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NWC Staff

Editor: Jeffrey Roland, jeffreyyroland9@gmail.com
Games Editor: Ralph Dubisch, chesscoaching@gmail.com
Publisher: Duane Polich, publisher@nwchess.com
Business Manager: businessmanager@nwchess.com

Board Representatives

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

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Business Manager

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**Judged Best Magazine/Newsletter for 2009 and
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Front Cover

FM Ryan Porter, the 2025 Washington State Champion,
shortly after winning the tournament.
Photo Credit: Meiling Cheng.

Back Cover

The Washington State Chess Championship trophy, which
dates back to Olaf Ulvestad's victory in 1956, was on full
display at the 2025 Washington State Championship.
Photo Credit: Meiling Cheng.

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Submissions of games (PGN format is preferable for
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Jeffrey Roland, NWC Editor
1514 S. Longmont Ave.
Boise, Idaho 83706-3732
or via e-mail to:
jeffreyyroland9@gmail.com

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Chess Passing

By David Zaklan

Check, and check, and check'
This petty race from game to game;
To the last move of ever played.
All our games have illuminated,

A way to a dusty death.
To play or not to play:
That is the question:

Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer
The skewers and forks of outrageous fortune,
Or take up positions against a sea of troubles.

Life's but a walking shadow, a poor player,
That struts and frets his hours across the board,
And then is heard of no more. It is a tale
Told by an idiot, full of sound and fury,
Signifying nothing

May all our games be remembered.



David Zaklan. Photo credit: Jeffrey Roland.



150 Issues

(Editor's Landmark)

Jeffrey Roland

Each image below, left to right, row by row, top to bottom, represents the front covers of all the issues in which I have been editor, from December 2012 through May 2025, in chronological order. Exactly 150 issues—a landmark achievement no matter how you look at it—and I'm still going!

Each image represents, to me, a full month of hard work, a snapshot of 'what is' right now (at the time), and the best I could do with what I had. As editor, I have learned much over time, so I think the issues get better and better.

I thought putting all these images together in one two-page spread would show a visual chronicle of my 12.5 years as editor (and it kind of does), but actually, it more shows the incredible community of fantastic individuals and chess players who make up *Northwest Chess*—the players, organizers, and various individuals and talents who share the mutual life and times we've all experienced together as part of *Northwest Chess*.

Of these 150 issues, 131 issues had 32 pages, one had 24 pages, three had 40 pages, and 15 had 48 pages. That is a total of 5,056 pages!

I encourage everyone to click on the images below which have links to the full issue as posted on the *NWC* website.

At first, the last few issues will say something like the file is not found. But this is only temporarily so. We make the full issues available to our online subscribers exclusively for a few months (giving benefit to our paid subscribers).

After a few months, we post the full issue to our website. (Initially, on the website nwchess.com we post only a teaser which shows only about half the pages) before offering the full issue about three to four months later.



A Conversation With Coach Sloan Setiadikurnia

Ken Lee

Coach Sloan Setiadikurnia (pronounced Se-Ti-a-di-kur-ni-a) has been part of the Pacific Northwest chess community for several years.

Starting out as a high school tournament player at Issaquah High and then becoming a coach starting in 2014, Sloan recently opened a new location for the Grand Knights Chess Academy in Bellevue. <https://grandknightschess.com/>

I recently sat down with Coach Sloan to discuss chess, what motivates kids to play chess at various ages, and his vision for the future of chess.

Ken: When did you first start playing chess?

Sloan: By today's standards, I started rather late. While I had played a bit when I was a kid, my first real exposure to chess was playing in the tenth grade in high school.

Ken: Who was your first coach?

Sloan: My first chess mentor was Mr. Jay Radmer from Issaquah High. He was my chemistry teacher and also ran the chess club.

Ken: I understand that you eventually became captain of your high school team?

Sloan: Yes, while I was in high school, I managed to improve my NWSRS from 700 to about 1250 by my senior year. But becoming the chess team

captain required a great deal of additional determination on my part.

Because our team was so small, it was difficult for our school to really get a consistent team of five people to show up to matches every week.

However, even though our team was relatively inexperienced, it was really important to me that our team do our best.

We attempted to get our team to advance to the state tournament, and while unfortunately it didn't happen, it was something that kept me motivated.

Ken: Was it different back in 2009, to recruit high school students to the chess community?

Sloan: Yes, the chess community was different back then.

To be completely honest, the reason why I didn't start chess earlier in middle school was that chess was seen as an extremely geeky and nerdy thing to do.

I do I feel like I was affected by peer pressure.

But in high school, I started to care less about what other people thought. While I did participate in football and lacrosse, I found myself drawn more toward chess, and I began to love it.

Ken: Do you think high school students find chess difficult to learn vs younger kids?

Sloan: I think the reason why many older kids don't start playing chess is that while learning the basics is easy, competition often intimidates older kids.

A younger kid can play, eat some pizza, and have a great time.

But as kids reach adolescence they become more preoccupied with status, and sometimes they take losses very hard.

Ken: What do you think is the best way to encourage people to study and develop a sense of grit?

Sloan: The biggest growth and joy in chess occurs when a student has a balance of performance, experience, skill set, and a calm yet competitive mental state.

When you have those elements, a student can perform with confidence and sustain the inevitable ups and downs of the game.

Ken: Could you please explain how that influences your approach as a coach?

Sloan: I like to focus on the things that my students can control. When reviewing games, I avoid being too critical. It doesn't help to focus on mistakes on things that they don't know or concepts that they haven't learned.

So obviously my feedback for a beginner student is going to be vastly different than the feedback provided to an experienced chess tournament player.

Ken: What are your thoughts about the timing of game reviews?

Sloan: It depends on the student. Sometimes those discussions are best handled immediately after each round.

But sometimes, I find that the student's emotional state is extremely raw after a tournament, and that they benefit from having a discussion after they've had time for an emotional reset.

Ken: Did you continue to play chess during your university years?

"The biggest growth and joy in chess occurs when a student has a balance of performance, experience, skill set, and a calm yet competitive mental state."

Sloan: Yes, I majored in chemical engineering at University of Southern California (USC).

I have to say that some of my biggest growth in chess occurred during my time at USC.

I was fortunate enough to work with IM Jack Peters, and he taught me what it was to be a chess professional.

By that I mean, Jack really inspired me about the value of storytelling in chess and how to convey the love of the game to my students.

Ken: How did chess continue to influence your other studies or other personal interests?

Sloan: I believe the biggest thing chess taught me was how to set goals and then create an action plan to achieve it.

Chess is a difficult game that cannot be mastered quickly.

Ken: Do you think that makes chess unique?

Sloan: For a lot of kids, especially in this era, they're used to instant gratification from online games.

To be successful in chess requires a variety of different skills and a particular type of mind set that is forged over a period of time.

Ken: What advice would you have given yourself as a 15-year-old kid playing chess for the first time?

Sloan: The biggest thing I wish I did differently was that I would have paid less attention to my ELO. Focusing on my ELO turned out to be a poor use of my time and energy.

I'll even take it even a step further. Sometimes, I wish the ELO rating didn't even exist at all. An over emphasis on ELO and tournament wins can be counterproductive to the type of growth mindset that I want for myself and my students.

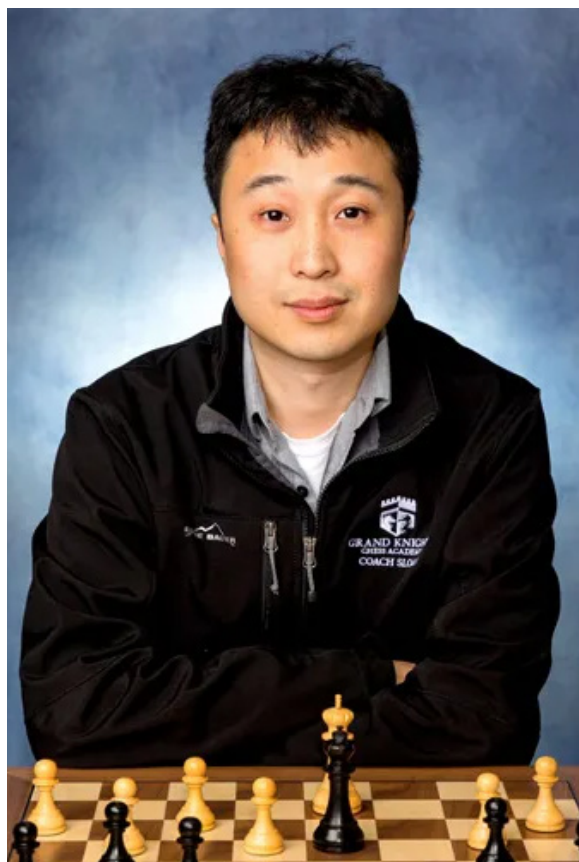
I started enjoying chess a lot more when I didn't care as much about those things. But I completely understand that for coaches, students, and even some parents, that the ELO is often the only way of defining performance and growth.

But chess is such a deep and complex game, that a person's progress cannot be measured by a single number alone.

Ken: What motivated you to play chess when you were a kid?

Sloan: When I first started playing chess, I did it so that I could win a trophy and maybe earn some money.

But later on, I realized why I really loved chess was for entirely different reasons. I enjoyed socializing with the people who love the game as much as I do.



*Sloan Setiadikurnia.
Courtesy of Sloan Setiadikurnia.*

Ken: When did you decide to become a chess coach?

Sloan: In 2014, I was doing full time lab work, but I kept my hand in chess, by doing part-time coaching at Chess4Life.

I coached at Chess4Life from 2014 to the end of 2020.

Trust me, I had no aspirations of becoming a full-time chess coach, but Chess4Life offered me a full-time position in 2015.

Ken: What motivated you to start Grand Knights Chess Academy?

Sloan: There were two things that made me want to open my own chess academy.

First, I wanted to run more tournaments that were US Chess rated to normalize the rating system here in the Pacific Northwest.

Because the competition is so intense, I wanted to modify the system to allow beginners access to US Chess rated tournaments.

Second, I wanted to reach a larger number of students.

I had a good number of private chess students at the time, but the Grand Knights Academy gives me an opportunity to serve an even larger community.

I think students learn best when they're not only motivated by their parents or their coach, but by their peers as well.

Ken: When did the Grand Knights Chess Academy officially open?

Sloan: Technically we started in 2023, but we were only working with a few schools.

Then in 2024, we opened our first location in Bellevue.

We grew out of that space quickly, so in January 2025 we moved to our new larger space.

Ken: What is your vision or hope for the future of chess at your academy and the Pacific Northwest?

Sloan: My hope is that more people will start playing chess.

While today, the Pacific Northwest has the biggest elementary state championship in the entire county, I still think we can get even more schools involved.

Ken: And what are some great ways to motivate kids, particularly high school kids, to start playing chess?

Sloan: I think the best solution is to have other chess playing kids act as role models.

The kids, who are already playing chess, need to encourage their friends to participate and to always remember to have fun!

NORTHWEST CHESS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

DANIEL E. WADE

RALPH DUBISCH

For a very long time, Dan Wade was the single most prolific editor of the publication that has become *Northwest Chess*, now surpassed only by our current editor, Jeffrey Roland. In several stints ranging from a few months to over three years between August 1952 and April 1965, Wade produced a total of 108 monthly issues. Near the end of his tenure, the *Washington Chess Letter* was renamed *Northwest Chess Letter*; the mimeographed newsletter at least hinting at the magazine it would become.

Wade began playing competitive chess at Franklin High School in Seattle as a sophomore in 1934. His first “real” event was the Seattle Championship in 1936, where he scored a respectable 4.5/9, including a victory against the strong master Olaf Ulvestad (1912-2000), about which Wade said, “In short, this game represents a top expert versus a fish.”

**Olaf Ulvestad –
Daniel Wade [C26]**
Seattle City Championship
Seattle, 1936
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.e4 e5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.g3 d5 4.exd5 Nxd5 5.Qe2?!

More “book” lines go 5.Bg2 Nxc3 6.bxc3; or 5.Nge2, not yet committing the queen.

5...Nc6 6.Bg2?!

6.a3

6...Nde7

Wade was not looking for opportunities this early in a fairly standard, roughly equal, opening position. However, here he could have more or less forced the exchange of the fianchetto bishop for a knight with 6...Ndb4! 7.Bxc6+ (7.d3? Nd4! 8.Qxe5+ Be6 and Black breaks in on c2.) 7...Nxc6 with a very comfortable positional edge for Black.

7.Nf3 Bg4 8.Qb5

“Ulvestad always seemed to be moving his queen to b5 against me,” Wade commented, comparing this game to another in 1960, 24 years later.

8...Bxf3 9.Bxf3 Qc8 10.d3 a6



Position after 10...a6

11.Qc5?!

11.Qa4 b5 12.Qe4 f5 13.Qe3

11...f6?!

11...Nd4! 12.Bd1 Nec6 13.Qd5 Qh3 solves all of Black’s problems, while setting some for White.

12.Be3 Qd7 13.Qc4 0-0-0 14.Ne4 Kb8?

14...Nf5!?∞

15.Nc5 Qd6 16.Qb3

16.b4±

16...Na5



Position after 16...Na5

17.Qb4?!

