washington State including Blaine, Redmond, Issaquah, and Bellevue!

Kai Marcelais, an eighth-grader from Willows Prep in Redmond, dominated the tournament with a phenomenal 12 points from 12 games, winning the tournament with two rounds to spare! Eighth-grader Kenneth Yuodelis from Tyee Middle School in Bellevue finished in second place with 8.5/12 points. Jai Budhraj, a fourth grader from Ella Baker Elementary School in Redmond, claimed the first place U1400 prize with 7.0/12 points. David Bradshaw from Blaine, the only

player in the field old enough to have a driver's license, won the first U1200 prize with 4.5/12 points and was named the Best Dad Player for his efforts. Fifth grader Ayush Gupta from Challenger Elementary School in Sammamish won the first place U1000 prize with 4.0/12 points.

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



By some terrible quirk of fate, Gerald had been paired to the "Magician," for his first ever tournament.

Final Standings. Rusty Miller Memorial Chess Tournament									
#	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Total
1	Kai Marcelais	1599	WW4	WW2	WW3	WW5	B---	WW3	12
2	Kenneth Yuodelis	1386	LW3	LL1	B---	WD4	WW5	WW4	8.5
3	Jai Budhraj	1094	WL2	WW5	LL1	B---	WW4	LL1	7
4	David Bradshaw	1181	LL1	B---	WW5	LD2	LL3	LL2	4.5
5	Ayush Gupta	826	B---	LL3	LL4	LL1	LL2	B---	4

Washington Women's Championship

September 9 - 11, 2022

Highest finishing WA resident seeded into the Premier section of the 2023 WA State Championship.



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

Mail To: Washington Chess Federation
c/o Orlov Chess Academy
417 1148th 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

Site: Orlov Chess Academy – Greenlake:
7212 Woodlawn Ave. NE, Seattle, WA 98115.

Format: A 5-round Swiss in one section. Open to all female chess players. Maximum of 30 players, please register early.

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

Prize Fund: \$750 (based on 25 paid entries).
1st \$200, 2nd \$150, 3rd \$100
1st U1800/U1600/U1400/U1200/U1000: \$60

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

Entry Fee: \$50 if postmarked or online by 9/4, \$60 after or at site. Free entry for WGMs, WIMs, and WFMs.

Registration: Friday 6:00-6:45 PM.

Rounds: Friday 7:00 PM; Saturday 10:00 AM, 4:00 PM; Sunday 10:00 AM, 4:00 PM.

Rating: Dual US Chess and NWSRS Rated. Higher of current US Chess or NWSRS rating 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 memberships required, other states accepted.

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.

39th Annual Reno Western States Open

Oct 14-16 or Oct 15-16, 2022, 3 Day or 2 Day Schedule

US Chess
150 GPP (Enhanced)

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

\$17,000!! (Guaranteed)

F.I.D.E. Rated
OPEN Section

6 Rd Swiss ♦ 6 Sections ♦ 40/2, Game/1 - d5 ♦ (Open Section) 40/2, Game/55 - d5 ♦ 2 Day (Rds 1-3) G/1 - d5 Open Section (2200 & above) EF: \$179, (2000-2199) \$250, (1999/below) \$300; GMs and IMs free but must enter by 9/10 or pay late fee at door. Guaranteed (Prizes 1-7 in Open Section plus 1/2 of all other prizes).

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

Section Expert	(2000-2199)	EF: \$179 (2-day EF: \$175)	\$2,000-1,000-500-300-300
Section "A"	(1800-1999)	EF: \$178 (2-day EF: \$175)	\$1,800-900-500-300-300
Section "B"	(1600-1799)	EF: \$177 (2-day EF: \$175)	\$1,700-800-400-300-300
Section "C"	(1400-1599)	EF: \$176 (2-day EF: \$175)	\$1,500-700-400-300-300
Section "D/Under"	(1399-below)	EF: \$165 (2-day EF: \$175)	\$1,000-500-300-200, (1199/below) \$300

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

Wednesday 10/12: 7:00 pm - GM Sergey Kudrin - Clock Simul w/ complete analysis of YOUR Game (Only \$30!)

