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Greg Markowski (TD). Photo credit: Lilly Tang.

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The three 2023 Idaho State Co-Champions:
L-R: Josh Price, Kaustubh Kodihalli, James Wei,
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Look for coverage of the Washington Championship and the President's Cup in the May issue of *Northwest Chess*.—Editor

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

Site: Orlov Chess Academy: 4174 148th 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.

2023 Oregon Closed

Wilson Gibbins

The 2023 Oregon Closed returned to its usual President's Day weekend spot on the calendar after being held in July for the last two years due to high COVID-19 levels in February. Women's International Master Zoey Tang missed last year's event due to a conflict with the prestigious U.S. Girls Junior Championship, so she made the most of this year's schedule by winning the Championship with an undefeated record of five wins and two draws. The 14-year-old started fast with wins over three-time champion Matt Zavortink, seven-time champion Nick Raptis, five-time champion Carl Haessler and two-time champion Jason Cigan. But Zoey's pace slowed as zero-time champions Wilson Gibbins and Ryan Richardson held her to draws in rounds five and six, allowing Matt to close within a half point going into the last round. Zoey's final round pairing as White against her brother Austin Tang looked more favorable than Matt's as Black against Nick Raptis, though as my older brother Marty put it, "Younger brother...that could be a problem." Zoey was able to secure the necessary last-round win. Matt won from

the black side of a King's Indian to finish clear second with five straight wins after starting with a loss and a draw.

Two-time Oregon Closed Champion Corey Russell won the Challengers section this year and has earned his spot in the 2024 Championship. Corey started slowly with a loss to Oregon Closed Junior co-champion Roshen Nair. Slow starts are an established strategy for winning the Challengers section, as the 2022 co-champions Austin Tang and Ishaan Kodarapu both started with losses last year. Corey gave up only one draw in the next six games to finish with five wins, a loss and a draw. Robert Fisette tied Roshen for second place, both finishing with four wins, one loss, and two draws.

Unlike last year when three out of four final-round games in the Championship section ended in quick draws, this year all last round games ended decisively. Perhaps the bad February 2023 Portland weather brings out the fighting spirit more than the good July 2022 Portland weather. The Challengers section needs no excuses, as their last round had all decisive games in both 2022 and 2023.

Thanks to David Murray for organizing this tournament. Thanks to Mike Morris, Mike Janniro, Greg Markowski and David Murray for directing. Thanks to Greg Markowski and Lilly Tang for taking the wonderful pictures.

On with the games!

Matt Zavortink (2308) – Zoey Tang (2228) [D13]
Oregon Closed Championship
(R1), February 17, 2023
[Zoey Tang]

The first game of the tournament. Luck of the draw had me playing all the tournament favorites in the first few rounds, so I wasn't expecting much. Take it one round at a time!

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6

A weird way to transpose to the Slav Defense which often confuses White.

3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5 exd5

The Exchange Slav. I had mainly prepared for Matt's London system, so I was sadly already out of preparation.

5.Bf4 Nc6 6.e3 Bf5 7.Nf3 a6

This move aims to prevent the annoying pin with Bb5. 7...e6 8.Bb5 Nd7 9.Qa4 Rc8 10.0-0 a6 11.Bxc6 Rxc6 12.Rfc1 Be7= would be the main line.

8.Be2 e6 9.Qb3 Bb4?!

Natural, but not the best. 9...Nh5 Matt told me after the game that this was Black's only move. 10.Qxb7?! Na5 11.Qc7 Nxf4 12.Qxf4 Rb8=. Here Black has compensation.

10.Ne5 Qe7 11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.0-0 0-0 13.Na4 Nd7

A common idea in the Slav; maneuvering the knight to better support c5.

14.Rfc1 Rfc8 15.a3 Bd2 16.Rc5!?

2023 Oregon Closed Championship

| Place | Name | Rating | State | Rd 1 | Rd 2 | Rd 3 | Rd 4 | Rd 5 | Rd 6 | Rd 7 | Total |
|-------|------------------|--------|-------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| 1 | Zoey Tang | 2228 | OR | W2 | W4 | W6 | W7 | D3 | D5 | W8 | 6 |
| 2 | Matt Zavortink | 2308 | OR | L1 | D7 | W3 | W5 | W8 | W6 | W4 | 5.5 |
| 3 | Wilson K Gibbins | 2205 | OR | W5 | W8 | L2 | L4 | D1 | W7 | W6 | 4.5 |
| 4 | Nick Raptis | 2370 | OR | W6 | L1 | D7 | W3 | L5 | W8 | L2 | 3.5 |
| 5 | Ryan Richardson | 2120 | OR | L3 | L6 | D8 | L2 | W4 | D1 | W7 | 3 |
| 6 | Carl A Haessler | 2200 | OR | L4 | W5 | L1 | L8 | W7 | L2 | L3 | 2 |
| 7 | Jason Cigan | 2205 | OR | W8 | D2 | D4 | L1 | L6 | L3 | L5 | 2 |
| 8 | Austin Tang | 1926 | OR | L7 | L3 | D5 | W6 | L2 | L4 | L1 | 1.5 |

An interesting idea; sacrificing the exchange to gain a monster knight.

16...Nxc5?!

This move is not required; technically I can take the rook at any time. 16...f6=, preparing ...e5 and being more patient in general.

17.Nxc5 f6 18.Bxa6 Rd8 19.Bb7 e5?

The computer hates this move. I was very excited about it during the game because I could give some material back to achieve an attack. 19...Ra5 20.Bxc6 Rxc5 21.dxc5 Qxc5 22.Qb5± Black will have to defend this position.

20.Bxa8 exf4 21.e4!

Did not see this. 21.Bxc6?? fxe3 22.Bxd5+ Kh8 23.fxe3 Qxe3+ 24.Qxe3 Bxe3+ 25.Kh1 Bxd4= and Black is satisfied with the position.

21...Bxe4 22.Bxc6 Kh8 23.Qd1 Ba5 24.Nb7 Ra8 25.Qa4 Bxg2

During the game, I knew I was completely losing. I tried to create as much counterplay and chaos as possible, especially since I had a ~30-minute time advantage.



Position after 25...Bxg2

26.Nxa5??

26.Nc5!+- Very difficult to find; White prevents ...Qe4, opens a discovered attack on the rook, and continues to put pressure on both of Black's weak bishops.; 26.Kxg2?? Qe4+ 27.Kg1 Qg6+ 28.Kf1 Qd3+ 29.Kg2 Qe4+ 30.f3 Qe2+ Black will perpetual.

26...Rb8??

I only saved the rook because it was guarding my back rank. I considered 26...Qe4 as well, but rejected it because of 27.Bxa8 Bh3?? (27...Qg6! and Black will perpetual after 28.Bxd5 Bf3+ 29.Kf1 Qd3+ 30.Kg1 Qg6+=) 28.Bxd5!+- and White has back-rank mate ideas.

27.Qc2 Be4 28.Qd2 g5



L-R: Nick Raptis, Wilson Gibbins, Carl Haessler, Jason Cigan, Zoey Tang, Matt Zavortink, Austin Tang, Ryan Richardson. Photo credit: Greg Markowski!

Defending the pawn in the way I thought would create the most chaos.

29.Re1 Qf7 30.b4??

This move guards the pawn, but White's king is now in danger.

30...Qh5

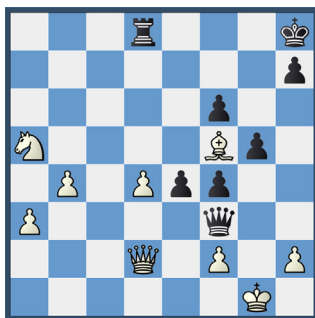
The queen sneaks its way in.

31.Rxe4

Forced, or else Black has ...Qg4+ or ...Qf3.

31...dxe4 32.Bd7 Rd8 33.Bf5 Qf3?

33...Re8!+- supporting ...e3 was a better move order.



Position after 33...Qf3

34.Nc4??

34.Qc1 Again, difficult to find; White threatens Qc7 and prepares to potentially defend with 34...e3 35.fxe3 fxe3 36.Qf1!=

34...e3+-

Tactics!

35.fxe3 fxe3 36.Nxe3 Re8

Now White is forced to lose a minor piece.

37.Bg4 Qxe3+ 38.Qxe3 Rxe3 39.a4 Re4

Luckily, White's pawns are all falling.

40.Bf3 Rxd4 41.b5 Rxa4 42.b6 Rb4 43.b7 Kg7 44.Kf2 f5 45.Ke3 g4 46.Bc6 f4+ 47.Kd3 f3 48.Ke3 Kf6 49.h3 h5 50.hxg4 hxg4 51.Kf2 Rb2+ 52.Kg3 Kg5

After obtaining a slightly worse position out of the opening, Matt played a nice exchange sacrifice that left my pieces lacking in space. In semi-desperation, I started ignoring material and throwing pieces at his king. In the end, one slow move made in time pressure allowed me to turn the tables. All in all, not the most smooth victory I've had!

0-1

Jason Cigan (2205) – Zoey Tang (2228) [D17]
Oregon Closed Championship (R4), February 19, 2023
[Zoey Tang]

Going into the fourth round, I was 3.0/3 against the top seeds of the tournament. Jason was actually my last opponent who had won the Closed before.

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.a4

White aims to prevent ...b5 (which would solidify c4).

5...Bf5 6.Ne5 Nbd7 7.Nxc4 Qc7 8.g3

Preparing Bf4, attacking the queen.

8...e5 9.dxe5 Nxe5 10.Bf4

This pin looks dangerous for Black, but they can reinforce the knight.

10...Rd8?!

10...Nfd7 The main line (me not remembering things) is 11.Bg2 g5 12.Ne3 gxf4 13.Nxf5 0-0-0 with an imbalanced position.

11.Qc1 Bd6 12.Nxd6+ Qxd6 13.Bg2 0-0 14.0-0

With White's bishop pair, Black is slightly worse here.

14...Qe6?!

14...Rfe8 15.Rd1 Qc5±

15.Qe3 Ng6 16.Qxe6

16.Qxa7? Nxf4 17.gxf4 Bh3 Black can attack the king.

16...Bxe6 17.Be3 a5 18.Bg5?

A bit slow; Black's doubled pawns won't matter much.

18...Ne5 19.Ne4 Ned7



Position after 19...Ned7

Looks ugly, but it defends sufficiently.

20.Rfd1 h6 21.Bxf6 Nxf6 22.Nc5 Be8?!

22...Rxd1+ 23.Rxd1 Rb8± is more accurate, guarding the queenside more securely.

23.Kf1?

23.Nb3± My opponent found this on the next move.

23...Rfe8?

23...b6 24.Nd3 c5= solidifying the queenside with an equalish position.

24.Nb3

Oops. Now Black is forced to lose the a5-pawn.

24...Bg4 25.Rxd8 Rxd8 26.Nxa5 Rd2

Black forks the pawns, but White will

always win one more than Black.

27.Nxb7 Bxe2+ 28.Kg1

28.Ke1?! Rxb2 29.Bxc6? Ng4= looks rather risky for White.

28...Rxb2 29.Bxc6 Ng4 30.a5?

A bit rushed. 30.Bh1! Advanced defensive move which makes ...Nxf2 ineffective. 30...Bd3 (30...Nxf2?? 31.Kxf2 Ba6+ 32.Ke3 Bxb7 33.Bxb7 Rxb7 34.a5 Ra7 35.a6+- White's king is faster than Black's.) 31.Nc5 Nxf2 32.Nxd3 Nxd3 33.a5± Black will have to hold this endgame with the knight vs the passed rook pawn (always the hardest).

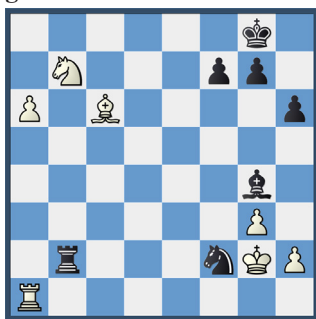
30...Nxf2 31.a6

The most challenging line, forcing Black to find the best sequence. 31.Kxf2?! Bb5+ 32.Ke3 Bxc6=. This endgame is sad for Black, but defensible.

31...Nh3+ 32.Kh1 Nf2+ 33.Kg2

Avoiding perpetual.

33...Bg4



Position after 33...Bg4

34.Bb5??

A brave decision to fight for the win, but White's king is too weak. 34.a7 Nh3+ 35.Kf1 (35.Kh1 Nf2+ 36.Kg1 Nh3+=) 35...Rf2+ 36.Ke1 Re2+ 37.Kf1= (37.Kd1?? Nf2+ 38.Kc1 Nd3+ 39.Kd1 Rxh2+ 40.Bf3 Bxf3#).

34...Nd3!+

This maneuver took me quite a while to find; Black has many tempting options. 34...Nh3+?? 35.Kf1 Rf2+?? 36.Ke1+- Black no longer has ...Re2+, which was the point of Bb5.; 34...Ne4+?? 35.Kg1 Ng5 Same idea as Nd3+, but White has 36.Bc6!= defending.; 34...Nd1+?? 35.Kg1 Bf3 36.Bf1 White defends, and 36...Bxb7 is not possible because of 37.Rxd1+- and the passed pawn is simply too strong.

35.Kg1 Ne5

White has no defense against ...Nf3+ followed by ...Bh3#.

36.Be2 Rxe2 37.a7 Nf3+ 38.Kf1 Nxe2+
Repeating moves to gain time.

39.Kg1 Nf3+ 40.Kf1 Rd2 41.a8Q+ Kh7

...Bh3# is unstoppable. After (again) getting a slightly worse position out of the opening, I managed to equalize and obtain a defensible endgame. After blundering a pawn away, I sought counterplay in attacking the king, and my remaining few pieces managed to work harmoniously to catch the king in a rare mating net. Another topsy-turvy game!

0-1

**Matt Zavortink (2308) –
Wilson Gibbins (2205) [E62]**
Oregon Closed Championship
(R3), February 18, 2023

[Matt Zavortink - Wilson Gibbins]

Notes preceded by "MZ—" are from Matt, notes preceded by "WG—" are from Wilson.

