

Washington Open

Josh Sinanan



The 2023 Washington Open was held over Memorial Day weekend May 27-29 at the fantastic Redmond Marriott hotel. Players and spectators were glad to be back at the Redmond Marriott once again, favored by many for its easily accessible location, proximity to restaurants and amenities, and plentiful parking options. Chess players from throughout North America including parts of Washington, Oregon, Idaho, British Columbia, Nevada, Minnesota, and Virginia were represented in the three-day chess extravaganza. The event was hosted by Washington Chess Federation and directed by Senior TD Fred Kleist with assistance from five-time Washington State Champion FM Slava Mikhailuk, WCF Scholastic Director Rekha Sagar, and UT Dallas chess stud Vignesh Anand. WCF President Josh Sinanan and Tournament Coordinator Valentin Razmov orchestrated the proceedings. Amazing photographs were taken throughout the event by chess photographer extraordinaire Meiling Cheng. Our wonderful chess vendor John Dill came all the way from Spokane to offer a wide selection of high-quality chess books, equipment, and customized apparel!

Local artist and chess enthusiast Gabriela Osias (Instagram: gosi_creates) was on-site on Saturday displaying some of her chess-inspired artwork, including a special poster that she created exclusively for the Washington Open!

Around 300 players participated in the three-day chess festival which spanned the holiday weekend, about 100 more than last year! The Washington Open main event, a six-round Swiss tournament across three sections — Open, Premier (U1800), and the Rising (U1400) division — once again offered flexible three-day or two-day options to accommodate players preferring either classical or faster time controls. The Washington Open Scholastic, directed by WCF Scholastic Director Rekha Sagar, attracted 130 juniors on Saturday, May 27! Numerous fun side events including the Carol Kleist Memorial Adult Swiss, Chess 960 (Fischer Random) Championship, Puzzle Solving Competition, Workshop for Girls and Women, Rapid Championship, and Ignacio Perez Memorial Blitz rounded out the immersive chessical experience!

No two chess tournaments are ever quite the same, and this year's Washington Open was no exception. Around 1:00 PM on Saturday afternoon, the fire alarm went off and all players had to evacuate the building. Of course, this was somewhat of a disturbance since many games in the three-day schedule were still underway and some of the games in the scholastic tournament had just begun. Players were instructed to pause their clocks and leave the playing hall while the local fire department came to clear the premises

and check that everything was ok. Indeed, it was a false alarm, as some curious kid had pulled the fire alarm in the foyer area just outside the parent waiting room. The anonymous fire alarm-pulling assailant is still at large, but hopefully has learned his or her lesson!

Four chess masters, IM Georgi Orlov (2504 → 2505, 5.0) of Sammamish, NM Samuel He (2258 → 2273, 5.0) of Redmond, NM Kyle Haining (2287 → 2273, 5.0) of Lake Forest Park, and FM Ryan Porter (2250 → 2252, 5.0) of Bellevue, were crowned Washington Open Co-Champions in the 81-player Open section, each with five points from six games. Orlov got off to a hot start, winning his first four games in a row in the two-day schedule against Spokane City Champion Ryan Ackerman (1944), Idaho chess stud James Wei (2002), former South Carolina State Champion NM Timur Aliyev (2332), and fellow co-champion NM Samuel He (2258). On the last day of play after the schedule merge, Orlov slowed down a bit and drew his last two games against co-leader NM Daniel He (2307) and Redmond powerhouse FM Tian Sang. This allowed a chasing pack of masters, Samuel He, Kyle Haining, and Ryan Porter to catch up with him, each winning their last two games.

A future playoff amongst the co-champions will determine the seed into the 2024 Washington State Championship. In the Open section, it was truly a collective victory, with each of the top twenty-two finishers winning a prize! Sharing fifth place honors a half-point back were NM Daniel He (2307 → 2316, 4.5) of Redmond, NM Timur Aliyev (2332 → 2313, 4.5) of Kirkland, FM Tian Sang (2322 → 2324, 4.5) of Redmond, Oscar Sprumont (2075 → 2091, 4.5) of Seattle, Ryan Yang (1711 → 1868, 4.5) of Vancouver (B.C.), and Ryan Richardson (2112 → 2114, 4.5) of Portland. Two players, Yevgeniy Rozenfeld (2073 → 2095, 4.5) of Redmond and Nathan Zhou (1787 → 1842, 4.5) of Portland, split the First U2100/First U1900 prize, also with four and a half points. An octuplet of players shared Second U2100 honors, each with four points: CM Robert Hecht (2094 → 2079, 4.0) of Beaverton, Austin Liu (2049 → 2052, 4.0) of Sammamish, Leonid Gavrysh (1999 → 2023, 4.0) of Brier, Eddie Chang (2029 → 2016, 4.0) of Bellevue, Yiding Lu (2092 → 2093, 4.0) of Bellevue, James Wei (2002 → 2042, 4.0) of Boise, Vidip Kona (2011

→ 2013, 4.0) of Redmond, and Harrison Toppen-Ryan (1930 → 1936, 4.0) of Kirkland. Arnold Yang (1745 → 1800, 4.0) of Portland and WCF Tournament Coordinator Valentin Razmov (1751 → 1864, 4.0) of Seattle shared the Second U1900 prize with four points apiece.

Several special prizes were also awarded in addition to the overall and class prizes. The Biggest Upset Wins were earned by Vijay Patankar (First Place — 506 points) of Redmond and Nathan Zhou (Second Place — 474 points). The Highest US Chess Rating Gain prizes were awarded to Vijay Patankar (First Place — 174 points) and Ryan Yang (Second Place — 157 points). Classiness was on full display at the Washington Open, with three players taking home the Best Dressed prizes: Tim Moroney (Saturday) of Mountlake Terrace, Valentin Razmov (Sunday), and Yevgeniy Rozenfeld (Monday). Ozgun Ozusta (1613 → 1691, 3.0) of Kirkland, always a cheerful fellow who raises the mood in any room upon entering it, won the “Fairplay, Kindness, and Spreading Joy” prize!

Local star Vijay Nallappa (1451 → 1664, 6.0) of Redmond topped the 86-player Premier U1800 section with a perfect six points from six games! Along the way, Vijay scored wins against Patrick Adams (1573), Michael Shapiro (1615), William Dann (1515), and Christos Boulis (1585). For his victory, Vijay is seeded into the Invitational section of the 2024 Washington State Championship.

A trio of players tied for Second-Fourth Place honors a full point back: Michael Shapiro (1615 → 1648, 5.0) of Sammamish, Daniel Aisaka (1577 → 1594, 5.0) of Snoqualmie, and Abhinav Mishra (1373 → 1598, 5.0) of Redmond. The fifth-place prize was shared by four players, each with a “plus three” score: H.G. Pitre (1720 → 1710, 4.5) of Federal Way, Christos Boulis (1585 → 1600, 4.5) of Redmond, Nihanth Tatikonda (1491 → 1508, 4.5) of Bothell, and Christopher Gilbert (1606 → 1606, 4.5) of Seattle.

Kirkland chess stud William Dann (1515 → 1580, 4.5) captured the First U1650 prize thanks to a red-hot start, winning his first four games in a row! A sextuplet of up-and-comers shared with Second U1650 prize with four points apiece: Odbayar Yondon (1527 → 1520, 4.0) of Redmond, Amana Demberel (1425 → 1422, 4.0) of Seattle, Nirmalya Routray

(998 → 1218, 4.0) of Sammamish, Gabriel Razmov (1549 → 1529, 4.0) of Seattle, David Marcellia (1110 → 1269, 4.0) of Issaquah, and Hiruna Devadithya (1257 → 1288, 4.0) of Issaquah.

Young Selina Cheng (1229 → 1405, 4.0) of Seattle, a veteran student of Detective Cookie’s Chess Club, earned the First U1500 prize by winning her last three games in a row! Three chess musketeers, Balbir Singh (1218 → 1287, 3.5) of Seatac, Evan Takayoshi (1163 → 1318, 3.5) of Milton, and Niranjana Prashant (993 → 1168, 3.5) of Bellevue, shared Second U1500 honors, each scoring two wins, three draws, and only one loss!

The biggest upset wins were scored by the underrated chess femme fatales Olivia Ding (First Place — 287 points) of Idaho Falls and Laasya Lanka (Second Place — 273 points) of Portland. The highest US Chess rating gain prizes went to the fast-improving juniors Abhinav Mishra (First Place — 225 points) and Vijay Nallappa (Second Place — 213 points). Gentlemanly decorum was on full display in the Premier section, with William Dann (Saturday), William Corbit (Sunday) of Seattle, and Gabriel Razmov (Monday) winning the best dressed prizes! Michael Shapiro, Slava’s son and senior at Eastlake High School in Sammamish, was awarded the “Fairplay, Kindness, and Spreading Joy” prize by virtue of exuding positive vibes regardless of the situation on or off the chess board.



This year's newly renamed "Rising" U1400 section was more popular than ever, with an astounding 104 players taking part! When the dust settled, only one player emerged unblemished from the quagmire of underrated juniors and deceptively skillful adult "novice" players saturating the field: Jonah Kolar (1188 → 1348, 6.0) of Seattle! En route to the title, Jonah scored victories against Keith Ciani (682), Richard Mogstad (1154), Malcolm Certain (1170), Sriram Nagarajan (Unrated), Adam Hard (987), and Alfred Su (946). Fritz Mangan (unrated → 1519, 5.5) of Seattle captured Second Place honors a half-point back, allowing only a single draw against South Sound Chess Club Founder Kyle Boddy (1087) in the third round.

