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## NWC Staff

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

## Board Representatives

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

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Advaita Vijayakumar at the 2023 Washington State  
High School Individual Championship.  
Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.

## On the back cover:

A young player proudly displays her colorful face paint  
at the Washington Junior Open and Reserve.  
Photo credit: Chouchan Airapetian.

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**Boise, Idaho 83706-3732**  
or via e-mail to:  
[jeffreyroland9@gmail.com](mailto:jeffreyroland9@gmail.com)

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## Answers to the puzzles (from page 20) in last month's issue.

Sample solutions to problems (provided by coach Valentin Razmov: [https://www.chess.com/member/coach\\_valentin](https://www.chess.com/member/coach_valentin))

**Puzzle #1:** Q: Black to move and mate in 1. A: 1...Bg2#

**Puzzle #2:** Q: White to move and checkmate in 2. A: 1.Rh8+! Bxh8 2.Nh7#

**Puzzle #3:** Q: White to move and checkmate in 3. A: 1.Ng6+ Kxh7 2.Qh5+ Kg8 3.Ne7#

**Puzzle #4:** Q: What is Black's best move? Show a sample line to illustrate your idea. A: 1...Qxc1!, e.g., 2.Qxd8 Qxf1+ 3.Kxf1 Rxd8 +-

**Puzzle #5:** Q: White to move and win material. A: 1.Rd5!, e.g., 1...Rxd5 2.exd5 Nd7 3.Ke4

**Puzzle #6:** Q: White to move and win material. A: 1.Qxf7! Qa1+ 2.Kd2 Rxf7 3.Nxf7+ Kg8 4.Rxa1 Kxf7

**Puzzle #7:** Q: White to move and win. A: 1.Rxd8! (only move) 1...Bd4+! 2.Kf4 Rxd8 3.Rxa1+-

**Puzzle #8:** Q: White's position looks promising. How should Black respond to 1.Bf8? Explain the idea. A: Give up the rook for the bishop, activate the queen with check, and exploit the openness of White's king for a combination of perpetual check ideas and holding a fortress. E.g., 1.Bf8 Qa7+ 2.Kh1 Rxf8 3.Qxf8 Qe3! 4.Qf2 Qe4, etc.

**Puzzle #9:** Q: Black is challenging White's active centralized queen. How does White fight for an advantage? A: 1.Bb4 Nxe4 (or 1...b6 2.Bxc5 bxc5 3.b4, winning a pawn) 2.Rxc7, and White's rook and bishop remain dominant.

**Puzzle #10:** Q: White to move and win. A: 1.Rg5+! Kxh4 2.Rg1! Rc6+ 3.Kd4, and due to the threat of checkmate White will win Black's rook, e.g., 3...Rh6 4.Rh1+ Kg5 5.Rg8+ Rg6 6.Rg1+-

**Puzzle #11:** Q: Black's position looks losing. What is their best hope for a draw? A: 1...Qf7+! 2.Qxf7 Rg5+!! — stalemate.

**Puzzle #12:** Q: White to move. Which side is better? Suggest White's best next moves, and explain the idea. A: White risks losing and must play energetically to draw. Perpetual check is possible, but not more than that, assuming correct play by Black: 1.Rd7! Bxd7 2.Qg5+ Kh8 3.Bxf6+ Rxf6 4.Qxf6+ Kg8 5.Qg5+ Kf7 6.Qh5+, etc.

**Puzzle #13:** Q: Fischer with White has sacrificed a piece for an attack. What should Black do? A: Counterattack, since Black has credible threats of their own, while White doesn't yet have immediate threats: 1...Ba4!, e.g., 2.Qg4 Bf6 3.Rxf6 Bxb3 4.cxb3 Nxf6 +- This is the ending of Fischer-Geller (Skopje, 1967).

**Puzzle #14:** Q: This is a position that Fischer would have dreamed of achieving instead. White to move and win. A: 1.Qg1! Qe4 2.Re1, and White wins material with a continuing attack.

**Puzzle #15:** Q: White has sacrificed two pawns for quick development and an initiative. How do they continue to pressure Black's position? A: Provoke king-side weaknesses and pressure Black's developed, centralized knight, e.g. 1.Bh5 g6 2.Bf3.

**Puzzle #16:** Q: (a) How does White win after 1...Bg6+? (b) If Black could magically add a dark-squared bishop, placing it on which squares would give Black best chances, with Black to play? Indicate all these favorable squares with an "X" on the sheet, and provide a sample line showing how Black would play then. A: (a) After 1...Bg6+, White gradually navigates their king to d8 and wins the Black bishop by deflecting the defending Black king via a g7-g8=Q pawn sacrifice, followed by e7-e8=Q and promoting the remaining f6-pawn. It is crucial that Black cannot effectively switch the places of their king and bishop (Ke8 + Bg8 vs. Kg8 + Be8), which would help them to repel the White king from intrusions on one side of the pawns or the other. (b) A dark-squared bishop anywhere along the a3-f8 diagonal or on d8 would lead to a draw after 1...Bxe7 2.fxe7 Bg6+! In all other cases (with Black having two bishops of opposite colors, one of which sits on b1 initially) Black would lose.



# 2023 Washington State High School Individual Championship

Josh Sinanan



*Beautiful team trophies were awarded to the top five teams across all sections at the Washington State High School Individual Championship. Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.*



The 2023 Washington State High School Individual Chess Championship was held Friday-Saturday, January 20-21, at Lakeside Upper School in Seattle. A total of 49 high school chess players in grades 9-12 participated in the two-day tournament from throughout Washington State. High Schools represented included Blaine, Bush, Chrysalis, Eastlake, Eastside Prep, Ferndale, Garfield, Gig Harbor, Hanford, Inglemoor, Interlake, Issaquah, Jackson, Lakeside, Lincoln, North Creek, Pullman, Sehome, and Skyline.

The event was hosted by the Washington Chess Federation, organized by WCF President Josh Sinanan, and directed by WCF Scholastic Director Rekha Sagar. Amazing photographs were taken throughout the two-day chess fest by Meiling Cheng. The dual-format Swiss tournament was split into three sections parsed by rating: Championship (1500+), Premier (1000-1499), and Reserve (U1000).

Top players taking part in the 18-player Championship section included CM Advaith Vijayakumar (North Creek), US Chess Expert Eddie Chang (Interlake), and Class A players Dominic Colombo (Gig Harbor) and Edward Cheng (Garfield).

Congratulations to CM Advaith Vijayakumar, a 10th grade student from North Creek High School in Bothell, for winning the Championship section with an undefeated 4.5 points from five games! Advaith allowed only a single draw with Kai Pisan (1817) in the fourth round before securing the victory with a clutch final round win over Skyline's Atharva

Joshi in the final round. Congratulations to Advaith, the 2023 Washington State High School Champion!

Advaith will represent Washington State at the 2023 Denker Tournament of High School State Champions, which will be held concurrently with the US Open in early August. Sam Maurer from Interlake High School in Bellevue finished in second place a half point back. Eddie Chang from Interlake and Carson Roesch from Blaine shared third-fourth place honors with 3.5 points apiece. Four players finished on a "plus one" score to round out the Individual Prize winners: Dominic Colombo from Gig Harbor, Kai Pisan from Chrysalis, Atharva Joshi from Skyline, and Logan Teh from Garfield.

In the sizable 23-player Premier section, the Double Swiss format was used, in which each round consisted of two games—one as White and one as Black—against the same opponent. Freshman sensation Ignatius Frost from Sehome High School emerged victorious with an astounding ten/ten score! Along the way, Iggy trounced his nearest rivals, Stanley (1267), Kuzin (1422), and Reynolds (1041), on his way to the title. A trio of chessmen shared second/fourth place honors, each with seven points from ten games: Sehome's Ross Werner, Blaine's Soren Stanley, and Eastlake's Alfred Greisen. Chess studs Ethan Kuzin from Sehome and Spencer Reynolds from Ferndale rounded out the prize winners and shared fifth place honors with 6.5 points apiece.

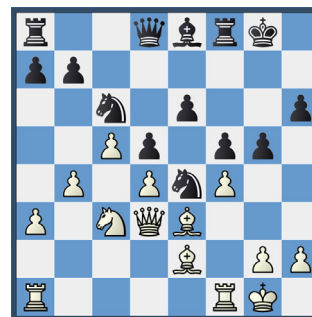
The cottage-sized eight-player Reserve section, which felt more like a Round Robin than a Swiss, provided an opportunity for newer players to compete

on the State level. Evan Clayton, a sophomore from Sehome High School, finished in first place with eight points from ten games. Despite a fourth-round setback against frosh newcomer Dash Van Dyk, Clayton bounced back with a huge fifth round win against Ferndale senior Jazzie Gonzales in the last round to secure the title. Unrated freshman Dash Van Dyk from Inglemoor High School finished in second place with seven points. Blaine junior Xander Hodges was third with six points. Sehome's Yi Jun Chiu and Issaquah's Daniel Yin rounded out the Amazon E-gift card winners with an even five-point score.

Congratulations to the winners!

**Advaith Vijayakumar (2158) –  
Atharva Joshi (1739) [E42]**  
WA State High School Individual Ch.  
Seattle (R5), January 21, 2023  
*[Ralph Dubisch]*

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e3 c5  
5.Nge2 0-0 6.a3 Bxc3+ 7.Nxc3 cxd4 8.  
exd4 h6 9.Be2 d5 10.c5 Nc6 11.f4 Ne4  
12.0-0 f5 13.Qd3 Bd7 14.b4 Be8 15.Be3  
g5



Position after 15...g5

## Washington State High School Individual Championship - Prizes

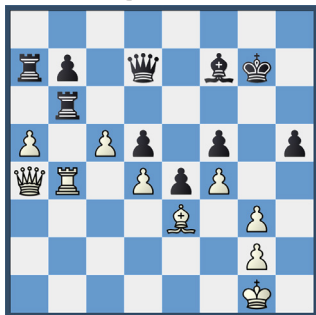
**Individual Prizes** - Amazon E-Gift cards (1st-5th) awarded in each section (based on 50 paid entries).

1st \$35, 2nd \$30, 3rd \$25, 4th \$20, 5th \$15

Section	1st place	2nd place	3rd place	4th place	5th place
Championship	Advaith Vijayakumar	Sam Maurer	Eddie Chang Carson Roesch		Dominic Colombo Kai Pisan Atharva Joshi Logan Teh
Premier	Ignatius Frost	Ross Werner Soren Stanley Alfred Greisen			Ethan Kuzin Spencer Reynolds
Reserve	Evan Clayton	Dash Van Dyk	Xander Hodges	Yi Jun Chiu Daniel Yin	



16.Nxe4 dxe4 17.Qd2 g4 18.Bc4 Bf7  
 19.a4 Ne7 20.Qa2 Nd5 21.Bxd5 exd5  
 22.b5 Qf6 23.Rfc1 Rfc8 24.a5 a6 25.  
 Rab1 axb5 26.Rxb5 Qc6 27.Qb3 Rc7  
 28.Ra1 Ra6 29.Ra4 Kg7 30.Rab4 Ra7  
 31.Qb2 g3 32.hxg3 h5 33.Rb6 Qd7  
 34.Qa3 Rc6 35.Qa4 Rxb6



Position after 35...Rxb6

**36.cxb6?**

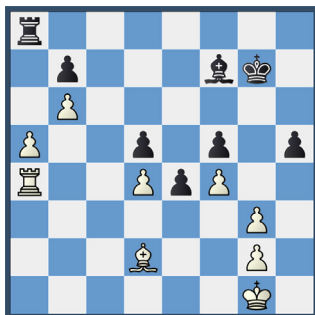
White was understandably worried about letting two active rooks loose to attack his king, but the superb queen offers the chance for an elegant and efficient win: 36.Qxd7! Rxb4 37.Qxf5 Rxa5 38.Qg5+ Kh7 (38...Kf8 39.Qd8+ Kg7 40.Qxa5) 39.f5! Ra1+ 40.Kh2 Rbb1 41.g4!+- Rh1+ 42.Kg3 Raf1 43.Qh6+ Kg8 44.Bg5.

**36...Qxa4 37.Rxa4± Ra8?**

37...Ra6! 38.Bd2 Be8 39.Ra3 Bb5! 40.Rc3 Bc4 and there is no obvious way

to break the fortress.

**38.Bd2**



Position after 38.Bd2

38.a6! bxa6 39.b7 Rb8 40.Rb4 Be8 (40...Kf6 41.Rb6+ Ke7 42.Bc1 Kd7 43.Ba3 Kc7 44.Rf6. Black comes up short.) 41.Rb6 a5 42.Bc1 a4 43.Ba3. Black will need to part with the bishop, 43...Bc6, leaving White with a position that looks to be technically winning.

**38...Be8 39.Ra1 Bb5 40.Rc1 Ba6?!**

40...Bc4

**41.Kf2**

41.Rc5±; or 41.Rc7+ to avoid being shut out.

**41...Rd8**

41...Bc4 Time trouble is clearly an issue for both players here.

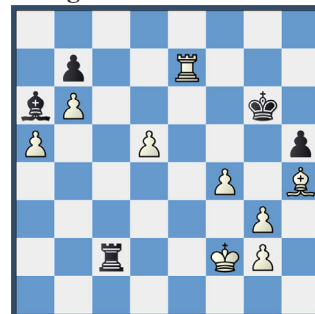
42.Rc7+ Kf6 43.Ke3 Rg8 44.Kf2 Rd8  
 45.Bb4 Re8 46.Ke3 Rg8 47.Be7+ Ke6  
 48.Bg5 Rf8 49.Bh4 Rf7 50.Rc8 Rh7  
 51.Bg5

51.Re8+ Kd7 52.Rf8 Ke6 53.Rf6+

51...Kf7 52.Rc7+ Kg6 53.Rc8 Kf7  
 54.Rd8 Bc4 55.Rb8

55.a6; 55.Rd6

55...Ba6 56.Ra8 Ke6 57.Rc8 Kf7 58.  
 Bh4 Ke6 59.Kd2 Kf7 60.Ra8 Ke6 61.  
 Rg8 Kf7 62.Rg5 Ke6 63.Rg6+ Kf7  
 64.Rf6+ Ke8 65.Rxf5 Rh6 66.Rxd5 Rc6  
 67.Re5+ Kf7 68.Rxe4 Re6 69.Ke3 Rc6  
 70.Re7+ Kg6 71.d5 Rc3+ 72.Kf2 Rc2+



Position after 72...Rc2+

Both players stopped notating. White went on to win.