MZ—A typical, humbling Fianchetto King's Indian. After the game finished, I felt like I had done a good job maintaining control and slowly increasing my advantage, leading inevitably to the final tactical breakthrough. However, the computer shows that Black had numerous opportunities to break out and create a chaotic position, so in reality I just had no idea what was going on for the majority of the game!

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.g3 g6

MZ—Not at all what I was expecting, and a sign that Wilson had prepared something for my normal 3.b3 line, so I decided to do something different.

3.Bg2 Bg7 4.0-0 0-0 5.d4 d6 6.c4

WG—Matt smells a rat and plays a line that isn't in his repertoire. 6.b3

MZ—I considered this, though I figured it may transpose to whatever Wilson had prepared against an earlier b3. Black can also meet this move more directly, for example with the traditional response: 6...e5 7.dxe5 dxe5 8.Ba3.

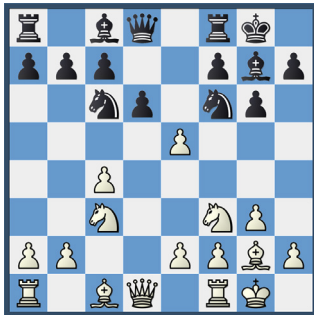
6...Nc6 7.Nc3 e5

MZ—I was somewhat relieved to see this move, as I have also played the black side of these positions.

WG—I didn't have time to prepare a full

King's Indian repertoire, so I memorized three lines from a free Chessable course. I didn't think I would actually reach this position; it was just due diligence. When I told Matt after the game, he laughed and correctly guessed that Plichta was the course author.

8.dxe5



Position after 8.dxe5

WG—After 8.d5 Chessable suggests 8...Nb8 to which Chessbase helpfully appends a ! 9.e4 a5 10.— followed by 10...Na6 looked reasonable to me.

8...Nxe5!?

MZ—I think this is a good move and probably easier to play than ...dxe5 after which White has a large number of tricky options.

WG—As recommended by the Chessable course. At this point it was dawning on me that Avrukh had covered this line in his latest Grandmaster Repertoire book.

9.b3

MZ—Following the old Avrukh recommendation, simply trying to get developed. White's argument is that they have a superior pawn structure: White's plan is to plant a knight on d5, and if it is kicked with ...c6 then Black will have a weak d-pawn. However, Black's pieces are quite active and the one weakness should be manageable.

Now Wilson found what is probably the strongest sequence for Black, though he had to spend a considerable amount of time to do so, as there are a lot of tempting-looking moves to calculate. 9.Nxe5 dxe5 10.Qxd8 Rxd8 11.Bg5

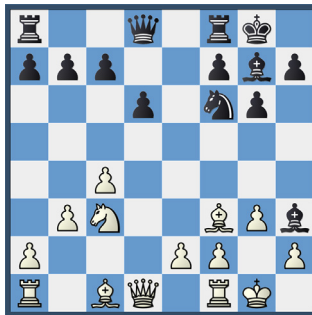
This is White's most popular way to meet 8...Nxe5. Like many King's Indian variations in which White exchanges on e5 and then trades queens. White has a slight initiative, though it's very hard for me to believe that Black isn't totally fine here after a move like ...Rd7, getting out of the pin.

9...Nxf3+

MZ—9...Ne4?? Tempting but very bad because of White's subtlety on move 11: 10.Nxe4 Nxf3+ 11.exf3! Bxa1 12.Bg5 f6 13.Bh6. Because of White's earlier exf3 Black will not be able to maintain the bishop on e5, causing it to get sidelined on the queenside: 13...Bb2 14.Qd2 Ba3 15.Bxf8+.

Now Black's desired move ...Qxf8 would drop a pawn to Qa5, hitting the offside bishop and the c7 pawn.

10.Bxf3 Bh3



Position after 10...Bh3

11.Re1

11.Bxb7 MZ—Not great for several reasons, for example: 11...Rb8 12.Bg2 Bxg2 13.Kxg2 Ne4 14.Nxe4 Bxa1 15.Bg5 Here this idea doesn't regain the material because of 15...Qe8!∞ when the absence of White's light-squared bishop is clearly felt, though White still has decent play for the exchange.

11...c6

WG—I probably took 15–20 minutes on this normal KID move. I had to convince myself that I wasn't losing my d-pawn, as his loose knight on c3 meant I could play ...Qa5 and (either) ...Rd8. I guess I should be pleased with myself as I figured out the main line on my own, but the time I burned cost me in the long run. Reminds me of the Alekhine quote "The fact that a player is very short of time is, to my mind, as little to be considered an excuse as, for instance, the statement of the law-breaker that he was drunk at the time he committed the crime."

MZ—I didn't remember anything past this except that the natural looking move Bb2 allows Black to equalize immediately with ...d5. Avrukh recommends Bg5, which my computer thinks is equal. It instead recommends Bf4, provoking ...Nh5 before retreating to d2. My feeling is that if the position really requires this

level of subtlety then Black is probably doing alright.

12.Rb1?!

MZ—Less active than Bg5 or Bf4 I suppose.

WG—A sign that Matt is also making it up as he goes along. A new move, and maintains equality, but isn't the most testing. He will test me later. Probably a good anti-Wilson strategy, as fatigue and time trouble will affect me before it affects him. 12.Bb2?! d5 13.cxd5 Nxd5

MZ—Black has fixed their structure and is doing well.

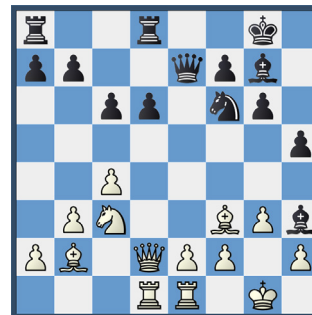
12...Qe7

WG—Not the most active move. Shows that I don't have the true KID spirit, but I no longer have time for thinking things through.

13.Bb2 Rfd8

MZ—The idea of Black's last move. This looks less natural to me than placing the f-rook on e8 though it is solid enough.

14.Qd2 h5!? 15.Rbd1±



Position after 15.Rbd1

MZ—Here I felt like I had a small, stable advantage, but as so often happens in the Fianchetto King's Indian I didn't really know what to do next.

15...Qe6 16.Ba3

16.Bh1!± MZ—A slick Stockfish move, preparing e4 without allowing the simplifying ...Bg4 in response.

16...Rd7 17.Qf4?!

MZ—Now I've actually lost control and given Black an opportunity to break out.

17...Rad8

WG—My brain isn't in the right place to play the KID. I need to be looking for counter-attacking ideas, not trying to hold the defense. You don't have enough space in a KID to hold the defensive line, you need to be planning to lash out given any

opportunity.

MZ—17...d5! 18.cxd5 Nxd5! Trading the knights helps Black, as it allows the g7-bishop to immediately control the square in front of the isolated pawn. 19.Nxd5 cxd5 20.Bc5. White wants to set up a blockade on d4, but Black can prevent it with concrete play: 20...Be5 21.Qe3?! d4. White cannot take the pawn: 22.Bxd4?? Rad8+—

18.Rd3?!

MZ—Once again allowing ...d5 with similar play to the previous note.

18...Ng4



Position after 18...Ng4

19.Bxg4

MZ—It's probably a sign that something has gone wrong that I have to play this move, giving up my fianchettoed bishop. During the game I thought I still had an edge as I can continue with f3 and e4 when my position appears harmonious, however Black should be able to break out at any time. I was planning 19.Ne4 but ultimately decided there was nothing special after 19...Ne5 (19...Bh6?! 20.Bxg4 hxg4 21.Qxh6 Qxe4 22.f3—A strange position where I correctly thought White is probably a bit better. It's unclear how Black will get the h3-bishop into the game without trading queens on h5 and losing the d6-pawn in the process.) I was planning 20.Ng5, but realized it doesn't work: 20...Nxd3 21.Nxe6 Nxf4 22.Nxd8 Nxe2+ 23.Rxe2 Rxd8♠ Black is a pawn up.

19...Bxg4

19...Qxg4 20.Qxg4 Bxg4 21.f3 Be6 22.e4 MZ—During the game I thought maybe I would still have some slight pressure in this position, but in fact it is pleasant for Black, who has a variety of plans, including the simple ...Bxc3 followed by ...d5 leading to a dead equal bishops-of-opposite-color ending.

20.f3?

MZ—20.Ne4 is the only move to maintain equality, according to Stockfish, essentially reaching a better version of the game after ...Bf5 Ng5, as White hasn't spent a tempo on f3.

20...Bh3

MZ—Again missing an opportunity to blow the position open. 20...Bf5! WG—unleashes KID chaos. 21.e4 d5. MZ—Now White must be very careful to not lose on the spot.

21.Ne4 Be5?

MZ—In hindsight this is Black's big mistake. Pushing the queen to a better square and also exposing the bishop to tactics. 21...Bf5! 22.Ng5 Qe7 23.e4 Bh6 24.h4 f6. White barely holds on with some improbable computer tactics: 25.Qe3 Bh3 26.Kh2! fxc5 27.hxc5 Bxc5 28.f4 Bxf4 29.Qxf4 Bg4—a strange position that would be very hard for me to evaluate over the board.

The computer gives Black a small edge which feels completely meaningless in a practical game as both players have extremely weak kings.

22.Qd2



Position after 22.Qd2

22...Bf5?

MZ—Suddenly the game is over. 22...f6, the computer's ridiculous suggestion trapping its own bishop. The idea is to prepare ...Bf5 as in the game without allowing Ng5. 23.Bb2 (23.f4 Bb2 24.Bxb2 Qxe4=. Another weird "equal" position according to the engine.) 23...Bf5 24.Bxe5 Qxe5 25.Rd4 Bxe4 26.Rxe4 Qg5=

23.Ng5!

WG—Now it is over. It seemed like a long game and a full fight at the time, but now I notice we are only on move 23.

23...Qe8 24.e4 Be6 25.f4

MZ—f5 is coming when Black loses a piece due to the pin on the e-file. Wilson

finds the only way to save the piece, but it requires fatally weakening the dark-squares.

25...Bf6 26.f5 Bxg5

26...Qe7 27.Nf3+—

27.Qxg5 Bxf5 28.Bb2

MZ—Black has actually won a pawn but White threatens to invade with Qf6.

28...Qe6 29.Bf6 Re8 30.Rf3

MZ—Winning a piece, since if the bishop moves then the f3-rook will defend the f6-bishop, allowing the decisive Qh6.

30...Kh7 31.Rxf5 Qxf5 32.exf5 Rxe1+ 33.Kf2 Re4 34.h3 d5 35.g4

1–0

**Carl Haessler (2200) –
Matt Zavortink (2308) [C01]**
Oregon Closed Championship (R6),
February 20, 2023
[Matt Zavortink]

This was my only really clinical game of the tournament, so of course I have to include it.

1.c4 e6 2.e4 d5 3.exd5 exd5 4.d4

We've transposed from the English to a variation of the Exchange French in which White plays an early c4. I often see people recommending this line for White to get French players out of their comfort zone, but it's really harmless.

4...Bb4+ 5.Nc3 Nf6 6.h3?!♠

Too slow in such an open position! I thought Black should have a small edge now. 6.Nf3 0-0 7.Be2 dxc4 8.Bxc4 Bg4 9.0-0 Nc6, a typical variation to show why this line is toothless—Black's pieces are just as active as White's so there isn't any compensation for the potential weakness of the IQP.

6...0-0 7.a3?

That's a second slow move. I thought Black may be close to winning.

7...Bxc3+

Retreating shouldn't be considered. With White's king in the center, time is the most important factor, and capturing on c3 requires White to spend a tempo on the non-developing move bxc3.

8.bxc3 c5

Preparing to break the position open even more. I figured I should delay

the more natural ...Re8+ in case White preemptively blocks the e-file, when I may have more useful moves.

9.Be3 Qa5

Again forcing White to play a defensive move that doesn't prepare kingside castling.

10.Qc2 Re8+



Position after 10...Re8

Threatening to take on d4 and win a piece due to the pins. White is busted.

11.Nf3 Nc6

Renewing the threat.

12.Be2

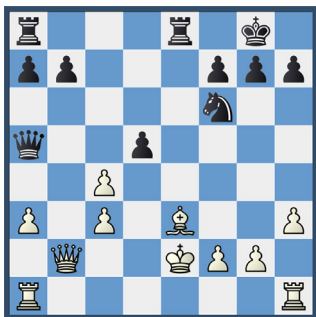
Now White is threatening to castle when he would reach a survivable position. But Black has a final disruptive move:

12...Bf5 13.Qb2

13.Qxf5 Qxc3+ drops the a1-rook; 13.Qd2 walks into 13...Ne4.

13...cxd4 14.Nxd4 Nxd4 15.Bxd4 Bd3 16.Be3 Bxe2 17.Kxe2

As a result of the combination, Black is a pawn up, and White's king is stuck in the middle.



Position after 17.Kxe2

17...Qa4?!

I wanted to stop Re1 and Kf1. Stockfish likes the idea but prefers a different execution with ...Qc7! Of course the simple ...dxc4 was also good.

18.Rhd1 Qxc4+ 19.Kf3

A tad risky.

19...Qe4+ 20.Kg3 Qe5+ 21.Kf3 Ne4

22.Qxb7 Qh5+

0-1

Nick Raptis (2370) –
Matt Zavortink (2308) [E92]
Oregon Closed Championship
(R7), February 20, 2023
[Matt Zavortink]

My last round game. I was half-a-point behind Zoey and thought she might make a quick draw, so I needed to play to win at all costs (I was wrong, and Zoey crushed her own brother to take clear first—congrats!). I figured I would play the King's Indian and accept a slightly worse position to try to keep as much life and dynamic potential in the game as possible.

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.d4 0-0 5.e4

Somewhat surprising as I've never seen Nick play the white side of this position, but he tries to be unpredictable.

5...d6 6.Be2 e5 7.Be3

The Gligorić Variation. Now ...exd4 is the prescribed move if Black wants to equalize, but I wanted to keep things as complex as possible.

7...Ng4

7...exd4 8.Nxd4 Re8 9.f3 is what most sources recommend for Black, since the position of White's bishop on e3 allows Black to immediately break out of the bind with ...c6 followed by ...d5 as was played in some classic Karpov-Kasparov games.

8.Bg5 f6 9.Bh4 Nc6

9...g5 10.Bg3 Nh6 is another line, when both sides have ridiculous-looking dark-squared bishops.