Three chess kings shared Third-Fifth Place, each with a "plus four" score: Laurion Burchall (1106 → 1174, 5.0) of Seattle, Rafael Palathingal (866 → 1041, 5.0) of Redmond, and Neil Kossuri (478 → 858, 5.0) of Bothell. Newcomer Connor Watts (unrated → 1257, 5.0) of Seattle won the First Unrated prize with an impressive five points, rebounding well after a first-round misstep against the dangerous Justin Lee (553).

Three fast-improving adults — Nola Fung (1213 → 1203, 4.5) of Bellevue, Austin Wentz (1204 → 1211, 4.5) of Seattle, and Dan Yates (1083 → 1148, 4.5) of Seattle - split the First/Second U1200 prize a half-point back. Aaron "the Richland wrecking ball" Rausch (unrated → 1172, 4.5) of Richland claimed First U1000 honors with an impressive "plus three" score. Newcomer Vilmos Foltenyi (unrated → 1179, 4.5) of Redmond earned the Second Place Unrated prize by winning his last three games in a row! A sextuplet of players shared the Second Place U1000 prize on an even three

points: Lucas Xiang (590 → 716, 3.0) of Bellevue, Nimalan Venkatesan (478 → 583, 3.0) of Snohomish, Cong Chen (618 → 678, 3.0) of Sammamish, Aavir Singh (597 → 753, 3.0) of Redmond, William Guthrie (958 → 927, 3.0) of Redmond, and Nehanth Kakani (413 → 535, 3.0) of Bellevue.

The biggest upsets wins were scored by Richland chess stud Aaron Rausch (First Place — 751 points) and Zillah chess queen Amanda Panell (Second Place — 614 points), who also played in the Carol Kleist Memorial Adult Swiss! The highest US Chess rating gains, amongst players who had established US Chess ratings, were achieved by Anish Bharadwaj (First Place — 200 points) of Redmond and Lucas Xiang (Second Place — 126 points).

Three gentlemen went above and beyond the demands of "chess fashion" and were awarded with the best dressed prizes: John Fawcett (Saturday) of Enumclaw, Gabriel Lee (Sunday) of Tacoma, and Tomoaki Asakura (Monday) of Bellevue. Asakura's disposition matched his style sense, for which he was

awarded the "Fairplay, Kindness, and Spreading Joy" prize. The Best Annotated Game prizes are still being decided and will be announced in an upcoming issue of *Northwest Chess*!

Mixed Doubles Teams

In addition to the regular overall, class, and special prizes, this year's Washington Open featured a Mixed Doubles Competition in which the top three two-player male-female teams combined among all three sections qualified for a prize. A total of eight mixed double teams threw their hats into the ring, which included a spouse's team and several friends joining forces to jump into the mix! In the end, the "Chengona" team consisting of Selina Cheng of Seattle and Vidip Kona of Redmond scored a combined eight points to bring home First Place honors. Team "Gavrysh," a wife-and-husband team consisting of Iryna and Leonid Gavrysh from Brier, took Second Place with a combined score of seven points. Team "Emma-Ted," consisting of Emma Li of Redmond and Ted Wang of Medina, rounded out the winners with a combined score of six points.

Mixed Doubles Teams						
Name	Partner	Event	Section	Team Name	Team Score	Place (and Prize)
Selina Cheng	Vidip Kona	3-day	Premier	Chengona	4 + 4 = 8	1st -> \$450
Vidip Kona	Selina Cheng	3-day	Open	Chengona		
Iryna Gavrysh	Leonid Gavrysh	3-day	Premier	Gavrysh	3 + 4 = 7	2nd -> \$300
Leonid Gavrysh	Iryna Gavrysh	3-day	Open	Gavrysh		
Emma Li	Ted Wang	3-day	Premier	Emma-Ted	2.5 + 3.5 = 6	3rd -> \$150
Ted Wang	Emma Li	3-day	Open	Emma-Ted		
Mary Kuhner	Valentin Razmov	3-day	Open	Racoon	1 + 4 = 5	4th
Valentin Razmov	Mary Kuhner	3-day	Open	Racoon		
Olivia Ding	Leonardo Wang	3-day	Premier	Olivianardo	2 + 2.5 = 4.5	5th
Leonardo Wang	Olivia Ding	3-day	Open	Olivianardo		
Kate Wong	Dann Merriman	3-day	Premier	Merriwong	2 + 2 = 4	6th/7th/8th
Dann Merriman	Kate Wong	3-day	Premier	Merriwong		
Zoe Xu	Owen Xu	3-day	Premier	Xu^2	1.5 + 2.5 = 4	6th/7th/8th
Owen Xu	Zoe Xu	3-day	Open	Xu^2		
Deeksha Shankaranand	Devansh Sharma	3-day	Premier	DeDe	2 + 2 = 4	6th/7th/8th
Devansh Sharma	Deeksha Shankaranand	3-day	Premier	DeDe		

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Washington Open Carol Kleist Memorial Adult Swiss

The Washington Open Carol Kleist Memorial Adult Swiss took place May 27-29 alongside the main tournament to honor the late Carol Kleist, who passed away during last year's Washington Open. The 12-player adult-only (18+) six-round Swiss featured a slightly faster time control of G/90;+30 to provide an alternative event for those adults seeking to spend less time at the board and wishing to avoid playing those pesky underrated kids! The event was run under the supervision of Senior TD Fred Kleist, Carol's beloved husband, and was sponsored by the Seattle Chess Club with a generous prize fund of \$1000 guaranteed by SCC board member and chess benefactor Henry Yan.

Zillah chess queen Amanda Panell opted to "simul" the Carol Kleist Memorial Adult Swiss and the two-day Rising section of the main tournament and managed to pull it off without a hitch, playing a total of nine tournament games over the course of the holiday weekend!

NM Gerald Larson (2108 → 2111, 6.0) of Seattle. emerged victorious with a perfect six wins from six games. Larson was in deep trouble after mishandling the white side of a Dutch in his game against tournament sponsor Henry Yan (1679) in the third round but managed a lucky escape in time pressure.

Two Seattle Chess Club board members — Henry Yan (1679 → 1672, 4.0) of Bellevue and Nicholas Liotta (1433 → 1470, 4.0) of Seattle — shared Second/Third Place honors two points back. Henry Hua (1399 → 1423, 3.5) of Seattle and Hong Xu (1203 → 1269, 3.5) of Kenmore split the First Place U2000/U1700 prize with three and a half points apiece.

Shoreline chess king Jacob Gulotta (1072 → 1258, 3.0) earned the First U1400 prize with an even three points and scored the biggest upset win (451 points) to add to his earnings. Amanda Panell (156 → 196, 2.5) captured the First U1100 prize with a clutch fifth-round win against fellow chess queen Audrie Gordon (215).

The results below are presented with a pink title in honor of Carol's favorite color.

Washington Open Scholastic

The 2023 Washington Open Scholastic chess tournament took place on Saturday, May 27 at the Redmond Marriott. Scholastic chess players in grades K-12 participated from throughout the Pacific Northwest, including the cities of Bothell, Redmond, Bellevue, Sammamish, Kirkland, Mill Creek, Olympia, North Bend, Snoqualmie, Woodinville, Seattle, Vancouver (Washington), Yarrow Point, Renton, Snohomish, Camano Island, Mercer Island, Stanwood, Issaquah, Bainbridge Island, Vashon, Kent, Marysville, White Salmon, Puyallup, Kenmore, and Ravensdale!

The event was hosted by the Washington Chess Federation and directed by WCF Scholastic Director Rekha Sagar with assistance from high school chess studs Melina Li and Ojas Kandhare. Amazing photographs were taken throughout the day by chess mom extraordinaire Meiling Cheng. A packed house of 130 players competed across three sections parsed by grade level and rating: K-4 U1200, 5-12 U1200, and K-12 Open.

Congratulations to the Amazon gift card winners:

K-4 U1200:


1st Lewis Ma, 5.0 points — Champion!

2nd Wenyou Wang, 4.5 points

=3rd/4th Elijah Edwin, Yugo Bandai, Peter Luo, Lakshana Anand, Imai Maharaja, Aarya Patel, Ellis Nelson, 4 points each

Biggest Upset: Suryaa Srishankar (510 points)

Final Results & Standings: Washington Open Carol Kleist Memorial Adult Swiss												
#	Place	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Total pts	Prize	
	1	NM Gerald Larson	2108	W4	W11	W2	W3	W7	W5	6	1 st -> \$240	
	2	Henry Yan	1698	W9	W7	L1	W4	L3	W8	4	=2 nd /3 rd -> \$165	
	3	Nicholas Liotta	1398	W12	W10	D8	L1	W2	H---	4	=2 nd /3 rd -> \$165	
	4	Henry Hua	1368	L1	W9	W12	L2	D8	W7	3.5	=1 st U2000/U1700 -> \$105	
	5	Hong Xu	1103	D8	H---	W10	W11	H---	L1	3.5	=1 st U2000/U1700 -> \$105	
	6	John Christy	1523	L7	L8	D9	W12	W11	H---	3		
	7	Jacob Gulotta	1072	W6*	L2	W11	W8	L1	L4	3	1 st U1400 -> \$90 + Biggest Upset Win* (451 pts.) -> \$50	
	8	Ralph Anthony	1527	D5	W6	D3	L7	D4	L2	2.5		
	9	Henry Louie	1310	L2	L4	D6	W10	H---	H---	2.5		
	10	Amanda Panell	156	B---	L3	L5	L9	W12	H---	2.5	1 st U1100 -> \$80	
	11	Don Hack	1393	X---	L1	L7	L5	L6	W12	2		
	12	Audrie Gordon	215	L3	B---	L4	L6	L10	L11	1		



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5-12 U1200:

=1st/2nd Oliver Wakeman & Joseph Loi, 4.5 each — Co-Champions!