17.Qa3 Nd5 18.b4±

17...Nd5 18.Qxa5 Nxe3 19.Nxa6+ Qxa6 20.Qxa6 Nxc2+ 21.Kd2 bxa6 22.Kxc2 Bc5 23.Rhf1 Bd4

Black is certainly not worse after the flurry of desperado tactics.

24.Rab1 Rd6 25.b4 Rb6 26.a4 Ka7 27.b5 Rbh8 28.Bc6 a5 29.f4 h6 30.fxe5 Bxe5 31.Rfe1 Rd8 32.Re4 h5

32...Rbb8

33.Rbe1 Rbb8 34.Rxe5?

Perhaps a sign of frustration, playing against a lower-ranked opponent? Or did White actually believe this offered winning chances?

34...fxe5 35.Rxe5 g6?!

35...Rd4!? 36.Rxh5 Rbd8 (Not 36...Rxa4?? 37.b6+!) 37.Be4 Rxa4 and Black is playing for two results.

36.Kc3 Rd6 37.d4 Rbd8 38.d5 Kb6 39. Kc4 Rf6



Position after 39...Rf6

40.Be8?!

40.Re6 Rf2 41.h4 Rc2+ 42.Kd4 Ra2 43.Bd7+ Kb7 44.Bc6+ when it is risky to try to make progress with Black. White, we have seen, however, isn't too interested in making peace.

40...Rfd6

40...h4

41.Bf7

41.h4

41...R8d7

41...Rf6 42.Be8 h4

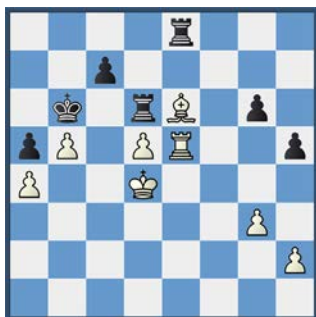
42.Be6

42.Be8

42...Re7

42...Rd8

43.Kd4 Re8



Position after 43...Re8

44.Ke4?

44.Re4

44...Rf8 45.g4

45.Rg5 Rf1 46.Rxg6 Ra1 47.Rg5 Rxa4+



Dan Wade (R) versus Olaf Ulvestad, late 1950s. In the right foreground is the late Fred Howard, and two-time state champion, Viesturs Seglins. Original photo from the Northwest Chess February 1983 article.

48.Kd3 Kxb5 49.Rxh5 Ra1

45...hxg4 46.Bxg4 Rdf6

46...Rf1

47.Rg5 Kc5 48.d6+

48.Ke5 Rf1

48...Kxd6 49.Rd5+ Ke7 50.Rd7+ Ke8

51.Ke5 R6f7 52.Rd4 Re7+ 53.Kd5 Rf6

54.Kc4 g5 55.h3

55.Bh5+ Kf8 56.Rd8+ Kg7+

55...Rf4 56.Kd3 Rxd4+ 57.Kxd4 Kd8

58.Kd5 Re8 59.Be6 Rf8 60.Ke5 Rf3

61.Bf5 Ra3 62.Bc2 Rxh3 63.Kf5 Rg3

64.Bd1 Ke7 65.Bg4 Kd6 66.Kxg5

Rxg4+



Position after 66...Rxg4+

and shortly

0-1

In 1940 he won a qualifying tournament for the Washington Championship, but did not play in the event, instead joining the army.

Serving in Hawaii, Wade came under fire during the Pearl Harbor attack, December 7, 1941. With his barracks strafed by Japanese Zeros, Wade saw his only action of the war. "I was our unit's bugler, but could hardly blow the thing," he admitted to Larry Parr in an extensive interview published in *Northwest Chess*, [February 1983](#).

On leaving the army in July, 1945, Wade got a job delivering Wonder Bread. In 1948 he married Marie Jellum.

After losing a match to James McCormick (Wade takes responsibility for first applying the appellation "Dirty Jim"), McCormick told him, "Wadie, your blood is getting mighty stale." Of course, the next time they played, Wade beat him, though Jim never stopped calling him Wadie. This is his favorite McCormick win, from 1962.

**Daniel Wade –
James McCormick [B44]**
Seattle Seafair Open
Seattle, 1962
[Ralph Dubisch]

For Larry Parr's 1983 annotations to this game, the reader is invited to [view the February 1983 issue](#) of *Northwest Chess*.

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.c3 Nc6 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nxd4

Of course 2.c3 or 3.c3 in the Sicilian is usually played to recapture with the pawn on d4, building the classic central pawn duo. 5.cxd4 d5 6.e5 could transpose into an Advance French.

5...a6 6.Be3 Nf6 7.Nd2 e5 8.Nxc6 bxc6 9.Nc4 Qc7



Position after 9...Qc7

10.f3?!

10.f4!? d5 (10...exf4 11.Bb6 Qb8 12.e5 Nd5 13.Bd4 gives White fine compensation.) 11.exd5 Nxd5

a) 11...cxd5 12.Nb6 (or just 12.Nxe5±) 12...Rb8 13.fxe5 Qxe5 (13...Ng4 14.Qa4+ Bd7 (14...Kd8 15.Nxd5 Qxe5 16.0-0-+)) 15.Nxd7 Qxd7 16.Qxd7+ Kxd7 17.Bd4 Rxb2 18.Bxa6±) 14.Qd4 and White is doing well;

b) 11...exf4 12.d6!±;

12.Qf3 exf4 13.Bd4 looks like dynamic compensation for the pawn.

10...Rb8 11.Qc2 Be7 12.Rc1 0-0 13.Be2 d5 14.Nd2 Qb7 15.Rb1 Be6 16.b3 c5



Position after 16...c5

17.exd5?!

17.0-0 d4 18.Bf2

17...Nxd5 18.Nc4 Nxe3 19.Nxe3 c4 20.Bxc4 Bh4+ 21.Ke2 Bxc4+ 22.Nxc4

22.bxc4 Qc7 23.Rxb8 Rxb8 24.Rb1 dissipates the danger.

22...Qa7

22...e4! 23.g3 exf3+ 24.Kf2 Be7 and White's king is not yet secure.



Position after 22...Qa7

23.Kd1

The king goes for a walk, but safer is 23.g3 Bg5 24.Kf1, aiming to hide away on the kingside.

23...Bg5

23...a5

24.Qe2 a5 25.Kc2

With 25.a4, even the queenside is starting to look like a haven for the white king.

25...a4 26.Rhf1

26.Rhe1

26...axb3+

26...Rfc8

27.axb3 Qa2+ 28.Rb2 Qa6 29.Rd1 Rfe8 30.Qe4 Qh6?! 31.h4 Bf4

31...Qxh4? 32.Qxh4 Bxh4 33.b4±

32.Rh1

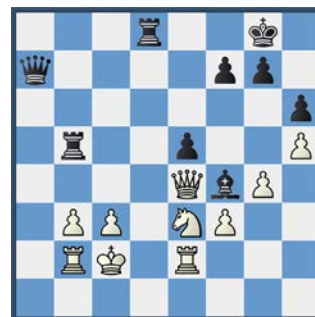
32.b4 Qxh4 33.Kb3±

32...Red8 33.g4

33.Ra2

33...Qa6 34.h5 h6 35.Re1 Qa7 36.Re2 Rb5 37.Ne3?

37.Re1 waits.



Position after 37.Ne3

37...Qa1?

Black appears satisfied to repeat the position, but 37...Ra5 is close to winning for Black, who now threatens to penetrate with the rook along the a-file. 38.Rd2 (38.Re1 Ra1 39.Rxa1 Qxa1 40.Rb1 Qa2+ 41.Rb2 Qa7 42.Nc4 Qg1-+; 38.c4 Ra1 39.Nd5 Rc1+ 40.Kd3 Qa5-+; 38.b4 Ra2!)

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38...Rxd2+ 39.Kxd2 Ra1 and Black is winning a piece with the plan of capturing with the bishop on e3, then checking with the rook on d1/e1 to win the queen. For example: 40.Ke2 Bxe3 41.Qxe3 Re1+.

38.Rb1?

White repeats once, but this gives McCormick another opportunity. 38.Qa4! Qxa4 39.bxa4±

38...Qa2+ 39.Rb2 Qa1?

Black lives to fight on by retreating farther. 39...Qa7 is fine. 40.Qa4! Qh1 41.Qxb5 Bxe3 42.Rb1 Qxf3 43.Rbe1 Bf4 44.Qc4!



Position after 44.Qc4

A nice tactic to maintain material advantage.

44...Qxg4 45.Rxe5 Rd2+ 46.Kb1 Qg2?

46...g5 47.hxg6 Qxg6+ 48.R5e4 certainly favors White, but not by quite the same margin as the game choice.

47.Re8+

47.Qc8+ Kh7 48.Qf5+ wins instantly.

47...Kh7 48.Qe4+

Black's chances evaporate with the exchange of queens, and the game ends in a few moves. White could have revived the tactic from the last note with a rook sacrifice: 48.Rh8+ Kxh8 49.Qc8+ Rd8 (49...Kh7 50.Qf5+-) 50.Qxd8+ Kh7 51.Qd3+ g6 52.Qd7 and wins.

1-0

Daniel Wade gets credit for making the *Washington Chess Letter* a more lively affair. He brought an interest in people, rather than theory, and liked to publish upsets. He told Parr, "I was never an opening theoretician, but I loved to play through biographical games collections searching for a key to a player's personality."

Here's a link to Dan Wade's first issue of *Washington Chess Letter*, August 1952: https://www.nwchess.com/articles/history/WCL/WCL_1952_08.pdf

Explaining his style as editor, he said, "I collect old sports journalism [...] As an editor, I tried to apply lessons learned from my sports reading." And one regret, "My weak link as an editor was that when people worked for nothing, you could never read them the riot act even when they fully deserved it." This, I suspect, has been true for every editor of the publication.

The 1983 story by Larry Parr is well worth reading, though some of the language might be seen as a bit racist, or at least politically incorrect. There are several wins against Viktors Pupols, who is quoted as saying Dan is a "remarkably solid player who could, nonetheless, mix it up."

Let's end with a lament common to many of us. "I keep planning to return to chess, but my other interests somehow take up all my time." Daniel Edward Wade, 1918-1998.



SEATTLE UNIVERSITY CHESS CLUB

CHESS CLASSIC

SAT-SUN, MAY 3-4, 2025

SEATTLE UNIVERSITY- 901 12TH AVENUE, SEATTLE, WA 98122

Format: An Open Swiss chess tournament in five sections:

- **Championship:** A 4-round, G/90; +30 dual USCF + FIDE rated Swiss open to players rated 2000+ USCF. Rounds: Saturday @ 10am, 5pm. Sunday @ 9am, 4pm. Entry Fee: \$80. \$70 play-up fee if rated 1800-1999 USCF. Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs, and WIMs.
- **Premier U2000:** A 5-round, G/60; d10 USCF rated Swiss open to players rated 1300-1999 USCF. Rounds: Saturday @ 9am, 12pm, 6pm. Sunday @ 9am, 12pm. Entry Fee: \$70. \$35 play-up fee if rated 1300-1499 USCF.
- **Rising U1500:** A 5-round, G/60; d10 USCF rated Swiss open to players rated below 1500 USCF. Rounds: Saturday @ 9am, 12pm, 6pm. Sunday @ 9am, 12pm. Entry Fee: \$60.
- **Casual (18+):** A 5-round, G/30; d10 unrated Swiss open to players from unrated to 1000 USCF. Rounds: Saturday @ 9am, 10:45am, 12:30pm, 2pm, 6pm. Entry Fee: \$30.
- **Scholastic (K-12):** A 5-round, G25; d5 NWSRS rated Swiss in four sections: K-3 U700, K-3 Open, 4-12 U900, 4-12 Open. Rounds: Saturday @ 9am, 10:15am, 11:30am, 1pm, 2:15pm. Entry Fee: \$30.

Online Registration: nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration

Special Guest – **GM Kayden Troff!**

Washington State High School Individual Chess Championship

Josh Sinanan

The 2025 Washington State High School Individual Chess Championship was held Friday-Saturday, January 17-18, at Lakeside Upper School in Seattle. A solid turnout of 101 high school chess players participated in the two-day extravaganza from high schools throughout Washington State.

High schools represented included Bellingham, Blaine, Bush, Chewelah, Chrysalis, Ferndale, Franklin, Garfield, Granger, Hanford, Highline Virtual Academy, Inglemoor, Interlake, Jackson, Kamiak, Lake Washington, Lakeside, Lincoln, Newport, North Creek, North Kitsap, NW Yeshiva, Redmond, Seattle Prep, Sehome, Shorewood, Stanwood, Thomas Jefferson, Three Rivers Homelink, and Trillium Academy. Unlike last year, when we saw wintry conditions foil the plans of a few teams to attend, the weather cooperated much to the delight of the organizers and teams traveling from afar.

The event was hosted by the Washington Chess Federation, organized by WCF President Josh Sinanan, and

directed by WCF Chief Tournament Director Rekha Sagar. Amazing photographs were taken throughout the event by Meiling Cheng. The dual-format Swiss tournament was split between three sections parsed by rating: Tiglon Championship (1500+), He U1500, and Feng U1000. The sections were named in honor of recent high school chess superstars GM Bryce Tiglon, IM Anthony He, and FM Roland Feng, all of whom achieved 2400+ USCF ratings while still in high school!