Thursday 10/13: 6 - 7:15 pm - Lecture by IM John Donaldson (FREE)

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

Saturday 10/15: 3 - 4:30 pm - FREE Game/Position Analysis - IM John Donaldson



Playing hall at Sands Regency Casino Hotel, 345 N. Arlington Avenue, Reno, NV 89501

Registration: Thursday (10/13) 5 - 8 pm. - Friday (10/14) 9 - 10 am. - Saturday (10/15) 9 - 10 am.

Round Times: (3-day Schedule) Friday - 12 Noon - 7 pm; Saturday - 10 am - 6 pm; Sunday - 9:30 am - 4:30 pm

2-day Schedule: Sat.- Rd 1 - 10:30 am, Rd 2 - 12:45 pm, Rd 3 - 3 pm, Rd 4 merge with regular schedule - 6 pm

For more information: Call, Write or E-mail Organizer and Chief TD, N.T.D. Jerome (Jerry) Weikel,

(H) 775-747-1405 OR (Cell) 775-354-8728 • 6578 Valley Wood Dr., Reno, NV 89523 • wackyykl@aol.com

Room Reservation: Call Sands Regency - 1-866-FUN-STAY • \$81.32 Sun-Thu / \$139.20 Fri-Sat (includes all fees and taxes) • Reserve by 10/1 for Chess Rate, code: CHESS2022

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

ENTRY FORM - 39th Annual Western States Open - Reno, Nevada - Oct 14-16 OR Oct 15-16, 2022

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

PRINT Name _____ Daytime Phone _____ USCF/FIDE Rating _____

Street Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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

ENTRY FEE ENCLOSED: (CIRCLE SECTION AND FEE BELOW) BYE(S) REQUESTED FOR ROUND(S): (circle) 1 2 3 4 5 6

----- OPEN SECTION -----

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

GM/IM Masters 2000-2199 1999-Below 2000-2199 1800-1999 1600-1799 1400-1599 1399-Below Free With

3-Day EF	Free	\$179	\$250	\$300	\$179	\$178	\$177	\$176	\$165	USCF Dues
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					2-Day EF	\$175	\$175	\$175	\$175	\$175	USCF Dues
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FEES ALSO ENCLOSED FOR:

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

POSTMARK BY September 10, 2022. Add \$11 after 9/10. Add \$22 on site.

Do not mail after 10/7 or email after 10/11. Make check / m.o. payable to WEIKEL CHESS or provide credit card info and signature. \$5 service charge on credit card entries. Visa Master Card Am.Ex
 Expiration Date _____ CVV Code _____
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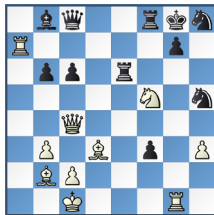
- Check Enclosed
- Charge My Card

TOTAL FEES: \$ _____

2022 Washington Open Puzzle Solving Competition — sample solutions

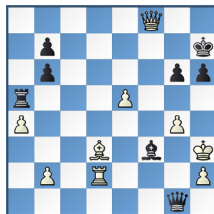
Puzzles and solutions offered by Valentin Razmov ([chess coach](#) & WCF Tournament Coordinator)

1



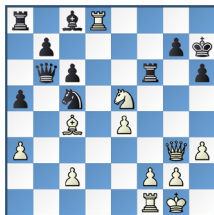
Q: White to move and mate in 1.
A: 1.Nxh6#

2



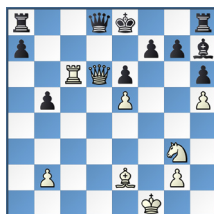
Q: White to move and mate in 2.
A: 1.Bxg6+! Kxg6 2.Qg8#

3



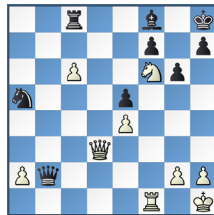
Q: White to move and mate in 3.
A: 1.Qg6+!! Rxg6 2.Bg8+ Kh8 3.Nf7#

