

Koltanowski---271 Games After

Chess Expert Tells How He Did It

George Koltanowski, Chronicle chess expert who played the amazing number of 271 games in 12 hours Sunday, paced the lobby of the Marines' Memorial Club yesterday, still mentally playing chess.

"I could have gone on longer," Koltanowski said. He gestured nervously with a cigarette.

"I had no impression of time. But after 10 hours I realized I would have to speed up play."

Koltanowski had only played 172 games in the first ten hours and he knew if he was to break his own record of 226 games in 12 hours he would have to go faster. Then in two hours he completed 99 more games.

SPEED FACTOR

The chess expert stopped his energy-burning stride: "I had to stop thinking—play was more mechanical. Then it became easier. The faster I played the faster they (his opponents) had to play. I started knocking them over because the faster they played the more mistakes they made and the sooner they conceded."

Though he acted like a tightly-wound alarm clock that hadn't run down yet, the only sign of the chess master's ordeal was in his eyes which were slightly bloodshot.

"And the palms of my hands hurt," Koltanowski said. "I didn't realize it at the time but I was leaning on the tables, resting on my hands."

"I won't want to shake hands for a long time," he said, smiling.

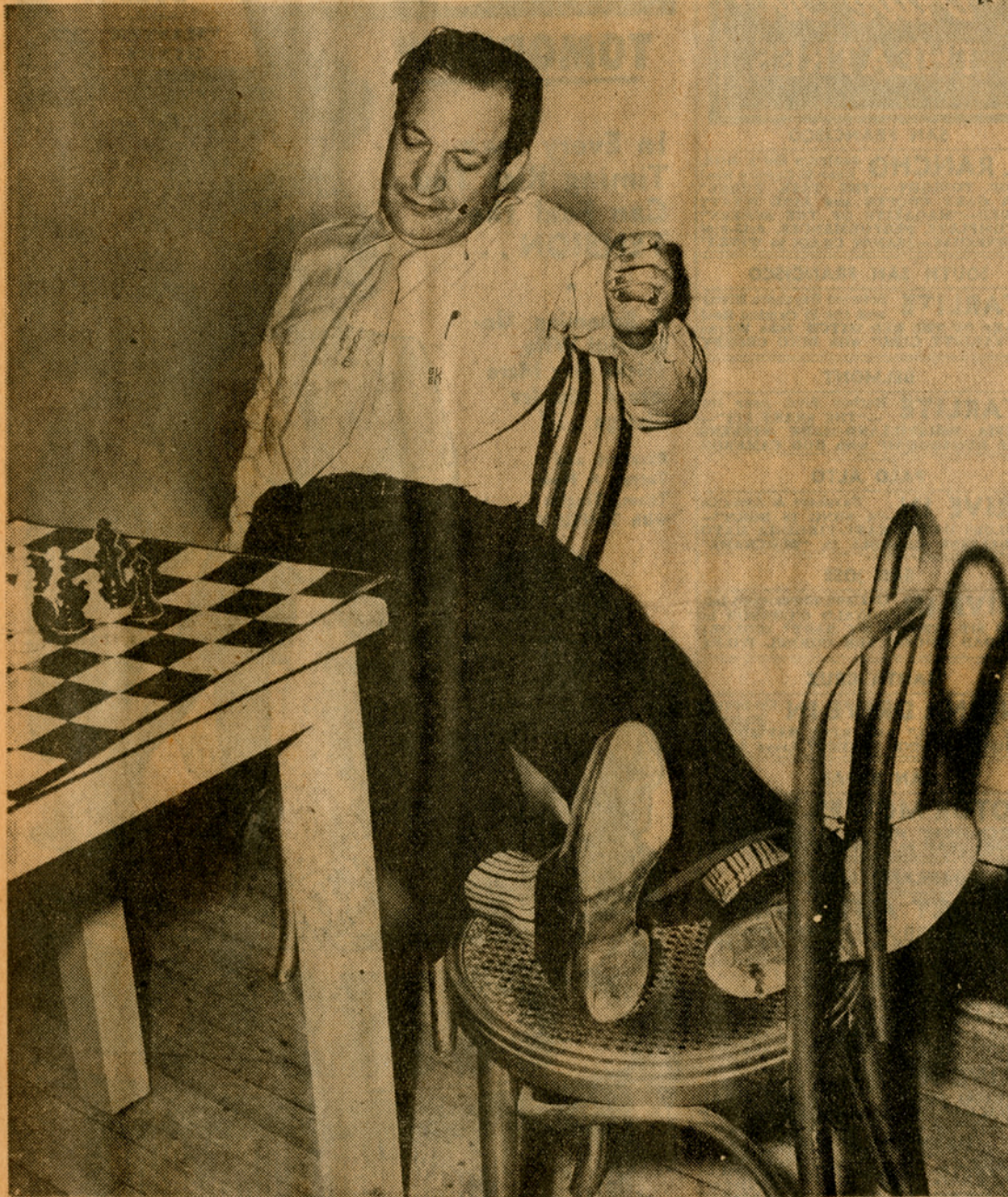
Koltanowski thought he could have gone on a lot longer. "I went to bed about 2 a. m. and got up at 7 o'clock," he said. "At the time I went to bed my back was a little tired from leaning over. That was all I felt physically."

During the 12 hours of intense concentration Koltanowski ate one sandwich. "And all the time I felt thirsty," he said "I guess I drank more than two pots of coffee."

Of the 271 games which Koltanowski played at The Chronicle Chess Festival in the Marines' Memorial Club, he won 251, lost 3 and drew 17.

The record will stand as official. Koltanowski also held the previous record of 226 games in a 12-hour period.

That was not official, though, he explained. There were no judges and there was some repetition in players.



GEORGE KOLTANOWSKI
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