Top players taking part in the star-studded 29-player Tiglon Championship section included National Masters Advaith Vijayakumar (North Creek) and Ryan Min (Interlake), Class A players Emerson Wong-Godfrey (Bush), Edward Cheng (Garfield), Kai Pisan (Chrysalis), Carson Roesch (Blaine), Gabriel Razmov (Lakeside), Abhinav Mishra (Redmond), Albert Eksarevskiy (Lakeside), and Ben Patterson (Chewelah). NM Advaith Vijayakumar, a Senior from North Creek High School in Bothell, won the Tiglon Championship section with an undefeated 4.5 points from five games! Advaith allowed only a single draw against Kai

Pisan (1938) in the third round to secure the title, which he also won in 2023.

Congratulations to Advaith, the 2025 Washington State High School Champion! For his victory, Advaith earns the right to represent Washington State at the 2025 Denker Tournament of High School State Champions, which will be held concurrently with the US Open in Madison, Wisconsin in late July. NM Ryan Min from Interlake High School in Bellevue finished in second place a half point back. Six players shared third-eighth place honors with 3.5 points apiece: Kai Pisan from Chrysalis, Carson Roesch from Blaine, Gabriel Razmov from Lakeside, Ben Patterson from Chewelah, Albert Eksarevskiy from Lakeside, and Owen Scollon from Sehome.

In the 32-player He U1500 section, a double Swiss format was used, in which players play two games—one as White and one as Black—against the same opponent in each round. Two rising chess stars, Nathan Zhang from Shorewood and Soham Sharma from Lakeside, topped the standings, each with an impressive eight points from ten games.

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Soham, who had a conflict the first day and took two half-point byes on Friday, caught up with Zhang by winning all six of his games on Saturday. A pair of chess kings shared third/fourth place honors a half-point back: Stanwood's Blaine Hildenbrand and Thomas Jefferson's Nash Heo. Redmond High School freshman Dmitriy Bondar captured fifth place honors with a lucky seven points. Four fearsome chess fighters each scored 6.5 points apiece to round out the prize winners: Arnav Pedapalli from Garfield, Max Schmidt-Warnecke from Lakeside, Zayd Rahman from Hanford, and Andy Laporte from Seattle Prep.

The massive Feng U1000 section, the tournament's largest, attracted a whopping 40 players and provided the opportunity for newer players to compete on the State level. NW Yeshiva High School freshman Lara Evelyn Chad, who recently skipped a grade to enter high school early, emerged victorious with an astounding 8.5 points from ten games. Chad lost only a single game all weekend to Bellingham's Caden Peterson in the penultimate round before taking her revenge against Blaine's Shaanbir Gill with a 2-0 knockout in the final round to clinch the title.

Granger High School senior Alan Vizcaino finished in second place a half-point back. Gill, who had allowed only a single draw against Hanford's Jayden Lee before running into the Chad buzzsaw, would finish in third place with 7.5 points. A quadruplet of chess warriors rounded out the winners with seven points apiece: Evan Roesler from North Kitsap, Daniel Romero from Highline Virtual Academy, Caden Peterson from Bellingham, and Sihaan Aujla from Blaine.

Congratulations to the winners!



NM Advaita Vijayakumar, the 2025 Washington State High School Champion, ponders his next move. Photo Credit: Meiling Cheng.



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**Jinmo Nam (1664) –
Advaith Vijayakumar (2211) [A30]**
High School State Individual Ch
Seattle, WA (R1), January 17, 2025
[Ralph Dubisch]

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.g3 e6 3.Bg2 d5 4.c4 Be7
5.d3 c5 6.0-0 Nc6 7.Nc3 d4 8.Na4 e5
9.e3 Bg4 10.h3 Bxf3?!

10...Be6

11.Bxf3 Qd7 12.Kh2 0-0 13.a3 e4!?

Ambitious? Impatient? 13...b6 makes
a sound position for Black, with some
space and White's knight off-side.

14.dxe4 Ne5

14...Rad8

15.b3?!

15.Bg2 Nxc4 16.b3±

15...b5 16.cxb5?!

16.Nb2 Nxf3+ 17.Qxf3 Qe6 18.exd4
cxd4 19.Re1±

16...Rad8?!

16...Nxf3+ 17.Qxf3 Qxb5 forks f1 and
b3. 18.Bb2 Qxb3 19.Qd1 Qxd1 20.Rfxd1
dxe3±

17.Bg2 Qxb5 18.Qc2 d3 19.Qc3?!

19.Qd1 c4 20.b4±

19...Nfg4+ 20.Kg1 Bf6 21.Qxc5 Qxb3
22.hxg4 Qxa4 23.Ra2?!

23.Bd2±



Position after 23.Ra2

23...Nxg4±

23...Rb8± to bring the other rook to c8
may be even stronger.

24.f4?!

24.Qh5 Ne5 25.Bd2 promises a difficult
defense, but perhaps not an impossible
one.

24...Rc8

24...Qb3! is an immediate refutation of
White's move 24: 25.Rd2 Nxe3! 26.e5
Nxf1 27.Bxf1 Rc8+

25.Qb4 Qa6 26.Bh3 Bc3 27.Qb3 Qg6
28.Qd1

28.Rg2 h5±

28...Nxe3! 29.Bxe3

29.Qxd3 Nxf1 30.Bxc8 Nxg3 31.Rg2
Rxc8 32.Rxg3 Qh5

29...Qxg3+ 30.Rg2 Qxe3+ 31.Kh2 Rc6
32.Rf3 Qxe4 33.Qxd3 Qxd3 34.Rxd3
Ba5 35.Rd7 Bc7 36.Kg1

36.Rf2 g5

36...Bxf4 37.Rxa7?

A helpful final blunder. To lose slower,
choose 37.Rb2 Be3+ 38.Kg2

37...Be3+

and Black went on to win.

0-1



Washington Senior Championship



MAY 16-18, 2025

ORLOV CHESS ACADEMY - REDMOND

4174 148TH AVE NE, BLDG. I, SUITE M, REDMOND, WA 98052

Info/Entries: Josh Sinanan, WCF
President, 206-769-3757,
WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com

Registration: Online at
nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration.
For credit, debit, and PayPal
payments, a processing fee of 4%
will be added on, so consider saving
by using Zelle or SettleKing instead.
Registration **deadline Thu. 5/15 @
5pm.**

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

Format: A 5-Round, G/90; +30 Swiss in
two sections: Championship & Premier
U1700. Sections with < 6 players may be
combined.

Eligibility: Open to Seniors age 50+ (or
reaching age 50 by August 1, 2025).

Rating: US Chess Rated. May 2025 US
Chess Regular supplement will be used to
determine pairings and prizes.

Entry Fee: \$50 by 5/9, \$60 after. Players
rated >1500 may play-up if desired. Free
entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs, or 2400+ USCF.

Rounds: Fri: 6:30pm. Sat/Sun: 10am, 3pm.

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

Prize Fund: \$750 (based on 20 pd. entries)

Championship: 1st/2nd: \$150-\$100.

1st U2000/U1800: \$80

Premier U1700: 1st/2nd: \$100-\$70.

1st U1600/1400/U1200: \$60

*Highest finishing Washington resident in
Championship receives the title of
Washington State Senior Champion, a seed
into the Invitational Section of the 2026
Washington State Championship, and a \$750
travel stipend from the WCF to attend the
2025 Irwin National Tournament of Senior
State Champions, held concurrently with the
U.S. Open in early August. If needed to break
a tie for 1st place, two G/90 playoff games
will be played later in the year.*

Washington Girls Championship



MAY 17-18, 2025

ORLOV CHESS ACADEMY - GREENLAKE
7212 WOODLAWN AVE NE, SEATTLE, WA 98115

Highest finishing Washington resident in the Championship section receives the title of Washington State Girls Champion and a \$750 travel stipend from the WCF to attend the 2025 Haring National Girls Tournament of Champions, held concurrently with the US Open in early August.

Format: A 5-round Swiss in three sections:

- Elena Donaldson Championship: A 2-day (Saturday-Sunday), 5-round G/90; +10 Swiss tournament. Open to all girls desiring to play for the title of WA State Girls Champion. Dual US Chess and NWSRS rated; US Chess membership required. Rounds: Sat. 9am, 1:30pm, 6pm. Sun. 10am, 2:30pm. Awards ~ 6:30pm. A tie for first place in the Championship section will be resolved later in the year by two G/90 playoff games.
- Katerina Rohonyan U1400: A 1-day (Saturday only), 4-round, G/40; +10 Swiss tournament. Dual US Chess and NWSRS rated; US Chess membership required. Rounds: Sat. 9am, 11am, Lunch, 1:30pm, 3:30pm. Awards ~ 5:30pm.
- Naomi Bashkansky U800: A 1-day (Sunday only), 5-round, G/25; +5 Swiss tournament. NWSRS rated; US Chess unrated, no US Chess membership required. Rounds: Sun. 9am, 10:15am, 11:30am, Lunch, 1:30pm, 2:45pm. Awards ~ 4pm.

Eligibility: Open to all girls in grades K-12 as of the 2024-25 school year. Out-of-state players welcome! Players must be under the age of 19 as of Sept 1, 2025.

Rating: Higher of current NWSRS or US Chess May supplement rating will be used to determine section, pairings, and prizes.

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

Entry Fees: Donaldson Championship: \$50 by May 10, \$60 after. Rohonyan U1400/Bashkansky U800: \$25 by May 10, \$30 after. Free entry for WGMs, WIMs, WFM, or US Chess 2000+. Maximum of 32 players total & maximum of 20 players in a section - please register early to secure your spot.

Registration: Online registration available at nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration Pay by Credit/Debit/PayPal/SettleKing. For credit, debit, and PayPal payments, a processing fee of 4% will be added on, so consider saving by using Zelle or SettleKing instead. **Registration + payment deadline is Friday, May 16 by 5pm.** No registrations or payments will be accepted after the deadline. Unpaid players will be removed from the roster, and spots will be offered to players on the waitlist.

Prizes: Amazon Gift Cards prizes awarded in each section (based on 30 paid entries).

Elena Donaldson Championship: 1st – 3rd: \$120, \$90, \$60, 4th – Chess book.

Katerina Rohonyan U1400: 1st – 3rd: \$60, \$45, \$30, 4th – Chess book.

Naomi Bashkansky U800: 1st – 3rd: \$60, \$45, \$30, 4th – Chess book.

Special Prizes (per section): Best Upset – Medal, Best Dressed – \$10, Kindness + Spreading Joy – \$10.

Questions? Contact Josh Sinanan, WCF President, washingtongirlschessfederation@gmail.com



WASHINGTON OPEN

Sat-Mon, May 24-26, 2025

Redmond Marriott

7401 164th Ave NE, Redmond, WA 98052

\$13,000 Prize Fund
(based on 200 paid entries)

Main Event:

Format: A 6-round Swiss across 4 sections: Elite (1800+), Premier (U1800), Rising (U1500), and Dynamos (U1200).

Time Controls:

- 3-day: 30/90, SD/30; +30. Late default: 60 minutes.
- 2-day: G/55; +15 (rds. 1-3), rds. 4-6 same as for 3-day.

Schedule:

- 3-day option: Sat @ 10 AM, 6 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 (see next page). The schedule permits doing this with minimum or no half-point byes!

Entry Fee: \$130 by Sun, 04/27; \$140 by Sun, 05/11; and \$150 after 05/11 or on-site. Less \$50 for Seniors (age 50+). Playing up one section is allowed (for \$80 extra) if the player's USCF rating is within 100 points of the section's lower limit (i.e., min 1700 for Elite, min 1400 for Premier, min 1100 for Rising). Free entry for GMs, IMs, WGMs, WIMs, and USCF 2400+. Re-entry for ½ of original entry fee. Canadians may pay CAD\$ at par.

Rating: Dual rated (USCF & NWSRS), plus Elite and Premier sections are FIDE rated (except G/55 games). Higher of May 2025 USCF and current NWSRS ratings used to determine section and prizes. Foreign ratings used for players w/o USCF rating. Elite and Premier sections are paired by USCF rating; Rising and Dynamos sections are paired by NWSRS rating.

Registration, Information & Payment:

- **Before event:** Online (by Thu, 05/22 @ 5 PM) at NWchess.com/OnlineRegistration/ (pay by credit / debit / PayPal / SettleKing) or make checks payable to Washington Chess Federation. Mail to: Josh Sinanan, 4174 148th Ave NE, Building I, Suite M, Redmond, WA 98052.

Info: WashingtonChessFederation@gmail.com, 206-769-3757

- **On-site:** Sat, 05/24 @ 8-9 AM for 3-day schedule, or 4:30-5 PM if entering with 1 half-point bye. Sun, 05/25 @ 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 round 1. 2 half-point byes available; request before the end of round 2.