4



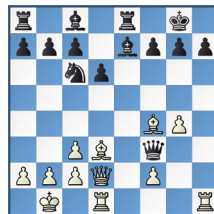
Q: White to move and give a forced checkmate. Give at least the first 2 moves and the idea.
A: 1.Rc8!! (decoying the black queen) 1...Qxc8 2.Bxb5+ Qd7 3.Bxd7+, and the rest is a simple & standard checkmating pattern: 3...Kd8 4.Bc6+ Kc8 5.Qd7+ Kb8 6.Qb7#

5



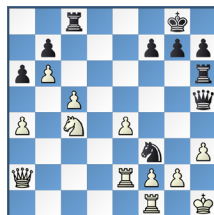
Q: White to move and win.
A: 1.Qh3 (the resulting double attack wins material or else leads to checkmate)

6



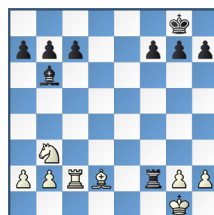
Q: White to move and win.
A: 1.Bxh7+ Kf8 (or 1...Kh8 2.Be4+) 2.Be4! Qxh1 3.Rxh1

7



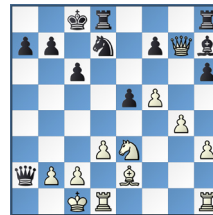
Q: Black to move and win.
A: 1...Qg4! (relying on the pinned h3-pawn), preparing the sacrificial ...Rxh3+ with a forced checkmate.

8



Q: White is up some material, but their king is in danger. White to move and defend successfully.
A: 1.Nc5! (interference; this is the only move to avoid a loss) 1...Bxc5 2.Rxc5 Rxd2 3.Rxc7 g5 4.Rxb7, and the resulting rook endgame is approximately equal.

9



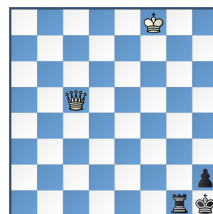
Q: White's queen looks surrounded from all sides. Black to move and trap that queen.
A: 1...Rdg8 2.Qxh6 Bg6! (cutting the queen's escape route toward the d6-square) 22.Qg5 f6 (completing the trap)

10



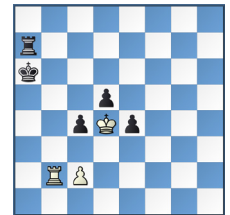
Q: Black to move and win. Give the first 2 moves and the idea.
A: 1...Rg1! (rescuing the pinned Ne2 or else winning material — in both cases Black ends with extra material) 2.Rxe2 Rd1+

11



Q: White to move and win. Give at least the first 2 moves and the idea.
A: 1.Qd5+ (or 1.Qc6+) 1...Rg2 2.Qe4! (putting Black in zugzwang, at which point they cannot avoid being checkmated.) 2...Kg1 3.Qe1#

12



Q: Black to move and win. Provide the first 2-3 moves and share the idea.
A: 1...Rb7! (activating Black's rook and king at once) 2.Ra2+ Kb5 3.Kxd5 Rd7+! (sacrificing a pawn but ensuring an entry for Black's king near White's remaining pawn) 4.Kxe4 Kb4 — and Black reaches a winning Lucena position soon after.

13



Q: Black is poised to infiltrate near White's king. White to move and prevent that.
A: 1.Ne4! (cutting the route to g4 for the black queen and forcing either a queen retreat or queen exchanges. Note that even the obvious-looking 1.Qg5 fails to 1...Qg4!, followed by Black breaking through on the h-file.)

14



Q: Black to move and play the best defense. Give their first move and the idea.
A: 1...Nf6! (aiming for Nd5, a strong outpost for Black's knight, with powerful threats of a knight fork and a subsequent discovered attack via ...e4-e3)

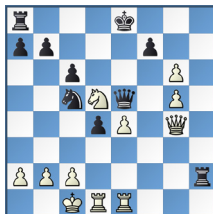
15



Q: White has obvious areas of dominance. What plan can give Black the best counterplay? Give Black's first move and the idea.

