

Blackstone a Magician At Chess, Too . . .

By **RON GREEN**

Among others, there are master carpenters, master surgeons, master electricians, and master chess players.

John Blackstone, 20, City College business major, is the latter.

Blackstone began serious chess play in 1959 while he was still in junior high school. Since then he has risen through four lower divisions of the U.S. Chess Federation to the rank of master. There are only two higher ranks in national play, senior master and grand master.

In the process he has won the state junior championship four times and has been the San Jose champion since 1960.

The young chess wizard finds the game stimulating, but is otherwise hard put to explain its attraction. "You can't put your finger on it," he commented, "but I find the challenge it offers satisfying."

Last summer, due to his abilities, Blackstone played in a series of tournaments on the Eastern seaboard. It was only part of a year which saw him play 119 tournament games from which he won \$1,000 in prize money.

The chess playing student hopes to repeat this year as junior champion if the championship tournaments are held before his 21st birthday this summer. If not, he hopes to do well in play for the adult championship.

Despite his ability, Blackstone doesn't plan to continue playing for long after graduation. "Chess is too much of a strain," he said. "Sometimes your head actually feels numb after finishing a tournament game."

Nevertheless he hopes to continue until he reaches the rank of senior master.