Hotel Info:

Redmond Marriott, \$129-\$139/night + tax. One King / Queen / Double or two Queens, single or double occupancy. Call (425) 498-4000 to request the WA Chess Federation block, or use the [online reservation](#). Group codes: WCFWCFR or WCFWCFQ. Cut-off date for discounts: Fri, Apr 25, 2025.

Prizes:

- **Elite (1800+):** \$1000, \$800, \$600, \$500, \$400, \$300; U2100: \$225, \$175; U1900: \$225, \$175
- **Premier (U1800):** \$500, \$400, \$350, \$300, \$250; U1600: \$200, \$175
- **Rising (U1500):** \$400, \$350, \$300, \$250, \$200; U1300: \$175, \$150
- **Dynamos (U1200):** \$300, \$250, \$200, \$175, \$150; U1000: \$175, \$150; Unrated: \$175, \$150

Championship Seeds: Highest finishing Washington resident in the Elite and Premier section is seeded into the 2026 Washington State Championship, in the Championship and Challengers section, 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: 1st \$200, 2nd \$150, 3rd \$100. Average team rating must be under 2000; may play in different sections. Register (no extra fee) before round 3. Players may win a Mixed Doubles prize in addition to other prizes.

Special Prizes (per section):

- **Best Female Player*:** \$50. Requires min 3 eligible players.
- **Best Senior Player* (age 50+):** \$50. Requires min 3 eligible players.
- **Highest (USCF) Rating Gain*:** 1st \$50, 2nd \$25. Requires an established (non-provisional) rating. May not be combined with Biggest Upset Win.
- **Biggest Upset Win (per round):** \$25. Max 2 per player.
- **Fair-Play, Kindness, Spreading Joy:** \$25. Please nominate.
- **Best Dressed (per day):** \$25. May not win repeatedly.
- **Best Annotated Game:** 1st \$75, 2nd \$50, 3rd \$25. Submit one annotated game that you consider to be interesting or well-played. A panel of judges will select winners.

Note: * = May not be combined with equal or higher prizes.

Miscellaneous / Procedures:

Current US Chess and WCF / OCF / ICA memberships required; other states accepted. Memberships may be paid at the time of registration. Wheelchair accessible. Please bring a digital clock, if available. Pairings and standings will be posted before each round in the hallway near the play area.

WASHINGTON OPEN, May 24-26 (cont.)

Fun Side Events!

(many run between rounds of the Main Event)

Washington Open Faustino Oro Scholastic

Sat, 05/24 @ 9 AM – 4 PM (during round 1)

Format: Classical and Rapid sections:

- Classical sections: A 4-round G/40; +5 Swiss in two sections: **K-3 Open** and **4-12 Open**. For intermediate to advanced players. Dual NWSRS and USCF rated. US Chess membership req'd. Clocks and notation req'd. Rounds: 9:15 AM, 10:45 AM, lunch, 12:45 PM, 2:15 PM. Awards: ~4 PM.

- Rapid sections: A 5-round G/25; +5 Swiss in two sections: **K-3 U800** and **4-12 U900**. For novice to low intermediate players. Dual NWSRS and USCF rated. US Chess membership req'd. Clocks req'd. Notation req'd in 4-12 U900, but optional in K-3 U800. Rounds: 9:15 AM, 10:30 AM, lunch, 12 PM, 1:15 PM, 2:30 PM. Awards: ~4 PM.

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

Entry fee: \$45 if registered by Sat, 05/17; \$55 after. Room for 132 players.

Awards (per section):

- Overall prizes (in Amazon e-gift cards): 1st–5th: \$65 / \$60 / \$55 / \$50 / \$45.
- Special prizes: Medals for first-timers and for biggest upset win.

- Top performer (by TPR) in K-3 Open and 4-12 Open wins free entry into the 2-day option of 2025 Washington Open (Main Event) (see prev. page).

Rating: Higher of May 2025 USCF or current NWSRS ratings used for section & pairings.

Registration: 100% pre-registered (NWchess.com/OnlineRegistration/) - pay by credit / debit / PayPal / SettleKing; no on-site entries or payments.

Registration & payment by Wed, 05/21 @ 5 PM. Unpaid players withdrawn.

Washington Open Gary Dorfner Memorial Adult Novice Swiss

Sat, 05/24 @ 11 AM – 4 PM (during round 1)

A 4-Round Swiss in one section. 1 half-point bye available. For U1200 or unrated adults (18+). No memberships req'd. Unrated. TC: G/30; +5. EF: \$25. Registration: 10:30-10:50 AM. Rounds: 11 AM, 12:15, 1:30, and 2:45 PM. Prize fund: \$400/b20. 1st–3rd: \$150 / \$100 / \$60, 1st U1000 / U700 / Unr. \$30.

Washington Open Fischer Chess960 Rapid

Sat, 05/24 @ 2:15 PM – 4:30 PM (between 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: 2:15 PM, 2:50, 3:25, and 4:00 PM. No memberships req'd. Higher of May 2025 USCF and current NWSRS ratings used for pairings & prizes. A new (randomized) opening position in each round. Players have 2 minutes before clocks start to examine the opening position. Prize fund: \$300/b20.

1st \$80, 2nd \$60, 3rd \$40, 1st U2000 / U1700 / U1400 / Unrated \$30.

Washington Open Robson Puzzle Solving

Sat, 05/24 @ 4:45 PM – 5:30 PM (between rounds 1 & 2)

Solve 16 chess puzzles in 45 minutes. Write solutions on paper. Evaluation based on accuracy and completeness. EF: \$15. Registration: 4-4:30 PM. No memberships req'd. Prize fund: \$150/b20. 1st \$50, 2nd \$35, 3rd \$20, 1st U1700 / U1400 / Unrated \$15.

Washington Open Wenjun Chess Workshop for Girls & Women

Sat, 05/24 @ 6 PM – 8 PM (during round 2)

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. EF: Free! Schedule: 6-7 PM: "How to develop & cultivate girls' and women's chess." 7-8 PM: Q&A, complimentary pizza & refreshments, and ladies' bughouse.

Washington Open 3rd Annual Carol Kleist Memorial Adult Swiss

Sun-Mon, 05/25-26 @ 11 AM and 4:30 PM (during rounds 3-6)

Sponsored by *Seattle Chess Club (SCC)* with generous support from Henry Yan. Format: A 4-round Swiss in two sections: Botvinnik (1500+) and

Korchnoi (U1500); may be merged if small. 1 half-point bye available. USCF rated only. TC: G/120; +30. EF: \$50 online (by Sat, 05/24 @ 5 PM) or \$60 on-site; less \$10 for SCC members. EF waived for unrated players who purchase memberships. Registration: Sun, 05/25 @ 10-10:30 AM (unless starting with a half-point bye). US Chess and WCF/OCF/ICA memberships req'd. May 2025 USCF rating used for section, pairings, & prizes. Gtd. prize fund: \$1,000.

Botvinnik: 1st \$240, 2nd \$150, 3rd \$120, 1st U1650 \$80.

Korchnoi: 1st \$120, 2nd \$100, 3rd \$80, 1st U1300 \$60, 1st Unrated \$50.

Washington Open Carlsen Rapid

Sun, 05/25 @ 2 PM – 5 PM (between rounds 3 & 4)

Format: A 5-Round Swiss in two sections: Kasparov (1600+) and Anand (U1600); may be merged if small. 2 half-point byes available. USCF Quick rated; Kasparov section is FIDE Rapid rated too. TC: G/12; +4. EF: \$35 online (by Sat, 05/24 @ 5 PM) or \$40 on-site. Players rated 1500+ may play up into Kasparov (\$10 fee). Current US Chess and WCF/OCF/ICA memberships req'd. Registration: 1-1:45 PM. Rounds: 2 PM, 2:35, 3:10, 3:45, 4:20 PM. Highest of May 2025 USCF Quick, May 2025 FIDE Rapid, and current NWSRS ratings used for section, pairings, & prizes. Prize fund: \$950/b30.

Kasparov: 1st \$150, 2nd \$110, 3rd \$80, 1st U2000 / U1800 \$60, Biggest Upset Win: \$25; Best Hairstyle / Best Footwear \$10.

Anand: 1st \$100, 2nd \$80, 3rd \$60, 1st U1400 / U1200 / U1000 / Unrated \$40, Biggest Upset Win: \$25; Best Hairstyle / Best Footwear \$10.

Washington Open Awonder Liang Bughouse

Sun, 05/25 @ 3 PM – 4:15 PM (between rounds 3 & 4)

A 7-round Single Swiss in one section. 2 half-point byes available. Max avg team rating: 1800. Unrated. TC: G/3; +0. EF: \$20/player. No memberships. Register: 2:15-2:45 PM. Rounds: 3 PM, 3:10, 3:20, 3:30, 3:40, 3:50, 4 PM. Higher of May 2025 USCF Blitz and current NWSRS ratings (if unrated, up to 1300, based on age) used for pairings & prizes. Team prizes: \$400 (based on 20 teams): 1st-3rd: \$100 / \$70 / \$50; 1st–3rd K-6: \$50 / \$40 / \$30; Biggest Upset Win: \$30; Best Sportsmanship: \$30.

Washington Open Firouzja Bullet

Sun, 05/25 @ 5 PM – 5:50 PM (between rounds 3 & 4)

Format: A 5-Round Swiss in one section. 2 half-point byes available. Unrated. TC: G/2; +1. EF: \$10. No memberships req'd. Registration: 4:30-4:50 PM. Rounds: 5 PM, 5:10, 5:20, 5:30, 5:40 PM. Higher of May 2025 USCF Blitz and current NWSRS ratings used for pairings & prizes. Prize fund: \$200/b20. 1st-3rd: \$50 / \$40 / \$30, 1st U2000 / U1600 / U1200 / Unrated \$20.

Washington Open WaldowChess Rapid

Mon, 05/26 @ 1:45 PM – 3:50 PM (between rounds 5 & 6)

With generous support from Mark Waldow. Format: A 5-round Swiss in one section. 1 half-point bye available, if requested by end of round 2. Unrated. TC: G/8; +3. EF: Free! No memberships req'd. Registration: online (by Sun, 05/25) or on-site (Mon @ 1-1:30pm). Check-in req'd by 1:30pm, including for online registrants. Rounds: 1:45 PM, 2:10, 2:35, 3, and 3:25 PM. Higher of May 2025 USCF and current NWSRS ratings used for pairings & prizes. Play begins with White to move, having already played e4 & d4. In return, Black receives draw odds and is allowed to swap their king and queen after White's next move. Prize fund: \$2,000.

1st-8th: \$500 / \$400 / \$300 / \$250 / \$200 / \$150 / \$100 / \$50; Biggest Upset Win \$50.

Washington Open Ignacio Perez Memorial Blitz

Mon, 05/26 @ 8 PM – 10:40 PM (after round 6)

Format: An 11-Round Swiss in two sections: Nakamura (1600+) and Tal (U1600); may be merged if small. 3 half-point byes available. USCF Blitz rated; Nakamura section is FIDE Blitz rated too. TC: G/3; +2. EF: \$30 online (by Sun, 05/25 @ 5 PM) or \$35 on-site. Players rated 1500+ may play up into Nakamura (\$10 fee). Current US Chess membership and WCF/OCF/ICA membership req'd. Registration: 7:30-7:50 PM. Rounds: 8 PM, 8:15, 8:30, 8:45, 9, 9:15, 9:30, 9:45, 10, 10:15, and 10:30 PM. Highest of May 2025 USCF Blitz, May 2025 FIDE Blitz, and current NWSRS ratings used for section, pairings, & prizes. Prize fund: \$800/b30.

Nakamura: 1st \$120, 2nd \$100, 3rd \$80, 1st U2000 / U1800 \$60;

Tal: 1st \$100, 2nd \$80, 3rd \$60, 1st U1400 / U1200 / U1000 \$40, 1st Unr. \$30.

2025 Washington State Championship

Josh Sinanan

The 2025 Washington State Championship took place at Lakeside School in Seattle on February 8-9 and 15-17. This year's edition continued to expand by popular demand and the organizers added two new sections, the Wizards and Sensations, which brought the total up to eight Round Robins. There was almost sufficient interest to add a ninth section called the "Dynamos," but the hypothetical new section blew up before the tournament began! As is the tradition, seven of the sections were held as ten-player Round Robins: Championship, Premier, Invitational, Challengers, Rising Stars, and Prodigies. Due to a few players withdrawing at the last minute, the two new sections, the Wizards and Sensations, were run as nine- and eight-player Round Robins, respectively.

The fields of each section were determined by seeding and rating, which was based on the average January 1, 2025, live ratings of: (a) the US Chess Regular & FIDE for the top two sections; or (b) US Chess Regular & NWSRS for all other sections. All games were triple rated in the Northwest, US Chess, and FIDE rating systems. The WCF Dream Team of FA Mani Atikankhotchasee, WCF Member-at-Large Ani Barua, and WCF Scholastic Director Allen Messenger directed the tournament. The event was hosted by the Washington Chess Federation and organized by WCF President Josh Sinanan. WCF photographer extraordinaire Meiling Cheng was present both weekends and captured key moments of the event with her fantastic photos and video footage.