A: 1...b5! (destabilizing White's central pawn structure and preventing the threat of e4-e5, while also activating with tempo Black's queen-side bishop, e.g., 2.cxb5 Bb7 (or 2.Rxb5 Ba6) (or 2.Ng3 bxc4 3.Bxc4 Nb6 4.Bb5 Bb7))

16



Q: Black to move. Which side is better and why?

A: The position is dynamically balanced: both sides are able to make threats that counterbalance one another, and both sides have to play active and precise moves to avoid losing. E.g., 24...d3! 25.Nb4! (not 25.Ne3? Na4) 25...dxc2 26.Nxc2 fxc6, with approximate equality.

Attempting to reorganize and perhaps begin a kingside attack later. Black can play this move for another reason — to follow it up with ...c6 and ...d5.

11.Re1 Ng6 12.Nf1 Be6 13.Ba2?!

13.a5

13...Qe7?!

13...d5 was possible and good, claiming space in the center.

14.Be3 Nd7 15.Ng3

Completing the defensive plan for White in response to Black's potentially aggressive intentions, e.g., preventing ...f7-f5 for the time being.

15...Kh8?!

Is Black preparing ...f7-f5 in some ways after all?

16.a5 Ba7?!

16...Bxe3

17.d4! Nf6 18.d5

Locks in White's light-squared bishop, turning it into a bad bishop for the time being. 18.Bb1 instead saves the bishop from an exchange and also forces Black's bishop to find a better square in the future, while maintaining pawn tension in the center.

18...Bg4 19.h3?!

Although this forces Black's bishop backwards (to d7), White does not want doubled pawns on the e-file, even though that prevents a future ...Nf4 by Black. White should instead have traded on a7 with a follow-up of 20.h3.

Mid-Year Scholastic Cup

By Josh Sinanan

The inaugural Mid-Year Scholastic Cup was held in-person June 11-12 at the Orlov Chess Academy in Redmond! The purpose of these events is to provide strong Northwest junior players with opportunities to develop their chess skills, especially as they transition to longer time controls. Chess players from throughout the greater Seattle region were represented in the 17-player field from cities including Seattle, Sammamish, Bothell, Redmond, Bellevue, Woodinville, Snoqualmie, Yarrow Point, Medina, and Issaquah! The event was hosted by Washington Chess Federation, directed by Senior TD Jacob Mayer, and organized by WCF Tournament Coordinator Valentin Razmov. The six-round Swiss over two days was split between the two sections: Rising (1200-1499) and Premier (1500+). Many thanks to Meiling Cheng and Valentin Razmov, our wonderful photographers, for taking pictures throughout the weekend. As usual in these prestigious junior events, the stakes were high. The highest finishing Washington player in the Premier 1500+ section earned a seed into the 2023 Washington Junior Closed, while the highest finishing Washington player in the Rising section earned free entry into the 2023 Washington Junior Open.

Congratulations to the winners, and many thanks to all who contributed to this amazing event! Final standings are listed in the table to the right.

**Gabriel Razmov (1556) –
Neel Borate (1516) [C54]**
Mid-Year Scholastic Cup
Redmond (R5), June 12, 2022
[Gabriel Razmov]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.c3 Nf6 5.b4

My pet line. I like this because it grabs extra queenside space with tempo. However, this comes at a cost, since after 5...Bb6 6.d3, White's c3-pawn will be backward and will need attention.