**1-0**

**Team Prizes** - Team trophies awarded to the top 5 finishing teams.  
 Top 4 scores from same school across all sections comprise team score.

Team Standings	School / Team Name	Team Players (all, incl. beyond top-4)	Team Combined Score (top-4 players' points)
1st	Sehome HS	Ignatius Frost, Evan Clayton, Ross Werner, Ethan Kuzin	31.5
2nd	Blaine HS	Carson Roesch, Soren Stanley, Shawn Waters, Xander Hodges	26
3rd	Ferndale HS	Spencer Reynolds, Cameron Mcfadden, Jack Hall, Max Trushkov, Natalie Darr-Rehmert, Ali-Lawet Red Elk, Jazzie Gonzales	20
4th-5th*	Garfield HS	Jason Huang, Logan Teh, Edward Cheng, Henry Adams	18.5
4th-5th*	Hanford HS	Lily Deng, Audrey Xu, Nathan Hu, Sophia Chen, Kennard Hou, John Custodio, Louis Qin, Emma Yuan, Grace Deng	18.5

\* Garfield won the 4th place trophy on tiebreaks.



# Washington Junior Closed & Invitational

By Josh Sinanan

The Washington Junior Closed & Invitational was held at the Redmond Orlov Chess Academy over the weekend of December 10-11. This prestigious junior tournament, which typically takes place early in the new year, was moved to early December to avoid a conflict with the 2023 Pan-American Team Championship, which WCF is helping to host in Seattle January 5-8. Twenty-three scholastic chess players from the greater Seattle area competed in two sections, Closed and Invitational.

The event was hosted by the Washington Chess Federation and directed by former WCF Scholastic Director Jacob Mayer, who is also a Senior TD and certified FIDE arbiter. The star-studded cast of strong players in the Closed section, with an average rating of 2019, included Candidate Master Brandon Jiang (2190), and US Chess experts Ryan Min (2041) and Austin Liu (2026). On the line in the Closed section was coveted a seed into the 2023 Washington State Championship, set to take place in Redmond in mid-February.

Congratulations to the fearless chess warriors who competed in this intense event! Prize winners are listed below:

Washington Junior Closed & Invitational Prizes		
<b>Closed</b>		
1st	\$170	Ryan Min (Seeded into Championship section of 2023 WA State Championship)
2nd	\$150	Yiding Lu
3rd	\$130	Brandon Jiang & Vidip Kona: \$65 each
<b>Invitational</b>		
1st	\$120	Edward Cheng & Jamie Zhu: \$115 each
2nd	\$110	
3rd	\$100	Shuyi Han, Ojas Kandhare, & Vijay Nallappa: \$63.33 each
4th	\$90	

# Washington Winter Classic

By Josh Sinanan

The 2022 Washington Winter Classic was held December 17-18 at the Orlov Chess Academies in Seattle and Redmond. Due to space limitations of the venues, the tournament was split between two locations, with the 29-player FIDE Rated Open section taking place in Seattle under the direction of Senior TD Fred Kleist and the 17-player Reserve U1600 section in Redmond under the supervision of WCF Scholastic Director Rekha Sagar and Member-at-Large Ani Barua.

The event, a six-round Swiss tournament over two days, was hosted by the Washington Chess Federation and organized by WCF Tournament Coordinator Valentin Razmov and WCF President Josh Sinanan. This tournament marked the final *Northwest Chess* Grand Prix event hosted by WCF and was a bittersweet moment for many.

To encourage stronger players to come out, the highest finishing Washington residents in the Open and Reserve sections were seeded into the Premier and Challengers sections, respectively, of the 2023 Washington State Championship.

Young phenom Vidip Kona (1890-1891, 5.0) of Redmond topped the Open section with an impressive five points from six games, dropping only a single point in the “warm-up” game to young trickster Gabriel Razmov (1408) in the first round.

For his efforts, Vidip is seeded into the Premier section of the 2023 Washington State Championship. Two Seattle chess studs, David Zhou (2000-1985, 4.5) and Emerson Wong-Godfrey (1445-1644, 4.5) tied for

second/third place a half-point back. Their key matchup between Zhou and Kona occurred in the final round, with Kona getting the better of the clash of the chess titans and Wong-Godfrey winning a back-and-forth game against Mark Briggs (1629). A trio of chess kings tied for U2000/U1800 honors with four points apiece: Edward Li (1699-1714, 4.0) of Redmond, Skylor Chan (1592-1620, 4.0) of Bellevue, and Mark Briggs (1629-1669, 4.0) of Lynnwood.

Wong-Godfrey contributed to his earnings by winning the Biggest Upset prize thanks to a huge first-round win over an expert. Worthy of note is that draw-master Albert Eksarevskiy’s seven-game draw streak, continued from November’s Washington Class Championships, was only briefly disrupted by a second-round loss to Zhou, which Eksarevskiy continued accordingly with four more draws to conclude the tournament!

In the Reserve U1600 section, Lincoln High School sophomore Amana Demberel (1108-1187, 5.0) of Seattle emerged victorious with an astounding five points from six games. Demberel got off to a hot start by winning his first three games in a row, before falling to the dangerous Miranda Meng (4.5) in a key fourth-round matchup.

Demberel recovered well and managed to win his final two games against Merriman (1201) and Siddem (975) in the final rounds. Bellevue chess queen Miranda Meng (1097-1249, 4.5) finished in second place with an undefeated four-and-a-half points.

Two eastside chess powerhouses, Sid Siddem (975-1153, 4.0) of Redmond and Miriam Rundell (841-1014, 4.0) of Bellevue tied for third/U1400 honors a half-point back. South Seattle chess king Paul Mahugh (1089-1068, 3.5) won the U1200 prize with three-and-a-half points and scored the Biggest Upset in his section with a huge 300+ point upset-win in the final round.

Kindergartner Kartika Kalakoti (271-256, 1.0), whose family recently relocated to Bellevue from India, won the U1000 prize with one point and a lot of heart. Young Kartika is such a serious student of the game that his father recorded his games with a GoPro camera each round. Congratulations to the winners and thanks to all who contributed to this fantastic event!



# 2023 Pan-American Intercollegiate Team Chess Championship

## Pan-Am Organizers

The 2023 Pan-American Team Championships (Pan-Ams) were hosted at the Westin in downtown Seattle from Thursday-Sunday, January 5-8. The Pan-Ams is a national championship event conducted as a six-round Team Swiss in which teams of four players from colleges and universities across the Americas compete over four days. Different organizers bid to host the Pan-Ams each year, which typically takes place between semesters during winter break. This year's four-day chess extravaganza included multiple tournaments – the Pan-American Intercollegiate Team Chess Championship, the Seattle New Year's Open, and the Seattle New Year's Blitz Championship. WCF Corporate and Collegiate Director Florian Helff orchestrated the festivities, which featured several innovative side events including a puzzle-solving competition, a chess streamer workshop by *Chess.com*, a networking mixer, and Chessable research awards! The Corporate E-Sports Association (CEA) hosted the event with support from Chess.com, Washington Chess Federation, and Amazon Chess. The addition of a new U1800 section

made for good competitive balance across both sections and provided more opportunities for teams from smaller colleges and universities. Thanks to the generous support from sponsors including Red Bull, Chess.com, and Chess House, entry fees were waived for teams in the U1800 section. In total, the event attracted 95 college and university teams from throughout the US and Canada, the most since 1976! We were immensely excited and honored to bring such a high-profile national event to the Pacific Northwest! In future years, the organizers hope to include a corporate team championship to provide networking opportunities between the collegiate and corporate participants.

Hosting a national event of this magnitude (400+ players) presented several logistical challenges, including switching to a different ballroom after the first round and troubleshooting the DGT board setup after it was discovered that metal in the tables was interfering with the signal transmission! Despite these hurdles, the event ran incredibly smoothly thanks to the tremendous efforts of the Pan-Ams organizers, Tournament

Rekha Sagar, Xuan Lin, Ani Barua, Vijay Sankaran, Ani Barua, and Josh Sinanan, DGT board coordinator Juan Cendejas, and photographers Jason Yu and Meiling Cheng. Washington State Attorney General and former WA State Chess Champion Bob Ferguson took time out of his busy schedule to give the keynote speech at the Opening Ceremony on Thursday, January 5. US Chess Executive board member Kevin Pryor and Corporate E-Sports Association CEO Brad Tenenholtz provided additional support along with Detective Denise "Cookie" Bouldin, who helped coordinate an impromptu sale of chess equipment immediately following the final round. Our wonderful local chess artist – Gabriela Osias from Seattle – greatly enhanced the quality of the event by gifting several of her sketches to the players and staff. Dr. Alexey Root, who used to live in Tacoma many years ago, was onsite on behalf of Chessable, and even brought with her a few copies of her fantastic new book: *United States Women's Chess Champions: 1937-2020*.

When all was said and done after four days of immersive chess, an awards ceremony was held on Sunday afternoon to honor the top-scoring teams. Congratulations to the winners!

**Anand Gupta (1828) –  
Harrison Toppen-Ryan (1948) [E33]**  
2023 Pan-American Intercollegiate  
Seattle (R4), January 9, 2023  
*[Harrison Toppen-Ryan]*

It was funny seeing two Washington State universities (UW vs WWU) face off against each other in a tournament filled with other schools from across the continent. It must have been meant to be, considering this event was held in Seattle.

*Supporting and promoting chess related activities  
throughout Washington State since 1946.*



**Josh Sinanan**  
President  
joshsinanan@gmail.com

(206) 769-3757  
4174 148th Ave NE, Building I, Suite M, Redmond, WA 98052

Directors, Seattle  
Westin Staff,  
and numerous  
volunteers! We  
would especially  
like to thank Chief  
Organizer Florian  
Helff, Chief Arbiter  
Glenn Panner,  
Pairings Director  
Judit Sztaray,  
Senior TDs Norm  
May and Jacob  
Mayer, Floor TDs  
Veronica Hitchlock,  
Reid Pezewski,

We were both playing on board one of our respective schools while our remaining teammates also battled on boards two-four!

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Qc2 Nc6



Position after 4...Nc6

A bit of a sideline. 4...Nc6 does well against White's mainline 4.Qc2 move as it strikes at d4. This line also worked well against 4.Bd2 with the same idea at attacking d4. (See Viktors Pupols vs Harrison Toppen-Ryan; *Northwest Chess Magazine* November 2022 issue).

5.Nf3 d6 6.Bg5 h6 7.Bh4?

Mistake. Bd2 was best. A deadly mistake and maybe not an obvious one at first to some but knowing small ideas like the following can win you games both online and over the board. 7.Bd2 0-0 8.a3 Bxc3 9.Bxc3 e5 10.dxe5 dxe5 11.e3 Qe7

7...g5! 8.Bg3 g4!



Position after 8...g4

9.d5

In my very first three-minute blitz game against FM/WGM Rochelle Wu on Chess.com, I was also Black while she instead tried 9.Nd2 Nxd4 and she immediately resigned. Even champions can fall for devious tricks like these!

9...exd5 10.cxd5 Nxd5 11.Bh4

The best try for White here. 11.Qe4+ only allows Black more development with Be6.

11...Qd7 12.Nd2 Bxc3 13.bxc3 Qe6

The correct idea. Centralizing the queen and making me have the option to play ...Nf6 if needed.

14.Rd1 Nf4 15.Ne4 Kf8!?

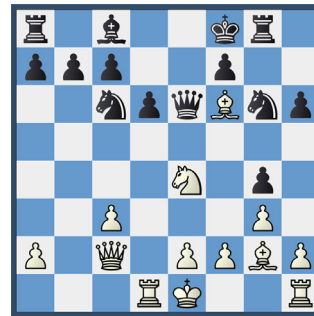
Not the best move, but it still gets the job done and it's way for flashy too. Now 16.Nf6 Ng6 17.Nd5 Nxh4 18.Nxc7 Qe7 19.Nxa8 Bf5, and Black is better.

16.g3 Ng6 17.Bf6!

Good move by White. The white bishop can potentially attempt to wiggle out.

17...Rg8 18.Bg2??

Blunder. c4 was best. 18.c4 Nge5



Position after 18.Bg2

18...Nge5??

Blunder. ...d5 was best. 18...d5! just

2023 Pan-American Intercollegiate Team Championship (Open)				
#	Name	Rating	Total	Prize
1	WEBSTER UNIVERSITY - TEAM A	2687	6	2023 PanAm Champion
2	UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI - TEAM A	2628	5	2nd Place Open
3	U OF TEXAS RIO GRANDE V - TEAM A	2605	5	3rd Place Open
4	U OF TEXAS RIO GRANDE V - TEAM B	2436	4.5	4th Place Open
5	SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY - TEAM A	2611	4.5	
6	U OF TEXAS AT DALLAS - TEAM A	2558	4.5	
7	UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO - TEAM A	2485	4	
8	WEBSTER UNIVERSITY - TEAM B	2454	4	Best Mixed Doubles Team
9	U OF TEXAS AT DALLAS - TEAM B	2520	4	
10	YALE UNIVERSITY - TEAM A	2397	4	
11	SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY - TEAM B	2278	4	Top All-Female Team
12	PRINCETON UNIVERSITY - TEAM A	2449	4	
13	U OF TEXAS AT DALLAS - TEAM C	2323	4	
14	TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY - TEAM A	2432	3.5	
15	UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI - TEAM B	2432	3.5	
16	U OF MARYLAND BALTIMORE COUNTY	2184	3.5	Top Div II
17	UC SAN DIEGO - TEAM A	2203	3.5	
18	U OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN - TEAM A	2046	3.5	
19	STANFORD UNIVERSITY - TEAM A	2371	3	
20	UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO - TEAM A	2278	3	Top International Team
21	HARVARD	2413	3	
22	U OF MARYLAND COLLEGE PARK	2278	3	
23	GEORGIA INST. OF TECH - TEAM A	2196	3	
24	MIT - TEAM A	2234	3	
25	UC SANTA CRUZ - TEAM A	1949	3	Top Div III
26	ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY - TEAM	2017	3	
27	GEORGIA INST. OF TECH - TEAM C	1944	3	
28	U OF ILLINOIS URBANA C - TEAM A	2152	2.5	
29	U OF TEXAS RIO GRANDE V - TEAM C	2126	2.5	
30	U OF ILLINOIS URBANA C - TEAM B	2004	2.5	
31	UNIVERSITY OF UTAH - TEAM A	2004	2.5	
32	ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY - TEAM	2197	2.5	
33	GEORGIA INST. OF TECH - TEAM B	1998	2.5	
34	U OF WASHINGTON - TEAM A	2140	2	
35	DUKE UNIVERSITY - TEAM A	2132	2	
36	UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO - TEAM B	2074	2	
37	U OF PENNSYLVANIA - TEAM A	2201	2	
38	WASHINGTON U IN ST. LOUIS - TEAM	2112	2	
39	UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO - TEAM B	2058	2	
40	BROWN UNIVERSITY - TEAM A	2065	2	
41	STANFORD UNIVERSITY - TEAM B	2094	1.5	
42	U OF TEXAS RIO GRANDE V - TEAM D	1866	1.5	
43	BAYLOR UNIVERSITY - TEAM A	1617	1.5	
44	WASHINGTON U IN ST. LOUIS - TEAM	1806	1.5	
45	TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY - TEAM B	1853	1	
46	U OF ALASKA FAIRBANKS - TEAM A	100	1	
47	TEMPLE UNIVERSITY - TEAM A	661	0	