Championship

FIDE Master Ryan Porter of Bellevue was crowned the 2025 Washington State Champion, scoring an undefeated seven points from nine games. Porter started strong with a perfect 4.0/4 during the first weekend of play, including key victories against rating favorites Aziz Degenbaev (2374) and Tian Sang (2322) in the first two rounds. He took a cautious approach when play resumed the following weekend with four draws and only one win, but this was sufficient to maintain his lead over the field and Porter clinched the title with a round to spare. Congratulations Ryan!

Aziz Degenbaev of Seattle took second place a full point back thanks to scoring four points from his last five games, rebounding well after a sluggish start. A trio of chess warriors shared third-fifth place with five points apiece: FM Stephen Willy of Sammamish, FM Ted Wang of Medina, and 2024 Washington State Champion NM Daniel He of Redmond.

Premier

Ananth Gottumukkala, a Candidate Master based in Sammamish, won the Premier with seven points from nine games. Gottumukkala started solidly with two wins and two draws from the first weekend of play, but it was his fifth-round loss to up-and-comer Vidip Kona that unleashed the beast inside of him and propelled him to win his last four games in a row! Premier rating favorite Advait

Vijayakumar of Bothell took second place honors a half-point back. Duvall phenom Vidip Kona captured third place with six points and was the only player who managed to win against the fearless Gottumukkala.

Brier chess man Leonid Gavrysh, who used to play on the European circuit many years ago, earned the fourth place prize for his efforts. Seattle based college student Oscar Sprumont finished in fifth place with a solid "plus one" score.

Invitational

The Invitational section featured one of the events' most incredible winning streaks, with the champion Pratik Thorwe of Seattle winning his first six games in a row before being held to a draw by Wong-Godfrey. Thorwe, who used to play a lot of chess in India and now works for Amazon, won the tournament with a round to spare thanks to his red-hot start.

Bush school 11th grader Emerson Wong-Godfrey of Seattle finished in second place a half-point back.

CM Tim Moroney, a popular chess coach and active player based in Mountlake Terrace, earned third place for his efforts thanks to an undefeated four points scored from five games during the second half.

Issaquah chess stud Neevan Reddy Saddi claimed the fourth place prize a half-point back. Hunts Point chess hunter Jeffrey Wei rounded out the overall prize winners with a par 4.5 score.

Challengers

The Challengers section lived up to its name of being a “challenging” section for many, and unfortunately had two players withdraw along the way, Mary Kuhner and Michael Hosford. With the departure of the two adult participants and only junior players remaining, it was a youngsters’ world. A pair of chess princes, Akim Pikh of Redmond and Gabriel Razmov of Seattle, shared first/second place honors with five points apiece.

Vijay Nallappa of Redmond finished in third place, a half-point back. A quadruplet of chess questers tied for fourth/fifth place with four points apiece: Odbayar Yondon of Sammamish, Ihsan M. N. Thahir of Redmond, Aarav B. Mohan of Bothell, and Nikhil Ramkumar of Bothell.

Rising Stars

Brook Ayalew, a nine grader from Detective Cookie’s Chess Club in Seattle, crushed his nearest rivals with an amazing 7.5 points from eight games to capture the first place prize. Due to an early departure from Boas Lee due to illness, the tournament was shortened to just eight games for all except for the two players who played Lee in the first two rounds.

Redmond high school student Haituka Anandkumar earned second place, two and a half points back. Two chess duelers, Davey Jones of Seattle and Dann Merriman of Duvall, tied for third/fourth place with 4.5 points each. Bothell chess maven Vishnu Mohan captured the fifth place prize a half-point back for his efforts.

Prodigies

The Prodigies section of the Washington State Championship certainly lived up to its name and attracted several up-and-coming chess prodigies from throughout the greater Seattle/Bellevue area. When the dust settled, it was Bothell-based middle schooler Rian Raja who claimed the top spot with 6.5 points from nine games.

Bellevue chess believer Shanna Wu

earned second place a half-point back. Yash Syal of Sammamish took home the third place prize with 5.5 points. A pair of Sammamish chess pioneers, Sambuddha S. Das and Peng-Ruei Pan, shared fourth/fifth place honors a half-point back.

Wizards

The brand-new Wizards section was created to offer more opportunities for young chess “wizards” to compete in a high-quality event with classical time controls. These chess wizards certainly rose to the occasion and played hard in every game. We intend to keep offering more sections such as the Wizards and Sensations in future years and will continue to expand the State Championship by popular demand!

Bellevue chess bouncer Harry Wu won the inaugural Wizards section with an impressive 5.5 points out of eight games. Four chess spell-casters shared second-fifth place honors a half-point back: Aahan Sriram of Redmond, Oliver He of Sammamish, Ziqian Gao of Sammamish, and Daniel Yun of Redmond.

Sensations

In the cottage-sized eight-player Sensations section, three players broke away from the field and emerged victorious with five points apiece: Emma Ge of Sammamish, Vivaan Sankrithi of Lake Forest Park, and Joyce Gui of Bellevue. A pair of Gig Harbor chess gamers, Jackson Rish-Brown and Darya Byelashova, shared the fourth/fifth place prize, one and a half points back.

Congratulations to all the young chess sensations who played in what is hopefully their first of many Washington State Championships!

Several of the players have graciously submitted chess bios, photos, and annotated games from the tournament for the *Northwest Chess* readers to enjoy.

Nicholas Whale (2073) – Ryan W. Porter (2215) [D06]
WA State Championship (Championship)
Seattle, WA (R4), February 9, 2025
[Ryan Porter]

1.Nf3 d5 2.d4 Bf5 3.c4 e6 4.Nc3 Nf6 5.e3 Bb4!?

This leads to interesting and more imbalanced positions than the solid and far more common 5...c6.

6.Qa4+ Nc6 7.Ne5 0-0 8.Nxc6 Bxc3+ 9.bxc3 bxc6 10.Ba3?!

The first new move. It’s a natural one, developing with tempo, but Black actually benefits more from bringing his rook to the e-file, because the e6-pawn often advances or recaptures on d5. The best move is 10.f3 which prevents ...Ne4 and gives White a slight edge, but Black gets good play by continuing to sacrifice pawns with 10...e5; 10.Qxc6?! Ne4♞ giving Black more than enough compensation for the pawn.

10...Re8♞ 11.Qxc6

It’s too late to now play 11.f3?! e5♞

11...Ne4



Position after 11...Ne4

White is up a pawn for now, but is behind in development, and Black’s pieces are starting to take aim at the white king.

12.Be2!

The right choice, trying to return the c3-pawn in order to castle. 12.cxd5? exd5+ holds onto the pawn, but allows Black’s rook to activate via ...Re6. Black’s pieces will swarm the kingside if White ever castles. (I was actually planning on playing 12...Qh4!? which is more direct and still strong, but not as good as the simple ...exd5. 13.g3 Nxg3 14.dxe6 (14.fxg3? Qe4 15.Kf2 Qxh1+-) 14...Nxf1+- and now White cannot even play 15.exf7+ Kxf7 16.Kxf1 (16.Rxf1 Rxe3+) 16...Bd3+); A better alternative is 12.Rc1 when Black can secure a nice advantage with 12...Qh4 13.g3 Qh5+ (My initial analysis here during the game was to play the horrible 13...Nxg3?? 14.fxg3 Qe4 15.Kf2! Qxh1 16.Bg2 Qxh2 17.Rh1+- I overlooked that the rook being c1 instead of a1 allows Bg2, unlike in the 12.cxd5 line.)

12...Rb8

Equally good is restoring material equality with 12...Nxc3 13.Bf3 Ne4 14.cxd5 exd5 15.Rc1 Rc8, but I wanted to maintain the initiative.; Black can also try 12...e5 13.cxd5 exd4 14.cxd4 Rb8

13.Rc1

One point of Black's last move is that 13.0-0? loses instantly after 13...Rb6 14.Qa4 Nxc3+.



Position after 13.Rc1

13...dxc4!?

This certainly isn't a bad move, but I'm a bit disappointed in myself. I knew that the inclusion of Ba3 and ...Re8 helped Black, and I knew that ...e5 was a thematic move, but I flinched when it came time to break open the center. 13...e5! 14.cxd5 (14.Qxd5? Qh4 15.0-0 Rb6+) I did not recognize the strength of 14...Bd7! (14...Rb6 is fine, and probably what I would have played, leading to unclear play.) 15.Qa6? After this natural move, Black's pieces are all perfectly placed for an attack, and it turns to be important is some lines that White's queen has been pushed further away and cannot capture

the pawn on c7. (But I will give myself some grace, because there's no way I could have calculated and correctly evaluated the following line of mostly forced moves. 15.Qc4! Bb5 16.Qxb5 Rxb5 17.Bxb5 exd4 18.Bxe8 Qxe8 19.0-0 dxe3) 15...Qh4+; I considered 13...Qg5!? but did not know how to proceed after 14.Bf3 In fact, the engine now wants the queen to go back to d8.; I also considered 13...Rb6!? 14.Qa4 e5 15.cxd5 and I wasn't sure how to continue. The evaluation is unclear, and a sample line is: 15...Bd7 16.Qc2 exd4 17.cxd4 Qh4 18.g3 Qh3 19.Qxc7

14.Bf3?!

Best is probably 14.Qxc4 when 14...e5 leads to unclear play (I was instead planning on playing something along the lines of 14...c5!? 15.Bxc5 (But I didn't see 15.0-0 Nd2 16.Qxc5 Nxf1 17.Bxf1± where White has two pawns for the exchange and is somewhat better.) 15...Qg5 16.Bf3 (Giving up the exchange is not as effective here 16.0-0? Nd2 17.f4 (17.Qa4?? fails in an interesting way (which I obviously did not see during the game): 17...Bh3! 18.g3 Qd5 19.f3 Bxf1 20.Bxf1 Nxf3+) 17...Qg6 18.Qa4 Nxf1 19.Bxf1 White also has two pawns for an exchange here, but in this case, he also has severe light square weaknesses.) 16...Rb2

14...Ng5 15.Qxc4 Nxf3+ 16.gxf3 e5 17.e4

17.d5 is about as good, and Black preserves his advantage with 17...e4

17...exd4 18.Rg1!

A nice move to keep White in the game.

I was focused on d4 captures, both of which leave White's king miserably stuck in the center. 18.cxd4? Qg5+; 18.Qxd4? Qh4 19.Rg1 Bg6+

18...d3

Preserves the advantage, but I could have put White under more pressure with 18...Qh4 and White has to find the unintuitive 19.Qd3! (19.Qxd4? Bg6 is similar to the lines after 18.Qxd4; 19.cxd4? Bxe4+) 19...Qxh2 (19...Bg6?! 20.cxd4 is the point of 19.Qd3, securing e4, closing the d-file and putting pressure on the c-file. Black is for choice, but it's still very much a game.) 20.Ke2 c5 21.cxd4 Bd7 Black is clearly better, but it's still very messy.

19.Qd4

The queens will now come off, but Black is well positioned to maintain central pressure.

19...Bg6 20.Qxd8 Rbxd8 21.Kd2 f5 22.Rce1 fxe4 23.fxe4

A key point in the game. Black will win a pawn, and the d3-pawn is obviously strong, but bishops are of opposite color. One pair of rooks will likely be traded on the e-file, and, if a second pair comes off, White will probably hold.

23...Re5!

Stockfish only considers this slightly better than capturing on e4, but I think this was an important move from a practical perspective. Black wants to make progress on the queenside before allowing any trades. This move also poses a couple tough questions to White.

Washington State Championship

Pairing#	Name	Rating	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total pts	Tie-break (Berger)	Place
1	NM Austin Liu	2140	♔	0	0	0	0	1	0.5	0.5	1	0	3	11.25	9th
2	FM Stephen Willy	2285	1	♔	0.5	1	0.5	0	1	0.5	0.5	0	5	20.25	3rd-5th
3	FM Ted Wang	2213	1	0.5	♔	0	0.5	0	0.5	1	1	0.5	5	19	3rd-5th
4	FM Megan Lee	2326	1	0	1	♔	0.5	0	1	0	1	0	4.5	16.5	6th-7th
5	FM Ryan Porter	2201	1	0.5	0.5	0.5	♔	1	1	1	1	0.5	7	28.25	1st
6	FM Aziz Degenbaev	2335	0	1	1	1	0	♔	0.5	0.5	1	1	6	24.75	2nd
7	FM Tian Sang	2262	0.5	0	0.5	0	0	0.5	♔	0.5	1	1	4	15.25	8th
8	NM Nikash Vemparala	2214	0.5	0.5	0	1	0	0.5	0.5	♔	0.5	1	4.5	19	6th-7th
9	Nicholas Whale	2007	0	0.5	0	0	0	0	0.5	♔	0	0	1	4.75	10th
10	NM Daniel He	2267	1	1	0.5	1	0.5	0	0	0	1	♔	5	19.5	3rd-5th

23...Rxe4 24.Rxe4 Bxe4 25.Re1 and I'm not sure Black can win.

24.Bb4

24.f3?? Ra5+-

24...c5 25.Ba5

25.Ba3? c4 26.Bb4 a5 27.Ba3 Rxe4 28.Rxe4 Bxe4 Black still has work to do, but, compared to the immediate 23...Rxe4, the c-pawn now protects the d3 pawn.