10.d5 Ne7 11.Nd2 f5

Less popular than the alternatives ...Nh6 and ...h5.

12.Bxg4

Nick finds the most testing continuation.

12...fxg4 13.Bg5!

An important move otherwise the white bishop becomes a target of Black's pawn storm after ...h6, ...g5, etc.

13...h6 14.Be3 b6?

Not a good move. I thought I recalled Black moving a pawn on the queenside in this position, but this move isn't it. I



thought since White doesn't have a light-squared bishop I may gain the useful option of ...Ba6, for instance if White continues with b4, c5, and Nc4. But really this is just a simple violation of the rule that Black isn't supposed to touch the queenside pawns in these kinds of positions.

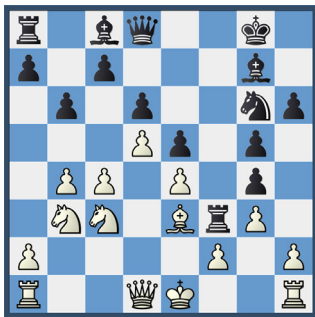
15.b4 g5 16.Nb3

White wants to continue with a4-a5, taking advantage of the hook created by ...b6 without allowing Black to activate the light-squared bishop.

16...Ng6 17.g3

A perfectly logical move, trying to keep the knight out of f4, but maybe a mistake, as ...Nf4 will come anyway. 17.a4 Nf4 18.0-0 I thought White should just castle when I wasn't really sure how Black's kingside attack should proceed. On the other hand, White's next move is a5 and Black must immediately figure out how to defend.

17...Rf3



Position after 17...Rf3

The position now becomes extremely difficult to figure out, as Black is hoping to sacrifice a piece with ...Nf4 soon. My computer likes White and keeps the white pieces positioned to safely decline the sacrifice, which is a bit inhuman as Black will be allowed to go ...Ng2+ and either take on e3 or bring more pieces to the f-file.

18.Qc2?!

I thought this made sense, reinforcing the loose c3-knight and also getting ready to evacuate the king to the queenside, but in fact it makes the sacrifice stronger. 18.a4! Nf4 19.a5!±, the computer suggestion, just getting on with it. Black can't really make anything happen.

18...Ba6?

Missing the chance. And also, not really threatening anything since ...Bxc4 can be

met by Nd2. 18...Nf4! is strong at once: 19.a4 (19.gxf4? gxf4 20.Bd2 Qh4 21.0-0-0 Rxf2-+. Black has taken two pawns for the piece already, and the h2-pawn is next.) 19...Ng2+. In the variation above, with a5 instead of Qc2, White would be able to go Kd2, and on ...Nxf3 fxe3 Rf2+ play Kd3! when the king is quite safe. Now, with the queen on c2, White would have to meet ...Rf2+ with Ne2 instead to avoid losing the queen, so this is a noticeable improvement for Black.

19.a4 Nf4

Now White should definitely decline the sacrifice when the inclusion of a4 and ...Ba6 is in his favor.

20.gxf4?

20.Nd2! Ng2+ 21.Ke2± A very hard position to assess over the board, but the computer says this is the way for White to play. Black will likely re-sacrifice the knight on f4 soon, but White's king will sneak away via d1. The misplaced bishop on a6 will have to waste time retreating to c8.

20...gxf4

Suddenly ...b6 and ...Ba6 look intelligent, as Black will immediately capture on c4 if the e3-bishop moves.

21.Nd2 Rh3

Simply moving away, as the e3-bishop is trapped.

22.Nf1

A good practical try.

22...Bxc4

Keeping the momentum seemed better than regaining the material. Here White has two moves to stay in the game, at least practically speaking. 22...fxe3 23.Nxe3 Black has won a pawn, but this didn't look so clear to me, as White can castle long and the e3-knight may eventually be able to come to f5.

23.Bd2

23.Ne2! White keeps the dream of getting the f1-knight to e3 or g3 alive. I don't think either of us considered this move. 23...Bxe2 24.Qxe2 fxe3 25.fxe3! Black is better, but it's far from simple.; 23.Ng3! Also quite logical but a difficult move to consider over the board.

23...Bd3-+

I didn't realize it at the time but now the game is over—White's pieces are too discombobulated.

24.Qa2 Qh4 25.Rg1

25.0-0-0 is what White would like to play, but sadly after 25...Qxf2 there is no way to avoid losing material, as ...Qg2 next would trap the h1-rook. 26.Be1 Qf3 Black threatens ...Qxh1 and ...Bxf1.

25...Rf3 26.Nd1 Rf8 27.Rc1 g3 28.hxg3 fxf3 29.Rxg3

29.Nxg3 Rxg3 30.fxg3 Qxg3+ 31.Rxg3 Rf1#

29...Qh1

0-1

**Corey Russell (2217) –
Roshen Nair (2081) [D11]**
Oregon Closed Challengers
(R1), February 17, 2023
[Corey Russell]

All annotations from all seven of my games presented here are Fritz 16, unless denoted by my initials (-cjr).

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.c4 c6 4.g3 Bf5 5.Nc3 e6 6.Bg2 h6 7.Qb3 Qb6 8.c5 Qxb3 9.axb3 Na6 10.Ra4 Bc2 11.Ne5 Nd7 12.Kd2

12.Nxd7 ♣ Kxd7 13.Bf4

12...Bxb3 ♣

Threatens to win with ...Nd7xe5.

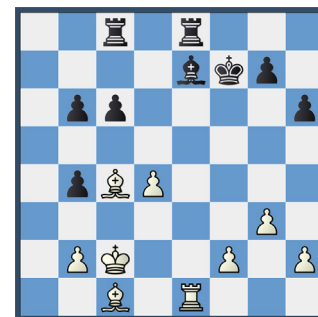
13.Ra3

And now Ne5xd7 would win.

13...Nxe5 14.Rxb3 Nc4+ 15.Kc2 b6 16.e4 bxc5 17.exd5 Nb4+

17...exd5?! 18.Nxd5 cxd4 19.Nf4=

18.Rxb4 cxb4 19.dxe6 Rc8! 20.exf7+ Kxf7 21.Na4 Be7 22.Re1 Rhe8 23.Bf1 Nb6 24.Nxb6 axb6 25.Bc4+



Position after 25.Bc4+

25...Kf8! 26.Bf4 Rcd8 27.Be5

27.Re6 ♣

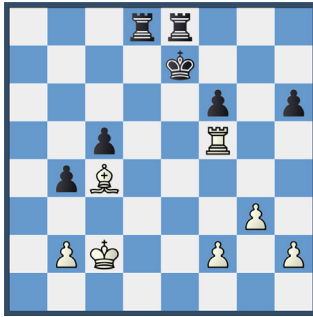
27...Bf6 28.Re3 c5 29.Rf3 Ke7

Reject 29...cxd4 30.Bxf6 gxf6 31.Rxf6+ Kg7 32.Rxb6=

30.Bxf6+ gxf6 31.dxc5 bxc5

Endgame KRR-KRB

32.Rf5



Position after 32.Rf5

32...Rd4! 33.Kb3 Rd2 34.Rxc5 Rxf2 35.Rh5 Rh8 36.Bd5

36.Kxb4 was necessary. 36...Rb8+ 37.Kc5

36...f5+ 37.Kxb4 Rxb2+ 38.Kc3 Rf2 39.Kd3 Kf6 40.Ke3 Rb2 41.h3

41.Bc4

41...Rb5 42.Bf3 Re8+ 43.Kd4 Rb3 44.Rxh6+?

44.Bd5 Rxc3 45.Rxh6+ Kg7 46.Rh5

44...Kg7 45.Bd5 Rb4+ 46.Kc5 Kxh6 47.Kxb4

KR-KB

47...Re3 48.Kc4 Rxc3 49.Be6 Kg5

49...Kg6 50.Kc5 Rxh3 51.Kd4 Ra3 52.Bxf5+ Kxf5 53.Kc5 Rd3 54.Kc4 Ke4 55.Kc5 Rd8 56.Kc4 Rc8+ 57.Kb5 Kd4 58.Kb6 Rc5 59.Kb7 Kc4 60.Kb6 Kb4 61.Ka7 Ka5 62.Kb7 Kb5 63.Ka8 Ka6 64.Kb8 Kb6 65.Ka8 Rc8#

50.h4+ Kf6 51.Bd5 Rg4+ 52.Kd3 Rxh4 53.Ke3 Ke5 54.Bg2 Ra4 55.Bc6 Ra3+ 56.Kf2 Kf4 57.Bd5 Rc3 58.Ke2 Rc2+ 59.Kd3 Rc5 60.Bb7 Kg3 61.Kd4

The precision says it all—my opponent was 82% precise and I was only 31%. I am not going to survive that. Qb3 in the opening is apparently not a good idea. Back to the drawing board on that one... -cjr

61...Rc7

Precision: White = 31%, Black = 82%.

0-1

**Robert Fiset (2217) –
Corey Russell (2089) [C60]**
Oregon Closed Challengers
(R2), February 18, 2023
[Corey Russell]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nge7

This is the Cozio defence. -cjr

4.Nc3 g6 5.d4 Bg7 6.Be3 exd4 7.Nxd4 0-0 8.Nxc6 Nxc6

8...bxc6 might be stronger. 9.Ba4 Ba6

9.Qd2= Re8

White has an edge.

10.0-0-0 d6 11.h4 Bd7

11...Qf6±

12.h5 gxh5

12...Qf6

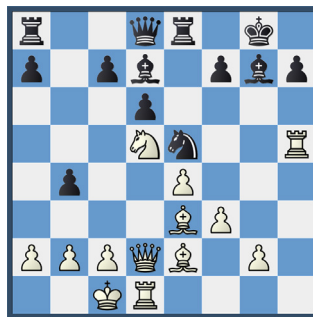
13.f3 Ne5

13...Re5

14.Be2± b5

14...h4±

15.Rxh5+- b4 16.Nd5



Position after 16.Nd5

Hoping for Be3–h6.

16...c6

16...Be6± is a better defense. 17.Bh6 (17.Qxb4 Rb8+) 17...Bh8

17.Bg5

17.Qxb4 cxd5 18.Rxd5 Re6♣; 17.Nxb4+- a5 18.Na6 (18.Qxd6 axb4 19.Rxe5 Bxe5=)

17...f6± 18.Bh6 Bxh6

18...cxd5± was worth a try. 19.Bxg7 Qe7

19.Qxh6+- cxd5 20.Qxh7+ Kf8 21.Qh8+

Less strong is 21.Rxd5 Qe7±

21...Ke7 22.Qg7+→

White is out for blood. 22.Rh7+!+- Nf7 23.Qg7

22...Nf7±

And now ...Re8–g8 would win.

23.Rh6?

Stronger than 23.Rhx5 Rg8♣; 23.Rh7!± is the one way to stay ahead. 23...Be6 24.exd5 (24.Rh6 Rg8=)

23...Rg8♣ 24.Qxf6+ Kf8

Better is 24...Ke8 25.Qxd8+ Rxd8.

25.Rxd5

25.g4♣ keeps fighting.

25...Qxf6+ 26.Rxf6 Ke8

Not 26...Rxc2 27.Bc4=.

27.Rf4

27.Rxf7+ Kxf7 28.g4

27...Rxc2 28.Kd2?

28.Rd2 was necessary. 28...Rg1+ 29.Rd1

28...Ne5 29.Rh4?

29.Ke3 Ng6 30.Bd3

29...Nxf3+

Precision: White = 46%, Black = 35%.

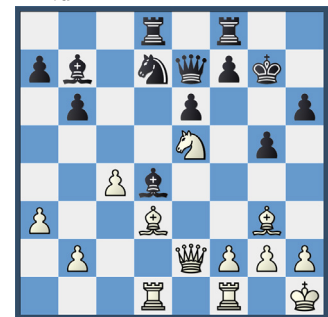
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**Corey Russell (2217) –
Ishaan Kodarapu (1963) [D05]**
Oregon Closed Challengers
(R3), February 18, 2023
[Corey Russell]

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.e3

This shows White's intention to play the Colle system. -cjr

3...e6 4.Bd3 Bd6 5.Nbd2 0-0 6.0-0 Nbd7 7.e4 dxe4 8.Nxe4 Nxe4 9.Bxe4 Nf6 10. Bd3 b6 11.c4 Bb7 12.Bg5 h6 13.Bh4 c5 14.dxc5 Bxc5 15.Qe2 Qe7 16.Ne5 g5 17.Bg3 Rad8 18.a3 Bd4 19.Rad1 Kg7 20.Kh1 Nd7



Position after 20...Nd7

21.Nxd7

Better is 21.Ng4!±.

21...Rxd7= 22.Bb1 Rfd8 23.Rd3 e5

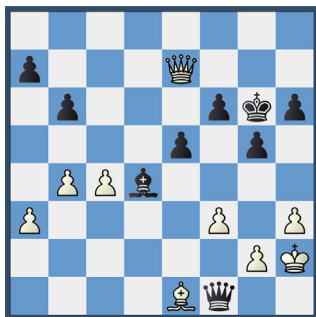
24.f3 f6 25.Rdd1 Bc5 26.b4

26.Qc2 is more complex. 26...Kf8
27.Rxd7 Rxd7 28.b4 Bd4 29.Rd1

26...Rxd1 27.Rxd1

The position is equal.

27...Rxd1+ 28.Qxd1 Bd4 29.Qd3 Kf8
30.Qg6 Qg7 31.Qf5 Ke7 32.Be4 Bxe4
33.Qxe4 Qf7 34.Qb7+ Kf8 35.Qc6 Kg7
36.h3 Qg6 37.Be1 Qd3 38.Kh2 Qf1
39.Qd7+ Kg6 40.Qe8+ Kg7 41.Qe7+
Kg6



Position after 41...Kg6

(→...Bd4-g1+)

42.Qe8+ Kg7 43.Qe7+

Precision: White = 60%, Black = 47%.

½-½

**Jaden Marx (1822) –
Corey Russell (2217) [C41]**
Oregon Closed Challengers
(R4), February 19, 2023
[Corey Russell]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 Nd7 4.Bc4 c6 5.0-0
Be7 6.Re1 Ngf6 7.c3 b5

I didn't want White to make a battery on
the a2-g8 diagonal with Qb3. -cjr

8.Bd3

White has an edge.