=3rd/4th Aayan Hetamsaria, Rahul Mitra, Rowan Goldman, Karthik Yakkali, 4 points each

Biggest Upset Win: Carlos Howell (388 points)

K-12 Open:

=1st/2nd Odbayar Yondon & Samuel Cha, 4 points each — Co-Champions!

3rd Bichen Liu, 3.5 points

=4th Miles Kuipers & Keeran Balayoghan, 3 points each

Biggest Upset Win: Kevin Zhang (525 points)

Washington Open Fischer Random Chess 960 Championship

The Washington Open Chess 960 (Fischer Random) Championship, a four-round Swiss in one section, took place on Saturday May 27 at 2:15 PM under the direction of WCF President Josh Sinanan. A dozen players honored the great American World Champion as they scrambled up the back-rank pieces and played from randomized starting positions each round! Pieces were drawn at random from a bag between rounds by the players themselves, after which they were given two minutes to analyze the starting position before clocks were started.

The positions drawn were as follows:
Round 1: Position 14—QNNRKBRR,
Round 2: Position 470—RNBKBRQ,
Round 3: Position 742—RKBNNBQR,
Round 4: Position 453—RNBBNKQR.
The third round starting position, which featured the knights swapped for the king and queen, made for especially intriguing play!

After four fun action-packed rounds, Kirkland chess stud Ozgun Ozusta (1813, 3.5) was crowned the Washington Open Chess 960 Champion, with an undefeated three and a half points from four games, conceding a single draw to Northwest Master Nehanraj Ramesh (2203) in the final round to clinch the title. A duo of Chess 960 daredevils CM Nikash Vemparala (2122, 3.0) of Redmond and

Final Results and Standings - WA Open Chess960 Championship

#	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Total pts	Prize
1	Ozgun Ozusta	1813	W8	W2	W3	D4	3.5	1st -> \$40
2	CM Nikash Vemparala	2122	W7	L1	W6	W5	3	=2nd/3rd -> \$25
3	Valentin Razmov	1805	W11	W5	L1	W7	3	=2nd/3rd -> \$25
4	Nehanraj Ramesh	2203	L6	W10	W9	D1	2.5	
5	Michael Shapiro	1710	W12	L3	W8	L2	2	
6	Sridhar Seshadri	1638	W4	L9	L2	W11	2	
7	Gabriel Razmov	1589	L2	W12	W10	L3	2	
8	William Dann	1562	L1	W11	L5	W9	2	
9	Qingsheng Chen	1490	H---	W6	L4	L8	1.5	
10	Xinyu Chen	1242	H---	L4	L7	W12	1.5	1st U1400 -> \$10
11	Kayne Winter	1170	L3	L8	W12	L6	1	
12	Zion Pantea	555	L5	L7	L11	L10	0	

Valentin Razmov (1805, 3.0) of Seattle shared =Second/Third Place honors a half-point back. Bellevue Chess 960 stud Xinyu Chen (1242, 1.5) won his final game against the luckless Zion Pantea (555) to capture the First Place U1400 prize.

Chess-Inspired Artwork On Display

Local artist and chess player Gabriela Osias was on-site on Saturday 5/27 to display some of her chess-inspired artwork! Players and parents had a chance to check out samples of her creative brilliance on her Instagram (https://www.instagram.com/gosi_creates/). Gabriela's work is notable for its novelty and fine craftsmanship and makes a wonderful gift for any chess enthusiast!

Washington Open Puzzle Solving Competition

On Saturday afternoon at 4:30 PM, 30 intrepid puzzle warriors were given a maximum of 45 minutes to solve 16 chess puzzles.

The puzzles, which were designed by WCF Tournament Coordinator Valentin Razmov, contained a challenging mix of tactical and strategic themes. Solutions were written on paper, and contestants were evaluated based on accuracy, completeness, and speed.

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



*Popular local chess coach Michael Hosford works through the challenging set of puzzles at the Washington Open Puzzle Solving Competition. "Coach Mike" won the competition by less than half a point!
Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.*

Washington Open - Puzzle Solving Competition

May 27, 2023

Time allowed: 45 minutes

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

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

Solution: 1. _____



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

Solution: 1. _____ 2. _____



Puzzle #3: Black to move and win.

Solution: 1... _____ 2. _____



Puzzle #4: Black to move and mate in 3.

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



1 of 4

Washington Open - Puzzle Solving Competition

Puzzle #5: Black to move and win material.

Solution: 1... _____ 2. _____
3. _____ 4. _____



Puzzle #6: Black to move and win.

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



Puzzle #7: What move and idea offers Black best chances to avoid a loss? Explain briefly.

Solution: 1... _____ 2. _____
3. _____ 4. _____

Idea: _____



Puzzle #8: What is White's best chance here?

Solution: 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____
Explanation (optional): _____



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Washington Open - Puzzle Solving Competition

Puzzle #9: What move and idea gives White best chances in the coming middlegame? Explain.

Solution: 1. _____ 2. _____
Idea: _____



Puzzle #10: Black to move and win.

Solution: 1... _____ 2. _____ 3. _____
3... _____ 4. _____ 5. _____



Puzzle #11: White to move and win.

Solution: 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____
Explanation (optional): _____



Puzzle #12: What move and idea gives Black best chances? Explain briefly.

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



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Washington Open - Puzzle Solving Competition

Puzzle #13: Black to move. Which side is better? What is Black's best move? Explain briefly.

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



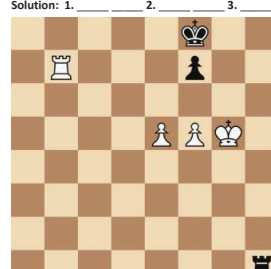
Puzzle #14: Which move and idea gives White best chances to play for a win? Explain briefly.

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



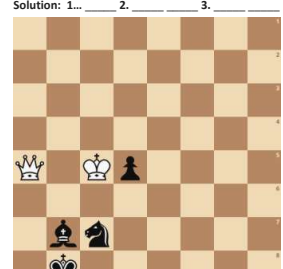
Puzzle #15: Which of the following 3 options gives White best chances: 1.f6, 1.Ra7, or 1.Rb8+? Explain:

Solution: 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____



Puzzle #16: How can Black successfully defend in this endgame? Explain your idea briefly.

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



4 of 4

Final Results and Standings: Washington Open Puzzle Solving Competition

Last Name	First Name	Highest Rating	Start Time	End Time	Minutes used	Score (out of 16)	Prize
Hosford	Michael	1974	4:43 PM	5:29 PM	46	11.75	1st -> \$75
Razmov	Gabriel	1589	4:43 PM	5:23 PM	40	11.5	=2nd/3rd -> \$42
Cheng	Edward	1811	4:43 PM	5:30 PM	47	11.5	=2nd/3rd -> \$42
Reddy Saggi	Neevan	1526	4:43 PM	5:23 PM	40	10.75	=1st U1700/U1400 -> \$15
Shah	Aarit	1392	4:43 PM	5:28 PM	45	10.75	=1st U1700/U1400 -> \$15
Certain	Malcolm	1030	4:43 PM	5:28 PM	45	10.75	=1st U1700/U1400 -> \$15
Rausch	Aaron	603	4:43 PM	5:30 PM	47	10.5	
Vemparala	Nikash	2122	4:43 PM	5:24 PM	41	10	
Yondon	Odbayar	1626	4:43 PM	5:30 PM	47	9.75	
Ramesh	Nehanraj	2203 (P)	4:43 PM	4:57 PM	14	9	
Kuhner	Mary	1860	4:43 PM	5:30 PM	47	8.75	
Koppala	Sambhav	1346	4:43 PM	5:30 PM	47	8.75	
Dantzler	Ryan	1393 (P)	4:43 PM	5:29 PM	46	8	
Bharadwaj	Samarth	1429	4:43 PM	5:23 PM	40	7.25	
Maharaja	Imai	1067	4:43 PM	5:30 PM	47	7.25	
Winter	Kayne	1170	4:43 PM	5:30 PM	47	6.75	
Li	Edgar	1159	4:43 PM	5:14 PM	31	6.25	
Asakura	Tomoaki	1247	4:43 PM	5:30 PM	47	5.75	
Willaford	Loyd	1585	4:43 PM	5:30 PM	47	5.75	
Cheng	Selina	1454	4:43 PM	5:24 PM	41	4.25	
Covey	Lashawna	Unrated	4:43 PM	5:29 PM	46	3.75	1st Unrated -> \$23
	Jackie		4:43 PM	5:30 PM	47	3.5	
Bhende	Shaurya	727	4:43 PM	5:30 PM	47	3	
Chen	Max	691	4:43 PM	5:24 PM	41	2.5	
Chen	Felix	839	4:43 PM	5:26 PM	43	2.5	
Grabski	Ben	Unrated	4:43 PM	5:30 PM	47	2.5	
Palathingal	Rafael	1291	5:19 PM	~5:35 PM	16	2.25	
Panter	Joshua	1102	4:43 PM	5:30 PM	47	2	
Wakeman	Oliver	1170	4:43 PM	~5:10 PM	27	1.5	
Bharadwaj	Shriya	Unrated	4:43 PM	5:25 PM	42	0.75	

Washington Open Annual Chess Workshop for Girls and Women

The Fourth Chess Workshop for Girls and Women, led by WCF Scholastic Director, Rekha Sagar, took place on Saturday evening from 6:00-8:00 PM in the studio space. A solid turnout of about a dozen girls and women attended the workshop and enjoyed some complimentary Pagliacci pizza and beverages courtesy of WCF while discussing the topic of: "How to develop and cultivate women's and girls' chess". The ladies enjoyed some fun blitz and bughouse games to round out the enchanting evening.