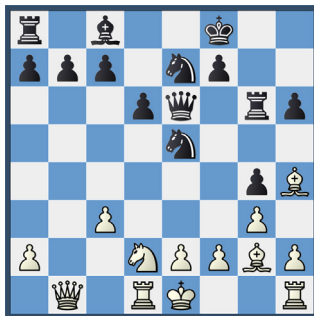
straight up wins here. Black does need to be a little careful of 19.Qd2 dxe4 20.Qxh6+ but after then Black sarcastically says “OOHHHHH shiver me timbers!” and plays 20...Ke8. Black should be able to defend and be safe. It’s always much harder to play these moves when you’re actually over the board, and nerves can sometimes get to you. 18...d5 19.Rxd5 Qxd5 20.c4 Qh5 21.Qc1 Nge7 22.Ba1 Rg6 23.0-0 Bf5 24.Nf6 Rxf6 25.Bxf6

**19.Bh4?!**

Inaccuracy. 0-0 was best. 19.0-0 Rg6

**19...Rg6 20.Nd2 Ne7 21.Qb1?**

Mistake. Bxe7+ was best. 21.Bxe7+ Qxe7



Position after 21.Qb1

**21...c6?**

Mistake. ...Nf5 was best. Computer says to just go for ...Nf5 right away, but I wanted to be solid and not rush the position. 21...Nf5 22.Be4 Nxh4 23.gxh4 Rg7 24.Bxb7 Bxb7 25.Qxb7 Re8 26.0-0 Ng6 27.Qxc7 Nxh4 28.Qxa7

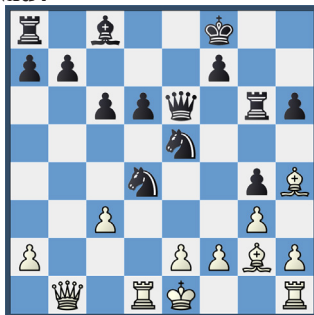
**22.Nb3?!**

Inaccuracy. h3 was best. 22.h3

**22...Nf5 23.Nd4!**

Best try for White to get his pieces active again.

**23...Nxd4**



Position after 23...Nxd4

**24.cxd4??**

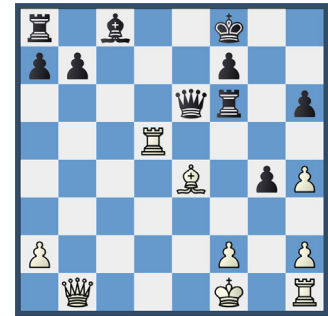
Blunder. Rxd4 was best. This just allows Black to destroy White’s kingside. Meanwhile White failed to get his d1-rook active. 24.Rxd4 Nf3+ 25.Bxf3 gxf3 26.0-0 fxe2 27.Re1 Qf5 28.Qxf5 Bxf5 29.f3 Re8 30.Kf2 Rge6

**24...Nf3+ 25.Kf1 Nxh4 26.gxh4 d5 27.e4 dxe4?!**

Inaccuracy. ...Kg7 was best. 27...Kg7 28.Re1

**28.Bxe4 Rf6 29.d5 cxd5 30.Rxd5?!**

Inaccuracy. Bxd5 was best. Now it’s getting spicy. We both had less than ten minutes on our clocks at this point so the rest of these moves were played relatively quickly. There’s also no 30-minute sudden-death time added to our clocks at this tournament, so it was time for both of us to get into blitz and bullet mode. 30.Bxd5 Qf5



Position after 30.Rxd5

**30...Qa6+??**

Blunder. ...Bd7 was best. 30...Bd7 31.Rd4 Re8 32.Qb2 Kg7 33.Qd2 Bb5+ 34.Kg2 Bc6 35.Re1 Bxe4+ 36.Rexe4 Qxe4+ 37.Rxe4

**31.Kg2 Be6 32.Rb5 Qa3 33.Rxb7!**

Blunder. Rd1 was best. 33.Rd1 Rc8 34.Bxb7 Kg7 35.Kg1 Bxa2 36.Qb2 Rc3 37.Ra1 Qxb2 38.Rxb2 Bc4 39.Rxa7 Rc1+

### 2023 Pan-American Intercollegiate Team Championship (U1800)

#	Name	Rating	Total	Prize
1	U OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN - TEAM B	1665	5	1st Place U1800
2	UC SANTA BARBARA - TEAM A	1503	5	2nd Place U1800
3	GEORGIA INST. OF TECH - TEAM D	1794	5	3rd Place U1800
4	VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY - TEAM A	1761	4.5	4th Place U1800
5	U OF ILLINOIS URBANA C - TEAM C	1478	4.5	Top Div V
6	UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT - TEAM A	1626	4.5	
7	DUKE UNIVERSITY - TEAM B	1796	4	
8	HOWARD UNIVERSITY - TEAM A	1361	4	
9	U OF TEXAS AT DALLAS - TEAM D	1517	3.5	
10	U OF WASHINGTON - TEAM B	1382	3.5	
11	PRINCETON UNIVERSITY - TEAM B	1598	3.5	
12	U OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA - TEAM	1724	3.5	
13	GEORGE WASHINGTON U - TEAM A	1273	3.5	
14	ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY - TEAM	1623	3.5	
15	WEBSTER UNIVERSITY - TEAM C	1470	3.5	
16	SACRED HEART UNIVERSITY - TEAM A	1557	3.5	
17	CONNECTICUT COLLEGE - TEAM A	1164	3.5	
18	UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH - TEAM	1441	3.5	Top 4yr Small College
19	CAL STATE U. AT NORTHRIDGE - TEA	938	3	
20	U OF PENNSYLVANIA - TEAM B	1672	3	
21	WESTERN WASHINGTON U - TEAM A	1078	3	
22	U OF WASHINGTON - TEAM D	353	3	
23	UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI - TEAM C	1399	2.5	
24	UNIVERSITY OF UTAH - TEAM B	1054	2.5	
25	US AIR FORCE ACADEMY - TEAM A	799	2.5	
26	ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY - TEAM	1223	2.5	
27	U OF TEXAS RIO GRANDE V - TEAM E	1390	2.5	
28	TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY - TEAM C	1282	2.5	
29	U OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA - TEAM	100	2.5	
30	PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY - TEAM	746	2	
31	BAYLOR UNIVERSITY - TEAM B	1220	2	
32	U OF ALASKA FAIRBANKS - TEAM A	100	2	
33	U OF WASHINGTON - TEAM C	532	1.5	
34	U OF WISCONSIN-MADISON - TEAM A	1325	1.5	
35	U OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA - TEAM	894	1.5	
36	HOWARD UNIVERSITY - TEAM B	168	1.5	
37	PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY - TEAM	100	1.5	
38	U OF TEXAS RIO GRANDE V - TEAM F	1000	0.5	

### 33...Qh3+!

A nice move to physically play over the board! Now White's king and h1-rook will be in prison.

### 34.Kg1 Rd8?

Mistake. ...Qxh4 was best. 34...Qxh4 35.Qe1 Rc8 36.Rb2 Rc4 37.Bb7 Kg7 38.Re2 a5 39.Qd2 Rff4 40.h3 Rcd4 41.Qe1

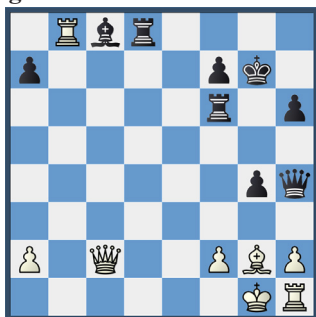
### 35.Rb8 Bc8! 36.Bg2??

Blunder. Qc2 was best. 36.Qc2 Kg7 37.Rxc8 g3 38.hxg3 Qxc8 39.Qxc8 Rxc8 40.Kg2 Rd8 41.f3 Ra6 42.g4 Rxa2+

### 36...Qxh4 37.Qc2

Played with three seconds left on his clock. Now we're both playing on the 30-second increment.

### 37...Kg7!!



Position after 37...Kg7

Cute move. Black's attack is unstoppable now. Black will lose the bishop on c8 but White's priceless artifact of a rook on h1 combined with Black's two active rooks and queen make up for it.

### 38.h3?

Checkmate is now unavoidable. Rb2 was

best. 38.Rb2 Bf5 39.Qb3 Rfd6 40.Qc3+ Kg8 41.Re2 Rd1+ 42.Re1 R8d2 43.Qe3 Qg5 44.Bf1 Qxe3

### 38...g3?

Lost forced checkmate sequence. ...Rd1+ was best. 38...Rd1+39.Kh2 gxh3 40.Rxd1 hxg2+ 41.Kxg2 Bh3+ 42.Kh1 Bf5+ 43.Kg1 Bxc2 44.Rg8+ Kxg8 45.Rd8+

### 39.Rxc8 gxf2+! 40.Kf1 Re6!

A hard move to play with less than two minutes on the clock, but I somehow managed to do so.

### 41.Qc3+ Rd4

Here my opponent attempted to play 42.Bf3 but flagged before hitting the clock. I was so focused on calculating 42...Re1+ that I didn't even notice the flag at first. 42...Re1+ 43.Kg2 Rxh1 and Black wins as 44.Kxh1 allows the pretty 44...Qxh3#. Wins for WWU on board one, three, and four, brought the score to 3-1 in favor of Western!

0-1

Joshua L Pym (1770) –  
Harrison Toppen-Ryan (1948) [B32]  
2023 Pan-American Intercollegiate  
Seattle (R6), January 9, 2023  
[Harrison Toppen-Ryan]

### 1.e4

The last round of the 2023 Pan-American Intercollegiate Team Chess Championship. It's WWU vs the US Airforce Academy. I'm at board one and my other team mates will be fighting their own battles on boards two-four while this game is happening.

### 1...e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 e5

Sicilian Kalashnikov variation. It's also sometimes known as the "accelerated" Sicilian Sveshnikov or the Walmart version of the Sicilian Sveshnikov if you're a diehard Stockfish evaluation Chess player.

### 5.Nb5

The correct and best move here for White. 5.Nf3 or 5.Nb3 is better for Black after ...Nf6 6.Nc3 Bb4. While moves like 5.Nxc6 is just bad for White after ...cxd6 and 5.Nf5 just makes White look goofy after ...d5 or ...Nf6 followed by ...d5.

### 5...d6

Not allowing Nd6+ Bxd6 Qxd6 Qf6 which is playable for Black but isn't my particular cup of tea. 5...a6 6.Nd6+ Bxd6 7.Qxd6 Qf6±

### 6.N1c3

The main move. 6.c4?! is also another sideline that White can try.

### 6...a6 7.Na3 Be7

The fourth most popular move here by Black. Black's main move here is 7...b5 and continues 8.Nd5 Nge7 (or ...Nf6). I choose to go for this sideline that I understand pretty well because I'm hoping to get into a middlegame that I understand better than my opponent so I can have the psychological advantage.

### 8.Be3

I wouldn't recommend this kind of development for White. White's idea is to punish Black's earlier 6...a6 by planting their c3-knight on d5 and go for Bb6 Qd7 Nc7+ and winning the rook on a8. While this plan is objectively "OK"

# Tournament Announcement

## 30th Collyer Memorial Grand Prix

Hampton Inn (Spokane Airport)

Saturday, February 25, 2023 - Sunday, February 26, 2023

Five round Swiss. Rounds 10-2:30-7; 9-1:30. One 1/2-point bye available; must be declared by February 25. Time control: G/115 (d5). EF: \$30 by February 24; \$40 at door; under 19 \$10 less. Final registration 9-9:30 February 25. Prizes (only one per player except for upset prizes): \$400 first; \$300 second; \$150 third. Top Expert: \$100. Class prizes (A; B; C; D; E/unr): \$100/\$75/\$50. Jim Waugh biggest upset prizes (non-provisional ratings): \$100/\$75/\$50. Entries: Spokane Chess Club c/o Kevin Korsmo, 9923 N. Moore St., Spokane, WA 99208-9339, or call (509) 270-1772 (and pay at door). Hotel chess rate \$129 per night; call (509) 747-1100. Special ceremony February 25 at 9:45. IM John Donaldson lecture and simul February 24; see club website for details. **Address:** 2010 South Assembly Road, Spokane, WA 99201. **Sections:** 1. **Grand Prix Points:** 15. **Prize Fund:** \$2050 guaranteed. **FIDE Rated:** No. **Handicap Accessible:** Yes. **Residency Restriction:** No. **Online Event:** No. **ORGANIZER:** Kevin M Korsmo. **Email:** [kmkorsmo@comcast.net](mailto:kmkorsmo@comcast.net). **Phone:** 1-509-270-1772. **Website:** <http://spokanechessclub.org/>



according to the 'fish, 8.Nc4 is my personal recommendation. Washington IM Bryce Tiglon played 8.Nc4 b5 9.Ne3 Nf6 10.Bd3 0-0 11.0-0 Be6? (Rb8! was better) 12.Ned5 with White against me back in round one of the 2019 Washington High School Chess Championship, and I got absolutely rolled by him due to me not fully understanding the power of White's knight on d5.

**8...Nf6 9.Nd5?!**

Inaccuracy. Nc4 was best. 9.Nc4 b5

**9...Nxd5 10.exd5 Nd4?!**

Oh no guys I blundered a pawn!

**11.Bxd4 exd4 12.Qxd4 0-0↑**

The idea of this line is to give up the e5-pawn for quick development and a potential attack. ...Bf6 and ...b5 are coming, and Black will have nice game in either the queenside or in the center on the board.