8...0-0 9.Nbd2 Bb7 10.Nf1 a6 11.Ng3
Re8 12.Nf5 Bf8 13.h4 exd4 14.cxd4 c5
15.Bf4

15.d5= remains equal.

15...c4f 16.Bc2 Nxe4 17.Bxe4 Bxe4
18.Nxd6 Bxd6 19.Bxd6 Qf6 20.Ne5?

20.Bb4f

20...Qxd6+ 21.Rxe4 f6

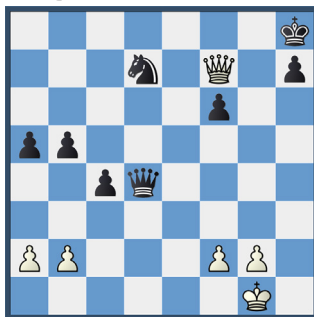
Weaker is 21...Nxe5 22.Qe2f

22.Nf7 Qd5 23.Rxe8+

23.Nh6+ gxh6 24.Qg4+ Kf7 25.Rae1

23...Rxe8 24.Nh6+ gxh6 25.Qg4+ Kh8

26.Qf4 h5 27.Rc1 Re4 28.Qh6 Rxh4
29.Re1 Re4 30.Rxe4 Qxe4 31.Qxh5
Qxd4 32.Qf7 a5



Position after 32...a5

Aiming for ...b5-b4.

33.Qe8+

33.a3

33...Kg7

And now ...b5-b4 would win.

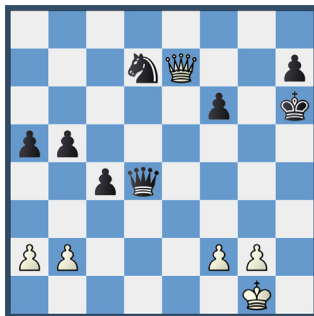
34.Qe7+ Kg8 35.Qe8+

I had wanted to play ...Nf8 but realized it
would lose the b-pawn. So, need to run to
the h-file instead. -cjr

35...Kg7

White must now prevent ...b5-b4.

36.Qe7+ Kh6



Position after 36...Kh6

Strongly threatening ...b5-b4. Black is
clearly winning.

37.Qe6 b4 38.Qh3+ Kg6 39.g4 Ne5
40.Qh5+ Kg7 41.g5 Qg4+

Precision: White = 22%, Black = 83%.

0-1

**Corey Russell (2217) –
David Murray (1905) [B29]**
Oregon Closed Challengers
(R5), February 19, 2023
[Corey Russell]

1.c3 d5 2.d3 Nf6 3.Nf3 c5 4.Nbd2 Nc6

5.e4 e5

White is basically playing an Old Indian
but as White. This does make Black better
though. This was played mostly to put
David and me on equal playing field—I
don't have to worry about opening theory
being my downfall. -cjr

6.Be2 Be7 7.0-0 0-0 8.exd5 Nxd5 9.Nc4
Qc7

Black is slightly better.

10.a4 Be6 11.Ng5 Bxg5 12.Bxg5 f6
13.Bd2 Rad8 14.Qc2 a6 15.a5 Rd7
16.Rfd1 f5 17.Qa4 Rfd8 18.Qa3

Better is 18.Bf1=.

18...Nce7

18...Ndb4!f 19.Bg5 (19.cxb4 Bxc4 20.Bf1
cxb4f) 19...Bxc4 20.dxc4 Nc2 21.Bxd8
Qxd8 22.Qxc5 Nxa1 23.Rxa1 Rd2

19.Rac1 Nf4

Black should try 19...Ng6= 20.Qa4 Ndf4
21.Bxf4 Nxf4.

20.Bxf4!± Bxc4 21.Bg5 Bb5

You might wonder why David didn't take
my d-pawn—it's poison! E.g., 21...Bxd3
22.Bxe7 Bxe2 23.Bxd8 (hitting the black
queen) ...Qxd8 24.Rxd7 Qxd7 25.Qxc5,
and White is clearly winning. -cjr

22.c4 Bc6 23.Qxc5 f4 24.Bg4↑

White is really pushing.

24...Rd6?

24...Ba4± was called for. 25.Be6+ Kh8
26.Bxe7 Rxe7 27.Qxc7 Rxc7

25.Qxe5+- Ng6 26.Bxd8 Qxd8 27.Qc5
f3?

27...Nh4 28.Re1 Rg6 29.Be6+ Kh8

28.g3 Qf6 29.d4 Nf4

29...Nf8 30.d5 Bd7 31.Bxd7 Rxd7

30.gxf4 Qxf4 31.Qf5 Qh6 32.d5 Bd7
33.Qxd7 Rxd7 34.Bxd7 Qg5+ 35.Kf1

And now Bd7-h3 would win.

35...Qg2+ 36.Ke1 Qg1+ 37.Kd2 Qxf2+
38.Kc3 Qc3+ 39.Kc2

d5-d6 is the strong threat.

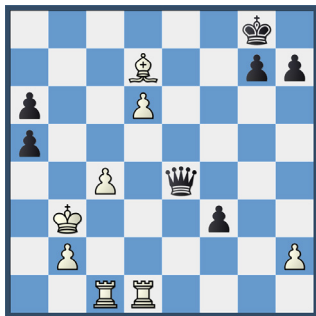
39...Qe4+ 40.Kb3 b6?

40...f2 41.d6 g6

41.d6

Hoping for Bd7-e6+! White is clearly
winning.

41...bxa5



Position after 41...bxa5

42.Bf5!

The idea is my bishop gets out of the way of my d-pawn with tempo. -cjr

42...Qb7+

42...a4+ 43.Ka2 Qe8; 42...Qxf5 43.d7

43.Ka2

Precision: White = 52%, Black = 36%.

1-0

Michael Swearingin (2017) –
Corey Russell (2217) [A36]
Oregon Closed Challengers (R6),
February 20, 2023
[Corey Russell]

1.e4 d6 2.g3!

I am giving this move an “!” because whatever opening preparation I might have had, Michael here is taking me out of it. Considering he got an advantage out of the opening, he made a good strategic choice. -cjr

2...Nf6 3.Bg2 g6 4.Ne2 Bg7 5.0-0 0-0
6.c4 c5 7.h3 Nc6 8.Nbc3 Ne8

Thus begins the setup for the Donaldson system. Nick doesn’t believe in this system, though I’m at a loss at what Black should do instead. -cjr

9.d3 Nc7 10.Be3 Ne6 11.Rb1 Ned4 12.a3
Rb8 13.b4

The position is equal.

13...e5 14.Nd5 h6

14...b6 keeps more tension. 15.b5 Nxe2+
16.Qxe2 Nd4 17.Bxd4 exd4 18.h4 Re8

15.bxc5 dxc5 16.Nxd4 Nxd4 17.Bxd4

17.Qa4 is interesting. 17...a6 18.Rb6 Bd7
19.Qa5 Nb3 20.Qe1

17...exd4 18.f4 Bd7 19.Qd2 Kh7 20.Kh2
b6 21.Qc2 h5 22.Rb2 f5 23.e5 h4
24.gxh4 Qxh4 25.Qf2 Qxf2 26.Rbxf2 g5

26...b5=

27.Nf6+?

27.Re2± stays on course.

27...Bxf6 28.exf6 gxf4 29.Re2

Aiming for Re2–e7+.

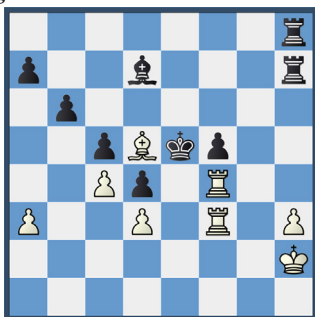
29...Kg6 30.f7 Rxf7 31.Bd5 Rh7!

32.Rg2+

32.Rxf4 Kf6 33.h4

32...Kf6-+ 33.Rxf4 Rbh8 34.Rg3 Ke5

35.Rgf3?



Position after 35.Rgf3

35.Rff3 was called for.

35...Rxb3+!

Black is clearly winning.

36.Kg1

36.Rxb3 Rxb3+

36...Rh1+ 37.Kf2 Ra1 38.Be4 Ra2+
39.Kg1 fxe4 40.Rxe4+ Kd6 41.Rf6+
Kc7 42.Re7 Re8

Precision: White = 43%, Black = 55%.

0-1

Eric Erard (1964) –
Corey Russell (2217) [A00]
Oregon Closed Challengers (R7),
February 20, 2023
[Corey Russell]

1.b4 e5 2.a3 d5 3.Bb2 Bd6 4.e3 Nf6 5.c4
dxc4 6.Bxc4 0-0

6...Nbd7 keeps more tension. 7.d3 c6
8.Nf3 b5 9.Bb3 a5

7.Nf3 Nc6

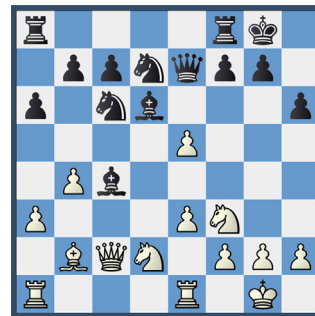
7...e4. 8.Nd4 a5

8.d3=

The position is equal.

8...Qe7 9.Nbd2 Be6 10.Qc2 a6 11.0-0 h6
12.Rfe1 Nd7 13.d4 Bxc4! 14.dxe5

[Diagram top of next column]



Position after 14.dxe5

14.Qxc4= remains equal. 14...exd4
15.exd4

14...Ndxе5

Better is 14...Bxb4! 15.axb4 Bb5.

15.Nxe5 Bxe5 16.Nxc4 Bxb2 17.Qxb2

A careless capture. Instead 17.Nxb2 and
White seems fine to me. By taking with
the queen, this gives me a vital tempo. -cjr

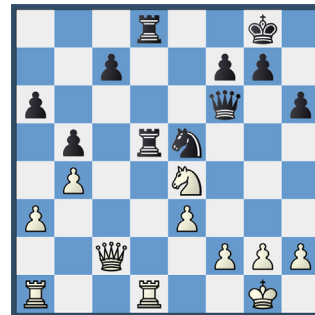
17...b5 18.Nd2 Ne5

Black wants to play ...Ne5–d3.

19.Qc2 Rad8 20.Red1 Rd5 21.Ne4 Rfd8
22.Nc5 Qf6

And now ...Ne5–g4 would win.

23.Ne4



Position after 23.Ne4

23.e4= R5d6 24.Nb7 Rxd1+ 25.Rxd1
Rxd1+ 26.Qxd1

23...Qg6! 7

Strongly threatening ...Rd5xd1+.

24.Kh1?

My opponent resigned here as he almost
immediately saw that now he will lose to
...Qxe4! -cjr

Precision: White = 26%, Black = 41%.

24.Rxd5 7 is a better chance. 24...Rxd5
25.h3

0-1



2023 Oregon Closed Challengers

| Place | Name | Rating | State | Rd 1 | Rd 2 | Rd 3 | Rd 4 | Rd 5 | Rd 6 | Rd 7 | Total |
|-------|----------------------|--------|-------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| 1 | Corey John Russell | 2217 | OR | L3 | W2 | D5 | W7 | W6 | W4 | W8 | 5.5 |
| 2 | Robert Fisette | 2089 | OR | W6 | L1 | W8 | W3 | D4 | D5 | W7 | 5 |
| 3 | Roshen Sanjay Nair | 2081 | OR | W1 | W8 | D4 | L2 | D5 | W7 | W6 | 5 |
| 4 | Michael Swearingin | 2017 | OR | W8 | D7 | D3 | D6 | D2 | L1 | W5 | 4 |
| 5 | Ishaan Kodarapu | 1963 | OR | D7 | W6 | D1 | D8 | D3 | D2 | L4 | 3.5 |
| 6 | David Edward Murray | 1905 | OR | L2 | L5 | W7 | D4 | L1 | W8 | L3 | 2.5 |
| 7 | Jaden Andrew Marx | 1822 | OR | D5 | D4 | L6 | L1 | W8 | L3 | L2 | 2 |
| 8 | Eric Christian Erard | 1964 | OR | L4 | L3 | L2 | D5 | L7 | L6 | L1 | 0.5 |

Eastside Open

Josh Sinanan

The Issaquah Highlands Chess Club (IHCC) and Washington Chess Federation (WCF) co-hosted the 2023 Eastside Open on February 25-26 at the beautiful Blakely Hall in heart of the Issaquah Highlands. The last Eastside Open was held in 1994 in Kirkland with about 20 players under the direction of Ollie La Freniere. Chess players from throughout the Pacific Northwest were represented in the 70-player field, from cities including Sammamish, Issaquah, Olympia, Bothell, Tacoma, Seattle, Redmond, Bellevue, Kirkland, Snoqualmie, North Bend, Brier, Snohomish, Kent, Mercer Island, Portland (OR), Renton, Duvall, Zillah, Woodinville, Newcastle, Sea-tac, Yarrow Point, Auburn, Carnation, and Kenmore. The tournament was directed by WCF Scholastic Director Rekha Sagar with assistance from IHCC Co-Founders Chad Fondren and Dan Kaseumsouk, and WCF President Josh Sinanan.

IM Eric Tangborn was on-site throughout the tournament to review and analyze games with the players and award several of the chess books that he has authored via a raffle drawing. Photographer extraordinaire Meiling Cheng chronicled the festivities with many fantastic photos captured throughout the weekend. The tournament field was split between two sections, with 30 players in the Open and 39 in the Reserve U1500. Those who stuck around until the end celebrated the chess-filled weekend with a fun blitz tournament!

Duane Kanz of Sammamish, a Class A IHCC regular and chess puzzle wizard, emerged victorious in the Open section with an undefeated 4.5 points from five games. Along the way, Kanz won key games against his nearest rivals Reutter and Gavrysh in rounds three and four, respectively, and allowed only a single draw against Michael Hosford in the final round. A pair of Chess Kings, Leonid Gavrysh of Brier and Brent Baxter of Olympia, shared second/third place

honors, each with four points from five games. Popular chess coach Michael Hosford of Olympia and Woodinville wunderkind Kai Pisan split U2000 honors, each with 3.5 points. Aaron Ren, a third grader from Enatai Elementary School in Bellevue, won the U1800 prize also with 3.5 points and scored the biggest upset win in round two (273 pts.). Gaurav Ghosh from Bellevue and Matt Inouye from Sammamish shared the U1600 prize with three points apiece. The Best Female Player prize was awarded to Miranda Meng, who achieved a tournament performance rating (TPR) of 1465. The two Best Dressed Players in the Open section, as judged by the Eastside Open organizers, were Gabriel Razmov of Seattle and Robert Hyslop of Kent. Kyle Boddy graciously offered the use of his fancy DGT board on board one of the Open section in rounds two-five.