Washington Open Rapid Championship

The Washington Open Rapid Championship, a five-round Swiss in one section, took place on Sunday afternoon at 2:00 PM under the direction of five-time Washington State Champion FM Slava Mikhailuk.

Thirty-eight players ranging from unrated to master level competed in the popular side event, which featured a time control of G/15;+5 and was US Chess Quick Rated!

After the smoke cleared from the fast and furious pace of play, FM Peter Yu (2142 → 2141, 4.5), originally from California but now living in Bothell,

emerged victorious with an undefeated four and a half points from five games, allowing only a single draw against Ozgun Ozusta (1677) in the penultimate round.

A quintuplet of players shared =Second/Third/U1900 honors a half-point back: CM Vignesh Anand (1536 → 1581, 4.0) of Redmond, CM Nikash Vemparala (1565 → 1577, 4.0) of Redmond, NM David Rupel (1996 → 1989, 4.0) of Olympia, Miles Kuipers (1400 → 1483, 4.0) of Bellevue, and Ozgun Ozusta (1677 → 1736, 4.0) of Kirkland.

Five up-and-coming juniors contributed to their college funds by splitting the First U1600 prize with three points apiece: Gabriel Razmov (1048 → 1076, 3.0) of Seattle, Dann Merriman

Final Results & Standings: WA Open Rapid Championship									
#	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total pts	Prize
1	FM Peter Yu	2226	W17	W10	W4	D6	W5	4.5	1st -> \$150
2	CM Vignesh Anand	2130	W22	W11	L5	W18	W10	4	=2nd/3rd/U1900 -> \$54
3	CM Nikash Vemparala	2122	W24	W13	L8	W14	W9	4	=2nd/3rd/U1900 -> \$54
4	NM David Rupel	1996	W25	W15	L1	W13	W12	4	=2nd/3rd/U1900 -> \$54
5	Miles Kuipers	1822	W27	W35	W2	W8	L1	4	=2nd/3rd/U1900 -> \$54
6	Ozgun Ozusta	1813	W23	W16	W7	D1	D8	4	=2nd/3rd/U1900 -> \$54
7	FM Ryan W Porter	2289	D21	W28	L6	W20	W18	3.5	
8	Nehanraj Ramesh	2203	W34	W9	W3	L5	D6	3.5	
9	Valentin Razmov	1805	W36	L8	W17	W16	L3	3	
10	David Merrikin	1690	W37	L1	W22	W15	L2	3	
11	Sankalp Koppala	1665	W38	L2	L24	W21	W19	3	
12	Gabriel Razmov	1589	L28	W23	W25	W24	L4	3	=1st U1600 -> \$11
13	Dann Merriman	1565	W29	L3	W27	L4	W30	3	=1st U1600 -> \$11
14	Neevan Reddy Saddi	1526	W31	D18	D19	L3	W22	3	=1st U1600 -> \$11
15	Arjun Yadav	1511	W32	L4	W26	L10	W27	3	=1st U1600 -> \$11
16	Lucas Huang	1408	W30	L6	W35	L9	W24	3	=1st U1600 -> \$11
17	Brynden Olson	1295	L1	W37	L9	W35	W31	3	1st U1300 -> \$45
18	Richard Lavoice	1901	W26	D14	W20	L2	L7	2.5	
19	Pratik Dhumal	1688	L35	W33	D14	W28	L11	2.5	
20	Qingsheng Chen	1490	H---	W21	L18	L7	W28	2.5	
21	Sambhav Koppala	1345	D7	L20	W33	L11	W32	2.5	
22	Venu Koppala	1290	L2	W38	L10	W23	L14	2	
23	Richard W Mogstad	1273	L6	L12	W29	L22	W34	2	
24	Lydia Xiong	1255	L3	W31	W11	L12	L16	2	
25	Patrick Yu	1182	L4	W29	L12	L30	W36	2	
26	Oliver Wakeman	1170	L18	W30	L15	L31	W35	2	
27	Leonid Zandanov	1165	L5	W32	L13	W34	L15	2	
28	Aaron Rausch	603	*W12	L7	W34	L19	L20	2	*Biggest Upset Win (986 pts.) -> \$45
29	Zion Pantea	555	L13	L25	L23	W38	W37	2	
30	Xavier Palathingal	unr.	L16	L26	W38	W25	L13	2	=1st Unrated -> \$19
31	John Fawcett	unr.	L14	L24	W36	W26	L17	2	=1st Unrated -> \$19
32	Riyaan Ravindran	unr.	L15	L27	D37	W33	L21	1.5	
33	William Pan	unr.	H---	L19	L21	L32	X38	1.5	
34	Ayan Deshpande	1335	L8	W36	L28	L27	L23	1	
35	Joshua Pantea	1102	W19	L5	L16	L17	L26	1	
36	Keith Ciani	1017	L9	L34	L31	W37	L25	1	
37	Roman Davis	938	L10	L17	D32	L36	L29	0.5	
38	Akshay Gupta	708	L11	L22	L30	L29	F33	0	

(1082 → 1088, 3.0) of Duvall, Neevan Reddy Saddi (1228 → 1279, 3.0) of Issaquah, Arjun Yadav (1239 → 1240, 3.0) of Sammamish, and Lucas Huang (933 → 1017, 3.0) of Sammamish. Eatonville chess king Brynden Olson (unrated → 1232, 3.0) captured the First Place U1300 prize with a solid “plus one” score.

Two players split the First Place unrated prize down the middle, each with two points: local fellow Xavier Palathingal (unrated → 637, 2.0) of Redmond and John Fawcett (unrated → 703, 3.0) of Enumclaw.

The biggest upset win was achieved by Aaron “the wrecking ball” Rausch (986 points) of Richland in the very first round.

Washington Open Ignacio Perez Memorial Blitz Tournament

In honor of the late great Pacific Northwest chess legend FM Ignacio Perez, the inaugural Ignacio Perez Memorial Blitz Tournament was held on Monday evening at 8:00 PM. Ignacio was especially fond of blitz chess, often playing marathon blitz sessions that lasted into the wee hours of the morning with the strongest players he could find.

The fantastic 55-player turnout was a testament to Ignacio’s legacy, as he has touched the lives of many throughout his chess career and was a loved and cherished figure in the local chess

community. To attract as many strong and titled players as possible, WCF juiced up the prize fund to \$1,600! The high-stakes blitz tournament would have appealed to Ignacio, who is likely now playing blitz with Tal and trying to out-sacrifice him!

The Ignacio Perez Memorial Blitz tournament wrapped up the weekend’s festivities on Monday night, when only a few games in the main tournament remained elsewhere in the playing hall. Newly elected WCF Co-Vice President Rekha Sagar directed the nine-round single Swiss tournament, which featured a time control of G/4;+2, allowing for more relaxed play than the typical G/3;+2 time control permits.

Two of Ignacio’s former rivals, FM Slava Mikhailuk (2307 → 2313, 8.0) of Sammamish and NM Samuel He (2259 → 2266, 8.0) of Redmond, were crowned Co-Champions, each with an impressive eight points from nine games. Samuel was perfect through six rounds before losing the head-to-head game in round seven to Mikhailuk, who dropped a point to young blitz phenom Vidip Kona (2037) earlier in the tournament.

A trio of players shared Third Place honors a point and a half back: Vahe Muselimyan (2129 → 2127, 6.5) of Everett, Vidip Kona (2037 → 2060, 6.5) of Redmond, and James Wei (1938 → 1957, 6.5) of Boise. Two young chess studs, Sam Maurer (unrated → 1766, 5.5) of Bellevue and Benjamin Frederick (1017 → 1210, 5.5) of Seattle, split the First U1900/U1700 prize with a “plus two” score. Milton speed chess wizard Evan Takayoshi (unrated → 1414, 4.5) and rampaging Redmond chess speedster Kanav Shah (unrated → 1021, 4.5) tied for the First U1500 prize with an even score. Redmond blitz kings Aditya Karri (unrated → 1104, 4.0) and Sriram Nagarajan (unrated → 1109, 4.0) shared the First Place U1300 prize. The First Place unrated prize was awarded to Vishal Suram (1045 → 1180, 4.0) of Bothell.