**13.c3**

13.0-0-0 Bf6 14.Qb4 b5 15.f3 Be5☹

**13...Bf6 14.Qd2?!**

Inaccuracy. Qf4 was best. 14.Qf4

**14...Re8+ 15.Be2 Bg4C**



Position after 15...Bg4

This bishop pair by Black will ensnare the white king and bring a whole world

of hurt now.

**16.f3 Bh4+! 17.Kd1**

17.g3 Bxf3-+

**17...Bg5! 18.Qd4?**

Mistake. Qc2 was best. 18.Qc2 Bd7

**18...Bf5!**

After I played this move I heard by opponent whisper under his breath: "Oh man this is absolutely crazy." I don't know if he was attempting to talk to me directly or just to himself (maybe a bit of both) but it certainly told me what he thought about his own position.

**19.Nc4**

Trying to untangle but get their pieces back into the game but I'm afraid it won't be enough.

**19...b5 20.Nd2?!**



Position after 20.Nd2

Inaccuracy. g4 was best. Here my opponent offered me a draw and slightly chuckled. I shook my head no and played my next move instead. 20.g4 Bg6 21.h4 Bf6 22.Qd2 bxc4 23.g5 Be7 24.Bxc4 Qc8 25.b3 Bd8 26.h5 Bf5

**20...Be3 21.Qb4 a5**

The immediate ...Bxd2 was apparently better, but the idea happened shortly after.

**22.Qb3**

22.Qxb5 Rb8 23.Qa4 Bxd2-+

**22...Bxd2**

22...a4 23.Qb4 Bc5 24.Qf4

**23.Kxd2??**

Checkmate is now unavoidable. Bxb5 was best. 23.Bxb5 Qg5 24.Bxe8 Rxe8 25.Qa4 Qe3 26.Qxe8+ Qxe8 27.Kxd2 Qb5 28.Ke3 g5 29.b3 Qd3+

**23...Qg5+ 24.Kd1 Rxe2!! 25.Kxe2 Qxg2+ 26.Ke3 Re8+ 27.Kf4**

After this move was played my opponent whispered to me: "You should play Re4+. It's such a clean and beautiful mate." ...Re4+ is still a good move but after 27...Re4+ 28.fxe4 Qxe4+ there's 29.Kg3. Black is still better but there are at least two different moves that win much faster. I don't know if he was trying to deceive me or not or if he legitimately didn't see Kg3 but that's definitely a big no-no to talk to your opponents in tournament chess. I just ignored it however and played my next few moves quickly with a small audience watching the game from the side.

**27...g5+**

27...Re4+ 28.fxe4 Qxe4+ 29.Kg3

**28.Kxf5! Re5+ 29.Kf6 Qxf3#**

Simple, gorgeous, clean and absolutely unreal attacking chess. If there was a United Nations of Chess games I'd probably be arrested and taken away for a class A war crime while Agadmator covers this game for his YouTube channel in the background. With a win on board one, and additional wins on boards two and four, WWU prevailed in the match vs USAA 3-1 in our favor!

**0-1**

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*(L) Zoe Xu and Balbir Singh analyze their games from the Seattle New Year's Open as Zoe's mother Mabel looks on. Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.*



# WASHINGTON OPEN

Sat-Mon, May 27-29, 2023

Redmond Marriott

7401 164th Ave NE, Redmond, WA 98052

**Format:** A 6-round Swiss tournament in 3 sections: Open, Premier (U1800) & Reserve (U1400).

**Schedule:** 3-day or 2-day option; up to 2 byes available.

**Rating:** Dual rated - US Chess & Northwest, plus FIDE rated in Open section.

## Fun Side Events:

- Adult Swiss
- Women's & Girls' Workshop
- Puzzle Solving Competition
- Rapid Championship
- Chess960 Championship
- Blitz Championship

**Online Registration:** [nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration](http://nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration)



### Editor's Note:

*Perhaps I got a little over ambitious! I covered the 2022/2023 States Chess Cup event for the first three weeks in the December 2022 and January 2023 issues.*

*In the February issue, there were some things that had to take priority so nothing in February, and now here we are and the event has now finished.*

*I knew, intellectually, that I couldn't cover this weekly event in our monthly magazine and expect to put it all in, the math just doesn't work out!*

*Yet I tried it anyway. Suffice it to say, I am going to jump from week three where things left off to the two wrap-up stories as presented here by Siva Sankrithi.— Jeffrey Roland, Editor*

## States Chess Cup Semifinals

Siva Sankrithi

January 18, 2023

This week our teams faced off in the semifinals of States Chess Cup, looking to get back to the title game for the third year in a row in U2200 and reach the first ever title game in U1800. Our U2200 team, Masters Megan Lee and Derek Zhang and experts Michael Omeri and Ananth Gottumukkala faced off against a strong Virginia squad with Masters Jason

Morefield and Andrew Samuelson and experts Sam Schenk and William Barrow. In the first quarter, Megan won and Michael drew but Sam scored a critical win for Virginia to give them a 2.5-1.5 edge. In the second quarter, we bounced back, with our Masters winning and Ananth scoring a draw. 4-4 at the half. The third quarter was huge. We split the Masters battles with Megan winning, but Michael drew and Ananth won giving us a 6.5-5.5 edge heading into the fourth quarter. Unfortunately, between outstanding play and serious time pressure for us, we lost both Master battles and in spite of a win for Ananth on four, bringing his total to a brilliant 2.5/4 from board four, we fell in the match 7.5-8.5, ending our title quest. We'll play California North for third next week, after Iowa edged them out in a tiebreaker.

Our U1800 team was all youngsters today, with Advaith Vijayakumar and Vidip Kona leading the way and Ted Shi and recent Washington Junior Open champion Kai Pisan on boards three and four. We faced a strong Illinois team led by experts Rishi Narayanan and Abhyudhaya Venkat, with Nikhil Sivakumar and John Harvey on boards three and four. Pennsylvania already beat Minnesota in the other semi so we knew who we'd face if we won (top seed Pennsylvania) or if we lost (Minnesota). We started strong in the first quarter with a 3-1 lead of the gates, with Ted scoring an upset over an expert. They bounced back nicely in round two, drawing Advaith and scoring wins against both our boards three and four. 4.5-3.5 lead for us at halftime. The third quarter was an even split, with our experts besting their experts and their boards three and four besting our boards three and four. 6.5-5.5. Young star Vidip Kona was on 3.0/3 heading into the final round. Epic stuff!

In the final round Advaith scored a quick win versus Rishi on board one to give us a 7.5-5.5. edge. We needed one more. All three other boards had good positions but were in some serious time pressure. Story of the season for us in some ways. Kai was the first to break through and secured us a spot in the final! Ted and Vidip both eventually won as well with some slick mates with virtually no time on their clocks to give us a 10.5-5.5 final score, though the match overall was much closer than that. Kudos in particular to young Vidip on his perfect 4.0/4 show and Advaith for his strong 3.5/4 at the top. Next week's the championship versus top seed Pennsylvania! Remember to tune into twitch.tv/slothyChess to follow all the action! Cheers!

## States Chess Cup Finals

Siva Sankrithi

January 25, 2023

After falling last week in the semifinals to Virginia, our U2200 got a forfeit win over California North for third place. First, first, and third in the nation our first three years. Pretty good! Kudos to all who played and kudos to team Iowa for besting Virginia in the final and earning their first States Chess Cup title! As for U1800, we faced off against the number one seed, Pennsylvania.

They played the lineup we expected, namely expert Michael Clark, high 1800 Kevin Hemmingway, high 1700 and blitz star Jeffrey Kunnel, and near 1500 Tanay Paripati. We went with a lineup of expert Alec Beck, near expert young star Vidip

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Kona coming off of a 4.0/4 in the semis, and 1500+ Kevin Lowe and 1400+ Chris Pleasants.

In the first quarter, we went down early with Jeffrey scoring the upset over Vidip, giving Pennsylvania a 3-1 lead. In round two, Alec drew Jeffrey but the big result was our board four Chris scoring an upset win in a time scramble over their board two Kevin! Down 3.5-4.5 at the half. Closing the gap. It merits mention that Pennsylvania's board three, Jeffrey, earned 1.5/2 against our top two boards. That has been the difference thus far.

In the third quarter, Kevin had a beautiful mate to get us a point back then Chris and Vidip fell so we were down 4.5-6.5 at that point. Alec was in a complicated equal rook pawn endgame and had to try to press for a win. Alec had under 20 seconds and Kevin had under 10 seconds. It was a theoretical draw with Alec up a pawn. They're both under ten seconds. They're both under three seconds! Ahhhhhhhh! Yes! Alec breaks through! Alec at 2.5/3. Vidip at 1/3. Kevin at 1/3. Chris at 1/3. One quarter to go. Remember the final quarter has board

one vs board one, board two vs board two, board three vs board three, and board four vs board four. As the saying goes, when the going gets tough the tough get going! We still have a chance. We're down 5.5-6.5. It's a longshot but crazier things have happened.

Chris is the first game to get started. Tanay is playing super aggressive and gets an advantage out of the opening but is his queen a little too overzealous? Oh my! It is! Chris has trapped it! Let's go! Chris wins! 2.0/4 in his board four debut, winning with the French with Black twice! Bravo! The match is tied. 6.5-6.5. Three games to go. One vs one. Two vs two. Three vs three. For the title.

Oh my Vidip has done it! He rebounds after a rough start to get to 2.0/4. He trapped a knight! Kevin Hemingway resigned. Apparently Black was actually just fine by the engine but hard to find over-the-board. Wow. Wow. Wow. Team Washington *leads* Team Pennsylvania 7.5-6.5. One vs one and three vs three the edge. Alec vs Michael on board one. Alec has White. Kevin vs Jeffrey on board three. Kevin has Black. Remember

Jeffrey has been on fire and sits at 2.5/3 for Pennsylvania. Jeffrey comes through for Pennsylvania to finish the day an amazing 3.5/4 from board three. 7.5-7.5.

It's all even. What a match. *What a match.* It all comes down to board one. Alec has a seven-minute to two-minute lead. Material is equal. White (Alec) is attacking on the kingside. Has Alec broken through? Michael is under a minute. Alec over six. White is methodically converting the positional advantage. Alec is under three and Michael is under ten seconds. Alec's picked up a pawn! Take your time and make this happen Alec. Ooh tricky stalemate trick idea for Michael. Whew. Alec saw that. He's done it! Alec wins!

Team Washington comes back and scores the epic upset over team Pennsylvania 8.5-7.5! Wow wow wow wow wow!

Congrats to all the players! Congrats to everyone behind the scenes. Congrats to everyone on all the teams from around the league who gave their all and great match to the team Pennsylvania squad. *What a match. Champions! Let's goooooo!*

# Washington Senior Championship

## APRIL 14-16, 2023



*Highest finishing Washington resident receives the title of Washington State Senior Champion, a seed into the Invitational Section of the 2024 Washington State Championship, and a \$750 travel stipend from the WCF to attend the [2023 National Tournament of Senior State Champions](#), which is held concurrently with the U.S. Open in early August.*

**Info/Entries:** Josh Sinanan, WCF President

**Phone:** 206-769-3757

**Email:** WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com

**Registration:** Online at [nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration](http://nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration).

Registration **deadline Thu. 4/13 @ 5pm**. No payments accepted or refunds offered after the deadline.

**Site:** Orlov Chess Academy: 4174 148<sup>th</sup> Ave NE Bld. I, Ste. M, Redmond, WA 98052.

**Format:** A 5-Round, G/90; +30 Swiss. Open to Seniors age 50+ (or reaching age 50 by or before August 1, 2023). Playoff round if needed to break tie for 1st place will be resolved later in the year by a G/90 playoff game.

**Entry Fee:** \$50 by 4/7, \$60 after. Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs, or US Chess 2400+.

**Rounds:** Fri: 6:30 PM. Sat: 10 AM, 3 PM. Sun: 10 AM, 3 PM.

**Prize Fund:** \$500 (based on 20 paid entries).  
1st - \$150, 2nd - \$125  
1st U2000/U1700/U1400 - \$75

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

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

**Rating:** US Chess Rated. April 2023 US Chess Regular supplement will be used to determine pairings and prizes.

**Health/Safety Protocols:** Face masks optional for players and spectators. If interested, please bring your own mask.



# St. Anne Celtic Challenge Winter 2023 Chess Tournament

By Josh Sinanan

The Winter 2023 St. Anne Celtic Challenge took place on Sunday, January 22 at St. Anne School in Seattle. A strong turnout of 114 scholastic chess players in grades K-12 participated across five sections parsed by grade level and chess rating: K-1 U800, 2-3 U800, K-3 Open, 4-8 U900, and 4-12 Open. For several players, it was their very first chess tournament, and the first in-person tournament for many more!

The pent-up demand for over-the-board (OTB) chess was apparent, as the tournament attracted players from throughout the Pacific Northwest, including parts of Bothell, Seattle, Redmond, Sammamish, Bremerton, Duvall, Normandy Park, Bellevue, Everett, Issaquah, Olympia, Mountlake Terrace, Kirkland, Edmonds, Renton, Vashon, and Snohomish. The tournament atmosphere was relaxed and friendly, with many displays of good sportsmanship and courtesy throughout the afternoon!

The chess action spoke for itself, with many wild encounters instigated by the numerous tricky characters taking part in the proceedings! The event was hosted by St. Anne School, organized by St. Anne Chess Coordinator Kelly Jaeger, paired by WCF Scholastic Director Rekha Sagar, and directed by WCF President and St. Anne Chess Coach Josh Sinanan with assistance from Advait Vijayakumar, Anvith Vijayakumar, and Suresh Balaji.

Top local high school chess master Joseph Levine was on site providing complementary game review and analysis to train the new generation of rising stars and future grandmasters! The tournament was dedicated to the late Coach Chris Hurley (1965-2020) and his family, who founded the St. Anne Chess Club and

tirelessly supported chess over the years. Congratulations to the amazing chess families who contributed to this fantastic

event! Special recognition is due to the follow winners:

## St. Anne Celtic Challenge Prizes

Trophies awarded to the topscoring players in each section.

Trophies awarded to the top 5 finishing teams.

Team Score consists of the top 4 scores from same school across all sections.

Medals for first-time tournament players and players scoring 3 points or more who do not earn a trophy.