Abhinav Mishra of Redmond and Andra Marinescu of Renton topped the Reserve U1500 section, each with an

undefeated score of 4.5 points from five games. Mishra recovered well from a second-round draw against the solid Emily Huang and won his final three games in a row. Marinescu was the lucky recipient of a first-round forfeit win and took a last-round half-point bye, so ended up only playing three actual tournament games. Two players tied for third/U1400 with four points apiece: Phil Long of Portland and Mike Tie of Sammamish. Issaquah Highlands resident Michelle Williamson, who lives close enough to walk to IHCC, and James McCaffrey of Issaquah, who lives a bit further away from the tournament venue, shared U1200 honors, each with a three-point score. Anay Agrawal from Sammamish captured the U1000 prize with three points, all scored in the final three rounds after a slow start. Newcomer Adam Kozyra of Bothell earned the Unrated prize with an impressive 3.5 points. The biggest upset victory (719 points) was achieved by Alex Ye from Sammamish and Emily Huang won the Best Female Player prize with a TPR of 1334. The classiest, best dressed players of the Reserve section were Lance Gann and Anay Agrawal, each of whom received a modest stipend for their efforts.

Immediately following the last round, a 21-player, seven-round, unrated blitz tournament took place to round out the evening's festivities. Chess equipment, including boards, sets, and clocks sponsored by WCF, was awarded to the



*Josh Sinanan and Eric Tangborn deliver the opening remarks shortly before the first round of the Eastside Open.
Photo Credit: Meiling Cheng.*

top finishers. Congratulations to Duane Kanz for winning the blitz tournament with an undefeated 5.5 points from seven games and taking the double-crown! Tying for second place with five points each were Leonid Gavrysh, Michael Hosford, and Ani Barua.

Congratulations to the winners, and many thanks to all who contributed to this fantastic event! We look forward to hosting more events at this amazing venue in the future!



*The skittles area at the Eastside Open.
Photo Credit: Meiling Cheng.*



*Lance Gann, looking classy at the Eastside Open.
Photo Credit: Meiling Cheng.*



*Chad Fondren (L) vs Valentin Razmov and other top boards during the Eastside Open Blitz.
Photo Credit: Meiling Cheng.*



*On and off snow flurries were a common sight.
Photo Credit: Meiling Cheng.*



*(L) Daniel Polonsky vs Selina Cheng at the Eastside Open Blitz.
Photo Credit: Meiling-Cheng.*



*A chess mom and her daughter enjoy a casual game at the Eastside Open.
Photo Credit: Meiling Cheng.*

10th Annual Larry Evans Memorial Open

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

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

| | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|---|
| Section Expert | (2000-2199) | EF: \$184 (2-day EF: \$180) | \$2,000-1,000-500-300-300 |
| Section "A" | (1800-1999) | EF: \$183 (2-day EF: \$180) | \$1,800-900-500-300-300 |
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| Section "C" | (1400-1599) | EF: \$181 (2-day EF: \$180) | \$1,500-700-400-300-300 |
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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,

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For TLA and to confirm receipt of entry see player list at: 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 -----

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|-----------------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----------|
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| 2-Day EF | | \$180 | \$180 | \$180 | \$180 | \$180 | \$180 | \$180 | \$180 | USCF Dues |

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- \$20 Thu. Simul GM Sevillano
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2023 Idaho Closed State Championship

Adam Porth and Jeffrey Roland

The 2023 Idaho Closed State Championship (the 77th annual event) was held at the Riverside Inn in Boise, Idaho on February 18-20. At 54 players, this was easily the all-time record for most players playing in the state championship, which has been held each year since 1947. Adam Porth was Chief TD, with Desmond Porth and Jeff Roland as assistants.

Last year's Idaho State Champion Kaustubh Kodihalli repeats as a champion and brings his two friends along to share the 2023 State Championship. James Wei, Kaustubh Kodihalli, and Josh Price are Co-Champions. Congratulations!

Other prizes:

Expert NM Larry Parsons

Class A Caleb Kircher

Class B 1st place – Lloyd Landon;
2nd place – Michael Presutti

Class C 1st place – Brian Lange;
2nd place – Tom Booth

Class D 1st place – Jamie Lang;
2nd place – Andrew Beck

Class E 1st place – Candice Liang;
2nd place – Luke Wei

UNR Martin Hernandez

Annual Business Meeting

By Jeffrey Roland

On February 19 from 3:00 PM to 4:03 PM, the annual business meeting was held. It ended almost a full hour ahead of schedule due to the enthusiastic support and participation of the people in the meeting. The minutes are shown on the Idaho Chess Association website, but the highlight of the meeting, which surprised everyone, turned out to be the elections! Here is an excerpt of that portion from the minutes:

Elections

Motion 2023-3 (Jay Simonson):
Announce candidates for 2023-2025
Officers (President: Adam Porth, Vice
President: Jeff Roland, Secretary:
Desmond Porth, Treasurer: None)

2nd (Desmond Porth)

Motion passes unanimously.

Motion 2023-3a (Jay Simonson)
Motion to accept slate as slates without
secret ballots.

2nd (Michael Presutti)

Motion passes unanimously.

Motion 2023b (Zachary
Semancik) Make Eric Hon Treasurer
of the ICA.

2nd (Jay Simonson)

Motion passes unanimously.

Staff:

- Membership Coordinator -
Kyra Schoenwald stepped up to work
with the ICA!

- Scholastic & Education
Coordinator - Tilly Backstrom and
Zachary Semancik stepped up to Co-
coordinate!

- Women's Coordinator - Kyra
Dorman enthusiastically volunteered!

Thank you for helping make the
ICA a premier organization.

Motions from the Floor:

Adjournment:

Motion 2023-4 (Jay Simonson)
Move to adjourn. @ 4:03 pm

2nd (Zachary Semancik)

While minutes or elections are
not generally what one would consider
exciting, what was exciting was the way
so many people stepped up to the plate

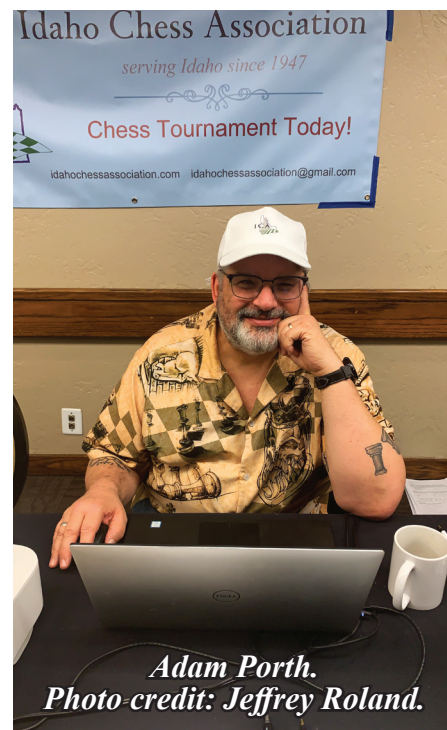
to join in, be part of the running of the
ICA, and fill some vacancies that nobody
expected to fill at this meeting!

So in addition to the re-elected
officers of President Adam Porth, Vice
President Jeff Roland, and Secretary
Desmond Porth, we also elected a
Treasurer, Eric Hon, who stepped up to
the plate and wanted to do this!

That "surprise" set the tone for others
to get involved. We needed a Membership
Coordinator—Kyra Schoenwald stepped
up for that. We needed a Scholastic &
Education Coordinator and two people
stepped up to do that (they will both serve
jointly)—Tilly Backstrom and Zachary
Semancik.

We needed a Women's Coordinator
and Kyra Dorman wanted to do that.
So instead of three officers (with the
President doing almost everything), we
ended up with a full-slate of officers and
coordinators that can share the load and
provide some much needed relief to our
hard-working president!

In all the years I have served on the
ICA and meetings I have attended since
1981, this was, in my opinion, the most
positive and productive meeting I can
ever remember. Adam seemed to look
about 10-15 years younger at the end of
this meeting!



Kaustubh Kodihalli (2035) – Larry R. Parsons (2000) [B76]
 Idaho Closed (R5), February 20, 2023
[Kaustubh Kodihalli]

1.e4 c5

I had a feeling we would go into this, and I was ready for a tough battle with a respectable opponent.

2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6

I was shocked to see this, but I didn't think much of it.

6.f3 Bg7 7.Be3 Ne6 8.Qd2 0-0 9.0-0-0 d5 10.exd5 Nxd5 11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.Bd4



Position after 12.Bd4

I was expecting ...e5, and I thought he might try for a win but...

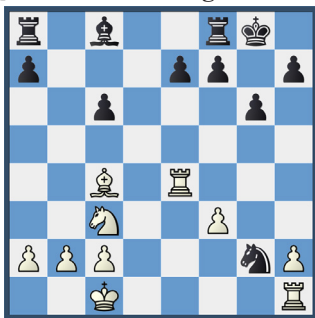
12...Bxd4

He took my bishop and offered me a draw. Larry is a 19-time Idaho State Champion. I thought he might try to win, but never offer me a draw. I thought about this for a minute and decided to play for the win.

13.Qxd4 Qb6 14.Bc4 Ne3 15.Rd2

He probably should have played (15...Nxc4 16.Qxc4 Be6). The position is equal afterwards. 15...Qxd4 is bad because although he wins a pawn in the following continuation, White gets really active rooks and that proves decisive in the game.

15...Qxd4? 16.Rxd4 Nxc2 17.Re4!



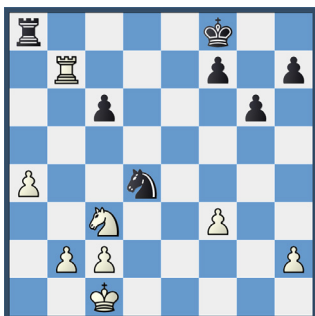
Position after 17.Re4

This is the problem of Black's position. The knight is trapped, and he is forced to give up his pawn.

17...Bf5 18.Rxe7 Nf4 19.Rd1 Be6 20.Bxe6 Nxe6 21.Rdd7

The rooks are now on the seventh rank, and Black's position is slipping.

21...Rae8 22.Rxa7 Rxe7 23.Rxe7 Ra8 24.a4 Kf8 25.Rb7 Nd4



Position after 25...Nd4

In this position, I was calculating many variations with sacrificing my f- and h-pawns to get his c-pawn, and then it would be a race. I then realized I don't have to give up both my pawns.

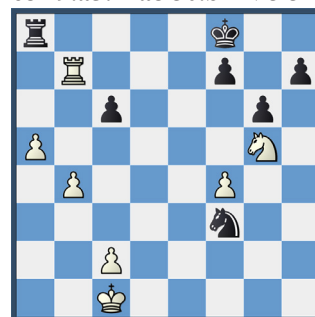
26.f4! Nf3 27.b3 Nxc2

Now he only has one passed pawn and can't get to my f-pawn. Meanwhile, I can get his c-pawn with ease.

28.Ne4!

This is the only move that keeps the advantage. If I try to go Rb6 and get his pawn, I was worried about ...h5 and advancing his pawn with ...Kg7 and ...Rh8 to help the pawn. Even though the h-pawn is passed, the kingside pawns are also pretty weak and can be targeted.

28...Re8 29.a5! Ra8 30.b4 Nf3 31.Ng5!



Position after 31.Ng5

This was the final straw, now the position is completely winning for White.

31...Nd4 32.Rxf7+ Kg8 33.Rxh7 c5 34.c3 Ne2+ 35.Kb2 Nxf4 36.Rb7 Nd5 37.Kb3 cxb4 38.cxb4

I knew this was winning, but I had to make sure to not blunder the sacrificing of the knight for both my pawns. Then, it would be a draw.

38...Ne3 39.Ne6 Nf5 40.Rd7 Ra6 41.Nc5 Ra8 42.a6 g5 43.b5 Rb8 44.a7

My opponent resigned. This was a very tough game, and he gave me a great fight. I am also very proud of my play, as this was my best game of the event.

