

# Squaring Off

## Student competes in Rubik's Cube state and national competitions

**Elianna Holbert**  
Reporter

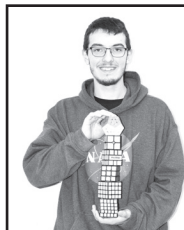
Going to a national competition for anything is hard, but going to nationals for a Rubik's Cube competition is more difficult.

"I just picked it up one day, and it just turned out to be more fun than I expected," Alex Truitt, sophomore, said, "once I figured out how to solve it at least."

Truitt first picked up a Rubik's cube in mid 2016, and hasn't put it

down since. Truitt has competed in seven state competitions and one national competition.

Nationals was on July 27-29 in Salt Palace Convention Center in Salt Lake City, Utah and there were 634 competitors there. One of Truitt's most memorable memories is when he filmed and witnessed Daniel Karnaukh set a world record. Karnaukh's world record was solving a Rubik's cube in 5.494 seconds in the Square-1 division.



like U.S. nationals then he has to have certain times that allow him to qualify and pay an entry fee.

On March 30, Truitt will head

To be able to compete in smaller competitions, Truitt signs up and pays a fee, but if he wants to go to bigger competitions

to Colorado Springs for a Rubik's Cube competition.

In the days leading up to the competition Truitt practices more than usual and makes sure he has the right cubes for the different type of events and has memorized some helpful algorithms, the different moves he makes to solve the cube.

"I think it [solving Rubik's cubes] has improved my reflex abilities," Truitt said, "because of a need to recognize moves quickly."

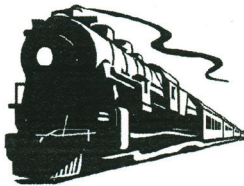
Comic by Jayde Tombleson



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## I've Got Game



**Kenneth Barrett,**  
sophomore

## The game that darkens your soul

After wasting an hour of choosing what I want my character to look like, I was ready to start.

I get spawned into this graveyard area with a small amount of loot and ghouls lurking about.

These cloaked skeletons want to kill me, like most of the enemies in this game. With a couple of branching paths and enemies that take a fourth of my health on a hit, I knew I was playing a Dark Souls game.

I like to explore a lot so on the second branch off to the right I saw this giant crystal lizard that rolls like an armadillo and can kill me in two hits, the fight did not go well.

All for an item that I don't understand the purpose of.

After moving forward some more. I light a bonfire assuming it might help, but it didn't seem to do anything at the time.

The enemies now take two hits to kill but that wouldn't make much of a difference, one guy up ahead has a crossbow. There is a huge doorway behind him.

In the center of this giant arena there is a man hunched down with a sword through him.

All I can do in this area is pull the sword out from his chest.

I do it and he gets up with anger on his face as he stabs me with his halberd and throws me off the edge.

I was in shock and awe as I attempted to take him down two more times, unsuccessful each time.

On my fourth try I managed to take him down with no healing potions left and only a sliver of health.

I open the giant door in front of me, walk up a pathway and die to four guys all together with spears, crossbows, and swords.

I knew this game was going to have me begging for it to end.