5...Bb6 6.d3 d6 7.0-0 0-0 8.a4 a6 9.Nbd2 h6 10.Bb3 Ne7

Final Standings. Mid-Year Scholastic Cup: Rising section (1200-1499)

#	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Total
1	Evan Cen	1394	W6	D3	W2	W5	W4	B---	5.5
2	Vladimir Fedorov	1298	H---	W4	L1	W3	W5	W6	4.5
3	Sean Cao	1229	W5	D1	W6	L2	B---	D4	4
4	Shrey Talathi	1208	B---	L2	L5	W6	L1	D3	2.5
5	Samarth Bharadwaj	1392	L3	L6	W4	L1	L2	B---	2
6	Ares Wang	1380	L1	W5	L3	L4	B---	L2	2

Final Standings. Mid-Year Scholastic Cup: Premier section (1500+)

#	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Total
1	Gabriel Razmov	1556	W10	W3	D9	H---	W7	D2	4.5
2	Odbayar Yondon	1544	D9	W6	W4	H---	D3	D1	4
3	Michael Xiong	1512	W11	L1	W10	D4	D2	W9	4
4	Leonardo Zhou	1643	D6	W5	L2	D3	W8	H---	3.5
5	Darsh Verma	1634	D7	L4	W11	L6	B---	W10	3.5
6	Vijay Nallappa	1520	D4	L2	B---	W5	D9	D7	3.5
7	Neel Borate	1516	D5	D11	W8	W9	L1	D6	3.5
8	Aarav Bharathy Mohan	1412	B---	L9	L7	W10	L4	W11	3
9	Kai Pisan	1725	D2	W8	D1	L7	D6	L3	2.5
10	Arjun Yadav	1479	L1	B---	L3	L8	W11	L5	2
11	Yuchen Zhou	1577	L3	D7	L5	B---	L10	L8	1.5

19...Bd7 20.Bb3

20.Bxa7

20...Rfe8?!

It is unclear what that rook is going to do on the e-file in the near future. 20...Bxe3 21.Rxe3 (21.fxe3 Nh7 22.Nf5 Bxf5 23.exf5 Nh4 24.e4 g6) 21...Nf4

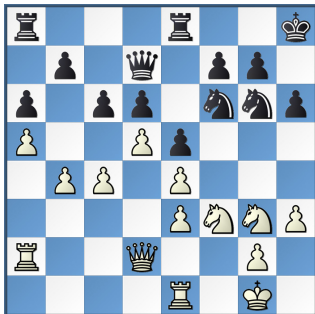
21.Ba4?!

21.c4 Bxe3 22.Rxe3 (22.fxe3 Nh7 This repeats the line from a move ago.) 22...Nf4±

21...Bxa4 22.Rxa4 Qd7 23.Ra2 Nf4 24.Qd2 Bxe3 25.fxe3 Ng6?!

25...N4h5

26.c4! c6



Position after 26...c6

27.Qd3?!

White now allows the c-file to open, which is unfavorable because Black occupies it first. 27.Rf1! The idea is that if 27...Rac8 28.Nh2 cxd5 there is the stunning positional exchange sacrifice 29.Rxf6!! gxf6 30.cxd5 after which White is much better due to the ruined Black kingside and the superb outpost on f5! Play might continue 30...Rg8 31.Ng4 Nh4 32.Qf2 Rg6 33.Kh2! Rc4 34.Rb2?! (34.Nh5! f5 35.Ngf6) 34...f5 (34...Qd8 35.b5 Qxa5? 36.bxa6 Qxa6 37.Nh5) 35.exf5 Rgxf4 36.hxf4 Rxf4 37.Kh3! Rc4 38.e4 with some kingside chances for White. Black is still on the edge and must find only moves: 38...Ng6! 39.Nh5! Nf4+! 40.Nxf4 exf4 41.Qxf4 Kh7! 42.Re2 Qb5 (42...Rxb4 allows White quick infiltration on the g-file toward Black's king.; 42...Qd8? Here White also infiltrates on the g-file and has real chances to win. 43.f6!)

27...Rad8?!

Overly defensive idea and also a passive position for the Black rook. 27...cxd5 28.cxd5 Rec8

28.Rd1 cxd5 29.cxd5 Rc8 30.Rdd2?

The beginning of a wrong plan, giving Black the initiative on the queen-side.

30.Nd2 Ne7 31.Nc4 Rc7 32.Rf1

30...Rc7 31.Rac2?