Ralph Anthony scored the biggest upset win (889 points) by virtue of upsetting IM Leslie Leow (2472) of Bellevue in the first round! Bellevue chess princess Lavina Abhilash (age nine) won the youngest female player award. Selina Cheng of Seattle won the Best Female Player prize with a tournament performance rating of 1522. A pair of veteran chess kings – IM Leslie Leow (2220 → 2174, 5.5) and Dave Juchau

Final Results and Standings: Ignacio Perez Memorial Blitz Tournament

#	Name	Rating	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Rd 7	Rd 8	Rd 9	Total	Prize
1	FM Slava Mikhailuk	2385	W22	W31	W14	L4	W9	W8	W2	W7	W6	8	=1st/2nd: \$350 each
2	NM Samuel He	2260	W23	W18	W5	W8	W4	W7	L1	W3	W13	8	
3	Vahe Muselimyan	2207	W28	W20	L4	W21	W31	W14	W6	L2	D5	6.5	=3rd: \$66 each
4	Vidip Kona	2011	W35	W55	W3	W1	L2	L6	W10	W8	D7	6.5	
5	James Wei	2002	W36	W39	L2	W20	L6	W12	W18	W15	D3	6.5	
6	FM Tian Sang	2337	W32	W10	L8	W25	W5	W4	L3	W11	L1	6	
7	CM Vignesh Anand	2130	W46	D21	W19	W15	W12	L2	W14	L1	D4	6	
8	Bertrand Wan	2019	W29	W38	W6	L2	W22	L1	W15	L4	W19	6	
9	CM Chris M Kalina	1970	W37	W51	L52	W23	L1	W22	D25	W12	D14	6	
10	Vihaan Jammalamadaka	1950	W30	L6	L21	W36	W19	W20	L4	W22	W18	6	
11	IM Leslie Leow	2472	L41	D43	W24	W38	L15	W32	W16	L6	W26	5.5	Best Senior Player
12	NM Daniel Shubin	2263	W42	W16	D15	W13	L7	L5	W26	L9	W25	5.5	
13	Nehanraj Ramesh	2203	W33	D19	W26	L12	W21	L15	W41	W25	L2	5.5	
14	NM Aaryan Deshpande	2157	W34	W25	L1	W32	W16	L3	L7	W28	D9	5.5	
15	CM Nikash Vemparala	2122	W43	W41	D12	L7	W11	W13	L8	L5	W28	5.5	
16	Sam Maurer	1766	W49	L12	W34	W40	L14	D28	L11	W21	W29	5.5	=1st U1900/U1700: \$150 each
17	Benjamin Frederick	1501	L52	W50	L18	X54	L20	W42	D27	W24	W31	5.5	
18	Edward Cheng	1811	X57	L2	W17	L22	W33	W40	L5	W20	L10	5	
19	Valentin Razmov	1805	W48	D13	L7	W45	L10	W38	D21	W23	L8	5	
20	Michael Shapiro	1710	W50	L3	W35	L5	W17	L10	W33	L18	W34	5	
21	Gabriel Razmov	1589	W53	D7	W10	L3	L13	W29	D19	L16	W40	5	
22	Blessington Moses	1567	L1	W37	W55	W18	L8	L9	W40	L10	W38	5	
23	William Dann	1562	L2	W30	W53	L9	L40	W36	W34	L19	W37	5	
24	Jeffrey Tiglon	1731	L39	L29	L11	W43	D45	W49	W38	L17	W42	4.5	
25	Ujwal Garine	1654	W44	L14	W46	L6	W34	W31	D9	L13	L12	4.5	
26	Odbayar Yondon	1626	W54	D52	L13	D29	D46	W30	L12	W41	L11	4.5	
27	Dave Juchau	1609	F55	L35	W43	L30	W48	W47	D17	L29	W41	4.5	Best Senior Player
28	Neevan Reddy Saddi	1526	L3	W49	L40	W47	W51	D16	W31	L14	L15	4.5	
29	Evan Takayoshi	1421	L8	W24	D45	D26	D41	L21	W32	W27	L16	4.5	=1st U1500: \$60 each
30	Kanav Shah	1318	L10	L23	W50	W27	D32	L26	L45	W44	W43	4.5	
31	Miles Kuipers	1822	W47	L1	W33	W51	L3	L25	L28	W36	L17	4	
32	Aniruddha Barua	1565	L6	W36	W39	L14	D30	L11	L29	D49	W47	4	
33	Arjun Yadav	1511	L13	W48	L31	W39	L18	W51	L20	L40	W49	4	
34	Selina Cheng	1454	L14	W44	L16	W53	L25	W45	L23	W35	L20	4	Best Female Player
35	Eliot Amalo	1404	L4	W27	L20	L42	L39	W53	W47	L34	W50	4	
36	Aarit Shah	1392	L5	L32	W49	L10	W55	L23	W39	L31	W45	4	
37	Niranjan Prashant	1348	L9	L22	L48	L50	B---	W55	W51	W45	L23	4	
38	Aditya Karri	1295	X56	L8	W41	L11	W42	L19	L24	W46	L22	4	=1st U1300: \$50 each
39	Sriram Nagarajan	1000	W24	L5	L32	L33	W35	L43	L36	B---	W46	4	
40	Vishal Suram	unr.	H---	H---	W28	L16	W23	L18	L22	W33	L21	4	1st Unrated: \$100
41	Ralph Anthony	1583	W11	L15	L38	W48	D29	W46	L13	L26	L27	3.5	Biggest upset win: \$80
42	Karsh Havaladar	1563	L12	W47	L51	W35	L38	L17	W48	D43	L24	3.5	
43	Balbir Singh	1426	L15	D11	L27	L24	W44	W39	D46	D42	L30	3.5	
44	Zion Pantea	555	L25	L34	L47	D49	L43	B---	W53	L30	W55	3.5	
45	AFM Sridhar Seshadri	1638	H---	H---	D29	L19	D24	L34	W30	L37	L36	3	
46	Samarth Bharadwaj	1429	L7	W54	L25	W55	D26	L41	D43	L38	L39	3	
47	Rafael Palathingal	1295	L31	L42	W44	L28	W53	L27	L35	W48	L32	3	
48	Joshua Pantea	1102	L19	L33	W37	L41	L27	W50	L42	L47	B---	3	
49	Snehil Ghosh	1051	L16	L28	L36	D44	W50	L24	W55	D32	L33	3	
50	Eshaan Verma	852	L20	L17	L30	W37	L49	L48	B---	W51	L35	3	
51	Alex Foltenyi	unr.	B---	L9	W42	L31	L28	L33	L37	L50	W53	3	
52	Oscar Sprumont	2200	W17	D26	W9	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	2.5	
53	Xavier Palathingal	unr.	L21	B---	L23	L34	L47	L35	L44	W55	L51	2	
54	Riyaan Ravindran	unr.	L26	L46	B---	F17	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	1	
55	Lavina Abhilash	unr.	X27	L4	L22	L46	L36	L37	L49	L53	L44	1	Youngest Female Player
56	Ozgun Ozusta	1813	F38	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	0	
57	Kyle Boddy	1230	F18	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	U---	0	



*Olivia Ding (L) vs Karan Khanolkar.
Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.*

(1607 → 1524, 4.5) of Seattle — were recognized as the best senior players.

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

**David Murray (1824) –
Davey Jones (1691) [D00]**

Washington Open
Redmond, WA (R2), May 27, 2023
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.Nc3!?

3.c4 Bg7 4.Nc3

3...d5 4.Bf4 Bg7 5.Nb5

5.e3 0-0 6.Be2 c5 7.Ne5

**5...Na6 6.e3 0-0 7.h3 c6 8.Nc3 Nc7
9.Bd3 Ne6 10.Be5 c5 11.0-0 b6 12.b3
Bb7 13.Na4 Rc8 14.Qe2?!**

14.dxc5 bxc5 15.c4!?



Position after 14.Qe2

14...Ne4

14...c4!?. 15.bxc4 dxc4 16.Bxc4 Bxf3
17.gxf3 Rxc4!?. 18.Qxc4 Qd7 19.Nc3 (19.
Bxf6 Bxf6 20.Nc3 Ng5) 19...Rc8 20.Qd3
Ng5 21.Bxf6 and now, for example,
21...Rxc3 22.Qxc3 Bxf6 23.f4 Qxh3
24.fxg5 Qg4+ with perpetual check.;
14...cxd4 15.Nxd4 (15.exd4 Bh6. White's
offside knight is a problem.) 15...Nc5
16.Nxc5 bxc5 17.Nf3 c4 18.bxc4 dxc4
19.Bxc4 Bxf3 20.gxf3 Rc5, and Black
has definite compensation for the pawn
and bishop pair.

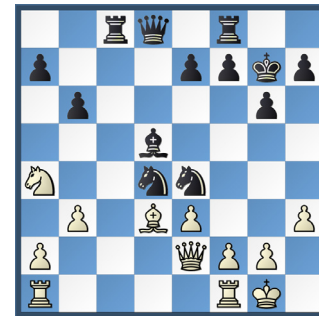
15.Bxg7 Kxg7 16.c4 cxd4 17.cxd5?!

17.Nxd4 dxc4 (or 17...Nxd4 18.exd4 Bc6)
18.Nxe6+ fxe6

17...Bxd5

17...Qxd5 18.Bc4 Qf5.

18.Nxd4 Nxd4



Position after 18...Nxd4

19.Qb2?

Perhaps a bit too fancy. Simply recapturing
with 19.exd4 Nf6. does leave White
defending the IQP position, though.

19...f6?

19...e5! 20.exd4 Qg5! and suddenly
Black is developing a serious kingside
initiative.

20.exd4 Qd7 21.Rfe1 Ng5 22.Re3 Rc7?!

22...Ne6 eyes f4.

**23.Rae1 e6 24.Nc3 Bc6 25.h4 Nf7
26.Ne4?!**

26.Ne2 with better coordination.

26...Qd5?!

26...Bxe4 removes White's most
threatening piece.

27.Bc4 Qd7

27...Qd8 28.Nxf6! Bxg2

a) 28...Qxf6 29.Rxe6 and 30.d5+ to
follow.;

b) 28...b5 29.Rxe6 bxc4 (29...Nh6
30.d5 Rxf6 31.Rxf6 Qxf6 32.Qxf6+
Kxf6 33.Re6+ Kg7 34.Rxc6) 30.d5
Kh6 31.dxc6;



*Selina Cheng (L) vs William Corbit during round 5.
Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.*



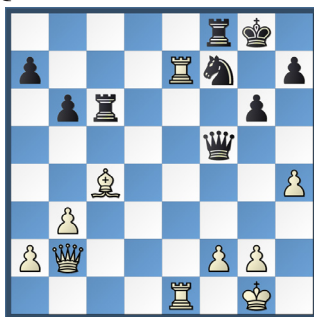
*Andra Marinescu (L) keeps well caffeinated in her game against the shaggy WCF Treasurer Robert Allen.
Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.*

29.Nh5+ gxh5 30.Rg3+ Kh8 31.Kxg2

28.Nxf6 Kxf6 29.Rxe6+

29.d5+ is similarly decisive.