Individual Trophies					
Place	K-1 U800	2-3 U800	K-3 Open	4-8 U900	4-12 Open
1st	Connor Kim	Niko Elmieh	Guru Harshith Reddy Avula	Neel Jayadevan	Selina Cheng
2nd	Kartika Kalakoti	Alexander Eduardo	Veronique Joseph	Caiden Kim	Odbayar Yondon
3rd	Lewis Ma	Derek Huang	Emmett Bates-Callaghan	Teddy Wright	Neevan Reddy Saddi
4th	Bella Li	Ved Dhameeja	Aahan Sriram	Cristina Juarez-Caballero	Alex Dai
5th	Remy Thompson	Alexander Liu	Vihaan Pai	Nimalan Venkatesan	Pranav Kokati
6th	Siri Srinivas	Gautham Satishkumar	Kunal Jayadevan	Jethro Abueg	Rhadean Rubaiyat
7th	Felicity Mei	Abel Bassen	Elijah Edwin	Kriti Alamuru	Gabriel Razmov
8th	Ryan Guan	Abigail Lew	Kshitij Narkhede	Neil Kossuri	Gabriel Veiga
9th	Cyrus Cooney	Gavin Stack	Aditi Sembium	Declan Darling	Jackson Miller
10th	Emil Bassen	Shri Thashathika Suresh Balaji	Adhrith Cheruku	Liam Shannon	Enoch Shen
11th	Benjamin Oberry	Advay Parihar			
12th	Johnny Gilliland	Armeya George			
13th	Hugo Guenther	Andy Vaughn			
14th		Jacob Li			
15th		Rushank Reddy Mallu			
16th		Caleb Fetchero			
17th		Aryan Reddyshetty			
18th		Pranet Kuberan			
19th		Blake Fritzy			
20th		Nithilan Venkatesan			



Team Trophies			
Place	School	Players	Score
1st	Thurgood Marshall ES	Selina Cheng (1395) 4.5 Teddy Wright ( 665) 4.0 Siddhartha Dewan ( 553) 3.0	11.5
2nd	Maplewood Co-op K-8	Caiden Kim ( 601) 4.5 Connor Kim ( 445) 4.0 Chloe Kim (unr.) 2.5	11
3rd	Somerset ES	Lewis Ma ( 524) 4.0 Advay Parihar ( 400) 3.0 Bryce Brakenridge (unr.) 2.0 Vidur Yhenishetty (unr.) 2.0 Chris Wang ( 414) 1.5 Lincoln Teng (unr.) 1.5 Lyndon Teng (unr.) 1.5 Ella Lo ( 636) 0.0	11

# Washington Junior Open and Reserve

By Josh Sinanan

The 2023 Washington Junior Open and Reserve chess tournament was held on MLK Monday, January 16, at Interlake High School in Bellevue. A total of 312 scholastic chess players in grades K-12 participated in the chess festival from throughout Washington State, including the cities of Snohomish, Redmond, Clyde Hill, Bothell, Mercer Island, Bellevue, Kirkland, Sammamish, Mill Creek, Tacoma, Normandy Park, Pullman, Gig Harbor, Issaquah, Seattle, Renton, Everett, Edmonds, Lynnwood, Medina, Auburn, Duvall, Yarrow Point, Woodinville, Newcastle, Olympia, North Bend, Federal Way, Tumwater, Kenmore, and Fall City!

The event was hosted by the Washington Chess Federation, paired by WCF Scholastic Director Rekha Sagar, and directed by Coach Lane Van Weerdhuizen with assistance from floor TDs Suresh Balaji, Tim Campbell, and parent volunteer Jeff Weng. Amazing photographs were taken throughout the day by Meiling Cheng. Local face painter [Gabby Carrillo](#) was on site for a few hours offering her fantastic face painting services!

The dual-format Swiss tournament was split into seven sections parsed by grade level and rating: K-1 U800, 2-3 U800, K-3 U1200, 4-8 U900, 4-12 U1300, U1500, and Open.

Congratulations to the fearless chess players who participated in this event! Chess certainly has a way of bringing people together. Playing in a large scholastic chess tournament such as this with players of all ages and backgrounds was a wonderful way for many to celebrate the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King. As WCF President Josh Sinanan mentioned before the start of the first round, "Chess is not just a game of the mind, it is also a game of the heart!" Congratulations to all who contributed to this fantastic event, and special congratulations to the winners.



*(L) Chouchan Airapetian and Sebastian Phillips-Acheson enjoy a fun moment at the Washington Junior Open and Reserve. Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.*

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

Section	Best Female Player(by TPR)	Biggest Upsets
K-1 U800	Caroline Ma (270)	Lewis Ma (329 pts.)
2-3 U800	Ananya Sabarish (560)	Max Chen (334 pts.)
4-8 U900	Kriti Alamuru, Vaidehi Joshi (655)	Apollo Yen (396 pts.)
K-3 U1200	Aditi Sembium (906)	Gary Tao (482 pts.)
4-12 U1300	Lydia Xiong (1098)	Hank Rinehart (609 pts.)
U1500	Veronique Joseph (1313)	Zachary Daugherty (353 pts.)
Open	Iris Zhang (1727)	Atharva Joshi (445 pts.)



# WA Junior Open & Reserve Prizes

**Individual Prizes** - Amazon E-Gift cards (1st-5th) awarded in each section.

1st \$80, 2nd \$70, 3rd \$60, 4th \$50, 5th \$40

Section	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
K-1 U800	Kshitij Narkhede	Chen Yuan, Rebecca Li, Wyatt Udelson, Natalie Xu			
2-3 U800	Nathan Jiang	Sakash Agrawal, Ellis Nelson, Evan Wang, Shawn Shi, Myron Lam, Atharva Goel			
4-8 U900	Rafael Palathingal	Nehanth Kakani	Eric Tian, Edwin Huang, Aditi Agrawal, Caleb Byam, Ian Lu, Avery Kwan-Uchiyama, Sourish Panda, Sai Navaneeth Satish Kumar, Austin Damrau		
K-3 U1200	Bright Weng	Vidur Raghunathan, Elijah Edwin, Caden Chang, Wu Liang			

**Team Prizes** - Amazon gift cards awarded to the top four players from the top 5 finishing teams.  
Top 4 scores from same school comprise team score across all sections.

1st \$30, 2nd \$25, 3rd \$20, 4th \$15, 5th \$10

Place	School	Players	Score
1st	<b>Odle Middle</b>	Rishi Ramaswamy, Skylor Chan, Pranav Kokati, Shrey Bahl	15.625
2nd	<b>Jin-Mei Elementary</b>	Wu Liang, Avery Kwan-Uchiyama, Shawn Shi, Ethan Sun	15.5
3rd	<b>Medina Elementary</b>	Edwin Huang, Sakash Agrawal, Daniel Dong, Derek Wu, Ares Wang	14.625
4th	<b>Bellevue Children's Academy</b>	Viraj Dhawan, Rebecca Li, Eric Wang, Daniel Yu, Stas Black, Ananya Sabarish	14.5
5th	<b>Somerset Elementary</b>	Eric Tian, Owen Xu, Ella Lo, Alexander Smacinih, Lewis Ma	13.125

# Decatur Gator Fest

By Siva Sankrithi

**O**n a crisp Saturday in Seattle, January 28, 2023, over 100 chess players through fifth grade came to Decatur Elementary School for the first in-person Decatur Gatorfest event! Inspired by the outstanding work of club leader Vayu Kakkad and his Dad Ravi Kakkad, with an incredible team of volunteers, this event was brilliant. Every round started on time. Great fun was had. Numerous friendships were made. Great chess was played.

The tournament was five rounds and each player had 25 minutes on their clock with an additional five seconds per move. The matches took place in the gym, and the tournament was sectioned by grade level, like the State Championships, which will be held in April in Tacoma. The “skittles room” and waiting area for friends and families, filled with wonderful concessions, games, and more, was the cafeteria. This event was a State qualifier for those who scored three or more points out of five and over a third of the field was playing their first ever tournament! All who qualified for State or played their first tournament earned at least a medal for their efforts.

Before getting to the top prizes, a huge shout-out to all the upset award winners, scoring the biggest upsets by rating, in their respective sections. For those unfamiliar, chess players get ratings that go up with wins and down with losses. More experienced players tend to have higher ratings. In K, 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 sections, Siana Razmov, Elliot Hedstrom, Evan Ang, Max Chen, Austin Damrau, and Caiden Kim, earned the upset awards,

respectively. Kudos to all on a job well done!

The top five individuals in each section and the top three teams overall earned some spectacular trophies! The list of all the trophy winners and their scores are highlighted below.

In the Kindergarten “Pawns” section, Harry Deng, Leonard Hoang, and Vivaan Sankrithi, earned fifth, fourth, and third, respectively, scoring 3/5. Bihe Liu took second with 4.0/5 and Kartika Kalakoti took the title with a perfect 5.0/5!

In the first grade “Knights” section, Gordon Dai got fifth on tiebreaks with 3.0/5. Chen Yuan and Terrick Evin took fourth and third, respectively, with 3.5/5. Finishing second and first, respectively, with 4/5, were Kshitij Narkhede and Daniel Yun!

In the second grade “Bishops” section, finishing fifth on tiebreaks with 3/5 was Elijah Edwin. There was a four-

fourth, third, and second, with 4.0/5 points, were Emmett Bates-Callaghan, Sarang Sankrithi, and Maximillian Jones, respectively. Taking sole first with 4.5/5 was Vihaan Pai!

In the fourth grade “Queens” section, Ian Gagnier and Alan Cheng took fifth and fourth on tiebreaks, respectively, with 3/5. Atharv Rao took third with 3.5/5. Stanley Deng took second with 4/5. Taking sole first with 4.5/5 was Aneesh Vashisht.

In the fifth grade “Kings” section, Rian Raja and Kayne Winter took fifth and fourth, respectively, with 3/5. Nathan Davis took third with 3.5/5. Niranjan Prashant took second with 4/5 and taking the title with a perfect 5.0/5 was Keeran Balayoghan!

Before getting to the top three team awards, which are the sum of the top four scores across all sections for kids from the same school, a quick shout-out to the two homeschooling families, Sankrithi and Gagnier,

whose two pairs of siblings would’ve earned second place with 12 points. Now for the school team awards! Finishing third with 11 points was Bellevue Children’s Academy. Finishing second with 12 points were the hosts Decatur, many of whom were making their tournament debut! Taking the team title were Open Window School with 13.5 points!

Cheers to all on a wonderful event, congrats to all the winners

and to all the players on demonstrating tremendous sportsmanship, a great love for the beautiful game of chess, and thanks to all for supporting the Decatur Elementary School and the Decatur Gators chess team!

**The future is bright!**



*(L) Kartika Kalakoti vs Vivaan Sankrithi play alongside (R) Bihe Liu vs Harry Deng on the top boards of the Kindergarten section at the Decatur Gator Fest. Photo credit: Siva Sankrithi.*

way tie for first with 4.0/5, and places were determined by tiebreaks. Vayu Kakkad, Edgar Li, Samarth Bharadwaj, and Jonathan Lan, took fourth, third, second, and first, respectively!

In the third grade “Rooks” section, finishing fifth on tiebreaks with 3.0/5 was Arihant Chaudhuri. Finishing



# MexInsurance FIDE Open

(“A Success!”)

George Lundy

The MexInsurance FIDE Open took place December 16-18, 2022, at the Barber Park Event Center in Boise, Idaho-ho-ho. Our tournament featured many firsts for Idaho. The event attracted four FIDE-titled players, including two grandmasters (MA, PA), an international master (MI) and a FIDE master (CA by way of the Russian Chess Federation).

The tournament was also internationally rated in both the Elite and

Reserve. Most tournaments offer only a FIDE-rated section in the Open or, on occasion, in a titled section. The entry fee was yet another first. While \$100 is high for Idaho, most international tournaments have a \$100 entry fee for players rated 2200+; those of us with a lower rating can pay as much as \$300 to enter the international section. In 2021, I spent just under \$2,400 to play in the international sections of both the National and Western States Opens. MexInsurance offered Idaho players a world-class tournament

for pennies on the dollar... literally. No out-of-state travel, no hotels for the more than 100 U.S. Chess members within 60 miles of Boise, no airfare or hundreds of dollars in gas. Just a \$100 entry fee and 15-minute drive to Barber Park.

The prize fund was another first, setting a record for Northwest Chess (ID, OR, and WA) by offering over \$15,700 in cash prizes. The Elite section was open to all players, with 11 unconditionally guaranteed prizes totaling \$10,000. The Reserve (U2200) section offered three prizes per section, down to and including the

U600 section, based on 100 paid players. If organizers don't hit their expected turnout, they are permitted to reduce their cash payouts by 50%. We did not hit the 100 paid players, yet still paid out 100% of the prize money in two classes, another first. The sections were based on players' ratings (U2200 and U1000.) Each section had four to six players, and First through Third places were paid in full.

It also featured another Idaho first with 200 U.S. Chess Grand Prix points. Grand Prix points are based on the Open prize fund. The majority of tournaments in the United States are in the five GP point range. By comparison, the Western States Open in both 2021 and 2022 only offered 150 GP points.

All FIDE-titled players played for free, from grandmasters down to women candidate masters (~1800 rating), and they all took home 100% of their earnings. In most international tournaments, only GMs play for free and even then, some organizers pick the GMs' pockets for the entry fee from their earnings.

This titled competitor perk gave Idaho players two big advantages over other regional events. First, we were able to bring in stronger players from all over the United States. Over half the players were from out of state. Second, Idaho players had an opportunity to earn a FIDE rating here at home without paying the overhead. Several Idaho players completed their *initial FIDE rating* (five international opponents in an internationally rated event, beginning with their first draw or victory in a FIDE event) and some secured their first draw or victory in both the Elite and Reserve sections. One Reserve player was rated U900 and took out an opponent ~1350 FIDE.