1-0

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2023 Idaho Closed State Championship

| # | Place | Name | Rating | Rd 1 | Rd 2 | Rd 3 | Rd 4 | Rd 5 | Rd 6 | Total | T-Solkoff | T-Cumul. | T-Op. cumul. | T-Med |
|----|-------|-----------------------|--------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|-----------|----------|--------------|-------|
| 1 | 1-3 | James Wei | 1957 | W34 | W17 | D7 | W32 | D10 | W2 | 5.0 | 22 | 18 | 84 | 19.5 |
| 2 | | Kaustubh Kodihalli | 2035 | W42 | W8 | W14 | W10 | W4 | L1 | 5.0 | 21.5 | 20 | 81.5 | 20 |
| 3 | | Josh James Price | 1857 | W28 | W40 | W5 | L4 | W12 | W7 | 5.0 | 21.5 | 18 | 78.5 | 19 |
| 4 | 4-6 | NM Larry R Parsons | 2000 | X54 | D12 | W26 | W3 | L2 | W11 | 4.5 | 20 | 15.5 | 77.5 | 20 |
| 5 | | NM Eric Hon | 2108 | W20 | W15 | L3 | H--- | W26 | W10 | 4.5 | 19 | 15 | 68 | 19 |
| 6 | | Lloyd Landon | 1726 | L23 | W36 | W28 | W13 | W8 | H--- | 4.5 | 16 | 14 | 52 | 16 |
| 7 | 7-9 | Caleb Kircher | 1811 | W22 | W18 | D1 | D19 | W9 | L3 | 4.0 | 24.5 | 16.5 | 87 | 21.5 |
| 8 | | Michael Presutti | 1600 | W44 | L2 | W22 | W21 | L6 | W25 | 4.0 | 20 | 14 | 72.5 | 18.5 |
| 9 | | Brian S Lange | 1540 | W41 | H--- | D12 | W14 | L7 | W22 | 4.0 | 16 | 14 | 58.5 | 16 |
| 10 | 10-20 | Cody Austi Gorman | 1872 | W37 | W50 | W11 | L2 | D1 | L5 | 3.5 | 23 | 16 | 81.5 | 21 |
| 11 | | Brett B Hamilton | 1706 | W35 | W23 | L10 | D25 | W18 | L4 | 3.5 | 19.5 | 14.5 | 71.5 | 17 |
| 12 | | Bryce Leifeste | 1623 | W29 | D4 | D9 | W27 | L3 | H--- | 3.5 | 19 | 13.5 | 64.5 | 19 |
| 13 | | Tom R Booth | 1500 | W48 | L32 | W23 | L6 | W27 | D14 | 3.5 | 18.5 | 12.5 | 62.5 | 17.5 |
| 14 | | Michael Henderson | 1800 | W53 | W33 | L2 | L9 | W37 | D13 | 3.5 | 17.5 | 13.5 | 63.5 | 17 |
| 15 | | Jeffrey T Roland | 1700 | W39 | L5 | H--- | W24 | D25 | D16 | 3.5 | 16 | 12 | 54 | 16 |
| 16 | | Zackary Semanic | 1453 | L19 | L24 | W47 | W39 | W38 | D15 | 3.5 | 16 | 9.5 | 55 | 14.5 |
| 17 | | Bradley Fick | 1568 | W38 | L1 | H--- | D37 | D21 | W24 | 3.5 | 15 | 11 | 54.5 | 15 |
| 18 | | Anthony Minichiello | 1457 | W49 | L7 | W35 | H--- | L11 | W36 | 3.5 | 14 | 12 | 48 | 14 |
| 19 | | NM Makaio Krienke | 2184 | W16 | W31 | D32 | D7 | H--- | U--- | 3.5 | 13.5 | 15 | 49 | 13.5 |
| 20 | | Tristen Widdifield | 1426 | L5 | W29 | H--- | W33 | U--- | W31 | 3.5 | 12.5 | 10.5 | 41 | 12.5 |
| 21 | 21-30 | Candice Liang | 1175 | L32 | W41 | W31 | L8 | D17 | D26 | 3.0 | 18.5 | 10.5 | 64.5 | 12.5 |
| 22 | | Luke Wei | 1161 | L7 | W47 | L8 | W41 | W40 | L9 | 3.0 | 18 | 10 | 61.5 | 12.5 |
| 23 | | Tanner Hunter | 1030 | W6 | L11 | L13 | L31 | W41 | W38 | 3.0 | 18 | 9 | 63 | 11.5 |
| 24 | | Kyra Dorman | 867 | L31 | W16 | W34 | L15 | W42 | L17 | 3.0 | 17 | 11 | 54.5 | 12 |
| 25 | | Jamie Lang | 1348 | H--- | D27 | W39 | D11 | D15 | L8 | 3.0 | 16 | 11.5 | 57.5 | 12 |
| 26 | | Nobel Ang | 1580 | W43 | H--- | L4 | W44 | L5 | D21 | 3.0 | 14.5 | 11.5 | 51 | 10 |
| 27 | | Vladislav Nosarev | 1102 | H--- | D25 | W40 | L12 | L13 | W39 | 3.0 | 14.5 | 10 | 53.5 | 11 |
| 28 | | Andrew Beck | 1202 | L3 | W38 | L6 | W46 | D31 | H--- | 3.0 | 14.5 | 9 | 49 | 9.5 |
| 29 | | Luke Makovsky | 828 | L12 | L20 | W49 | L42 | W43 | W37 | 3.0 | 14 | 7 | 42 | 8.5 |
| 30 | | Anthony Nakashima | unr. | L50 | W53 | D33 | W45 | H--- | U--- | 3.0 | 9 | 10.5 | 21.5 | 6 |
| 31 | 31-36 | Raul Villacorta | 1633 | W24 | L19 | L21 | W23 | D28 | L20 | 2.5 | 20 | 10 | 65 | 16 |
| 32 | | Seth Machakos | 1812 | W21 | W13 | D19 | L1 | U--- | U--- | 2.5 | 15.5 | 13 | 56 | 10.5 |
| 33 | | Adam Porth | 1324 | W46 | L14 | D30 | L20 | L36 | W42 | 2.5 | 15.5 | 9 | 46.5 | 11.5 |
| 34 | | Olivia Ding | 1237 | L1 | W46 | L24 | L38 | W44 | D35 | 2.5 | 14.5 | 7.5 | 50 | 9.5 |
| 35 | | Theodore D French | 948 | L11 | W48 | L18 | L40 | W47 | D34 | 2.5 | 14.5 | 7.5 | 49 | 11 |
| 36 | | Liam Nosarev | 937 | H--- | L6 | L37 | W43 | W33 | L18 | 2.5 | 14 | 7.5 | 46.5 | 9.5 |
| 37 | 37-41 | Tilly Backstrom | 1234 | L10 | D43 | W36 | D17 | L14 | L29 | 2.0 | 17.5 | 8 | 58.5 | 14 |
| 38 | | Martin Hernandez | unr. | L17 | L28 | W48 | W34 | L16 | L23 | 2.0 | 16.5 | 7 | 49 | 13 |
| 39 | | Benjamin Jaffray | 916 | L15 | W49 | L25 | L16 | W48 | L27 | 2.0 | 15.5 | 7 | 48 | 12 |
| 40 | | Gregory Parker | 1532 | W47 | L3 | L27 | W35 | L22 | U--- | 2.0 | 15 | 9 | 48.5 | 10 |
| 41 | | Sofia Cas Emerson | unr. | L9 | L21 | W53 | L22 | L23 | W44 | 2.0 | 15 | 5 | 50 | 11 |
| 42 | 42-45 | Corey K Longhurst | 1400 | L2 | L44 | H--- | W29 | L24 | L33 | 1.5 | 15 | 4.5 | 53.5 | 10 |
| 43 | | Augustine Prokoshev | unr. | L26 | D37 | L45 | L36 | L29 | W48 | 1.5 | 14.5 | 3.5 | 43.5 | 11.5 |
| 44 | | Jay L Simonson | 686 | L8 | W42 | H--- | L26 | L34 | L41 | 1.5 | 13 | 6.5 | 42.5 | 9 |
| 45 | | Daniel Looney | 1482 | H--- | U--- | W43 | L30 | U--- | U--- | 1.5 | 5 | 6.5 | 14 | 1.5 |
| 46 | 46-52 | Anthony Ja Cortez | 610 | L33 | L34 | L51 | L28 | L52 | X53 | 1.0 | 15 | 0 | 31.5 | 11.5 |
| 47 | | Ronald Ackley | unr. | L40 | L22 | L16 | W49 | L35 | U--- | 1.0 | 13 | 3 | 38 | 9.5 |
| 48 | | Brandon Emerson | unr. | L13 | L35 | L38 | W53 | L39 | L43 | 1.0 | 12 | 3 | 37.5 | 8.5 |
| 49 | | Saxon Nicholas Ackley | unr. | L18 | L39 | L29 | L47 | W53 | U--- | 1.0 | 10.5 | 2 | 29 | 7 |
| 50 | | Justin Edw Wright | 1510 | W30 | L10 | U--- | U--- | U--- | U--- | 1.0 | 7 | 6 | 26.5 | 3.5 |
| 51 | | Dimitri Nosarev | 830 | U--- | U--- | W46 | U--- | U--- | U--- | 1.0 | 0.5 | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| 52 | | Mark Makovsky | unr. | U--- | U--- | U--- | U--- | W46 | U--- | 1.0 | 0.5 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| 53 | 53-54 | Kyra M Schoenwald | 1037 | L14 | L30 | L41 | L48 | L49 | F46 | 0.0 | 11.5 | 0 | 34 | 8 |
| 54 | | Samuel Nunnery | unr. | F4 | U--- | U--- | U--- | U--- | U--- | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

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

Reserve U1700: 1st \$120 2nd \$100 3rd \$80, 1st U1600/U1400/U1200/U1000: \$50, 1st 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. **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

2023 Oregon Girls Championship

(Anisha Sripada and Zoey Tang tie for first)

Wilson Gibbins

The Oregon Girls Championship drew 50 players this year, up from 14 in 2022! The tournament was organized and sponsored by Chess4Girls PDX, Rose City Chess, Roshen's Chess Academy, Immortal Games, and the Oregon Chess Federation. These groups worked together to make the tournament a success by providing:

- Multiple sections
- Door prizes
- Game analysis by FIDE certified National Instructor Roshen Nair
- The traditional trip to Dairy Queen

Oh, and there was some great chess!

In the Championship section, Anisha Sripada and Zoey Tang drew their third-round game. Since they both won their other three games, they ended tied for first. Anisha edged Zoey on tiebreaks, and is the Oregon nominee for the Haring Tournament of Girls State Champions this summer.

Annika Lykins beat second place finisher Isha Marla in round two on her way to a perfect 5.0/5 record to claim the Under 900 championship. In the Under 600/unrated section, Ankita Badri had four wins and a draw to finish a half-point ahead of the five players tied for second – Ushitha Lakshmi Vaddadi, Elise Moore, Lilia Gardner, Khyati Ruparel, and Ruth Baldwin.

Thanks to Nesara Shree, Roshen Nair, Dave Murray, and Chad Lykins for providing the vision and promotion to

make this a successful event. Thanks to Chad Lykins, Dave Murray, Roshen Nair, and Wilson Gibbins for directing.

The Portland Chess Center provided a wonderful location for this event, strategically located walking distance from Dairy Queen.

Anisha Sripada (1442) – Zoey Tang (2236) [E61]
Oregon Girls Championship
(R3), February 4, 2023
[Wilson Gibbins]

This draw was a crucial game for Anisha's qualification for the Haring tournament this summer. Anisha defended well to secure the half point.

1.d4 Nf6 2.Bf4 g6

Last year's game between these players went 2...d5 3.e3 g6 4.Nf3 Bg7 5.c4 0-0 6.Nc3 c5 7.Be2 cxd4 8.Nxd4 Ne4 9.Nxe4 dxe4 10.Bg3 a6 11.0-0 e5 12.Nb3 Qe7 13.Qc2 f5 14.h3 f4 15.exf4 exf4 16.Bh2 f3 17.Bd1 Nc6 18.Bg3 Bf5 19.Qd2 Rad8 20.Qc1 Nb4 21.Bc2 Nxc2 22.Qxc2 e3 23.Qc1 Bh6 24.Qc3 exf2+ 25.Bxf2 Rd3 26.Qa5 fxe2 27.Rfe1 Qf7 28.Qb4 Bxh3 29.Qc5 b6 30.Qxb6 Rf3 31.Re2 Be3 32.Rxe3 Rxf2 33.Rae1 Rf1+ 34.Rxf1 gxf1Q+ 35.Kh2 Qg2# 0-1 (35) Sripada,A (1377)-Tang,Z (2232) Oregon Girls Championship 2022. For full annotations, turn to page 6 of your May 2022 copy of *Northwest Chess*.

3.e3 Bg7 4.Nf3 0-0 5.Be2 b6 6.0-0 Bb7 7.c4

Anisha thinks for herself and doesn't play the London formula move 7.c3

7...d6 8.Nc3 Nbd7 9.Qc2 c5 10.Rad1 Rc8 11.Qb3 a6 12.h3 Qc7 13.Rd2 cxd4 14.exd4 e5 15.dxe5 dxe5 16.Bg3?!

It is logical for White to keep this bishop trained on the e-pawn, but the bishop on g3 is vulnerable to Black's knight that will soon invade on e4. 16.Be3 retains equality. If Black tries the same plan as in the game continuation, White gets some piece activity after 16...Nc5 17.Qd1 Nce4 18.Nxe4 Nxe4 19.Rd7 Qb8 20.Ng5; 16.Bh2 is a better version of the game continuation and is also close to equality.

16...Nc5 17.Qc2

Natural, but Zoey exploits this queen placement. 17.Qd1 supports a maneuver like the last note if Black invades on e4 with the knights.



Photo credit: Chad Lykins.

17...Nfe4! 18.Nxe4 Nxe4 19.Rdd1 Nxb3

White's 16th move allowed this bishop to be exchanged.

20.fxg3-+

White has two bishops and better pawn structure, including a passed e-pawn.

20...e4 21.Nd2 f5

21...Qxg3 22.Nxe4 Qe3+ is also good for Black, but retaining the passed pawn on e4 is fine way to play it.

22.Qb3 Kh8 23.Kh1 Be5 24.Kh2 Rcd8 25.Nb1 Bd4 26.Nc3 Qe5 27.Rc1 Bc6 28.a4 Bc5 29.Rcd1 Rd4 30.Rxd4 Bxd4 31.Rd1 Bxc3

Leaves White with crippled pawns but gives up some of Black's advantage. 31...f4 32.gxf4? (32.Nd5 is better than 32.gxf4, but not good enough to hold the game. 32...fxg3+ 33.Kh1 Rf2) 32...Qxf4+ 33.Kh1 Be5 and checkmate is on the horizon.

32.bxc3 Rb8 33.Qc2

33.c5! bxc5 34.Qf7 gets White some much needed counterplay.

33...Qf6 34.Rd4 Rd8 35.Rxd8+ Qxd8 36.Bd1

36.Qb3=, preparing to generate counterplay with the break 37.c5.

36...e3 37.Qe2 Qe8 38.h4 Qe4! 39.Qf1 Qb1 40.Qe2 Be4 41.h5 Kg7 42.hxg6 hxg6 43.Qe1 Bc2?

Wins the bishop on d1. But after

44.Qxe3!

The game is drawn.

44...Qxd1 45.Qe7+ Kg8 46.Qe8+ Kg7 47.Qe7+ Kh6 48.Qf8+ Kg5 49.Qe7+ Kh6 50.Qf8+ Kh7 51.Qf7+

½-½

McKayla Truong (1008) –
Anisha Sripada (1442) [C02]
Oregon Girls Championship
(R4), February 4, 2023
[Wilson Gibbins]



Photo credit: Chad Lykins.

Anisha needed to win her fourth-round game to secure the co-championship.