25...Rf8



Position after 25...Rf8

26.Bc7?!

Both players missed the pretty move 26.f4! Rxe4 (The point is 26...Rxf4? 27.Bc7 when Black can avoid losing the exchange, but the game peters out. 27...Rf2+ 28.Ke3 Re2+ 29.Rxe2 Rxe4+ 30.Kxd3 Rg4+ 31.Kd2 Rxf1=) 27.Rxe4 Bxe4 28.c4! and Black cannot play 28...Rxf4?? 29.Ke3 Rh4 30.Bd8+-.

26...Rxe4 27.Rxe4 Bxe4 28.f4?

28.Bg3 c4 29.Rb1 is a tougher defense, because White secures the kingside,

allowing his rook to grab the key open file. However, the protected passed pawn gives Black good chances to grind out a win.

28...Rf7 29.Bd6?!

29.Be5 c4 (29...Rb7? 30.c4! simultaneously covers the b2-square and stops Black from securing a protected passed pawn.) 30.Rb1 Rf5+- is White's best chance here, too, grabbing the b-file, but it's going to be tough stop ideas like ...Rh5 or ...g5.; During the game, I wondering about White trying 29.Re1 Rxc7 30.Rxe4 c4 but white can't simultaneously keep an eye on c4 and prevent the black king from running up the h-file. Maybe if the f4-pawn were on f3 instead, then there'd be a chance at a fortress.

29...Rb7

Now, control of the b-file decides the game.

30.Re1 Rb2+ 31.Ke3 Bf5 32.Bxc5 Rxa2 33.Bd4 a5 34.h4 Rc2 35.Rg1

Hastens the end, but White is basically immobilized.

35...Re2+ 36.Kf3 Be4+ 37.Kg3 d2

0-1

Vijay Nallappa (1708) – Gabriel Razmov (1866) [D02]
WA State Championship (Challengers)
Seattle, WA (R7), February 16, 2025
[Gabriel Razmov]

This game was played at a crucial

moment when both players could vie for the overall section title in case of a win.

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 d5 3.Bf4 c5 4.e3 Nc6 5.Nbd2 Qb6 6.dxc5 Qxb2

A sharp line I had looked at before the game. Black wins a pawn but White obtains compensation, leading to a complicated middlegame. There are some drawing lines in here, but they tend to be quite obscure.

7.Rb1 Qc3 8.Bb5 Bd7?!

A natural unpinning move that turns out to be inaccurate. 8...e6 is surprisingly much better, most likely leading to an equal position after 9.e4 Nxe4 10.0-0 Nxc5 11.Nb3 Bd7 12.Bd2 Qf6 13.Bg5

9.Bxc6?

White returns the favor after a long think. 9.0-0! White has to maintain their initiative, and exchanging pieces won't help with that. This move gives White a temporary lead in development, and the b7-pawn is still weak. 9...e6 10.Bd3 Na5 11.e4 Qxc5 12.e5 Ne4 13.Bxe4 dxe4 14.Ng5 h6 15.Ngxe4 leads to a pleasant position for White.

9...Bxc6 10.Be5 Qxc5 11.0-0 e6 12.Nb3 Qe7?!

Black sees an idea to re-route the pieces with ...Qd8 and ...Bd6 and immediately goes for it. However, this wasn't the most testing continuation. 12...Qa3! is interestingly the best idea here. After 13.Nbd4 Be7 14.Nxc6 bxc6 15.Rb3 Qa5 Black has finally solved his development problems, doesn't have a c6-weakness, and is up a pawn. While this is still

Washington State Premier

Pairing#	Name	Rating	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total pts	Tie-break (Berger)	Place
1	Oscar Sprumont	1991	👑	1	0.5	0.5	0	0.5	0.5	1	0.5	0.5	5	24.25	5th
2	NM Advaita Vijayakumar	2196	0	👑	0.5	1	1	1	0.5	0.5	1	1	6.5	25.75	2nd
3	CM Ananth Gottumukkala	2105	0.5	0.5	👑	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	7	26.25	1st
4	NM Viktors Pupols	2013	0.5	0	0	👑	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.5	2.5	10th
5	Miles Kuipers	1958	1	0	0	1	👑	0.5	0.5	0	0	0.5	3.5	12	8th
6	Yevgeniy Rozenfeld	1989	0.5	0	0	1	0.5	👑	0.5	1	0.5	0	4	13.75	6th-7th
7	Jamie Zhu	2003	0.5	0.5	0	1	0.5	0.5	👑	0	0	0	3	10	9th
8	Leonid Gavrysh	1951	0	0.5	0	1	1	0	1	👑	1	1	5.5	20.25	4th
9	NM Gerald Larson	2009	0.5	0	0	1	1	0.5	1	0	👑	0	4	11.5	6th-7th
10	NM Vidip Kona	2068	0.5	0	1	1	0.5	1	1	0	1	👑	6	22.75	3rd

balanced, White has to tread very carefully.

13.Qd4?

An obvious idea to try to put more pressure, likely missing Black's reply. 13.Na5! is an odd yet effective move that poses problems for Black—many of his pieces are now tied up and White is still far ahead in development. Black's best option here is to liquidate with 13...Qa3 14.Nxc6 bxc6 15.Bxf6 gxf6 leading to an equal-ish endgame.

13...Qd8!

A strong move that, among other things, prevents Na5 for White.

14.Rfd1 Be7

Black is getting close to consolidating their extra pawn, but White presses on.

15.a4

15.c4!? 0-0 16.Qb2 Qb6

15...0-0 16.Qa1 Qc8!

Another good move that anticipates a future Na5 from White, and thus defends c6 and b7.

17.Nfd4 Ne8?

Here Black starts to go astray, likely the consequence of inadequate planning. 17...Bd7 18.Rd3 b6 19.Rc3 Qa6 is the idea that Black needed to see to fully consolidate.

18.Na5!

Now White is active and posing threats, which leads to further errors from Black.

18...f6

Black is trying to push for more but actually ends up weakening his own position. Even though the center will be strong, it won't be as well supported. 18...Bd7 likely is a better choice 19.Rd3 (19.Rxb7?! f6 20.Bg3 Bd8!)

19.Bg3 e5?!

Black just can't resist the space gain, but this costs him... 19...Nd6 20.c4 Qd7 21.Bxd6 Bxd6

20.Ndxc6 bxc6 21.Qc3



Position after 21.Qc3

Suddenly the game is equal, and Black has to be careful to avoid trouble. Under this kind of pressure, he falters.

21...Qc7?

21...Rf7! A difficult defensive move to find. 22.Qxc6 Qxc6 23.Nxc6 Bf8 and Black will reactivate on the c-file.

22.Rb7 Qd6 23.Qxc6?

By this moment White was getting low on time and also started making mistakes. 23.Nxc6! is simply much better for

White; after 23...Rf7 24.e4 d4 25.Qc4± Black has little to look forward to.

23...Qxc6 24.Nxc6 Bd6 25.Rxd5 Rc8

Now Black is down a pawn but has activity for it, and the remaining a-pawn for White is difficult to defend.

26.Nxa7 Rxc2 27.h3± Rc4?

Both sides start to make mistakes in mutual time trouble and an interesting endgame ensues. 27...Rc1+ 28.Kh2 Rf7 29.Rxf7 Kxf7 30.Nb5 Ke6 was the right plan to defend this endgame.

28.a5?

28.Nb5! Bb4 29.Rd1 h5 30.f3± and White is on their way to consolidation.

28...Rc1+ 29.Kh2 Ra1?



Position after 29...Ra1

A losing mistake, technically speaking, but White misses the admittedly non-obvious refutation. 29...Rf7

30.Nc6?

30.Nc8! Bc7 31.Ne7+ Kf7 32.Nf5 Kg8 (32...Ke6 33.e4) 33.Ra7+

Washington State Invitational

Pairing#	Name	Rating	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total pts	Tie-break (Berger)	Place
1	Neevan Reddy Saddi	1892	♔	1	0.5	0.5	0.5	1	1	0	0	1	5.5	21	4th
2	CM Timothy Moroney	2036	0	♔	0.5	1	0.5	0.5	1	1	1	0.5	6	26	3rd
3	Abhinav Mishra	1863	0.5	0.5	♔	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	10.75	8th-9th
4	Valentin Razmov	1842	0.5	0	0	♔	0	0	0.5	0	0	0.5	1.5	6.25	10th
5	Jeffrey Wei	1922	0.5	0.5	1	1	♔	0.5	0.5	0	0	0.5	4.5	15.5	5th
6	Rafael Palathingal	1944	0	0.5	0	1	0.5	♔	0.5	0	1	0	3.5	14.75	7th
7	Leonardo Wang	1877	0	0	1	0.5	0.5	0.5	♔	0	0	0.5	3	9.75	8th-9th
8	Pratik Thorwe	1949	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	♔	0.5	1	7.5	28.25	1st
9	Emerson Wong-Godfrey	1925	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	0.5	♔	1	6.5	25.25	2nd
10	Shuyi Han	1893	0	0.5	1	0.5	0.5	1	0.5	0	0	♔	4	14	6th

30...Rf7!

Finally Black seizes the chance to trade rooks and make the winning process much more difficult for White.

31.Nd8?!

31.Rb6! h5! 32.Rdb5 Nc7 33.Rb1 Ra4 leads to a very complicated endgame position. For example 34.Rd1 Bc5 35.Rb8+ Kh7 36.Nd8 Re7! (36...Rf8 37.Rb7+-) 37.h4 and Black is still alive!

31...Rxb7 32.Nxb7 Bc7 33.f4 Ra3?

An obvious defensive try that fails due to a nice continuation that White... misses. 33...Rb1! 34.Nd8 Ra1

34.fxe5! Rxe3?

34...fxe5 35.Bxe5 Rxe3 gives better survival chances for Black.

35.a6?

Another obvious move, but not the best for White. This is where White starts to lose their advantage. 35.Nd6! Kf8 36.Rc5!+-

35...Ra3



Position after 35...Ra3

36.Nc5?

By now the game is back to equal, but more twists await ahead. 36.Nd6! was the winning idea here yet again. 36...Kf8 37.Rc5 Rxa6 38.Nxe8 Bxe5 39.Rc8! Bxg3+ 40.Kxg3 Kf7+-

36...Ra5 37.exf6 Bxg3+?

Once again, a simple looking natural move, but a losing one. Black has to preserve their bishop in order to maintain the balance. 37...Bb6 38.fxg7 Bxc5 39.a7 Rxa7 40.Rxc5 Nxg7± was required for a draw.

38.Kxg3 Nxf6 39.Rd8+ Kf7 40.Nb3??

On the final move before the time control, White believes the “bluff.” In reality, White’s knight is immune, because a6-a7 will win the rook, and the resulting endgame would be a technical win. 40.Kf4! g5+ (40...Rxc5 41.a7+-) 41.Ke3 leads to a winning endgame for White.

40...Rxa6

Now Black has finally re-equalized, and in the absence of danger senses an emerging (psychological perhaps) opportunity, so continues to push.

41.Nc5 Rc6 42.Nd3 Ke6 43.Kh2 Rc4 44.Ra8 h5 45.Ra7 Rc3 46.Ne1

White is safe but unnecessarily passive.

46...g5 47.Nf3

Black has made significant progress in trying to construct a mating net of sorts, so White has to be quite careful.

47...Ne4 48.Ra5 Kf6 49.Nd4

49.Re5! Nd2 50.Ra5 Nxf3+ 51.gxf3 Rxf3

49...Rd3 50.Ne2 h4 51.Ra6+ Kf5 52.Ra5+ Kg6 53.Re5 Ng3 54.Kg1 Kf6 55.Re8 Rd1+ 56.Kf2 Kf7 57.Re5 Rf1+ 58.Ke3 Kf6 59.Re8 Nf5+ 60.Kd2 Rf2 61.Ke1 Rxf2

Finally Black’s exploits have resulted in a concrete positive result—winning a pawn. The endgame remains drawn nonetheless, but now White is in some danger.

62.Rb8 Ng3 63.Rb6+ Kg7 64.Nd4 Ne4 65.Re6 Nf6 66.Kf1 Rh2?!

A practical error, forgetting about Nf3 for White. Of course 66...Ra2 instead keeps on trying to press with an extra pawn.

67.Nf3 Rxh3 68.Nxg5 Ra3 69.Kg2??

An unfortunate blunder, likely due to the mental exhaustion in the constant time trouble. The resulting endgame is winning for Black. However, the h-pawn is still weak, so Black has to make accurate moves to reach the win. 69.Rd6 Ng4 70.Rd4 Ne3+ 71.Kf2 Nf5 72.Rf4 Kf6 73.Nf3 and the players should shake hands in peace here.

69...Rg3+ 70.Kh2 Rxf3 71.Kh3 Rh5 72.Ra6 Ne4!

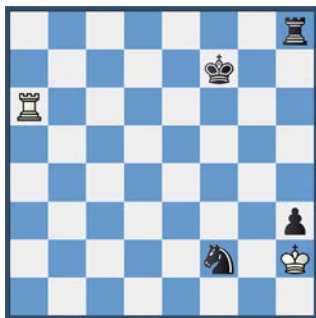
An only winning move. It blocks a possible attempt by White to capture the h4-pawn (after Ra4) while preparing to re-route the knight to either g5 or f2, to push off the White king.