31.Rdb2 Ne7 32.Nd2 Rec8 33.b5∞

31...Rec8#

Suddenly the queenside is in Black's favor, and White isn't making progress on the king-side either.

32.Qb3 Qb5?!

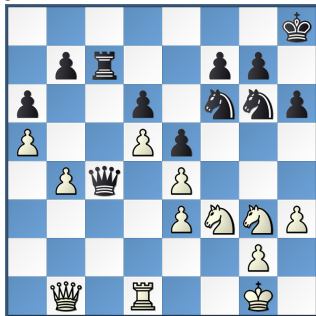
32...Nf8! reroutes the knight to a more useful square. For example, 33.Rxc7 Qxc7 34.Ne1 Qc1 35.Rd1 Qc3 36.Qxc3 Rxc3 when Black should win a pawn and his pieces will be active, unlike White's. Black would have good chances to win from this position.

33.Rxc7 Rxc7 34.Qb1?

Letting Black call the shots on the queenside. A sample alternative is 34.Rc2 Rxc2 35.Qxc2 Qxb4 36.Qc7 Nxe4 37.Qxf7 Nxf3 38.Qxg6 Ne4 39.Qg4 Qb1+ 40.Kh2 Nf6 41.Qc8+ Kh7 42.Nh4! Nxd5 43.Nf5! Qb5 44.e4 Nf6 45.Nxd6 Qxa5 46.Qf5+=

34...Qc4 35.Rd1?!

White has their back against a wall. 35.Rb2 Qc3 36.Rb3



Position after 35.Rd1

35...Qc2?

A serious positional mistake. Exchanging the queens can only favor White! Now White can look up, as Black's weak d6-pawn can become a beneficial factor in White's favor. One plan for White is to infiltrate along the b-file, with Rb1 and b5, forcing a pawn trade, followed by Rb6. Even though White loses his a-pawn in the process, he gets more than sufficient compensation by winning d6 and having a strong, passed d-pawn. 35...Qb5 36.Nf5 Qd7 and Black retains an edge.

36.Qxc2 Rxc2 37.Rb1! Kg8?!

37...Rc7 38.b5 axb5 39.Rxb5 Ne7 gives Black chances to hold the position, albeit passively.

38.b5! Ra2 39.bxa6 bxa6 40.Rb6 Rxa5 41.Rxd6 Kf8?

“Activating” the king is correct in principle, but here this walks into a crafty mating net, which actually turned out to not even be the strongest idea for White! 41...Ra3 keeps the pressure on White to prove his advantage, since Black will simply gobble up pawns or push his own passer. 42.Rd8+ Kh7 43.Kf2 Ra2+ 44.Kf1 a5 45.d6 a4 46.d7 a3! 47.Rh8+ Nxh8 48.d8Q Rb2! and, curiously, Black holds equality despite the temporary material imbalance due to their advanced a-passer and the poor position of White's king.

42.Nf5

42.Rd8+ is more precise, according to the engines: 42...Ke7 43.Ra8 makes pushing and queening Black's a-passer tougher, while White will easily power their passer down the board at the same time.

42...Ne7??

Loses on the spot. 42...Ra1+ puts up a much stronger resistance by Black: 43.Kh2 Kg8 (forced) 44.Nxh6+ gxh6 45.Rxf6 Ra3 46.h4 Rxe3 47.h5 Nf8 48.Rxh6 Rxe4 49.Rxa6 and White has winning chances, but no guarantee of that result. 49...Rf4

43.Rd8+ Ne8 44.d6

44.Nd6 is cleanest and wins instantly. However, I had already seen and was set on queening the pawn via d5-d6-d7-d8Q.

44...Nxf5 45.exf5 f6

45...Rd5 46.d7 Rxd7 47.Rxd7 is the best Black can do. However, this is an elementary win for White as well.