## Open Section

Name	Cash	Prize credited to pool
IM Joshua Posthuma (5.5/2514)	\$2,500.00	Place: 1 - \$2500
GM Fidel Corrales (5.0/2615)	\$2,000.00	Place: 2 - \$2000
GM Bryan G Smith (4.5/2516)	\$937.50	Place: 3 - \$1500
FM Alexandre Kretchetov (4.5/2280)	\$937.50	Place: 4 - \$1000
Daniel Joelson (4.5/2106)	\$937.50	Place: 5 - \$750
Kaustubh Kodihalli (4.5/1907)	\$937.50	Place: 6 - \$500
NM Makaio Krienke (4.0/2204)	\$291.66	Place: 7 - \$400
Christopher Cole (4.0/1932)	\$291.66	Place: 8 - \$375
James Wei (4.0/1858)	\$291.66	Place: 9 - \$350
Caleb Kircher (4.0/1821)	\$291.66	Place: 10 - \$325
Travis J Olson (4.0/1743)	\$291.66	Place: 11 - \$300
Thomas C Reisig (4.0/1111)	\$291.66	

## U2200 & U1000 Section

Name	Cash	Prize credited to pool
Eric Hon (6.0/2094)	\$375.00	U2200/1 - \$375
Brett B Hamilton (4.5/1770)	\$312.50	U2200/2 - \$325
Erlend J Millikan (4.5/1696)	\$312.50	U2200/3 - \$300
Liam Nosarev (2.0/941)	\$116.66	U1000/1 - \$200
Devin Flavin (2.0/899)	\$116.66	U1000/2 - \$100
Dimitri Nosarev (2.0/789)	\$116.66	U1000/3 - \$50

## Additional Prizes:

Top Woman: Ridhi Varma Danduprolu AZ 3.0 \$200;

Top Senior: Michael Presutti, H.G. Pitre and Larry Parsons! 3.0 \$100 each.

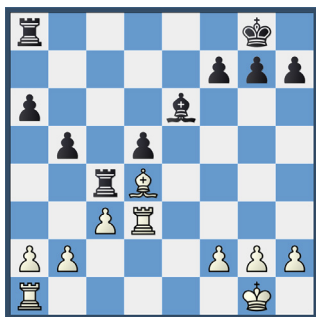
Unrated: First Tyler Yazzie 3.5 \$150; Second Meckayden Niezgodá 3.0 \$125; Third Anthony Cortez & Franklin Lundy 1.5 \$25 each.

There was one additional first by our corporate sponsor MexInsurance.com. The tournament was advertised regionally, with four ads in *Northwest Chess*, and more than 200 ads in all 49 states, the District of Columbia and the Russian Republic of Alaska. These ads appeared in *Chess Life*, *Chess Life Kids* and a number of websites, including the Idaho Chess Association, U.S. Chess, FIDE (172 countries), Linked in (over 10,000 links), MexInsurance.com, BoiseChess.org, *Northwest Chess*, and the Chandra Alexis Chess Club.

We would like to thank all the Idaho players who attended both the tournament and the GM Bryan G. Smith simul on December 19, the Idaho Chess Association, *Northwest Chess*, Grandmasters Fidel Corrales and Bryan G. Smith, International Master Joshua Posthuma, and FIDE Master Alexandre Kretchetov. A special thank you to my good friend FIDE Arbiter(D) and Associate National Tournament Director Lawrence Cohen of Chicago for his assistance!

**Bryan Smith (2516) –  
Alex James Machin (1774) [C56]**  
MexInsurance FIDE Open  
Boise, ID (R2), December 16, 2022  
16.12.2022  
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Bc4 Nf6  
5.0-0 Nxe4 6.Re1 d5 7.Bxd5 Qxd5 8.  
Nc3 Qh5 9.Nxe4 Be6 10.Bg5 Bd6  
11.Nxd6+ cxd6 12.Bf4 0-0 13.Nxd4  
Qxd1 14.Rexd1 Nxd4 15.Rxd4 Rfc8  
16.c3 d5 17.Be3 Rc4 18.Rd3 a6 19.Bd4  
b5



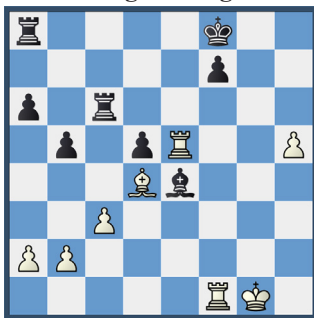
Position after 19...b5

With the goal of heading into a completely drawn opposite-bishop ending, 19...f6 20.Re1 Kf7 is super-solid. It's hard to imagine how White might even create a kingside passed pawn against this structure.

20.Rg3 g6 21.h4 h5 22.Re1 Rc6 23.Rg5  
Kf8 24.f3 Bf5

White finds a glimmer of hope, creating something from nothing on the kingside.

25.g4 hxg4 26.fxg4 Be4 27.Rf1 Ke7 28.  
Re5+ Kf8 29.h5 gxh5 30.gxh5



Position after 30.gxh5

30...Re8?

30...f5! 31.Rf4 Kf7 32.Rh4 Rg8+ 33.Kf1  
Rh6 sets up a nice fortress. 34.Be3 Rh7  
35.h6 Kf6 36.Bf4 (36.Bd4 Kg5 37.Rh2  
Rxh6 38.Be3+ Kf6 39.Rxf5+ Kxf5  
40.Rxh6 Rg2 goes nowhere.) 36...Rg4  
37.Rxg4 fxg4 38.Rh5 g3 39.Bxg3 Kg6 is  
utterly drawn.

31.Rg5 f5??

A case of closing the barn door after the  
horse has escaped. 31...Bd3 32.Bg7+!  
Ke7 33.Re1+ Re6 34.Rxe6+ fxe6± fights  
on, though White has some chances with  
the distant passed pawn.

32.h6 Rc7 33.Bg7+ Kf7 34.h7 Rcc8  
35.Rf4 b4 36.Rh4 bxc3 37.bxc3 Rb8  
38.h8Q

1-0

**James Wei –  
Alexandre Kretchetov [B15]**  
MexInsurance FIDE Open  
Boise, ID (R3), December 17, 2022  
[Ralph Dubisch]

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

A rather rare continuation. 3...dxe4  
4.Nxe4, then 4...Bf5 (4...Nd7; and 4...Nf6  
are somewhat different ideas.) 5.Ng3 Bg6  
leads to well-traveled theory.

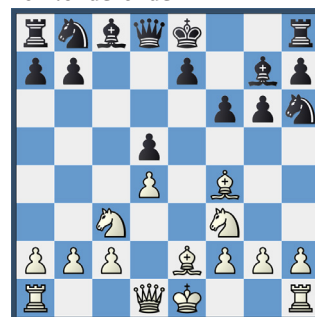
4.Nf3 Bg7 5.Be2

5.h3 is a better test of Black's set-up,  
restricting the c8-bishop. If 5...Nf6 6.Bd3  
(6.e5 Ne4 7.Nxe4 dxe4 8.Ng5 c5± is also  
worth considering.) 6...dxe4 7.Nxe4  
Nxe4 8.Bxe4± White maintains a small  
but durable space advantage.

5...Nh6?!

Perhaps over-ambitious. 5...dxe4 6.Nxe4  
Nf6 is close to equality, as White is just  
a tiny bit passively placed.; Alternately,  
5...Bg4 6.Be3± has, at least, solved the  
c8-bishop.

6.Bf4 f6 7.exd5 cxd5



Position after 7...cxd5

8.Bb5+?

If you're going to move the same piece  
twice in the opening, make sure it's  
in service of your strategic objectives.  
8.Nb5! 0-0 (8...Na6 9.0-0 0-0 10.c4±  
White is well-coordinated, and Black is,  
well, a mess.) 9.Nc7!? (In case the tactical  
line doesn't work, simply 9.0-0 is decent,  
of course.) 9...g5 (9...e5 10.Bxh6 Qxc7  
11.Bxg7 Kxg7 12.dxe5 fxe5 13.Qxd5±)  
10.Bg3 f5 11.Nxa8 f4 12.Nxg5 fxg3  
(12...e5 13.Bh4 Nf5 14.g3 is ugly but  
effective.) 13.hxg3 e5 14.Qd2 e4± White  
has better king safety, and at least a  
temporary lead in material. Going after  
that knight on a8 will cost Black quite  
a bit of time. After 15.c3 Nc6 Stockfish  
points out another tactical idea: 16.Nxe4  
dxe4 17.Rxh6 Bxh6? (17...Bf5! 18.Rh5  
Qxa8 19.Kf1±) 18.Qxh6, when tactics  
will rescue the knight from the corner:  
18...Bf5 (18...Bd7 19.Nc7 Qxc7 20.Bc4+)  
19.Bc4+ Kh8 20.Nc7+-

8...Nc6 9.Qe2?! Nf7 10.0-0 0-0 11.Rfe1  
e6 12.Bxc6?!

While this exchange is unfortunate, the  
alternative idea of retreating via a4 to b3  
doesn't completely solve the position.  
12.h3 a6 13.Ba4 Re8 14.Bh2 Bd7 15.Qd2  
b5 16.Bb3 Na5.

12...bxc6 13.Na4 Re8 14.Nc5 e5 15.Bg3  
Bg4 16.h3 Bh5 17.Qe3 e4 18.Nd2 Bh6  
19.Bf4 g5 20.Bg3?

20.Bh2 saves a tempo in many lines, and  
could afford White the option of pushing  
the g-pawn.

20...Bf8



Black is systematically pushing forward on the kingside, and could now continue more incisively with 20...f5!, meeting 21.f4 with 21...Nh8!

21.Ncb3 a5 22.a4 Qd7

22...Nd6

23.c4

23.Nc5 Bxc5 24.dxc5 f5 25.Qd4

23...f5!+ 24.Bh2

24.cxd5 cxd5 25.Nc5 Bxc5 26.dxc5 f4 27.Bxf4 gxf4 28.Qxf4+

24...f4 25.Qc3 Bb4 26.Nc5

26.Qc2 Nd6 27.cxd5 cxd5 28.Rac1 Nf5  
White is suffocating.

26...Bxc3

or 26...Bxc5 27.dxc5 d4

27.Nxd7 Bxd2 28.Nf6+ Kf8 29.Nxh5 Bxe1 30.Rxe1 Re6 31.cxd5 cxd5

0-1

James Wei –

Jeff Gamble [B41]

MexInsurance FIDE Open

Boise, ID (R5), December 18, 2022

[Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 a6 5.c4 Nf6 6.Nc3 Bb4 7.Qd3 Qc7 8.Be2 Nc6 9.Nxc6 dxc6!? 10.a3 Be7 11.f4 e5

11...0-0 12.e5 Nd7 13.Qg3 b5 with questions yet to answer for both sides.

12.0-0

12.Qg3!?±



Position after 12.0-0

12...exf4?

It's definitely not a good idea to accelerate White's development. 12...Bg4! is much to be preferred here.

13.Bxf4 Qb6+ 14.Kh1 Be6 15.b4 Rd8

15...a5 16.e5 Nd7 17.c5 Qa7 18.Rab1 axb4 19.axb4 0-0 20.Qg3, and it is time

to debate how much advantage White has. Some, definitely.

16.Qg3 Qd4 17.Rad1 Nxe4 18.Nxe4 Qxe4 19.Qxg7 Rf8 20.Rxd8+?!

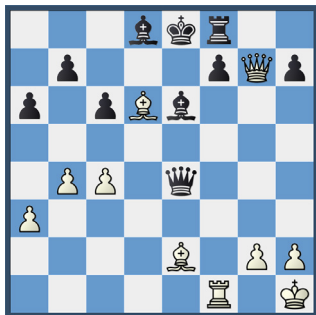
20.Rde1±

20...Bxd8?

Time to run the king to a safer space: 20...Kxd8.

21.Bd6

21.Qb2±



Position after 21.Bd6

21...Qxe2??

Allows White a nice tactical attacking finish. 21...Be7 22.Bxe7 Kxe7 23.Qf6+ Kd7± is far from clearly lost.

22.Qxf8+ Kd7 23.Rxf7+! Bxf7 24.Qxf7+ Kxd6

24...Be7 25.Qxe7+; 24...Kc8 25.Qf5+

25.c5+

25...Ke5 25.Qe8

1-0

James Wei –

Fidel Corrales Jimenez [B94]

MexInsurance FIDE Open

Boise, ID (R6), December 18, 2022

[Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 Nbd7

6...e6 is by far the most common move. Then 7.f4 leads to a mass of theory, starting with any one of at least eight moves for Black here.

7.f4 h6

7...Qc7 8.Qf3 h6 9.Bxf6 Nxf6 10.f5± has been played before.

8.Bxf6

8.Bh4!?

8...Nxf6 9.Be2?!

A bit passive. 9.Bc4!?±; or 9.f5!?, similar

to the move 7... note.

9...e5 10.fxe5?!

10.Nb3

10...dxe5 11.Nb3 Qb6

11...Be6. Black is generally better in endgames, with bishop-pair and structural superiority, so need not fear 12.Qxd8+ Rxd8.

12.Nd5?!

12.Qd3

12...Nxd5 13.Qxd5 Be6 14.Qxe5 0-0-0 15.Rd1 Bd6 16.Qc3+?

It looks better to grab another pawn: 16.Qxg7 Rhg8 (16...Bxh2 17.Qc3+ Kb8 18.Nc5) 17.Rxd6!? Qxd6 18.Qc3+ Kb8 19.0-0. This still favors Black, as the knight is not particularly impressive, and White has no dangerous pawn mass.

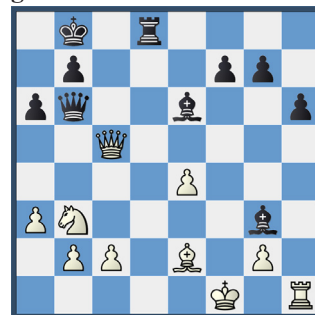
16...Kb8 17.a3 Bxh2 18.Rxd8+?

Here and on the next move, White does marginally better to avoid forcing major piece exchanges. 18.Nc5

18...Rxd8 19.Qc5

19.Nc5

19...Bg3+ 20.Kf1



Position after 20.Kf1

20...Bc4!?

A really nice tactic involving diagonal pins by unprotected queen and bishop.

21.Bxc4

21.Qxc4 Qf2#; 21.Qxb6 Rd1#

21...Qxc5 22.Nxc5 Rd1+ 23.Ke2 Rxh1+

Although the material count doesn't seem overwhelming, in fact the position is winning for Black, who can create a passed h-pawn.

24.Bxf7 Re1+ 25.Kd3 Bd6 26.Nd7+?!

The knight on d7 becomes another liability. 26.Ne6 is a little better.