73.Kg4 Rh8 74.Ra7+ Kg6 75.Ra6+ Kf7 76.Kh3 Nf2+ 77.Kh2 h3?

[Diagram top of next page]

Washington State Challengers

Pairing#	Name	Rating	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total pts	Tie-break (Berger)	Place
1	Odbayar Yondon	1825	👑	1	1	1	0	0	0.5	1	0	0.5	4	14.5	4th-7th
2	WCM Mary Kuhner	1795	0	👑							0		0	0	n/a
3	Gabriel Razmov	1873	0		👑	0	1	0.5	1	1	1	0.5	5	20	1st-2nd
4	Selina Cheng	1709	0		1	👑	0	0	0.5	0.5	1	0	3	13.25	8th
5	Vijay Nallappa	1745	1		0	1	👑	1	0.5	0	0	1	4.5	17	3rd
6	Ihsan M. N. Thahir	1799	1		0.5	1	0	👑	0.5	0	1	0	4	16.5	4th-7th
7	Aarav Bharathy Mohan	1707	0.5		0	0.5	0.5	0.5	👑	1	0	1	4	14.25	4th-7th
8	Michael Hosford	1871	0		0	0.5	1	1	0	👑	0	0	2.5	10	n/a
9	Akim Pikh	1877	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	👑	1	5	19	1st-2nd
10	Nikhil Ramkumar	1869	0.5		0.5	1	0	1	0	1	0	👑	4	14	4th-7th



Position after 77...h3

This slight error forces Black to find one more accurate response and then see the move sequence afterwards. 77...Ne4 78.Kh3 Ng5+ 79.Kh2 h3

78.Ra4!

An excellent defensive attempt by White, cutting off the knight.

78...Nd3!

The only winning move again, preparing to shield the Black king as it walks up the board to g4 and then placing the knight on f4 to defend the pawn.

79.Rg4?!

79.Ra3 results in the line that Black needed to see. 79...Nf4 80.Rf3 Rh4 81.Kg3 h2 82.Kxh4 h1Q+ 83.Kg4 Ke6 and Black will have to win Q vs R, but thankfully the White king is already quite close to the edge, making the task somewhat less demanding. 84.Rxf4 Qg2+ 85.Kh4 Ke5-+ and Black should win this relatively soon.

79...Kf6 80.Rd4 Ne5 81.Ra4 Kf5 82.Ra5

Ke4 83.Ra4+ Ke3 84.Ra3+ Nd3 85.Ra7 Nf4

Now Black's maneuver has been successfully completed, and the win is no longer in doubt.

86.Rg7 Ra8 87.Re7+ Kf3 88.Re1 Ra2+ 89.Kh1 Re2 90.Rf1+ Kg3 91.Rb1 Rh2+ 92.Kg1 Ne2+ 93.Kf1 Rh1+ 94.Kxe2 Rxb1

An important win in a complicated game to put me back in contention for first place in the Challengers section, which I was eventually able to achieve!

0-1

Selina Cheng (1709) – Akim Pikh (1877) [C78]

WA State Championship (Challengers)
Seattle, WA (R3), February 9, 2025
[Selina Cheng]

So, this was round three, and my opponent was Akim Pikh, who was higher rated than me. I had felt mixed feelings, worrying what was to unfold on the board. But I knew I wanted to win, after two frustrating draws in the first two rounds.

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5

We play into the Ruy Lopez.

3...a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Bc5 6.Nxe5

I prefer grabbing the pawn over other moves such as c3 or d3, since it's fun to play.

6...Nxe5 7.d4 b5 8.Bb3 Bxd4 9.Qxd4 d6

Creating an idea to set up the Noah's Ark trap.

10.c3

So I create an escape route for my bishop on c2, although I also thought about other moves to play, such as... 10.Qe3 moving my queen away.; 10.a3 another way out for the bishop.; 10.f4, a counterattack, is also an idea I considered.

10...Bb7 11.Bc2 c5

He attacks my queen and grabs space on the queenside.

12.Qd1 Qc7 13.Qe2 0-0-0?!

I thought that castling kingside was safer, but now that he castled queenside, he's prone to attacks. 13...0-0 14.Bg5 Nfd7 15.f4 A example line to if he had castled kingside.

14.f3 Rhe8 15.a4

I start attacking the queenside, using my pawns to tear into where the king is.

15...bxa4?! 16.Bxa4 Re7 17.c4

Preventing any possible ideas of ...d5 or ...c4.

17...Nfd7 18.Bxd7+

I eliminate a defender and open up a path for my rook. 18.Nc3 Also a good move.

18...Qxd7 19.Nc3 Kb8 20.Nd5 Ree8 21.b4

It comes with the idea of opening up the queenside.

21...Qc8 22.b5 Bxd5 23.cxd5 a5?!

It simply allows my rook to infiltrate the

Washington State Rising Stars

Pairing#	Name	Rating	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total pts	Tie-break (Berger)	Place
1	Haituka Anandkumar	1608		0.5	1		0.5	1	0	1	0.5	0.5	5	17.75	2nd
2	Andy Chen	1565	0.5		1		0	0	0	0.5	1	0	3	9	7th
3	Alan Cheng	1433	0	0			0	0.5	0	0.5	1	0	2	6.75	8th-9th
4	Boas Lee	1605							0	0			0	0	n/a
5	Davey V. Jones	1683	0.5	1	1			1	1	0	0	0	4.5	16	3rd-4th
6	Dann Merriman	1698	0	1	0.5		0		1	1	1	0	4.5	13.5	3rd-4th
7	Vishnu Mohan	1589	1	1	1	1	0	0		1	0	0	4	12	5th
8	Pranav Kokati	1453	0	0.5	0.5	1	1	0	0		0	0	2	7	8th-9th
9	Deeksha Shankaranand	1703	0.5	0	0		1	0	1	1		0	3.5	13	6th
10	Brook Ayalew	1658	0.5	1	1		1	1	1	1	1		7.5	26	1st

a-file more quickly, and I think a better move for him would be to lift his rooks and bring them in front of the king to defend.

24.Rxa5 Qb7 25.Qa2 Nd7 26.Bf4 Nb6 27.Ra1 Rd7 28.Ra6! f5



Position after 28...f5

29.Qa5

29.Rxb6 A rook sacrifice, but sadly I missed it and played Qa5. 29...Qxb6 30.Qa8+ Kc7 31.Ra7+

29...Kc7 30.Ra7 Rb8 31.Rxb7+ Rxb7 32.e5

I push my e-pawn to completely destroy his defenses.

32...Kb8 33.e6 Rd8 34.e7 Re8 35.Bxd6+

My bishop jumps into the attack, delivering a check.

35...Kc8 36.Bxc5 Nxd5 37.Qa8+ Rb8 38.Qxd5 Rb7 39.Ra8+ Kc7

I have mate in one.... But I want to promote my pawn...

40.Qd8+-

So I sacrifice my queen and he resigns, since I will checkmate him next move.

1-0

Austin Liu (2140) –
Stephen Willy (2285) [B01]
WA State Championship (Championship)
Seattle, WA (R2), February 8, 2025
[Stephen Willy]

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nf3 Bg4

I only vaguely remembered that ...Bg4 was the move, but I couldn't remember whether I should play ...Nc6 after Be2 or not.

4.Be2 e6

4...Nc6! is the correct move. I wasn't sure about it because 5.Nc3 Qa5 6.Bb5 (6.h3!) threatens Bxc6, but I have 5...Qd7! instead, with a nice position.

5.h3 Bh5 6.d4!

I started to realize my mistake after seeing d4 as now White wants to play c4 and get a comfortable space advantage with tempo. This idea of c4 is why d4 is better than 6.Nc3?!

6...Nc6 7.c4

7.0-0 I felt like this was better since it avoids any checks along the a5-e1 diagonal and c4 can still be played.

7...Bb4+

7...Qd7! I think I didn't play this because of d5 (I probably overlooked ...Bxf3) however that position does seem like it is a two result game in White's favor. 8.d5

Bxf3 9.Bxf3 exd5 10.cxd5±

8.Nc3 Bxc3+

8...Qd7!? forces White to either force Bxc3+ or play d5 so maybe it was a bit more resilient than the move I played in the game 9.0-0

a) 9.Be3 Nge7 10.Qb3!? 0-0 11.g4 (11.0-0-0);

b) 9.g4 Bg6 10.d5;

9...Nge7 10.d5 exd5 11.cxd5 Bxf3 12.Bxf3 Ne5 13.Be4

9.bxc3 Qa5



Position after 9...Qa5

10.Bb2??

This throws away almost all of White's advantage. 10.0-0! There is no need to worry about the c3-pawn! my king is still in the center 10...Qxc3 (10...Nf6±) 11.d5!!; 10.Bd2. At least this is a better place to defend the pawn than b2 considering the bishop later in the game...

10...Nf6 11.0-0 0-0

White still should be better but there is no clear plan for White. My queen on a5

Washington State Prodigies

Pairing#	Name	Rating	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total pts	Tie-break (Berger)	Place
1	Yash Syal	1476	👑	1	0.5	0.5	0	0	1	1	0.5	1	5.5	22.25	3rd
2	Imai Maharaja	1578	0	👑	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	3	11.5	9th-10th
3	Lewis Ma	1401	0.5	0	👑	0	0.5	0.5	1	0	0.5	0.5	3.5	16.5	7th-8th
4	Sambuddha S. Das	1387	0.5	1	1	👑	0	0.5	0	1	0	1	5	22.25	4th-5th
5	Peng-Ruei Pan	1394	1	0	0.5	1	👑	1	0.5	1	0	0	5	23.25	4th-5th
6	Shanna Wu	1385	1	1	0.5	0.5	0	👑	1	1	1	0	6	23.25	2nd
7	Vihaan Pai	1397	0	0	0	1	0.5	0	👑	0.5	1	0	3	13.25	9th-10th
8	Sarang Sankrithi	1537	0	1	1	0	0	0	0.5	👑	1	0	3.5	12	7th-8th
9	Shawn Li	1472	0.5	1	0.5	1	1	0	0	0	👑	0	4	17.5	6th
10	Rian Raja	1464	0	1	0.5	0	1	1	1	1	1	👑	6.5	26.25	1st

does look quite sketchy, but I didn't see a way to trap it.

12.Qb3 Rab8

In the next few moves my opponent spends a lot of time looking for a win, and I blitzed out my next moves realizing that I could put some pressure on the clock.

13.Ba3 Rfe8

Defending the e7-square just in case of anything.

14.g4

I was happy to see this because if there is no direct win it might be hard for my opponent to deal with the open kingside and time trouble at the same time.

14...Bg6 15.Bb4 Qa6 16.Rac1 b6 17.Nh4 Ne7

Clearing the way for c5 to chip at the structure.

18.Bxe7 Rxe7 19.Nxg6 hxg6 20.Bf3 Rd8 21.Bg2 c5 22.d5



Position after 22.d5

22...e5

I wasn't sure if the pawn sacrifice was good, but I felt like it was a strong practical option considering my opponent's time trouble (Stockfish actually likes this idea).

23.f4 e4 24.g5 Ne8

Rerouting to the dream square for the knight where it blockades the d-pawn eyes the c-pawn and controls the f5-, e4-, and b5-squares too. Stockfish says 24...Nh5 is fine but I wasn't sure what my knight was doing after Re3 25.Re3 Qc8 26.Qd1 Qf5 27.Qg4 b5.

25.Rxe4 Rxe4 26.Bxe4 Nd6 27.Bd3 Qc8 28.Kg2 b5 29.Re1??

This is the game-losing move as now I get to the kingside unopposed. Qd1 was the better move bringing the last piece to defend the kingside. 29.Qd1

29...bxc4 30.Bxc4 Qf5 31.Bf1 Qxf4

I don't want g5! I want checkmate.

32.c4 Nf5 33.Qd3 Rb8 34.Re2 Kh7

I realized that for a moment White's pieces are sort of defending but now White must move his king or else I get an even stronger attack. But this is hard for my opponent to see with ten seconds.

35.Qe4 Nh4+ 36.Kg1 Qg3+ 37.Kh1 Rb1!!

The final touch as there is no way for White to defend all the checkmates.

38.Qxb1 Nf3 39.Rg2 Qxh3+

0-1

Player Bios

Jackson Rish-Brown:



Jackson Rish-Brown, is 11 years old and from Gig Harbor. Jackson feels fortunate to have discovered a local chess club and coach at the library, which ignited his passion for the game this fall. He is inspired by the legendary Magnus Carlsen and enjoys Levy Rozman's Gotham Chess content. His dedication to chess has led him to participate in several scholastic tournaments. However, the Washington State Championship was his first experience with longer time

Washington State Wizards

Pairing#	Name	Rating	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Total pts	Tie-break (Berger)	Place
1	Aahan Sriram	1368	👑	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	5	16	2nd-5th
2	Oliver He	1384	1	👑	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	5	16	2nd-5th
3	Chen Yuan	1227	1	1	👑	1	0	0.5	0	0	1	4.5	15.25	6th
4	Arihant Chaudhuri	1319	0	0	0	👑	0.5	0	0	0	1	1.5	2.75	8th
5	Ziliang Ma	1195	0	0	1	0.5	👑	0	0	1	1	3.5	11.25	7th
6	Harry Wu	1234	1	1	0.5	1	1	👑	0	1	0	5.5	22.25	1st
7	Ziqian Gao	1333	0	0	1	1	1	1	👑	0	1	5	16	2nd-5th
8	Daniel Yun	1306	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	👑	1	5	17	2nd-5th
9	Risko Nishio	1168	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	👑	1	5	9th

control format, which he found to be his preferred style.