46.d7 Ke7 47.dxe8Q#

I found this game very tough psychologically, because I needed to win it in order to keep my lead in the standings and leave it up to the final round. Also, my opponent found nice ideas at several junctures which put me on a more defensive stance. I ended up drawing my final-round game, which gave me a big enough lead to win the tournament and thus be seeded into the prestigious 2023 WA Junior Closed!

1-0

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

Mondays are for casual play

August 27 **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.

Sunday Tornado
August 28
Format: 4-SS. **TC:** G/50;+10. **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.

SCC Fridays

One US Chess-rated round per night (free to SCC members, \$5 per night for others) normally played at a rate of 40/90 followed by 30/60. Drop in for any round!

Dog Days: 8/5,12,19,26.
Autumn Leaves (Close Rtgs 3): 9/2,9,16,23,30.
Pumpkin Spice: 10/7,14,21,28.
November Rains: 11/4,11,18.

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

The 2022 Ignacio Perez Memorial Northwest Chess Grand Prix

Murlin Varner, math guy

We have reached the half-way point of the year. Actually, one event beyond that, as the Seattle Chess Club July Quads (held July 2nd) are included in the stats below. At this point, we have had 520 entries from 290 Washington players, 65 entries from 32 Idaho players, and 51 entries from 46 players hailing from places beyond our realm. We are still not up to our pre-COVID levels, but not doing too bad, considering the absence of all Oregon events.

It looks to be a sleepy summer in Northwest Grand Prix chess, with just a few tournaments to talk about. First off, the weekly Grand Prix and FIDE rated events at the Chandra Alexis Chess Club in Boise are no more. They have been replaced with monthly events with rounds held every Monday at 5 PM. In July, there was also one Grand Prix/FIDE weekend event titled Time to Think, held July 8-11 in Boise. Elsewhere, there was the Seattle Chess Club Tornado on the 17th, and the Vancouver Open held on July 23 and 24. That event had a 3x multiplier. So, there you have it, only four events held in July, and only the Vancouver Open with a substantial number of players. Easy work for me.

In August, it will get even easier, as all events will have limited attendance. Along with the Chandra Alexis CC Monday night event in Boise (*Ce Russe Impossible*), there will be the usual SCC quads and tornado which are pretty much limited to 25 people or less. Then there's the Seattle Seafair Open (Aug. 6-7) and the Seattle Chess Classic (Aug. 13-17). In years past, these have been substantial events, both with nice multipliers. However, due to the fallout of the Covid years, the Seafair is limited this year to just 25 entrants and has no multiplier. The Seattle Chess Classic has a limit of 55 players and must use two different locations for the two sections. It does still offer a 3x multiplier.

Mark your calendars for two larger events before the end of the year. The Washington Class Championships will be held Thanksgiving weekend and should have a multiplier of 4x or higher. Then there will be the Mexinsurance FIDE Open in Boise on December 16-18. This event has a projected prize fund of \$15,750, with over \$10,000 guaranteed. This makes it the first 6x multiplier event since the 2019 Washington Class, and potentially the biggest payout in Northwest Memorial Grand Prix history (the previous high was the \$13,000 Washington Open in 2019). Only thing bigger in our neck of the woods was

the US Open held in Vancouver. (Sadly, I couldn't get them to agree to the Grand Prix fees.)

So, get out and play when you can. Still points to be had, still close contests in every rating class.

Data below are current through July 2.