26...Kc7 27.Be6 a5 28.a4 h5 29.c3 Rg1  
0-1

**GM Bryan Smith –  
James Brooks [B90]**  
Simultaneous Exhibition  
(MexInsurance FIDE Open)  
Boise, ID December 19, 2022  
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6  
5.Nc3 a6 6.Qd3



Position after 6.Qd3

A very unusual move, presumably played to avoid theory. Many alternatives are played: 6.Be3 e5 7.Nb3 Be6 8.f3 Nbd7 (8...Be7 9.Qd2 0-0 10.0-0-0 Nbd7 11.g4) 9.g4 (9.Qd2); 6.Be2 e5 7.Nb3 Be7 8.0-0-0; 6.Bg5 is effective at preventing an early...e5. 6...e6 7.f4 Qb6 (The famous Poison Pawn variation. Alternatives include 7...Be7; 7...Nbd7; 7...Qc7) 8.Qd2 Qxb2 9.Rb1 Qa3 with stacks of “book” available to confuse and confound; White generally chooses between 11.e5 and

11.f5.; 6.Bc4 is a choice played by Fischer that also discourages...e5. 6...e6 7.Bb3 b5 8.0-0 Be7 9.Qf3 Qc7 10.Qg3

6...e5

Najdorf’s 5...a6 takes away the b5-square from the d4-knight, making...e5 a standard threat (see the above lines after 6.Be3 or 6.Be2). 6...g6 has been played, however, with Dragon-like positions. 7.Bg5 Bg7 8.0-0-0

7.Nf5 Bxf5

Since the queen defends f5, the traditional 7...d5 doesn’t work: 8.Nxd5 (or 8.exd5 e4 9.Qg3 Bxf5 10.Qe5+) 8...Nxd5 9.exd5±.

8.exf5 d5 9.Bg5 d4

9...Nbd7 10.Nxd5 Qa5+ 11.Nc3 Bb4 gives Black quite decent compensation for the pawn.

10.Bxf6 Qxf6 11.Ne4 Qc6 12.0-0-0 Nd7 13.g4?

Weakening the long diagonal. Something like 13.Be2 instead makes sense.

13...Nc5! 14.Nxc5 Qxh1 15.Ne4 Qxh2 16.Kb1 Qh4

16...Qf4♣; or 16...Be7 first.

17.Qb3

17.f6! Qxg4 (17...gxf6 18.Qf3 gives White too much activity.) 18.Bh3 Qf4 19.fxg7 Bxg7 20.Nd6+ Kf8 and here Stockfish claims that 22.Qb3, 22.Qa3, and 22.Nf5 all quickly lead to perpetual check draws.

17...Qe7?!

17...Qxg4 18.Re1 Be7 19.Qxb7 Rd8 20.Bd3 Kf8♞

18.f6 gxf6 19.Qa4+?

19.Qb6! Bg7 20.Nd6+ Kf8 21.Bc4 with too much for the exchange.

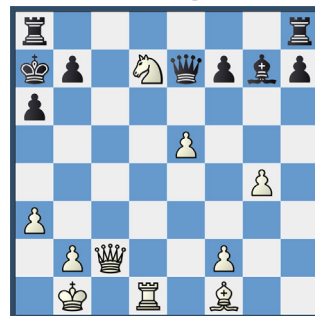
19...Kd8 20.c3 Kc7 21.cxd4 Qb4

21...Rd8!? looks more speculative, and after 22.Rc1+ Kb8 23.Nc5 Rxd4 24.Qb3 Black has 24...Qxc5! (24...Ka7 25.Bxa6! bxa6 26.Nxa6 appears to draw.) 25.Rxc5 Bxc5 26.Bxa6 Rb4 27.Qd5 Rc8..

22.Qc2+ Kb8 23.Nxf6 Bg7

23...exd4.

24.Nd7+ Ka7 25.a3! Qe7 26.dxe5



Position after 26.dxe5

26...Rac8??

Very natural, yet according to the computer very wrong. Either rook to d8 avoids the trouble. 26...Rhd8 27.Qc7 (27.Qd3 Rxd7 28.Qxd7 Qxe5 29.Rd2 Qe1+ 30.Rd1 Qxf2 31.Qd2♣, but essentially drawn.) 27...Rac8 28.Qb6+ Ka8 29.Qd4 Bxe5 30.Nb6+ Kb8 31.Nd7+ with a draw.

27.Qb3??

White responds with a natural move, avoiding pins on the d-file while defending the rook. But—it’s also wrong. Chess is a hard game. 27.Qd3 27.Qd2 and 27.Qe4 are also winning. 27...Rhd8 28.Qd4+ Ka8 (28...Rc5 29.f4!) 29.Bg2 and Black must deal with the threat of Bxb7+ and mate in three. 29...Qe6 30.f4 Qb3 31.Rd2 and Black runs dangerously short of moves. 31...Bf8 32.Nb6+ Kb8 33.Qxd8 Rxd8 34.Rxd8+ Ka7 35.Nc8+ Kb8 36.Nd6+ Kc7 37.Rxf8+-

27...Rhd8 28.Qb6+ Ka8 29.Bb5 Bxe5 30.Re1 Rxd7 31.Bxd7 Qxd7 32.Rxe5 Qd1+ 33.Ka2 Qxg4 34.Qb3 Qc4 35.Qxc4 Rxc4 36.Rf5 Rc7 37.Rf6 Kb8 38.Rh6 Rc2 39.Rf6 Rc7 40.Rh6 Rc2 41.Rf6 Rc7

Nicely played.

½-½

### Final Simul Results GM Bryan Smith +14-0=1

Seats	State	Player	FIDE	US Chess
1	ID	George Lundy	1490	1448
2	ID	Caleb Kircher	1608	1840
3	ID	Corey Longhurst	0000	1408
4	ID	Christopher Hall	0000	0611
5	ID	Liam Nosarev	0000	0763
6	ID	Vladislav Nosarev	1392	1182
7	ID	Tom Booth	0000	1500
8	ID	Brian S Lange	0000	1451
9	ID	James Brooks - Earned the Draw!	0000	1600
10	ID	Bryce Leifeste	0000	1624
11	ID	Andrew Beck	0000	1037
12	ID	Candice Liang	0000	1128
13	ID	Zachary Semancik	1507	1458
14	ID	Kaustubh Kodihalli	1458	1907
15	ID	James Wei	1565	1858



# Chico Juvenal— The Tiger Killer

By David Zaklan

The game and story is a fictional tale based on two separate truths.

(...with apologies to GM Andres Rodriguez Vila and GM Varuzhan Akobian)

I came to Brazil for the same reason I go anywhere, to play chess. Three years ago, I met two missionaries, Duane Howe and his wife Nadine. They were the first to discover the lost tribes of the Amazon jungle. They brought them the Gospel and education. With the help of the Howe's, I traveled from Twin Falls Idaho to visit a rubber gatherer tribe. This gnat infested settlement called Aquidabã sits on the banks of the Juruá River.

Years earlier in his missionary work, Duane met a hunter here, Chico Juvenal—The Tiger Killer. (In Brazil jaguars are called “El Tigre”) He lived in this very poor tribe. Chico was known as the greatest hunter. He provided meat and protection from jaguars to the rubber gatherers. They lived in small shacks that dotted the muddy riverbanks. Working within the mission church he came to find a leadership role as a pastor rescuing the lost. Someone taught him chess. His natural talent for the game was extreme from knowing the ways of nature, hunting and stalking dangerous game. He took right to it, very much to the chagrin of other chess players he met on his travels.

As Duane described him to me, I found myself really wanting to play Chico a game of chess. My passport was in order, and the trip began. In Brazil I flew on the missionary flight group plane with a load of supplies. I then took the motorized canoe trip upstream on the pearl green waters of the Juruá River. After only a few hundred yards, the driver had to stop the motor and drift in the current for a while an opaque cloud of yellow butterflies engulfing the canoe finally dissipated.

After traveling upstream for a few hours, the black-haired hatless crew pulled the canoe onto a white sand beach. Flocks of yellow, red, green and blue colored parrots and macaws flew overhead glowing in the sun. Little black monkeys, softly slapping their faces, surrounded me as I stepped onto the riverbank; they too were trying to get away from the gnats that were even in my tears. As I marveled at the overpopulated zoo feel of this environ; a young Indian woman motioned me to follow her.

We pushed through the dense jungle to a small lean-to. Underneath its roof was a square table, two chairs and a hand carved Staunton like chess set made out of ebony and tulipwood; the pieces were squarer than round. The ebony was totally black and the natural color the tulipwood was white with strands of pink throughout. The board was made with squares of each wood. Alongside of the chess set was an hourglass lying on its side with about fifteen minutes of sand in each globe. The plank floor was covered with crushed purple leaves that emitted a pungent sweet odor completely sending the swarms of gnats elsewhere.

Just as I decided to sit down on the white side of the board, Chico Juvenal pushed through the jungle into the lean-to. In his right hand was a Winchester 30-30 lever action rifle, its brown walnut wood stock had scrapes and dents from decades of hunting.

Chico smiled from behind a thick black mustache that highlighted his earnest look. His arms were pushed through holes in a freshly cut jaguar skin

that was tawny yellow with jet black rings of spots. The large stocky cat, about 175 pounds, hung from his shoulders across his back. It smelled like musky varnish and twangy raw meat. Its open mouthed white fanged head hung below his waist on the right behind the rifle. A long-spotted tail stuck out the other side of his back. Chico was barefoot, wearing khaki shorts. Dried blood covered his left shin. He stood effortlessly. I took black.

I spoke little Spanish and no Portuguese, Chico no English or French. We both spoke chess. So after admiring his rifle and the jaguar, we smiled, shook hands and the game began.

**Chico Juvenal –  
David Zaklan [C02]**  
Jungle Game  
*[David Zaklan]*

Chico played...

**1.e4**

...and set the hourglass upright. My sand began to pour through the hourglass. His black eyes looked at me intensely. I sensed no disdain, but only being assessed as prey by an alpha predator.

Since he spoke no French, my only response was, of course

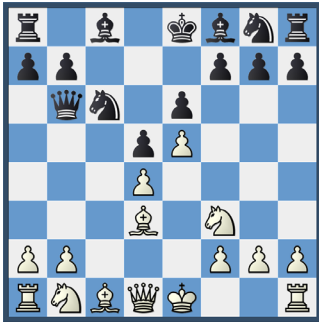
**1...e6**

I turned the hourglass over with this and my every move, as did Chico. The longer my moves took the more sand he got.

**2.d4 d5 3.e5 e5 4.c3 Nc6 5.Nf3 Qb6  
6.Bd3 cxd4 7.cxd4**

[Diagram top of next page]

Northwest Chess



Position after 7.cxd4

The trap. Chico caught himself starting to smile, hoping I would capture the pawn and fall into the trap. 7...Nxd4 8.Nxd4 Qxd4 9.Bb5+ Game over! But instead...

7...Bd7

8.0-0 Nxd4

He sacrificed a pawn to castle.

9.Nbd2

Chico's move led me down an unknown path. I chose to play it safe and retreat before my sand ran out, since I was a pawn up.

9...Nc6 10.Nb3 Qc7

What development??

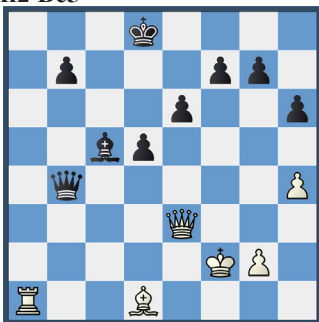
11.Bf4 Nge7 12.Nc5 Ng6 13.Bg5 Qb6 14.Nxd7 Kxd7 15.Re1 Bc5

Good for a few grains of sand.

16.Qe2 Rhc8 17.h4 h6 18.Bd2 Ke8 19.a3 a5 20.Rac1 Nd4 21.Nxd4 Bxd4 22.b4 axb4 23.Bxb4 Nf4 24.Bb5+ Kd8 25.Qf3 Rxc1 26.Rxc1 Bxe5 27.a4 Rxa4 28.Bxa4 Qxb4

Now I can hunt.

29.Qe3 Bd6 30.Bd1 Nd3 31.Ra1 Nxf2 32.Kxf2 Bc5



Position after 32...Bc5

Chico studied the position until there was no sand left, laid the king down and became the jungle.

0-1

# Chico Juvenal— the Tiger Killer...



Chico the hunter

g on the window sills, and I was about to turn to Ray to ask s were lined up against the him to carry on with the message of his small palm-bark when suddenly Chico appeared right in front of me. I had no idea e. People were standing wall

Above image from Brown and Gold, June 1992, pages 6-7. Chico Juvenal (Chico the hunter). Original article and photo credit: Duane Howe.



# East Idaho Regional Scholastic Chess Qualifier

(“Is Huge Success”)

Jay Simonson

**F**ifty-seven scholastic chess players from 31 different schools (and several who are home schooled) congregated in the Salmon River Suites, Idaho State University Student Union Building, in Pocatello, Idaho, January 21, 2023. There were students from every grade, kindergarten through 12th grade. This writer had 1825 paper flyers printed, and personally delivered 25 flyers each to 45 schools in the Bonneville and Idaho Falls school districts. 700 paper flyers were taken to the Pocatello/Chubbuck School District

which distributed them to all schools (possibly 30) in the district. Starting three weeks before the event, I emailed a flyer to 29 public school districts and 29 charter and private schools. Obviously, these efforts paid off. Last year, the East Regional Scholastic Qualifier boasted 28 players, and was deemed a big success. This year’s turn out, more than double last year’s, is nothing but a *huge success!*

Because there were so many students (and parents) who registered late Friday night or who had not yet registered, the

Tournament Director, Jay Simonson, and his assistant, John Eisenmenger had several challenges in getting the tournament started. Peter Clark, from Twin Falls, Idaho, showed up with four of his children, and was put to work immediately helping to straighten out the registrations. 25 students needed to be entered into the computer for pairing. 15 still needed to pay. Several parents were registered instead of their student children. It took about 1.5 hours to get everything sorted out and begin the tournament.



*Jay Simonson (in front) presents Top School trophy to Madison High School players. (L-R): Jarek Flora, Hayden Egbert, Beck Thueson, Colin Sinkovic, Caleb Lowrey, William Miller, Isaac Muldowney, Taven Mullholland, David Gordon, Lane Grose, Coleman Codd. Photo credit: Jason Flora.*

This was a five-round Swiss System tournament in three sections: K-5, 6-8, and 9-12. The tie breaks were: Solkoff, Cumulative, Cumulative of Opposition, and Modified Median. Thanks to the clocks which Peter Clark brought with him, we had clocks for almost all of the High School section and enough clocks for the first six games in each of the other two sections.