When he's not immersed in chess, Jackson enjoys reading, math and spending time with friends.

Jackson is grateful for the unwavering support of his family and school community. He, his twin brother and their classmates lobbied for a chess club at school which begins this month. With a strong foundation and a supportive network, Jackson is excited to continue his chess journey and achieve new milestones.

Ryan Porter:



Ryan Porter was very active in his youth. He was a member of the All-

America Team from 1990-1996 and represented the U.S. in the 1991 World Under-12 Championship. He later finished second in the 1994 U.S. Cadet Under-16 Championship and third in the 1997 National High School Championship. He's now back to actively playing, while also raising his two young sons, who are starting to learn the game.

Jacob Rish-Brown:



Jacob Rish-Brown, an 11-year-old chess enthusiast from Gig Harbor, started playing chess at the age of four. This school year, he has become more serious about his chess gameplay, dedicating significant time and effort to improve his skills. Jacob admires Magnus Carlsen and

Hikaru Nakamura, drawing inspiration from their strategic brilliance and dedication.

Jacob aspires to become a grandmaster one day. His first foray into long format tournaments was at the Washington State Championship, which he thoroughly enjoyed.

Jacob appreciates the unwavering support his family has shown for his passion. He often plays chess with his twin brother, uncles, and parents. His papa is even taking lessons in hopes of keeping up with Jacob's growing skill!

When Jacob isn't immersed in chess, he enjoys playing Minecraft, hanging out with friends, and practicing jiu jitsu.

Shanna Wu:



My name is Shanna, and I started playing chess about 1.5 years ago. I like solving puzzles, playing chess games, and going to tournaments. My current USCF rating is about 1450. I also have a brother who is interested in chess as well.

Washington State Sensations

Pairing#	Name	Rating	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total pts	Tie-break (Berger)	Place
1	Jackson Rish-Brown	768	♔	0.5	0.5	0.5	0	1	0	1	3.5	10.75	4th-5th
2	Jacob Rish-Brown	872	0.5	♔	0	0.5	0	0	0	1	2	4.75	6th-8th
3	Darya Byelashova	990	0.5	1	♔	0.5	0.5	1	0	0	3.5	12.25	4th-5th
4	Siana Razmov	857	0.5	0.5	0.5	♔	0.5	0	0	0	2	7	6th-8th
5	Emma Ge	932	1	1	0.5	0.5	♔	0	1	1	5	15.25	1st-3rd
6	Vivaan Sankrithi	1109	0	1	0	1	1	♔	1	1	5	16	1st-3rd
7	Joyce Gui	611	1	1	1	1	0	0	♔	1	5	13	1st-3rd
8	Sofia Byelashova	808	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	♔	2	5.5	6th-8th

Harry Wu:



My name is Harry Wu, and I started playing chess 2.5 years ago. I like chess because it is fun, and I think it helps you obtain more skills, like predicting the consequences of your actions.

Peng-Ruei Pan:



Peng-Ruei Pan is a fifth grader at Samantha Smith Elementary School in

Sammamish, Washington and serves as the team captain of his school's chess club. His family relocated to the U.S. from Taiwan just before the COVID-19 pandemic in 2019, which is when he first discovered his love for chess while playing with his twin younger brothers.

Beyond chess, Peng-Ruei is an avid baseball player, serving as a pitcher and first baseman for a 12U select team, despite being only 11 years old. He is also a passionate cat lover, sharing his home with eight cats. In his leisure time, he likes to read and swim. Among all his interests, chess remains his greatest passion, and he aspires to become a Grandmaster in the future.

Selina Cheng:



Selina is a 13-year-old chess player who likes chess and aspires to get a title. She started chess at the age of five and slowly improved with the help of online

resources and the support of coaches and friends. She is also a chess ambassador for WCF and volunteers at some tournaments here and there. Selina is also 2024 Washington State's Girls' champion and 2024 SPENO K-8 Girls champion. Some of her other interests are drawing, reading, and playing video games in her free time.

Sarang Sankrithi:



Sarang Sankrithi is an eleven-year-old National Champion. He began playing chess tournaments when he was six. Along with his brother, Mom, and Dad, he co-authored "Do Brown Cows Make Chocolate Milk: Family Experiences Around Child-Led Learning" in 2023 and is well on his way to publishing a new book around tournament chess with his brother and friend in 2025. An avid musician, he recently performed with Macklemore and Seattle Opera. He has organized, run, and volunteered

chesswithryan.com

- 12 Years of Experience
- Spokane City Champion 2022
- 2032 USCF Rating
- UW Grad
- Eagle Scout

Ryan Ackerman
Online Chess Coach

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

Josh Sinanan
President

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washingtonchessfederation@gmail.com
wachess.com



at numerous chess tournaments and is competing in his first round-robin State Championship.

Sambuddha S. Das:



My name is Sambuddha Sekhar Das, I am nine years old, a student of fourth grade in Endeavour Elementary School. I live with my mom and dad in Klahanie, Sammamish. I started playing chess two

years back and immediately signed up for scholastic tournaments. Last year, I transitioned to classical tournaments and since then really enjoying long time control games. Though I love playing Blitz too over the board and online platforms! Chess is not my hobby, rather it is my passion. I feel very well connected and included in the chess community. I won many state level and national level trophies and medals; they are quite fulfilling but there is a long way to trek to reach my big dream. I am truly thankful to my parents, my coaches and my chess family for standing by and helping me all the way through.

Vivaan Sankrithi:



Vivaan Sankrithi is a seven-year-old Elementary State Champion and National Runner-Up. He began playing chess tournaments when he was three. Along with his brother, Mom, and Dad, he co-authored "Do Brown Cows Make

Chocolate Milk: Family Experiences Around Child-Led Learning" in 2023 and is well on his way to publishing a new book around tournament chess with his brother and friend in 2025. He has begun volunteer TDing, loves learning about animals and the weather, and is competing in his first round-robin State Championship.

Emma Ge:



Meet Emma Ge, a second grader with a deep passion for chess. Though she's full of playful energy, she diligently practices her moves—learning with each game and always striving to improve. When she's not on the chessboard, Emma loves building imaginative worlds with Legos, crafting new creations, skiing with her dad and friends, twirling in ballet class, and enjoying spirited games of softball. With her kind heart and eagerness to help others, Emma is an inspiration both in chess and beyond.



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Come anytime 7-11pm.*

May 10

3-round round-robin. 4-player sections by close rating. **Time control:** Game/85 + 10 sec. increment. **Entry fee:** \$15 (+\$10 day membership for non-SCC). **Prizes:** winner of each 4-player quad wins free entry to next Quads played within 3 months. **Registration:** 9:15-9:45am. **Rounds:** 10am, 2 & 6pm. **Byes:** 0 – must play all 3 rounds! US Chess membership req'd.

May Quads

May 25-26

See below.

Carol Kleist Memorial Adult Swiss

May 2, 9 16, *, 30

May Flowers

One US Chess-rated round per Friday night, 4 rounds per month, at 7:30pm. **Time control:** 40 moves in 90 minutes + 10 sec. increment, followed by sudden death 60 minutes + 10 sec. increment. Free for SCC members, \$5/night others. Drop in for any round!
[*no game on 5/23 due to WA Open]

Coming up in June & July:

- **June Quads** – Saturday June 7, tentative, to be confirmed.
- **Emerald City Open** – June 21-22, tentative, to be confirmed. 5-round Swiss, 50-80 player capacity.
- **Seattle Seafair Open** – weekend in mid/late July. 5-round Swiss, 2-3 sections, 80-100 player capacity.

Check our events calendar periodically for confirmed dates.

~ SCC Annual Meeting ~

- Friday, May 2, 6:30pm at the club
- come and hear about the club's past year accomplishments & future plans
- mix with other club members and friends before the 7:30pm Friday game
- members vote on the club's Board of Directors for 2025-26
- pizza and drinks provided

3rd Annual Carol Kleist Memorial Adult Swiss @ WA Open - Redmond Marriott

- ❖ A 4-round Swiss in 2 sections: Botvinnik (1500+) and Korchnoi (U1500); may be merged if small.
- ❖ **Time control:** Game/120 + 30 second increment.
- ❖ **Rounds:** Sunday-Monday 5/25-26, 11am & 4:30pm both days.
- ❖ **Entry fee:** Online by Saturday 5/24 at 5pm – \$40 SCC members, \$50 others. Onsite add \$10. EF waived for unrated players who purchase memberships. US Chess and WCF/OCF/ICA memberships required.
- ❖ **Register** at NW Chess Online System: <https://nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration/>
- ❖ **Registration:** Sunday 5/25 @ 10-10:30 AM (unless starting with a half-point bye).
- ❖ **Guaranteed prize fund: \$1,000.**
 - **Botvinnik:** 1st \$240, 2nd \$150, 3rd \$120, 1st U1650 \$80.
 - **Korchnoi:** 1st \$120, 2nd \$100, 3rd \$80, 1st U1300 \$60, 1st Unrated \$50.
- ❖ 1 half-point bye available.

~ generously supported by Gerald Larson & Henry Yan ~



Washington Father's Day Open



June 14-15, 2025

Hotel 116 Bellevue

625 116th Ave NE, Bellevue, WA 98004

Format: A 5-round Swiss in three sections: **Skywalker Open**, **Kenobi U1800**, and **Solo U1400**.

Entry fee: \$100 by 6/7, \$120 after. \$50 play-up fee if rated 1600-1799 or 1200-1399 in both NWSRS and USCF and playing up in Skywalker Open or Kenobi U1800, respectively. Free entry for chess Jedis rated 2200+ USCF. Open to all junior + adult players. Maximum of 190 players, please register early to reserve your spot!

Schedule: Arrival: 8-8:45am. Rounds: Saturday @ 9am, 2pm, 7pm. Sunday @ 10am, 3pm.

Closing Ceremony + Blitz Tournament: ~ 7pm or asap.

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

Rating: Dual NWSRS + US Chess Rated. Skywalker Open + Kenobi U1800 are also FIDE rated. Higher of current NWSRS or June 2025 US Chess rating will be used to determine section, pairings, and prizes.

Memberships: US Chess and WCF/OCF/ICA memberships required; must be paid at the time of registration.

Prize Fund: \$5,000 based on 100 paid entries.

Skywalker Open: 1st-4th: \$450-\$350-\$250-\$200, 1st-2nd U2200: \$150-\$125, 1st-2nd U2000: \$150-\$125.

Kenobi U1800: 1st-4th: \$400-\$300-\$200-\$150, 1st-2nd U1700: \$125-\$100, 1st-2nd U1500: \$125-\$100.

Solo U1400: 1st-4th: \$300-\$225-\$175-\$125, 1st-2nd U1200: \$100-\$75, 1st-2nd U1000: \$100-\$75.

Special Prizes (per section):

Biggest Upset Win: \$20/rd., Best Female Player (by TPR): \$25, Best Dressed: \$20/day, Best Dad Player (by TPR): \$25, Best Parent/Child Team (by avg. TPR): \$25.

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

Registration: Online at nwchess.com/OnlineRegistration. Pay by Credit/Debit, PayPal/Zelle (ID: washingtonchessfederation@gmail.com), Venmo (@WACHess), SettleKing (Washington Chess Federation), or write a check to Washington Chess Federation. **Payment due upon registration; players listed as unpaid for more than 3 days after registering will be withdrawn from the tournament. Registration + payment deadline: Fri, June 13 @ 5pm.** Unpaid players will be removed from the roster after the deadline.

Father's Day Blitz: Sunday 7-9pm (after rd. 5 of main tournament). **Entry Fee:** \$25. **Format:** A 9-Round Single Swiss in one section, 2 half-point byes available. Dual US Chess Blitz + FIDE Blitz rated. **TC:** G/3; +2. **On-site registration:** 6:00-6:45pm. Rds. Sun @ 7pm, 7:15, 7:30, 7:45, 8, 8:15, 8:30, 8:45, 9pm. Closing Ceremony ~ 9:15pm or asap. Current US Chess membership required. Higher of June 2025 US Chess Blitz or Regular rating used to determine pairings and prizes. **Prize Fund: \$700** (based on 50 paid entries)

1st - 3rd: \$150-100-80, 1st U2000/U1800/U1600/U1400/U1200/U1000/Unrated: \$40. Biggest upset win: \$10/rd.

Questions - Josh Sinanan, WCF President, 206-769-3757, washingtonchessfederation@gmail.com



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ROBERT LDBERG
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JAMES MCCORMICK
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