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 e5

The French Defense is an excellent choice in scholastic events, as many players choose the Advance Variation. There isn't anything intrinsically wrong with the Advance, but it does take some skill and preparation to retain those center pawns, while Black's plans to attack them are easy to find. Bonus—you avoid the Fried Liver attack.

4.Nf3 cxd4 5.Nxd4 Nc6 6.Bb5 Bd7 7.Nxc6 Bxc6 8.Bxc6+ bxc6

Black's opening has been successful, as White's d-pawn and Black's bad light-square bishop have left the board.

9.0-0 Bc5 10.Be3 Bxe3 11.fxe3 Ne7 12.Nc3 Ng6 13.Qd4 Qc7 14.Rad1 Qxe5 15.Qxe5 Nxe5

Black is a pawn up, White's center is gone, and White's slight development advantage isn't worth much in this ending, as there are no open files for the rooks to use for invasion. From here, Black's win is never in doubt.

16.e4 Nc4 17.Rfe1 0-0 18.b3 Nb6 19.exd5 cxd5 20.Nb5 Rfc8 21.Rc1 a6 22.Nd4 Rc7 23.a4 Rac8 24.a5 Nd7 25.Red1 Nb8 26.b4 Nc6 27.Nxc6 Rxc6 28.Rd2 Rc4 29.c3 Rxc3 30.Rxc3 Rxc3 31.Rb2 g6 32.b5 axb5 33.Rxb5 Ra3!

White's passed rook pawn appears dangerous, but with a little care and technique, Black has nothing to worry about. Anisha correctly puts her rook behind the pawn, and her extra center pawns will far outweigh White's a-pawn.

34.Rb8+ Kg7 35.Ra8

Normally one tries to avoid placing a rook in front of one's own passed pawn, but there is no other way for White to advance this pawn.

35...d4 36.Kf2 Ra2+ 37.Ke1 d3 38.Rd8

If White tries to promote the a-pawn with 38.a6, Black just advances the center pawns. 38...e5 39.a7 e4 40.h4? (40.Re8 Rxa7 41.Rxe4 Ra1+ 42.Kd2 Ra2+ 43.Kxd3 Rxd2 is also losing.) 40...e3 and it will soon be checkmate.

38...Rxa5 39.Rxd3 Ra2 40.Kf1 h5 41.h3 f5 42.g3 Kf6 43.h4 g5 44.hxg5+ Kxg5 45.Re3 Kf6 46.Rf3 e5 47.Rf2 Rxf2+ 48.Kxf2 Kg5

0-1

**Isha Marla (621) –
Annika Lykins (868) [A29]**
Oregon Girls Championship - U900
(R2), February 4, 2023
[Wilson Gibbins]

This is Annika Lykins's win over Isha Marla, who finished second. She develops naturally, plays logically, and is never in any trouble.

**1.c4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.g3 Nf6
5.Bg2 0-0 6.0-0 Bxc3 7.bxc3 d5 8.cxd5
Qxd5 9.Ba3 Rd8 10.Ng5**

A tricky attack on Black's queen, but it doesn't quite work.

10...Qxd2 11.Qxd2 Rxd2 12.Bxc6

White removes Black's knight that defends the d8 square...

12...bxc6 13.Rfd1 Rxd1+

...to prevent Black from winning another pawn with 13...Rxe2? 14.Rd8+.

14.Rxd1

White seems within the bounds of a draw with opposite-colored bishops, White owning the open d-file, and Black's extra pawn is doubled. Stockfish still likes Black.



*L-R: Zoey Tang, Neha Narendran, Anisha Sripada.
Photo credit: Chad Lykins.*

**14...Bb7 15.Be7 Nd5! 16.Bc5 h6 17.Ne4
Ba6 18.Rd2 f5 19.c4 Bxc4 20.Rc2 Bxa2
21.Rxa2 fxe4**

With her extra pawns, Annika went on to win the ending.
0-1

SHERIDAN WYOMING FIDE OPEN

May 5-7, 2023



**5-Round Swiss • Sheridan, Wyoming featuring GM Fishbein.
USCF Grand Prix Points: 100 • \$7,575 Guaranteed Prize Fund.**

Open (FIDE/USCF) 40/90 SD30 +30; Fri 5/5 5:30 PM; Sat 5/6 9:00 AM/3:00 PM; Sun 5/7; 9:00 AM/3:00 PM;
Prizes: \$2000-1000-500-450-400-350-300; Registration \$55 by 4/15.
After 4/15 and day-of (until 5:00 PM) \$65. USCF/int'l titled players GM-WCM play for free.

U2000/U1600/U1200 (USCF) G/90 d5; Sat 5/6 9:00 AM/1:30 PM/6:00 PM; Sun 5/7 8:30 AM/12:30 PM;
Prizes U2000: \$600-400-200-150-75; U1600 \$400-200-150-100-50; U1200 \$100-50-40-35-25.
U2000/U1600 Registration \$40 by 4/15. After 4/15 and day of (until 8:30 AM) \$50.
U1200 Registration \$30. After 4/15 and day of (until 8:30 AM) \$35.

One ½ point bye available. Byes for rounds 4&5 must be requested before the end of round 3.

Blitz (USCF) G/5 no delay; 6-rounds; Fri 5/5 at 1:00 PM. \$20 by 4/15.
After 4/15 and day-of (until 12:30 PM) \$30. 80% of Blitz registration fees paid out as prizes.

Registration, hotel discounts and add'l details: www.SheridanChess.com





WASHINGTON OPEN

Sat-Mon, May 27-29, 2023

Redmond Marriott
7401 164th Ave NE, Redmond, WA 98052

\$12,000 Prize Fund
(based on 170 paid entries)

Main Event:

Format: A 6-round Swiss event across 3 sections: Open, Premier (U1800), Rising (U1400).

Entry Fee: \$130 by Sun, 04/30; \$140 by Sun, 05/14; and \$150 after 05/14 or on-site. Less \$50 for Seniors (age 50+). Playing up one section is allowed (for \$80 extra) if rating is within 200 points of the section's lower limit (i.e., min 1600 for Open, min 1200 for Premier). Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs, WIMs, and US Chess 2400+. Re-entry for ½ of original EF. Canadians may pay CAD\$ at par.

Rating: Dual rated (US Chess & NWSRS), plus Open section will be FIDE rated (except G/60 games). Highest of May 2023 US Chess, May 2023 FIDE, and current NWSRS ratings used to determine sections, pairings, and prizes. Foreign ratings used for players with no US Chess rating.

Prizes:

- **Open:** \$1000, \$800, \$600, \$500, \$400;
U2100: \$200, \$150; U1900: \$200, \$150
- **Premier (U1800):** \$600, \$500, \$400, \$350, \$300;
U1650: \$200, \$150; U1500: \$200, \$150
- **Rising (U1400):** \$500, \$400, \$350, \$300, \$250;
U1200: \$200, \$150; U1000: \$200, \$150; Unr.: \$200, \$150

Championship Seeds: Highest finishing Washington resident in the Open and Premier section is seeded into the 2024 Washington State Championship, in the Championship and Invitational sections, respectively. Ties for a seed will be resolved by post-event playoff games.

Mixed Doubles Prizes: Best male-female 2-player team's combined score: \$300, \$200, \$100. Average team rating must be under 2000; may play in different sections. Register (no extra fee) before round 2. Players may win a Mixed Doubles prize in addition to other prizes.

Special Prizes (per section) – in addition to other prizes:

- **Highest (USCF) Rating Gain:** \$100, \$50.
- **Biggest Upset Win:** \$100, \$50.
- **Fair-Play, Kindness, Spreading Joy:** \$50. Please share your nominations.
- **Best Dressed (per day):** \$25. May not win repeatedly.
- **Best Annotated Game:** \$100, \$50, \$25. Submit one annotated game that you consider to be interesting or well-played. A panel of judges will select winners.

Hotel Info:

Redmond Marriott, \$125 per night. One King or two Queen beds, single or double occupancy. Call (800) 228-9290 to request the Washington Chess Federation block, or use the [online reservation](#). Group code: WCFWCFR. Cut-off date for discounts: Fri, May 05, 2023.

Schedule:

- **3-day option:** Sat @ 10 AM, 5:30 PM; Sun @ 10 AM, 6 PM; Mon @ 10 AM, 4 PM.
- **2-day option:** Sun @ 9 AM, 11:45 AM, 2:45 PM, then join 3-day schedule @ 6 PM (from round 4 onward).
- WCF Annual Meeting & Elections: Mon @ 3 PM.

Note: We encourage you to play in the Main Event *and* take part in some side events too. The schedule permits doing this with minimum or no half-point byes!

Time Controls:

- **3-day:** 40/120, SD/30; +10. Late default: 60 min.
- **2-day:** G/60; +10 (rds 1-3), rds 4-6 same as for 3-day.

Registration, Information & Payment:

- **Before event:** Online (by Thu, 05/25 @ 5 PM) at NWchess.com/OnlineRegistration/ (pay by credit / debit / PayPal) or make checks payable to Washington Chess Federation. Mail to: Josh Sinanan, 4174 NE 148th Ave NE, Building I, Suite M, Redmond, WA 98052.
Info: washingtonchessfederation@gmail.com, 206-769-3757
- **On-site:** Sat, 05/27 @ 8-9 AM for 3-day schedule, or 4:30-5 PM if entering with 1 half-point bye. Sun, 05/28 @ 8-8:30 AM for 2-day schedule, or 9-9:30 AM if entering 3-day schedule with 2 half-point byes. Late registrations may receive a half-point bye for first round. 2 half-point byes available; request before end of round 2. Play on any two days, if taking 2 half-point byes.

Miscellaneous:

Current US Chess and WCF/OCF/ICA memberships required; may be paid at registration. Other states accepted.

All equipment is provided; please bring a digital clock, if available.

Procedure and Health/Safety Policy:

Pairings and standings will be posted before each round in the hallway near the play area. Face masks optional for players and spectators. If interested, please bring your own mask.

WASHINGTON OPEN, May 27-29 (cont.)

Fun Side Events!

(many run between rounds of the Main Event)

Washington Open Scholastic

Sat, 05/27 @ 9 AM – 4 PM (during round 1)

Format: Dual sections – Open and Reserve:

- Open section: A 4-round G/40; +5 Swiss in one section: **K-12 Open**. For intermediate to advanced players. Dual Northwest and US Chess rated. US Chess membership required. Clocks and notation required. Rounds: 9 AM, 10:45 AM, lunch, 12:45 PM, 2:30 PM. Awards presentation: ~4 PM.

- Reserve sections: A 5-round G/30 Swiss in two sections: **K-4 U1200** and **5-12 U1200**. For novice to intermediate players. Northwest rated only. US Chess membership not required. No clocks used from the start, but a 10-minute clock will be placed into games still unfinished after 40 minutes. Rounds: 9 AM, 10:15, lunch, 12 PM, 1:15 PM, 2:30 PM. Awards presentation: ~4 PM.

Eligibility: Open to all students registered in grades K-12. Out-of-state players welcome!

Entry fee: \$45 if registered by Sat, 05/20, or \$55 after. Room for 125 players – please register early.

Awards:

- Section prizes: Amazon Gift Cards in each section: 1st \$100, 2nd \$75, 3rd \$50, 4th \$25.
- Special prizes (per section): Medals for first-timers and biggest upset win.
- Top two players (by TPR) in the K-12 Open section win free entry into the 2-day section of the 2023 Washington Open (Main Event).

Rating: Higher of May 2023 US Chess or current NWSRS ratings used to determine sections and pairings.

Registration: 100% pre-registered (NWchess.com/OnlineRegistration/ - pay by credit / debit / PayPal), no on-site entries or payments. Registration & payment deadline: Wed, 05/24 @ 5 PM. Unpaid players will be withdrawn from the event.

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

Washington Open Carol Kleist Memorial Adult Swiss

Sat-Mon, 05/27-29 @ 11 AM & 4 PM (during all rds)

Sponsored by *Seattle Chess Club* with generous support from Henry Yan. Format: A 6-round Swiss in one section, 2 half-point byes available. US Chess only rated. TC: G/90; +30. EF: \$60 online (by Fri, 05/26 @ 5 PM) or \$70 on-site; EF waived for unrated players who purchase memberships. Registration: Sat, 05/27 @ 10-10:30 AM (unless entering with half-point byes). Current US Chess membership and WCF/OCF/ICA membership required. May 2023 US Chess rating used to determine pairings and prizes. Guaranteed prize fund: \$1,000. 1st \$240, 2nd \$180, 3rd \$150, 1st U2000 \$110, 1st U1700 \$100, 1st U1400 \$90, 1st U1100/Unrated \$80, Biggest upset win: \$50.

Washington Open Chess960 (Fischer Random) Championship

Sat, 05/27 @ 2:15 PM – 4:30 PM (b/w rounds 1 & 2)

Format: A 4-Round Swiss in one section, 1 half-point bye available. Unrated. TC: G/10; +3. EF: \$20. Registration: 1:30-2 PM. Rounds at 2:15 PM, 2:50, 3:25, and 4:00 PM. No memberships required. Higher of May 2023 US Chess and current NWSRS ratings used to determine pairings and prizes. A new (randomized) opening position for each round. Players will have 2 minutes before clocks start to examine the opening position. Prize fund: \$100/b10. 1st \$40, 2nd \$30, 3rd \$20, 1st U1400/Unrated \$10.

Washington Open Puzzle Solving Competition

Sat, 05/27 @ 4:30 PM – 5:15 PM (b/w rounds 1 & 2)

Format: Solve 15 chess puzzles in 45 minutes. Write solutions on paper. Evaluation based on accuracy and completeness. EF: \$15. Registration: 3:30-4:15 PM. No memberships required. Prize fund: \$150/b20. 1st \$50, 2nd \$35, 3rd \$20, 1st U1700 \$15, 1st U1400 \$15, 1st Unrated \$15.

Washington Open Annual Chess Workshop for Girls & Women

Sat, 05/27 @ 6 PM – 8 PM (during round 2)

Format: Workshop led by WFM Chouchan Airapetian (chornyaa@msn.com, 206-914-4252), experienced chess coach, organizer, and promoter, former US Women's Championship contender, WCF Girls' and Women's Chess Director. Registration: 5:45-6 PM. Entry fee: Free! Schedule: 6-7 PM: "How to develop & cultivate girls' and women's chess." 7-8 PM: Q&A, complementary pizza & refreshments, and ladies' bughouse.