The K-5 section finished first. Sophie Ma, with five points was clear first place in the section. Sophie was the only one in all three sections to earn a perfect score of 5.0/5. There was a tie for second thru fourth place at four points. By tie breaks, Everett Hauge won the second-place trophy, Olivia Ding won the third place trophy, and Lucy Clark was awarded first place in grade five. First place (there was only one) for kindergarten was won by Emma Abenroth. First grade winners were: Bronson Dodge, first; Evelyn Bowers, second; and Grayson Renz, third. In the second grade, Ezra Clark won the first-place trophy, William Thompson won the second place medal, and Max Turner and Nathan Abenroth tied for third place. By tie breaks, Max won the third-place medal and Nathan won a "Qualified for State" medal. In grade three, Dallin Tarbet was first; Annette Wang was second; and Tatum Dodge was third. First place in grade four was Eloise Helms. There were no other fourth grade players. As mentioned above, Lucy Clark won the first place fifth grade trophy. There was a three-way tie for second thru

fourth places. By tie breaks, Ryker Duffin received the second-place medal, Saxson Ackley received the third-place medal, and Ethan Bowers received a "Qualified for State" medal.

With 4.5 points, Hayden Egbert won clear first place in the sixth thru eighth grade section. Isaac Burke won the second-place trophy, and Ethan Riordan won the third-place trophy. There was one sixth-grade player, and Ezra Turner won first place. In the seventh grade, Christian Swift won first; Owen Clark won second; and Johnathan Wollen won third. The eighth-grade contest ended in a tie for first and second place. Tie breaks decided that Blaise Turner took home the first-place trophy, and Ronald Ackley won the second-place medal. Third place was claimed by Xela Gunnell.

Coleman Codd, with 4.5 points, was clear first place overall in the high school (9-12) section. Tie breaks determined William Miller won the second-place trophy, Delia Groves won the third-place trophy, and David Gordon won first place in grade eleven. Ninth grade winners were: Ethan Swift, first place, and Joaquin Ekcan, second. The tenth-grade contest ended in a tie for first, and a five-way tie for third place. Tie breaks awarded first place to Ethan Samuelson and second place to Jerek Flora. Jaeryc Eastman won the third-place medal. William Ford, Lydia Clark, Nolan Ma, and Jocelyn Barron each were awarded a "Qualified for State" medal. In the 11th Grade,

David Gordon won first place, as noted above; Caleb Lowrey won second; and Isaac Muldowney won third. Even though all seniors (12th Grade) automatically qualify to play in the State Scholastic Chess Tournament, no less than five seniors played in the East Idaho Regional Scholastic Chess Qualifier Tournament. In addition to William Miller and Delia Groves, who placed second and third in the section, Jacob Jensen won first place for the 12th grade, and tie breaks decided second place belonged to Lane Grose, and third place was earned by Collin Sinkovic.

Madison High School, from Rexburg, Idaho, showed up with no less than ten students who played in the tournament. The top four players' scores from each team are used to decide which school wins the Top School trophy. Madison High School won this trophy by amassing 16 points. There was no award given for other high-scoring teams, but this writer wants to recognize some of them. Peter Clark's home school, Princeton Conservatory, from Twin Falls, Idaho, with four students, gained 11.5 points. John Evans Elementary School, from Burley, Idaho, with five students, scored 10.5 points. Three schools each earned nine points total: Alturas International Academy, located in Idaho Falls, Idaho, with only two students; Pocatello High School, Pocatello, Idaho, with three students; and Franklin Junior High School, Pocatello, Idaho, with three students.



*Jay Simonson (R) presents first place trophy for K-5 grade section to Sophie Ma. Photo credit: Megan Helmes.*



*Jay Simonson (R) presents Hayden Egbert with first place trophy for 6-8 grades. Photo credit: Justin Egbert.*



*Jay Simonson (R) presents Coleman Codd with first place trophy for 9-12 grade section. Photo credit: Jason Flora.*



Co-hosted by Western WA University & WA Chess Federation



# Bellingham Open



April 22, 2023

Western WA University-- Viking Union Building: Room 565  
516 High Street, Bellingham, WA 98225

***Highest finishing WA resident in the Open Section seeded into the 2024 WA State Championship – Premier section.***

**Format:** A 5-round Swiss tournament in two sections: Open and Reserve U1700.

**Entry fee:** \$35 by 4/15, \$40 after. \$20 play-up fee if rated under 1700 and playing in Open section. Free entry for Western students. Maximum of 100 players, please register early to reserve your spot!

**Schedule:** Registration & Check-in: 9-9:45am. Rounds (5): 10am, 11:30am, 1:30pm, 3:00pm, 4:30pm. Closing Ceremony ~ 6pm or asap.

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

**Rating:** NWSRS Rated. Open section also US Chess Rated. Higher of current NWSRS or April 2023 US Chess Regular Rating will be used to determine section, pairings, and prizes.

**Memberships:** US Chess membership required for Open section; no memberships required for Reserve section.

**Prize Fund:** \$1,200 (based on 60 paid entries)

Open: 1<sup>st</sup> \$200 2<sup>nd</sup> \$130 3<sup>rd</sup> \$100, 1<sup>st</sup> U2000/U1800: \$50

Reserve U1700: 1<sup>st</sup> \$120 2<sup>nd</sup> \$100 3<sup>rd</sup> \$80, 1<sup>st</sup> U1600/U1400/U1200/U1000: \$50, 1<sup>st</sup> Unrated: \$50

Special Prizes (per section): Best Upset: \$25, Best Female Player (by TPR): \$25, Best Dressed: \$10.

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

**Registration:** Online at [nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration](http://nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration). **Online registration + payment deadline: Fri, April 21 @ 5pm.** Unpaid players will be removed from the roster after the deadline, and players from the Waitlist will be offered a spot. At-site registration: 9-9:45am. On-site payment available by cash, check made out to "WCF", or Venmo (@WAChess).

**Health/Safety Protocols:** Face masks optional for players and spectators. If interested, please bring your own mask.

**Questions** – Josh Sinanan, WCF President, 206-769-3757, [washingtonchessfederation@gmail.com](mailto:washingtonchessfederation@gmail.com)



# 10th Annual Larry Evans Memorial Open

Apr 7-9 or Apr 8-9, 2023, 3 Day or 2 Day Schedule

US Chess  
150 GPP (Enhanced)

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

**\$17,000!!** (Guaranteed)

F.I.D.E. Rated  
OPEN Section

## NEW LOCATION: CIRCUS CIRCUS RENO

500 N. Sierra Street, Reno, NV 89503 (2 blocks east of the Sands)

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: \$184, (2000-2199) \$250, (1999/below) \$300; GMs and IMs free but must enter by 3/10 or pay late fee at door. Guaranteed Prizes; (1-7 in Open Section plus 1/2 of all other prizes).

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

<b>Section Expert</b>	(2000-2199)	EF: \$184 (2-day EF: \$180)	\$2,000-1,000-500-300-300
<b>Section "A"</b>	(1800-1999)	EF: \$183 (2-day EF: \$180)	\$1,800-900-500-300-300
<b>Section "B"</b>	(1600-1799)	EF: \$182 (2-day EF: \$180)	\$1,700-800-400-300-300
<b>Section "C"</b>	(1400-1599)	EF: \$181 (2-day EF: \$180)	\$1,500-700-400-300-300
<b>Section "D/Under"</b>	(1399-below)	EF: \$170 (2-day EF: \$180)	\$1,000-500-300-200, (1199/below) \$300

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

**Wed. 4/5: 7:00 pm** - GM Sergey Kudrin Clock Simul w/ complete analysis of YOUR Game (Only \$30!-bring clock)

**Thursday 4/6: 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 4/8: 3 - 4:30 pm** - FREE Game/Position Analysis - IM John Donaldson



**Registration: Thursday (4/6) 5 - 8 pm. - Friday (4/7) 9 - 10 am. - Saturday (4/8) 9 - 10 am.**

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

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

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

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

**Room Reservation: Call Circus Circus Reno, 1-800-648-5010, Group Reservation Code: SRWECH3**

**\$98.34 Sun-Thu / \$200.49 Fri-Sat • Reserve by 3/21 • Hotel link: <https://book.passkey.com/go/SRWECH3>**

**For TLA and to confirm receipt of entry see player list at: [www.renochess.org](http://www.renochess.org)**

**ENTRY FORM - 10th Annual Larry Evans Memorial Open - Reno, Nevada - Apr 7-9 OR Apr 8-9, 2023**

Mail to: WEIKEL CHESS LLC, 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

<b>3-Day EF</b>	Free	\$184	\$250	\$300	\$184	\$183	\$182	\$181	\$170	USCF Dues
<b>2-Day EF</b>		\$180	\$180	\$180	\$180	\$180	\$180	\$180	\$180	USCF Dues

**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 March 10, 2023.** Add \$11 after 3/10. Add \$22 on site.

Do not mail after 3/31 or email after 4/4. Make check / m.o. payable to WEIKEL CHESS LLC or provide credit card info and signature. \$5 service charge on credit card entries.  Visa  Master Card  Am.Ex  
 Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_ CVV Code \_\_\_\_\_  
 Credit Card# \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature \_\_\_\_\_

- Check Enclosed
- Charge My Card

**TOTAL FEES:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

# WA State Barber/Rockefeller QUALIFIER TOURNAMENT

Saturday, March 25, 2023

Chinook Middle School

2001 98th Ave NE, Bellevue, WA 98004



## CLASSICAL SECTIONS:

### **K-5 Open (Rockefeller Qualifier) 6-8 Open (Barber Qualifier)**

A 4-round G/75; +5 Swiss. Longer time control for Intermediate to Advanced players. Dual NWSRS and US Chess Rated; US Chess membership required. Rounds: 9am, 12:30pm, 3:30pm, 6:30pm. Awards ceremony ~ 9:45pm.

## RAPID SECTIONS:

**K-1 U800, 2-3 U800, K-3 Open,  
4-8 U900, 4-12 Open:** A 5-round G/25; +5 Swiss. Shorter time control for players of all levels. Rounds: 9am, 10:15am, 11:30am, lunch, 1:00pm, 2:15pm. Awards ceremony ~ 3:30pm.

## ALL SECTIONS:

NWSRS Rated. Open sections are also US Chess Rated, which requires clocks, notation, and US Chess membership. **All equipment is provided.** The U800 and U900 sections don't require clocks or notation, but a clock set for 10 minutes will be placed in the game after 40 minutes of play.

**WA State Elementary  
Qualifier!**

## ELIGIBILITY:

Open to all students in grades K-12 as of the 2022-23 school year. Out-of-state players welcome!

## ENTRY FEE:

\$45 by March 18<sup>th</sup>, \$55 after.  
Room for 200 players.

## AWARDS:

**Section Prizes:** Amazon Gift Cards awarded in each section: 1<sup>st</sup> \$90, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$80, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$70, 4<sup>th</sup> \$60, 5<sup>th</sup> \$50.

**Team Prizes:** Amazon Gift Cards awarded to the top 4 players from the top 5 finishing teams (top 4 scores from same school comprise team score) across all sections: 1<sup>st</sup> \$30, 2<sup>nd</sup> \$25, 3<sup>rd</sup> \$20, 4<sup>th</sup> \$15, 5<sup>th</sup> \$10.

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

## RATING:

Highest of US Chess Regular March supplement, or current NWSRS rating used to determine section and pairings.

## THE DETAILS

**Health/Safety Protocols:** Face masks optional for players and spectators. If interested, please bring your own mask.

### Online Registration:

[NWchess.com/OnlineRegistration/](http://NWchess.com/OnlineRegistration/)  
Pay by Credit/Debit/PayPal.

**100% pre-registered, no on-site entries or payments. Entry + payment deadline Fri., March 24th @ 5pm.** No registrations accepted or refunds offered after the deadline. Unpaid players will be removed from the roster and waitlisted players will be offered a spot.

*Highest finishing WA State resident in the K-5 Open and 6-8 Open section will earn a \$750 travel stipend (donated by the WCF) to become the WA State representative at the Rockefeller (K-5) and Barber (6-8) Tournament of Champions, respectively, held concurrently with the US Open in early August. A tie for first place in the Barber/Rockefeller Qualifier sections will be resolved later in the year by playoffs, to be played within two months from the end of the tournament.*

### Questions?

Contact Josh Sinanan, WCF President at 206.769.3757 or [WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com](mailto:WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com)

# Seattle Chess Club Tournaments

 Address   
 → 7212 Woodlawn Ave NE   
 Seattle WA 98115  
 Info   
[www.seattlechess.club](http://www.seattlechess.club)  
Addresses for Entries  
 SCC Tnmt Dir  
 2420 S 137 St  
 Seattle WA 98168  
 —or—  
[www.seattlechess.club](http://www.seattlechess.club)

  
*Mondays  
are for casual play*

**March 4** **Saturday Quads**  
**Format:** 3-RR, 4-plyr sec. by rtg. **TC:** G/100;+10. **EF:** \$9(+\$7 fee for non-SCC). **Prizes:** Free quad entry. **Reg:** 9-9:45 a.m. **Rds:** 10:00-2:15-6:30. **Misc:** US Chess, WCF; OSA. NS, NC.

**March 5** **SCC Novice**  
**Format:** 4-SS. Open to U1200 and UNR. **TC:** G/60;+15. **EF:** \$20 (-\$2 SCC members). **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.

**March 12** **Sunday Tornado**  
**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.

**April 1** **Saturday Quads**  
**Format:** 3-RR, 4-plyr sec. by rtg. **TC:** G/100;+10. **EF:** \$9(+\$7 fee for non-SCC). **Prizes:** Free quad entry. **Reg:** 9-9:45 a.m. **Rds:** 10:00-2:15-6:30. **Misc:** US Chess, WCF; OSA. NS, NC.

**April 7-9 or 8-9** **SCC Team in Reno!**  
**Join** the SCC Team(s) at the **Larry Evans Memorial**. We will compete against teams from San Francisco, Reno, Sacramento, and elsewhere!

## Note New Dates

# Seattle Spring Open

March 25-26, 2023

A five-round Swiss with a time control of G/100 with a 15-increment. The prize fund of \$500 is based on 24 paid entries, 3 per prize group.

<b>First</b>	<b>\$150</b>	<b>Second</b>	<b>\$100</b>	<b>U1900</b>	<b>\$70</b>
<b>U1700</b>	<b>\$60</b>	<b>U1500</b>	<b>\$50</b>	<b>U1300</b>	<b>\$40</b>
		<b>Unrated</b>	<b>\$30</b>		

**Entry Fees:** \$40 if rec'd by 3/13 (\$28 SCC memb.), \$52 at site (\$38 SCC memb.). **Unrated**—Free with purchase of 1-yr US Chess & 1-yr WCF.

**Registration:** Sat. 9-9:45am. **Rounds:** Sat. 10-2:30-7, Sun. 11-3:30.

**Byes:** 2 (Sunday rounds, commit at registration). **Miscellaneous:** US Chess & WCF membership req'd. No smoking.