29...Kg7 30.d5+ Kg8 31.dxc6 Rxc6 32.
Re7 Qf5



Position after 32...Qf5

33.Rxf7!

Although Stockfish prefers continued queen maneuvers with 33.Qd4, the capture on f7 wins the queen or checkmates, delivering instant clarity.

1-0

**Sujan Saravanan (1701) –
Harrison Toppen-Ryan (1930) [B22]**
Washington Open
Redmond, WA (R2), May 31, 2023
[Harrison Toppen-Ryan]

1.e4 c5 2.c3

A lot of club players love playing the Alapin Sicilian as White. It was a popular opening at the Bellingham Open as well. I've seen this played against me more times than any other variation besides the mainline 2.Nf3 and 3.d4 open Sicilian.

2...Nf6

2...d5 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.d4 This is the more popular line Black can try. I decided to play 2.Nf6 instead as it's more advanced and more comfortable for Black in my opinion.

3.e5 Nd5 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.Bc4 Nb6 6.Bb3 d6
7.exd6 Qxd6 8.0-0 g6

8...c4 9.Bc2 Bg4 is Black's main try. Probably better than the ...g6 plan that I went for.

9.d4 cxd4 10.Nxd4 Nxd4 11.cxd4 Bg7



Position after 11...Bg7

12.Qf3?!

I wasn't so sure about White's plan here going for the IQP, as it will always be a target for Black in this kind of middlegame.

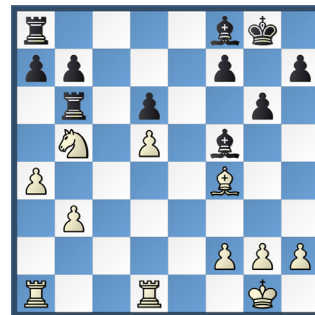
12...0-0 13.Rd1 Qf6 14.Qg3 Bf5 15.Bg5
Qd6 16.Qxd6 exd6 17.Nc3 Rfc8 18.Nb5
Nc4 19.Bxc4 Rxc4 20.b3

Here I thought I was losing had White taken my d6-pawn. Apparently, computer thinks it's about equal. 20.Nxd6 Rxd4 21.Rxd4 Bxd4 22.Nxf5 gxf5±

20...Rc6 21.Bf4 Bf8?!

This move seemed passive. I should have played more actively with 21...Rd8 22.Nxa7 Rb6!±

22.d5 Rb6 23.a4!

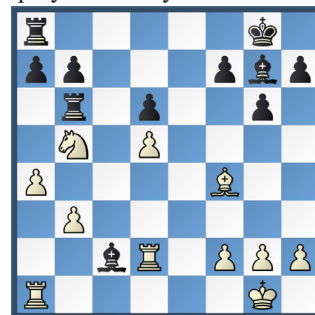


Position after 23.a4

This is the critical position of this game. 24.Be3 trapping rook is coming if Black doesn't act immediately. Without looking at the next move, what would *you* play here?

23...Bc2! 24.Rd2 Bg7!

The only moves to keep Black in the game. White is still slightly better here if White plays correctly.



Position after 24...Bg7

25.Rf1??

This was the game-turning move. The move Rc1 looks natural and is in fact the correct move to play. My opponent probably thought that after 25.Rc1 Bxb3 26.Be3 Bxa4 27.Bxb6 axb6 White can't stop both ...Bxb5 and ...Bh6, but after 28.Ra2± Black has nothing for the exchange. My opponent had to see all of this before playing Rc1, however.

25...Bxb3 26.Be3?

Going for the plan now doesn't work, since ...Bxb5 will hit the rook on f1.

26...Bxa4 27.Bxb6 Bxb5 28.Rb1?
axb6!-+

Game over. White cannot take on b5 as ...Ra1 will be checkmate.

29.g3 Ra1 30.Rdd1 Rxb1 31.Rxb1 Bc4

32.Rxb6 Bxd5 33.Rxd6 Bc6

The rest of the game will be a pretty show of how two bishops + pawn > one rook.

34.Rd8+ Bf8 35.Kf1 Kg7 36.Ke2

The b5-pawn now has a red carpet to promote to a queen. White puts up as much resistance as he can, but the result will be never be in doubt.

36...b5 37.Kd3 b4 38.Kc4 Bg2 39.Rd4 Bf1+ 40.Kb3 Ba6 41.Rd8 Bb7 42.Kc4 Bf3 43.Rd4 h5 44.h4 Bg4 45.Kb3 Be6+ 46.Kb2 Kh6 47.Kb1 b3 48.f3 Bg7

The bishops are snipers.

0-1

**Daniel He (2352) –
Pranav K. Anoop (2134) [B31]**
Washington Open
Redmond, WA (R3), May 28, 2023
[Daniel He]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5

The trendy Rossolimo variation.

3...g6 4.0-0 Bg7 5.c3 e5

One of the two main options by Black to deal with d4. 5...Nf6 6.Re1 0-0 7.d4 cxd4 8.cxd4 d5 9.e5 Ne4, the other option leads to more closed structures, but White does have the extra central space.

6.d4

Sacrificing a pawn for dynamics, which highlights the risk of Black's ...e5 move while he remains uncastled.

6...cxd4 7.cxd4 exd4 8.Bf4

The idea is I can ensure a Bd6 next move, hindering Black's development of the queenside.



Position after 8.Bf4

8...a6!

More precise than ...Nge7. Black forces me to reveal if I will retreat the bishop to a4 or c4 first. 8...Nge7?! 9.Bd6 a6 10.Bc4. Now that Black cannot play ...d6, Bc4 is

the better square for the bishop, putting pressure on the a2-g8 diagonal once Black gets castled.; 8...d6? 9.Nxd4

9.Ba4

9.Bc4?! here is no longer effective because Black can simply play 9...d6.

9...Nge7 10.Bd6 b5 11.Bb3 Bb7 12.Re1 Nc8

Inviting e5, where he's forced to play ...Kf8, leading to wild imbalances.

13.e5 Nxd6 14.exd6+ Kf8



Position after 14...Kf8

We reach the end of the opening stage with quite an imbalanced position! Statics favor Black with the bishop-pair and an extra pawn. However, White has a lead in development and Black's king is stuck in the center, so it is essential to capitalize on the dynamics before Black coordinates his pieces. It is interesting to note how the d6-pawn could either be a strength or a weakness. If Black manages to win it, my entire attack fizzles out. Otherwise, it is a big thorn in his position.

15.Nbd2 f5!?

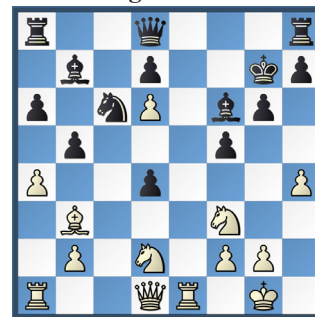
Looks very counterintuitive, opening

up the only key diagonal in front of his king. But with further analysis, if Black manages to stop my initiative and get in the moves ...Bf6 and ...Kg7, he's totally fine and now owns an extra pawn and the bishop-pair. I had to act fast. I had expected 15...Bf6, but after Ne4-Nc5 there is more than enough positional compensation for the pawn.

16.a4?!

I played this move with the intention of dropping my bishop back followed by Qb3 to further pressure the weak a2-g8 diagonal and open up the queenside. However, it was a bit slow. 16.Bd5 Bf6 17.Nb3 is the most ambitious plan, creating counterplay on the queenside with Nb3-Nc5, really disrupting his development.

16...Bf6 17.h4 Kg7



Position after 17...Kg7

18.Ng5!?

The idea behind h4. White offers another pawn to swap off Black's most valuable defender: the dark-squared bishop. If accepted, the e7-square is ready for invasion.



*Mino Nakura (L) vs Michael Shapiro
Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.*

18...Rf8

Black decides to keep his dark-squared bishop and slowly untangle with ...Qb8 followed by ...Qxd6. Once my d6-pawn drops, I am simply lost. If 18...Bxg5 19.hxg5 Qxg5, I planned on playing 20.Bd5, with ideas of both plugging the long diagonal and threatening Bxc6 followed by Re7+. 20...Qf4 21.Bxc6 Bxc6 22.Re7+ Kh6 (22...Kf8 23.Qb3) 23.Ra3!? brings the other rook in the game laterally. It gets quite messy here with Rh3+ coming, and Black's rooks cannot easily join the defense. Practically, I ended my calculation here, concluding Black should not enter this line.

19.Qe2

Threatening to take twice on b5.

19...Qb6

Black just needs one move, ...Ne5, to win d6 and catch up on development. I knew I had to act fast here. 19...Qb8 20.axb5 axb5 21.Qxb5 Qxd6 22.Qxb7 Rfb8 23.Qxa8! Black's back rank is too weak.

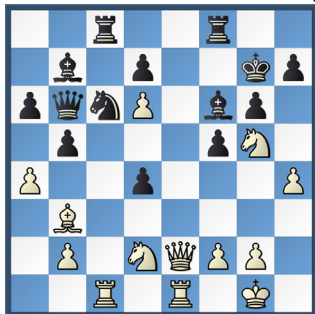
20.Rac1

20.a5 Qc5 21.Qe6!? I was pumped when I saw this Qe6 idea, but unfortunately,

...Bc8 holds for Black no matter how hard I tried to make it work. 21...Bc8!! (21...dxe6 22.Nxe6+ Kh8 23.Nxc5 I simplify into a winning endgame, and the passed d-pawn wins the game.)

20...Rac8??

