

Seattle Father's Day Open

The inaugural Seattle Father's Day Open was held on Father's Day Sunday, June 16, and attracted 51 players in two sections, the Vader Open and the Skywalker U1400. The fun five-round format with a G/25; +5 second increment time control offered players of all ages and levels the opportunity to play in a one-day dual US Chess regular and quick rated tournament that ran on a schedule like most scholastic events, with the first round beginning at 9:00 AM and the last round concluding around 4:30 PM.

The event offered two sections parsed by rating, the Vader Open and the Skywalker U1400, to appeal to chess Jedis and Padawans alike!

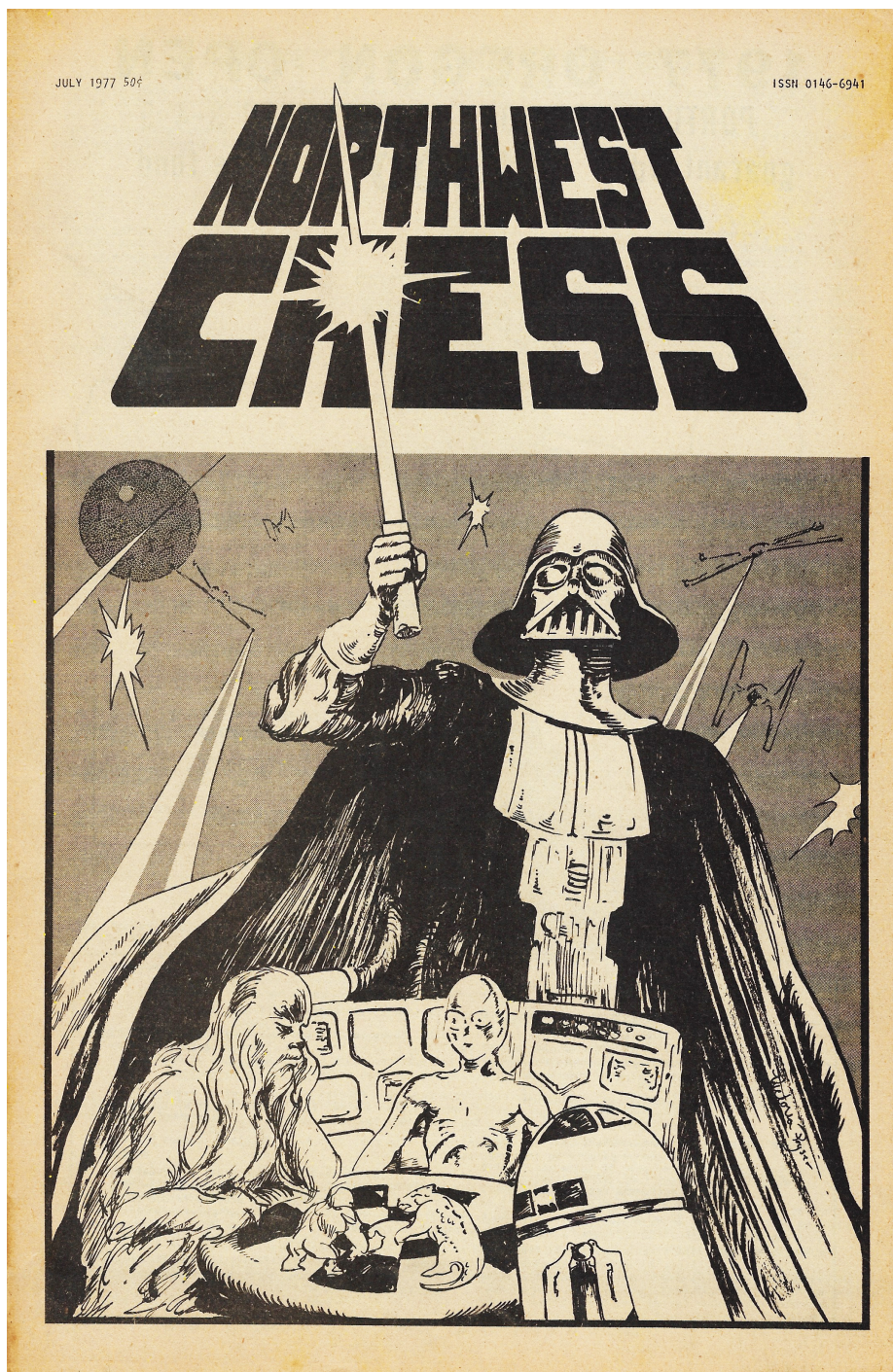
Four members of the rebel alliance emerged victorious, each with an impressive four points from five games: NM Nikash Vemparala of Redmond, NM Advait Vijayakumar of Bothell, newly minted FM Aziz Degenbaev of Seattle, and 2024 Washington State Girls Champion Selina Cheng of Seattle!

For Selina, this sensational result was the result of hard work, perseverance, and perhaps a few Jedi mind tricks, as she bounced back after a second-round loss against Vijayakumar with clutch wins against Sith apprentices Saddi (1705) and Merriman (1680) in the last two rounds. These mini upset victories enabled Selina to catch the group of titled storm troopers Vemparala, Vijayakumar, and Degenbaev, each of whom allowed two draws along the way.

With the shorter time control, edges can be more difficult to convert, which makes for more split points in time pressure. Chess dad and popular chess coach Walter Guity of Shoreline joined the resistance and earned the U1600 prize with an even 2.5-point score.

The following players were each awarded a special prize for becoming one with the Chess Force: Biggest Upset Win – Aarav B. Mohan (474 points), Best Female Player – Selina Cheng, Best Dads – Ryan Porter + Leonid Gavrysh, Best Dressed – Andrew Goupinets.

In the Skywalker U1400 section, two chess Jedis-in-training, Andrew Johnson of Bellingham and Jack Cook of Seattle, topped the 28-player field each with an impressive 4.5 points from five games. The unrated Cook resisted the temptation



Cover of July 1977 issue of Northwest Chess. Kennedy (Kip) Poyser, Editor.
Art by NWC Art Editor Vicki Poyser.

to join the dark side by withdrawing from the Vader Open after the first round and switching into the Skywalker U1400, which turned out to be a good decision, as he went on to win his next four games!

Just like Luke Skywalker received advanced Jedi training in the ways of the Force under Master Yoda on the remote swamp world of Dagobah in *The Empire Strikes Back*, Cook will soon be ready