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	58.5	1	Cambareri	Michael E	23.0	1	Sripada	Havish	OR	32.5
2	Gottumukkala	Ananth S	53.0	2	Parsons	Larry R	5.5	2	Zhang	Brendan	MN	30.0
3	Liu	Austin	52.0					3	Tang	Austin	OR	27.5
4	Arganian	David G	48.0					4	Yu	Peter C	CA	10.0
5	Two Tied At		35.5					5	Omori	Michael	HI	5.0
Class A			Class A			Class A						
1	Wang	Ted	64.5	1	Kircher	Caleb	32.0	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	Walshall	Thomas K	MT	12.0
4	Kona	Vidip K	51.0					4	Aiello	Roberto	OR	10.0
5	Razmov	Valentin N	47.5					5	Carpenter	Romie G	MT	6.0
Class B			Class B			Class B						
1	Chowdhery	Evan M	60.5	1	Herr	Griffin G	16.5	1	Yang	Arnold T	OR	27.5
2	Lin	Michael	42.5	1	McKenzie	Niall	16.5	2	Ravid	Orren	NJ	25.0
2	Willaford	Loyd J	42.5	3	Barrett	Evan	11.5	3	Lykins	Pace	OR	22.5
4	Li	Edward S	38.0	4	Presutti	Michael J	0.0	4	Rankin	Andrew J	MT	16.5
5	Wang	Felicity	36.0					5	Skovron	James J	MT	15.0
Class C			Class C			Class C						
1	Zhang	Michelle	52.0	1	Lundy	George	65.5	1	Morehouse	Ethan	OR	22.5
2	Tatikonda	Nihanth	35.0	2	Minichiello	Anthony J	16.5	1	Sripada	Anisha	OR	22.5
2	Varner	Murlin	35.0	3	Longhurst	Corey K	10.5	3	Discoll	Jesse	MT	15.0
4	Li	Emma S	34.5	4	Forster	Manfred	5.5	4	Wagner	Eric	MT	13.5
5	Three Tied At		34.0					5	Moore	Sherwood	MT	12.0
Class D and below			Class D and below			Class D and below						
1	Marinescu	Andra	58.0	1	Widdifield	Tristen A	17.5	1	Deshusses	Simon M	MO	39.0
2	Sankar	Abhay	55.0	2	Roberts	Liam	14.0	2	Hack	Don	CAN	27.5
2	Vijeyanandh	Vishnu	55.0	3	Blue-Day	Alexander P	13.0	3	Kodarapu	Neev	OR	25.0
4	Burchall	Laurion	53.5	4	Nosarev	Vladislav	7.0	3	Lim	Hayul	OR	25.0
4	Han	Shuyi	53.5	5	Zhou	Angela	6.0	3	Yang	Arthur T	OR	25.0
Overall standings												
1	Pupols	Viktors	70.0	1	Lundy	George	65.5	1	Deshusses	Simon M	MO	39.0
2	Wang	Ted	64.5	2	Kircher	Caleb	32.0	2	Sripada	Havish	OR	32.5
3	Chowdhery	Evan M	60.5	3	Cambareri	Michael E	23.0	3	Zhang	Brendan	MN	30.0
4	Tessiore	Luca G	60.0	4	Widdifield	Tristen A	17.5	4	Hack	Don	CAN	27.5
5	Jiang	Brandon	58.5	5	Herr	Griffin G	16.5	4	Tang	Austin	OR	27.5
6	Marinescu	Andra	58.0	5	McKenzie	Niall	16.5	4	Yang	Arnold T	OR	27.5
7	Lee	Brian	55.0	5	Minichiello	Anthony J	16.5	7	Kodarapu	Neev	OR	25.0
7	Sankar	Abhay	55.0	8	Roberts	Liam	14.0	7	Lim	Hayul	OR	25.0
7	Vijeyanandh	Vishnu	55.0	9	Blue-Day	Alexander P	13.0	7	Ravid	Orren	NJ	25.0
10	Burchall	Laurion	53.5	10	Barrett	Evan	11.5	7	Yang	Arthur T	OR	25.0
10	Han	Shuyi	53.5	11	Longhurst	Corey K	10.5	11	Lykins	Pace	OR	22.5
12	Gottumukkala	Ananth S	53.0	12	Nosarev	Vladislav	7.0	11	Morehouse	Ethan	OR	22.5
13	Liu	Austin	52.0	13	Bodie	Brad R	6.0	11	Sripada	Anisha	OR	22.5
13	Zhang	Michelle	52.0	13	Zhou	Angela	6.0	14	Donaldson	W. John	CA	21.0
13	Zhang	Michael	52.0	15	Three Tied At		5.5	15	Merwin	Steven E	NV	18.0

