

CHESS

By **JOHN LARKINS**
 Editor of *Chess Voice*



Brothers share state title

Paul Whitehead, 17, and his brother Jay, 16, are the new 1978 Co-champions of Northern California.

The two young San Francisco chessmasters won their shared title by tying for first place in the Bagby Memorial Northern California Chess Championship. Held January 15-March 5 at the Mechanics Institute Chess Club in San Francisco, the tournament was co-sponsored by the Mechanics Institute and the Northern California Chess Association (CalChess). Michael Goodall directed with the assistance of Raymund Conway and John Larkins.

The final standings: 1st-2nd, Jay Whitehead (2273) and Paul Whitehead (2324), 5½ points each; 3rd, Nick DeFirmian (2370), 4½ pts.; 4th, Ed Kennedy (2225), 3½ pts.; 5th, Peter Cleghorn (2344), 3 pts.; 6th-7th, Paul Cornelius (2323) and Zaki Harari (2302), 2½ pts.; and 8th, Harry Radke (2233), 1 pt.

THIS YEAR'S event had an enlarged prize fund of \$530 — contributed in equal parts by the Mechanics Institute, CalChess, and the players' entry fees. First place was allocated \$70, second place — \$40, and the rest was awarded as point money at \$15-points. On this basis, the two Whiteheads each received \$137.50, DeFirmian \$67.50, Kennedy \$52.50, Cleghorn \$45, Cornelius and Harari \$37.50 each, and Radke \$15.

The Whitehead brothers, as co-champions of Northern California, join Jack Peters, recently crowned champion of Southern California, to give the state the unique distinction of having two state chess champions. (For national chess purposes, each area functions as a separate "state.") The last all-state champion was David J. Strauss in 1973. No championships were held from 1974 through 1977.

INVITATIONS TO participate in the Bagby Northern California Championships are extended annually to the top players in the area strictly according to rating. The first eight to accept make up the round robin tourney. To no one's surprise, the world class players — Browne, Tarjan, Christiansen, and Kaplan — declined to play. But those who did play formed a fair representation of this area's established masters.

Each of the two Whiteheads played extremely well, arriving at the same result by markedly different paths. To quote from Tom Dorsch's article in the April-May *Chess Voice*, "It would be hard to imagine two brothers with more different styles. Jay plays with vigor and imagination, never shrinking from the latest theoretical battleground or avoiding complications. Paul plays a more circumspect, positional game, choosing quiet openings where he can squeeze a small edge into a winning advantage."

Here is an amusing game from the tournament. So much repositioning goes on in the opening that the pieces seem to be going backward as often as forward and White's knights make exactly half of his first 18 moves.

SICILIAN DEFENSE

White: Peter Cleghorn (2344). Black: Paul Whitehead (2324). Bagby Memorial Northern Calif. Championship, Feb. 26, 1978.

1 P-K4	P-QB4	15 B-B2	N(3)-K4	29 NxB	Q-R2
2 N-KB3	N-QB3	16 N-K3	Q-B2	30 K-B2	Q-B2
3 P-Q4	PxP	17 R-B1	Q-N1	31 N-K2	B-B3
4 NxP	P-K3	18 N-B3	B-R1	32 B-B3	R-N1
5 N-N5	P-O3	19 Q-Q2	N-KB3	33 Q-N4	P-R4
6 P-QB4	N-B3	20 KR-Q1	KR-Q1	34 Q-R3	R(1)-Q1
7 N(5)-B3	P-QR3	21 P-QN3	N-N3	35 N-Q4	N-N6
8 N-R3	B-K2	22 B-B1	R-B2	36 NxB	QxN
9 B-K2	O-O	23 Q-N2	R(2)-Q2	37 N-B2	P-Q4
10 B-K3	P-QN3	24 R-B2	P-KR4	38 BP-P	PxP
11 O-O	B-N2	25 R(2)-Q2	P-R5	39 N-Q4	Q-KB3
12 P-B3	R-K1	26 P-KR3	N-R4	40 K-N1	PxP
13 N-R4	N-Q2	27 N-N4	B-N4	41 Resigns	
14 N-B2	R-B1	28 B-K3	BxB	O-1	

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DEAF, BLIND PLAYER HONORED

Terry Breckner, 27, of Newark, California, was born deaf and developed incurable retinitis pigmentosa at the age of five. Yet, despite his double handicap, he has become an active competitor in several sports—including football, track and wrestling.

Recently, he has taken up chess — playing in several USCF-rated tournaments and winning two tournaments over deaf opponents. Because of his fine record, Terry has been chosen to be a member of the American team of five which will participate in the 8th World Team Championship of the Deaf in Oberstdorf, West Germany, May 14-28.

In order to send Terry to Oberstdorf, the National Association of the Deaf Committee on Silent Chess is conducting a fund-raising drive to handle his traveling expenses. Tax exempt donations can be mailed to: N.A.D. Committee on Silent Chess, Emil Ladner, Chairman, 2828 Kelsey St., Berkeley, CA 94705.