Completely missing my point. 20...Ne5 21.Rc7, with threat of Ne6+, and creating pressure on the seventh rank; 20...Rae8 moving a rook to e8 forces me to sacrifice my queen in exchange for both rooks. Given Black's king is nearly enclosed in a mating net, I was optimistic about my chances. 21.Qxe8 Rxe8 22.Rxe8 Kh6 23.Ndf3. 24.Rf8 is next followed by Rf7.



Position after 20...Rac8

21.Rxc6!!

Removing the key defender of the e7-square. Black has four ways to recapture and none of them save him.

21...Qxc6

With 21...Rxc6, he does have the option of blocking the check with Rc4, but fortunately, Nxc4 comes with a key tempo on Black's queen 22.Qe7+ Bxe7 23.Rxe7+ Rf7 24.Rxf7+ Kg8 25.Rxd7+ Rc4 26.Nxc4 bxc4 27.Bxc4+ Kf8 28.Nxh7+ Ke8 29.Nf6+ Kf8 30.Rf7#

22.Qe7+! Bxe7 23.Rxe7+ Rf7

Only try to not get mated right away. 23...Kh6 24.Rxh7#; 23...Kf6 24.Nxh7# Funny how the d6-pawn wins the game for me as the rook on e7 is defended!; 23...Kh8 24.Rxh7#

24.Rxf7+ Kg8

24...Kh6 25.Rxh7#

25.Rxd7+ Kf8

Only other moves are blocking the check with the queen, leading to material gain.

26.Nxh7+ Ke8 27.Nf6+ Kf8 28.Rf7#

Nice mating net to finish.

1-0



The playing hall at the Washington Open. Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.

**Jonah Kolar (1329) –
Malcolm Certain (1170) [B18]**
Washington Open
Redmond, WA (R3), May 28, 2023
[Malcolm Certain]

1.e4 c6

The Caro-Kann, which I hadn't played for a while but picked back up for this tournament as a safe option against 1.e4.

2.d4 d5 3.Nc3

The main line.

3...dxe4 4.Nxe4 Bf5

Classical variation.

5.Ng3 Bg6 6.Nf3



Position after 6.Nf3

6...h6??

Already a big mistake. I was attempting to give a square for my bishop to retreat after Ne5, but 7.Ne5 creates big problems after ...Bh7, as White gains a massive attack on f7 that leads to a winning position. Fortunately, my opponent missed the idea.

7.Bc4?

7.Ne5 Bh7 8.Qh5 g6 9.Qf3 Nf6 10.Qb3 Nd5 11.Qxb7. Here I would have to choose between losing the rook and taking on a massive attack, giving White a huge advantage.

7...e6 8.0-0 Nf6 9.Re1 Bd6!

I finally prevented Ne5 ideas and kept White from developing his dark-squared Bishop to f4.

10.c3 0-0 11.a4 Qc7 12.Be3 Nbd7 13.Qd2

Not a bad move from White, but it allowed a lot of pressure to be placed on his position down the d-file. 13.Qe2 was perhaps a safer square.

13...Rfd8 14.Re2?

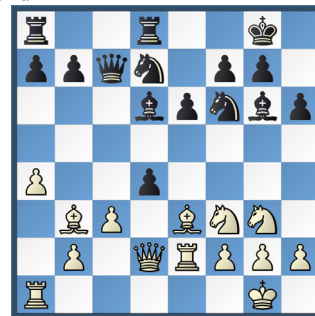
With my rook now aligned with White's

queen, 14.Re2 was too slow. It allows for me to play 14...c5 and favorably open the position.

14...c5 15.Bb3?

15.Bd3 to prevent tactics and trade light-squared bishops would have been stronger.

15...cxd4



Position after 15...cxd4

16.Bxd4??

In order to maintain a reasonable position, White had to take back with the pawn and accept a worse pawn structure.

After 16.Bxd4 Bf4, I could have achieved a more active position.



The WCF annual meeting and officer elections, which took place between rounds 5 and 6: (L-R) Rekha Sagar, David Hendricks, Duane Polich, Josh Sinanan, Robert Allen, Ani Barua, and Valentin Razmoy. Newly elected officers included Sridhar Seshadri, Joseph Levine, Shri Humrudha, and Suresh Balaji. Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.

16...Bxg3??

Here I went for a tactical combination that I thought would win a piece, but ultimately blundered away my advantage. 16...Bf4 17.Qd1 (17.Be3 loses to 17...Bxg3 18.hxg3 Nc5, and 17.Qe1 allows 17...Bd3, winning the exchange.) 17...e5 18.Be3 Nc5 19.Rd2 the most testing defensive line, but this still would have led to multiple pinned pieces and a very passive game for White. With best play, this is a winning position for Black.

17.hxg3 e5

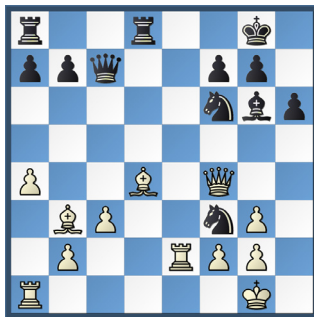
Attacking the pinned bishop. If it moves away, say 18.Be3, ...Nc5 wins either the bishop on b3 or the queen. Thus, 18.Nxe5 is forced.

18.Nxe5 Nxe5 19.Qf4!

The critical move for White that I had missed. Every other move lets me remain

up a piece, which I had calculated when I played 16...Bxg3. 19.Qf4 escapes the pin on the d4-bishop while also pinning my knight to my queen, winning back the piece that he lost with 18.Nxe5.

19...Nf3+!



Position after 19...Nf3+

My only resource to maintain equality. White has to win back his piece, so

he has two options. He can either take the knight with his queen and allow a skewer, or he can take with the pawn and go into an endgame with tripled pawns after 20...Qxf4. While that endgame is technically winning for White, it is practically very difficult to play, and so my opponent went into the more dynamic exchange sacrifice line.

20.Qxf3

20.gxf3 Qxf4 21.gxf4

20...Bh5 21.Qd3 Bxe2 22.Qxe2

With an extra pawn and two powerful bishops, White has excellent compensation for the exchange.

22...Re8 23.Qf3 Ne4?

Not a good move. I wanted to avoid ideas of Bxf6 ruining my pawn structure, but I shouldn't have been worried, as my knight was much weaker than his bishop.



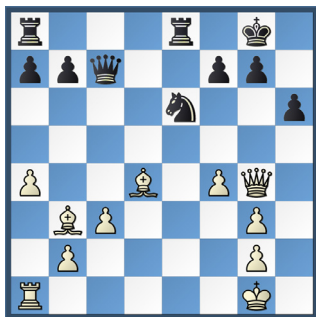
*Tom Cornelius (L) plays the Caro-Kann Defense vs Finnegan during round 2.
Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.*

23...Ne4 gave my opponent too much of an attack, which ultimately cramped my position for the rest of the game. 23...Qc6 would have been better; it offers a queen trade and defends my knight.

24.Qg4 Ng5

The only reasonable way to defend against checkmate on g7.

25.f4 Ne6!



Position after 25...Ne6

The only move to maintain equality, though practically the position was very difficult for me to play. The other candidate move, 25...Re4, loses back the exchange and gives White a passed pawn. 25...Re4 26.Qf5 Rxd4 27.cxd4

26.Bxe6!

This prevented me from removing the powerful dark-squared bishop from d4, and gave me a weak isolated pawn on e6.

26...fxe6 27.Re1 Qf7 28.Re5 Rad8 29.Bxa7 Ra8 30.Bd4 Rxa4 31.f5

This move put a lot of pressure on my position, making it difficult for me to defend, though it is still equal with best play. I can't take the pawn, as it would lead to a nice removing-the-defender tactic for White.

31...Ra6

31...exf5 32.Rxe8+ Qxe8 33.Qxg7#

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32.b4

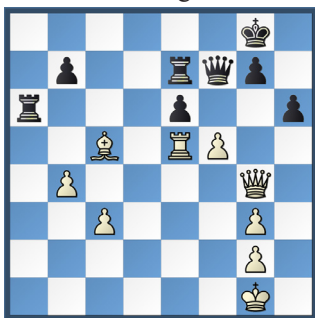
A waiting move with possible ideas of eventually forcing my rook off the sixth rank with Bc5 and b5.

32...Re7

I'm threatening to take on f5, as the rook now defends g7 and can no longer be captured with check.

33.Bc5??

This move leads to a losing position for White. Unfortunately, I missed the combination that would give me an edge. I didn't see a good response after 33...exf5 34.Rxf5 (which my opponent said after the game is what he would have played after ...exf5), missing ideas of ...Qa2+. Other options for White lead to a trade of rooks and a worse endgame.



Position after 33.Bc5

33...Rd7??

Missing the winning idea. 33...exf5 34.Rxf5 Ra1+ 35.Kf2 (35.Kh2 gets caught in a mating net after 35...Ree1) 35...Qa2+ 36.Kf3 Qe2+ 37.Kf4 Re4#.

34.Rxe6??

This gives me an opportunity to gain substantial counterplay. Best is the prophylactic move 34.Kh2, preventing Ra1 from coming with tempo.

34...Ra1+?

The tricky 34...h5 would have been a better resource here, as it forces a trade of both rooks and queens. Still, Ra1+ gives a modest advantage for Black. 34...h5 35.Qe4 The rook has to remain twice defended. 35...Rxe6 36.Qxe6 If 36.fxe6, White once again falls into a mating

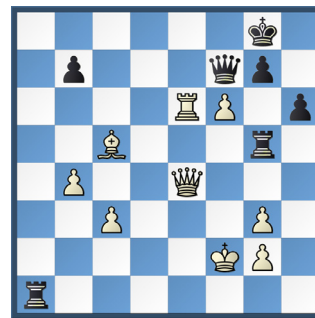
net after ...Ra1+ 37.Kh2 Qf1 36...Qxe6 37.fxe6 Rd3.