Washington Open Rapid Championship

Sun, 05/28 @ 2 PM – 5:40 PM (b/w rounds 3 & 4)

Format: A 5-Round Swiss in one section, 2 half-point byes available. US Chess Quick rated. TC: G/15; +5. EF: \$25 online (by Sat, 05/27 @ 5 PM) or \$30 on-site. Registration: 1-1:45 PM. Rounds at 2 PM, 2:45, 3:30, 4:15, and 5 PM. Current US Chess membership and WCF/OCF/ICA membership required. Higher of May 2023 US Chess Quick and current NWSRS ratings used to determine pairings and prizes. Prize fund: \$400/b25. 1st \$100, 2nd \$80, 3rd \$60, 1st U1900 \$40, 1st U1600 \$35, 1st U1300 \$30, 1st Unrated \$25, Biggest upset win: \$30.

Washington Open Ignacio Perez Memorial Blitz

Mon, 05/29 @ 8 PM – 10:15 PM (after round 6)

Format: A 9-Round Swiss in one section, 3 half-point byes available. US Chess Blitz rated. TC: G/4; +2. EF: \$25 online (by Sun, 05/28 @ 5 PM) or \$30 on-site. Registration: 7-7:45 PM. Rounds at 8 PM, 8:15, 8:30, 8:45, 9, 9:15, 9:30, 9:45, and 10 PM. Current US Chess membership and WCF/OCF/ICA membership required. Higher of May 2023 US Chess Blitz and current NWSRS ratings used to determine pairings and prizes. Prize fund: \$750/b25. 1st \$200, 2nd \$150, 3rd \$100, 1st U1900 \$80, 1st U1700 \$70, 1st U1500 \$60, 1st U1300/Unrated \$50, Biggest upset win: \$40.

Washington State High School Chess Team Championship

By Josh Sinanan, Lakeside Chess Coach

The Washington State High School Chess Team Championship held Friday-Saturday March 3-4, 2023, at Stanwood High School attracted 32 five-player teams from throughout Washington State. Lakeside Upper School, the reigning Metro League Champions, sent a talented team to the competition: Eric Zhang – 2208, Sophie Tien – 1970, Owen Xuan – 1940, Felicity Wang – 1790, and Daniel Wang – 1770.

Three more Lakeside students competed in the All-Comers individual tournament, which was held alongside the main team Swiss tournament: Troy Merritt – 2179, Rohan Dhillon – 1342, and Joseph Loi – 1138. Lakeside Math teacher Michael Cunetta accompanied the team and drove everyone up in the “Chess Van” from Lakeside on both days.

To prepare for the tournament, several

sessions were held with Lakeside Coach, National Master Josh Sinanan, in which players focused on solving challenging tactical chess puzzles, learned about strategic and positional play through studying master games, and played countless blitz and bughouse games to sharpen their skills. After one and a half days of immersive chess, here were the results:

Team Championship:

Round 1: Lakeside 4.5 – Kamiak 0.5

Round 2: Lakeside 5 – Jackson 0

Round 3: Lakeside 3 – Tesla STEM 2

Round 4: Lakeside 3 – Eastlake 2

Round 5: Lakeside 3 – Interlake 2

Tiebreaker: Lakeside wins blitz tiebreaker vs Interlake A 3.5 - 1.5

Congratulations to Lakeside, the 2023 Washington State High School Chess Team Champions!

Lakeside Team

Bd. 1: NM Eric Zhang (3 pts., 2208 → 2202)

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



Josh Sinanan
President

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Bd. 2: Sophie Tien (4.0 pts., 1970 → 1971)

Bd. 3: CM Owen Xuan (4.0 pts., 1940 → 1933)

Bd. 4: Felicity Wang (3.5 pts., 1790 → 1771)

Bd. 5: Daniel Wang (4.0 pts., 1770 → 1760)

All-Comers

3rd Place: Troy Merritt (4.0 pts., 2179 → 1779)

11th Place: Rohan Dhillon (3.0 pts., 1342 → 1342)

13th Place: Joseph Loi (3.0 pts., 1138 → 1159)

Way to go Lions! Next up is High School K-12 Nationals March 31-April 2 in Washington D.C.!

| ROUND 5 STANDINGS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|-------|------------------|--------|------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|--|--|--|--|---------|--------|--|--|
| | PLACE | TEAM | POINTS | | | | | | | | | | | Mod med | Cumul. | | |
| 1st and 2nd | 1 | INTERLAKE A | 18.5 | INT1 | W24 [5] | B3 [3] | W8 [4.5] | B4 [4] | B2 [2] | | | | | | | | |
| 1st and 2nd | 2 | LAKESIDE | 18.5 | LSS | B25 [4.5] | W9 [5] | W7 [3] | B3 [3] | W1 [3] | | | | | | | | |
| | 3 | EASTLAKE | 18 | EAL | B18 [5] | W1 [2] | W10 [4] | W2 [2] | B19 [5] | | | | | | | | |
| | 4 | NEWPORT A | 18 | NPR1 | B28 [5] | W23 [5] | B5 [4.5] | W1 [1] | B6 [2.5] | | | | | | | | |
| | 5 | EASTSIDE PREP | 17 | EPS | W29 [5] | B13 [4] | W4 [0.5] | B5 [5] | W8 [2.5] | | | | | | | | |
| | 6 | INTERLAKE B | 16.5 | INT2 | B34 [4.5] | W8 [1.5] | B11 [5] | B7 [3] | B4 [2.5] | | | | | | | | |
| | 7 | TESLA | 16.5 | TST | W12 [4] | B16 [4.5] | B2 [2] | W6 [2] | B10 [4] | | | | | | | | |
| | 8 | GARFIELD A | 16 | GAR1 | W20 [4.5] | B6 [3.5] | B1 [0.5] | W23 [5] | B5 [2.5] | | | | | | | | |
| | 9 | JACKSON | 14.5 | JAC | W27 [5] | B2 [0] | W13 [3] | B20 [3.5] | W12 [3] | | | | | | | | |
| | 10 | SEHOM A | 14 | SHM1 | B21 [4] | W19 [4] | B3 [1] | W15 [4] | W7 [1] | | | | | | | | |
| | 11 | SEATTLE PREP | 14 | SPR | B26 [4] | W14 [2] | W6 [0] | W30 [3.5] | B25 [4.5] | | | | | | | | |
| | 12 | MARINER | 13.5 | MRR | B7 [1] | W33 [5] | B16 [2.5] | W14 [3] | B9 [2] | | | | | | | | |
| | 13 | NEWPORT B | 13.5 | NPR2 | B22 [5] | W5 [1] | B9 [2] | W16 [2.5] | B17 [3] | | | | | | | | |
| | 14 | FERDALE | 13.5 | FER | B17 [3] | B11 [3] | W15 [2.5] | B12 [2] | W16 [3] | | | | | | | | |
| | 15 | STANWOOD | 13 | STN | B30 [3] | W17 [3.5] | B14 [2.5] | B10 [1] | W21 [3] | | | | | | | | |
| | 16 | BLAINE A | 12.5 | BLH1 | B33 [5] | W7 [0.5] | W12 [2.5] | B13 [2.5] | B14 [2] | | | | | | | | |
| | 17 | ARLINGTON | 12.5 | AHS | W14 [2] | B15 [1.5] | W26 [4.5] | B21 [2.5] | W13 [2] | | | | | | | | |
| | 18 | MERIDIAN | 12.5 | MRD | W3 [0] | B27 [4.5] | W25 [0] | W28 [3] | B31 [5] | | | | | | | | |
| | 19 | FRANKLIN | 12 | FRA | B32 [4] | B10 [1] | W21 [2.5] | B24 [4.5] | W3 [0] | | | | | | | | |
| | 20 | SEHOM B | 12 | SHM2 | B8 [0.5] | W22 [4] | B28 [3.5] | W9 [1.5] | W23 [2.5] | | | | | | | | |
| | 21 | GARFIELD B | 12 | GAR2 | W10 [1] | W30 [4] | B19 [2.5] | W17 [2.5] | B15 [2] | | | | | | | | |
| | 22 | OLYMPIA | 12 | OHS | W13 [0] | B20 [1] | B30 [4] | B29 [3.5] | W26 [3.5] | | | | | | | | |
| | 23 | LINCOLN | 11 | LCO | W31 [5] | B4 [0] | W24 [3.5] | B8 [0] | B20 [2.5] | | | | | | | | |
| | 24 | BELLINGHAM | 11 | BHM | B1 [0] | W29 [5] | B23 [1.5] | W19 [0.5] | B28 [4] | | | | | | | | |
| | 25 | KAMIAK | 10 | KAM | W2 [0.5] | B34 [4] | B18 [5] | W5 [0] | W11 [0.5] | | | | | | | | |
| | 26 | THOMAS JEFFERS | 10 | TJH | W11 [1] | W32 [3] | B17 [0.5] | W27 [4] | B22 [1.5] | | | | | | | | |
| | 27 | BLAINE B | 9.5 | BLH2 | B9 [0] | W18 [0.5] | W31 [3] | B26 [1] | B33 [5] | | | | | | | | |
| | 28 | EATONVILLE | 8.5 | ETV | W4 [0] | B31 [4] | W20 [1.5] | B18 [2] | W24 [1] | | | | | | | | |
| | 29 | SETON CATHOLIC | 8 | SEN | B5 [0] | B24 [0] | B33 [3] | W22 [1.5] | W30 [3.5] | | | | | | | | |
| | 30 | W.F. WEST | 7 | WFW | W15 [2] | B21 [1] | W22 [1] | B11 [1.5] | B29 [1.5] | | | | | | | | |
| | 31 | ABERDEEN | 7 | ABD | B23 [0] | W28 [1] | B27 [2] | W33 [4] | W18 [0] | | | | | | | | |
| | 32 | KENNEDY CATHOLIC | 3 | JKF | W19 [1] | B26 [2] | | #N/A | #N/A | | | | | | | | |
| | 33 | FORKS | 3 | FOX | W16 [0] | B12 [0] | W29 [2] | B31 [1] | W27 [0] | | | | | | | | |
| | 34 | INGRAHAM | 1.5 | INM | W6 [0.5] | W25 [1] | | #N/A | #N/A | | | | | | | | |



Troy Merritt (L) receives his trophy from Randy Walther. Photo Courtesy of Washington State High School Chess Association.



Lakeside (L) vs Interlake during the blitz playoff at the 2023 Washington State High School Team Chess Championship. Photo Credit: Randy Kaech.



The Championship Lakeside Team: (L-R) Sophie Tien, Felicity Wang, Daniel Wang, Owen Xuan, and Eric Zhang. Photo Credit: Michael Cunetta.

2023 Presidential Scholastic

By Josh Sinanan

The 2023 Presidential Scholastic chess tournament was held on President's Day Monday, February 20, at Chinook Middle School in Bellevue. An astounding turnout of 278 scholastic chess players in grades K-12 participated in the event from throughout the Pacific Northwest, including the cities of Sammamish, Bothell, Redmond, Bellevue, Seattle, Mill Creek, Duvall, Olympia, Bainbridge Island, North Bend, Snoqualmie, Normandy Park, Kirkland, Gig Harbor, Edmonds, Renton, Richland, Medina, Mercer Island, Shoreline, Tacoma, Clyde Hill, Lynnwood, Auburn, Yarrow Point, Bellingham, Vashon, Kent, Woodinville, Puyallup, Snohomish, Tumwater, and Ravensdale! The event was hosted by the Washington Chess Federation, paired by WCF Scholastic Director Rekha Sagar, and directed by floor TDs Suresh Balaji, Shri Humrudha, Minh Pham, and chess dad Siva Sankrithi. 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 and we even had an appearance from Magician Rich Waters, who performed some must-see magic tricks and balloon twisting! The 5-round Swiss tournament was split into six sections parsed by grade level and rating: Kindergarten, K-2 U800, K-5 U900, K-12 U1200, K-5 Open, and K-12 Open.

Congratulations to the Champions!

Kindergarten: Bihe Liu (5.0/5!)

K-2 U800: Lewis Ma & Felix Chen (5.0/5!)

K-5 U900: CHen Yuan (5.0/5!)

K-12 U1200: Alex Nguyen & Valentin Boulanger (5.0/5!)

K-5 Open: Dann Merriman (4.5/5!)

K-12 Open: Miles Kuipers (5.0/5!)

Congratulations to the Top Finishing Teams:

| Place | Team (School) | Team Score (pts) |
|-------|---|------------------|
| 1st | Somerset Elementary School | 16 |
| 2nd | Discovery Elementary School | 15.5 |
| 3rd | Bellevue Children's Academy | 15 |
| 4th | Canyon Creek Elementary | 14.5 |
| 5th | Medina Elementary School | 13.5 |

Congratulations to the Special Prize Winners:

| Section | Best Female Player (by TPR) | Biggest Upset Win |
|--------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Kindergarten | Claire Wong | Caroline Ma |
| K-2 U800 | Krutu Thanikonda | Aryan Reddyshtetty |
| K-5 U900 | Riddhima Chauhan | Mason Jiang |
| K-12 U1200 | Niharika Vutukuri | Ahilya Dhole |
| K-5 Open | Zoe Xu | Rian Raja |
| K-12 Open | Lydia Xiong | Caleb Byam |

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



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April 1 **Saturday Quads**
Format: 3-RR, 4-plyr sec. by rgt. **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 memb. req'd. 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!

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

April 15 **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.

April 16 **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 memb. req'd. NS, NC.

SCC Fridays

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

April Showers: 4/7, 14, 21, 28.
Fri. Champions of 2022: 4/14, 28.
May Flowers: 5/5, 12, 19, 26.
Fri. Champions of 2022: 5/12.

2nd Annual Ron Kirsch Memorial Adult Swiss

April 22-23, 2023

A four-round Swiss open to those born before 4/23/2005 with a prize fund of \$320.

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

Time Control: G/120; +30. **Entry Fees:** Free to SCC members. \$12 for non-members.

Registration: Sat. 10-10:45 a.m. **Rounds:** 11-4:30, 11-4:30.

Byes: 1 (Sunday rounds, commit at registration). **Miscellaneous:** US Chess req'd. NS. NC.

Sponsored by Henry Yan.

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