35.Kf2 Rd5 36.f6 Rg5??

Giving away the advantage. I missed White's next move here, as I thought the Qh3 was forced in order to defend the rook. Best was instead 36...Rd2+ 37.Ke3 Rdd1, giving me powerful defended rooks to attack White's king. 36...Rd2+ 37.Ke3 Rdd1 38.Kf3 g6 the only move to maintain my advantage in this line, and one that's very difficult to play, as it gives White a passed pawn and allows him to gain access to the seventh rank.

37.Qe4!

The only move. It maintains defense of the rook while also threatening the powerful 38.Re1+.



Position after 37.Qe4

37...Rg6??

Right idea, wrong execution. Better was 37...Qg6, offering a queen trade in addition to blocking access to h7. Fortunately, my opponent missed the critical 38.Bd4 to defend the pawn and keep a powerful grip on my position.

38.Ke2??

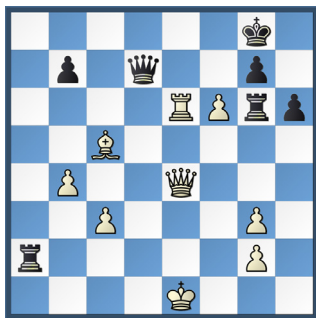
Unpinning the f-pawn, but giving away the potential for a sizeable advantage after 38.Bd4.

38...Ra2+ 39.Ke1!

Giving the king access to f2. Every other square allows too much counterplay with ideas of Rxc3 and Qa2+ if Re7 is played. With the king on e1, Ra1+ can be met with Kf2, attacking the rook on g3. An alternate line is given below showing the problems with moving the king elsewhere. 39.Kd1 Ra8 40.Bd4 Rxc3 41.Re7 Ra1+ 42.Kd2 Qa2+ 43.Qc2 Rxc3+

39...Qd7??

The losing move. I attempted to get counterplay by threatening checkmate, but I missed White's response.



Position after 39...Qd7

40.f7+!

Punishing my mistake.

40...Qxf7 41.Qxg6 Qxg6 42.Rxg6

White enters the endgame up a bishop, giving him a clear winning advantage.

42...Kf7

I played on to get some kind of chances, but I knew the position was lost.

43.Rb6 Rxg2 44.Rxb7+ Kf6 45.Bd4+ Kf5 46.Rxg7 Ke4 47.b5 Kd5 48.b6 h5 49.b7 Rb2 50.Ba7

Here I resigned, as White was going to promote.

1-0

Peter June (1964) – Harrison Toppen-Ryan (1930) [B32]
Washington Open
Redmond, WA (R4), May 31, 2023
[Harrison Toppen-Ryan]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 e5
Sicilian Kalashnikov Variation

5.Nb5 d6 6.c4

A popular sideline among Maróczy Bind players. The mainline continues 6.N1c3 a6 7.Na3 b5.

6...Be7

Waiting to play ...a6 until White plays N1c3 so that the b5-knight will be forced to go back to a3.

7.N1c3 a6 8.Na3

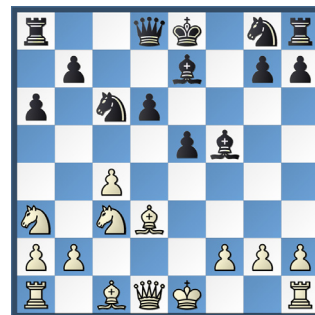
Black has three choices here. The normal-looking 8...Nf6, the professional 8...Be6 or the chaotic evil 8...f5!? Guess which one I went with.

8...f5!? 9.exf5

Taking on f5 immediately is the correct move here. Many players will not take and instead go into 9.Bd3 f4 10.g3 Nf6!?

11.gxf4 exf4 12.Bxf4 0-0 13.Bg3 Ng4 14.Be2 Nxf2!! 15.Bxf2 Rxf2!! 16.Kxf2?? Bh4+ 17.Ke3 Qg5+ 18.Kd3 Nb4+ 19.Kd4! Bf2#

9...Bxf5 10.Bd3



Position after 10.Bd3

10...Be6

Black should not be trading light-square bishops here, as if White ever plays Nd5, then Black will have ...Bxd5 later on.

11.0-0 Nf6 12.Nc2 0-0 13.Bg5

Now I've reached the end of my prep. White most popular try is 13.b3 Kh8

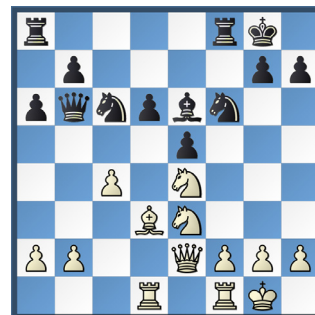
13...Ne8 14.Qh5 Bf5!?

I considered g6 here of course, but I missed the ...Bf5 idea at the very end which saves Black. 14...g6 15.Bxg6? hxg6 16.Qxg6+ Ng7 17.Bh6 Rf7 18.Bxg7 Bf5!-+

15.Bxe7 Nxe7 16.Rad1 Nf6 17.Qe2 Qb6

Threatening ...Bg4 winning material.

18.Ne3 Be6 19.Ne4 Nc6



Position after 19...Nc6

20.Nd5?!

Here is where White begins to go wrong. With a white pawn on d5, Black no longer has a d6 weakness. 20.b3 Nd4

20...Bxd5 21.cxd5 Nd4 22.Nxf6+ Rxf6 23.Qe4 g6 24.g3?

White wants to stop ...Rf4 ideas but severely weakens the f3-square in the process. Computer gives 24.Qe3 Rf4



Best dressed prize winner Gabriel Lee prepares for the start of his game. Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.

25.Qd2 Raf8 26.Rc1.

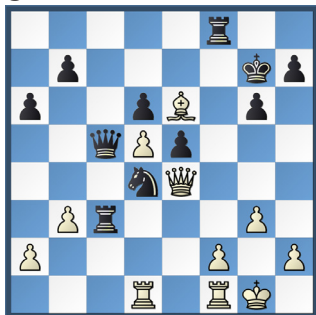
24...Raf8?!

I thought that move was natural, but even stronger was 24...Nf3+ 25.Kg2 Qxb2 26.Qe2 Qxe2 27.Bxe2 Nd4.

25.b3 Rf3 26.Be2 Rc3 27.Bg4 Qc5 28.Be6+?!

28.Kh1

28...Kg7



Position after 28...Kg7

29.Rd3??

Now the computer really likes ...Nf3+, but I thought the way I played was also alright.

29...Rc2

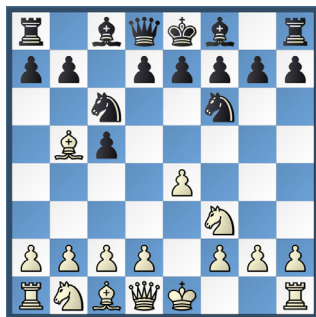
29...Nf3+ 30.Kg2 Rxd3 31.Qxd3 Ne1+!

30.Rxd4?! exd4 31.Qh4 Rf6 32.g4 h6 33.Re1 d3 34.Bf5 Rc1 35.Rxc1 Qxc1+ 36.Kg2 gxf5

0-1

Sridhar Seshadri (1700) – Harrison Toppen-Ryan (1930) [B30]
Washington Open
Redmond, WA (R6), May 31, 2023
[Harrison Toppen-Ryan]

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6



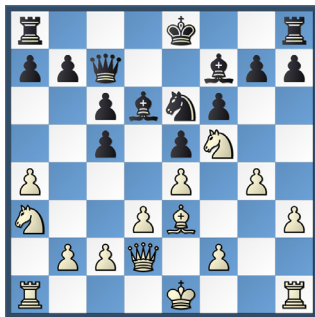
Position after 3...Nf6

The fourth most-played move and a sideline that can confuse Sicilian Rossolimo players.



Rishik De ponders what to do against the bishop skewer during his final round game. Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.

4.Bxc6 dxc6 5.d3 Bg4 6.Be3 Nd7 7.Nbd2 e5 8.h3 Bh5 9.g4 Bg6 10.Nc4 f6 11.Qd2 Qc7 12.a4 Bf7 13.Na3 Bd6 14.Nh4 Nf8 15.Nf5 Ne6



Position after 15...Ne6

This is the set up I was going for. Black can castle on either side of the board while also improving his knight on d7 to e6.

16.Nxd6+

I was happy when this move was played, since White took off my bad dark-squared bishop for the good f5-knight.

16...Qxd6 17.Nc4 Qd7 18.c3?!

Here this weakens the d3-pawn, which could become a target by Black later onwards.

18...Rd8 19.0-0-0?!

Now Black can just start a queenside attack.

19...b5 20.Na5?!

I'm not too sure about this move. White's knight will most likely just get trapped on a5 later on, which is in fact what ended up happening.

20...0-0 21.h4 Qc7 22.c4 bxa4 23.g5?!

Here I can now actually switch my play from center-queenside focused to center-kingside focused.

23...Bh5 24.Rdg1?! Bf3 25.gxf6 Rxf6 26.Bg5?!

Here I just win material and White ends up with no counterplay.

26...Nxc3 27.hxc3 Rfd6 28.g6 Bxh1 29.gxh7+ Kh8 30.Qg5 R6d7

0-1



WCF President Josh Sinanan, sporting one of his many chess ties, prepares the cash prizes for one of the many side events at the Washington Open. Photo credit: Meiling Cheng.

