

ROSSOLIMO WINS OPEN

*Reshevsky Second on Median Points,
Byrne Third, Then Evans and Turner*

With the awarding of a Buick car, donated by the Campbell Buick Co. of Long Beach, Calif., to U.S. Open Champion Nicolas Rossolimo, one of the greatest of U.S. Open Tournaments became a page of chess history. In winning Rossolimo made a brilliant reversal of his disappointing record at Milwaukee in 1953 and again demonstrated that his FIDE-awarded distinction of Grandmaster was well deserved recognition of his ability. In scoring 10-2, the new Open Champion lost no games but conceded hard fought draws to Donald Byrne, Samuel Reshevsky, Peter Lapiken (an upset), and Anthony Saily. Among the victims of his prowess were former U.S. Champion Larry Evans, James T. Sherwin, and Irving Rivise.

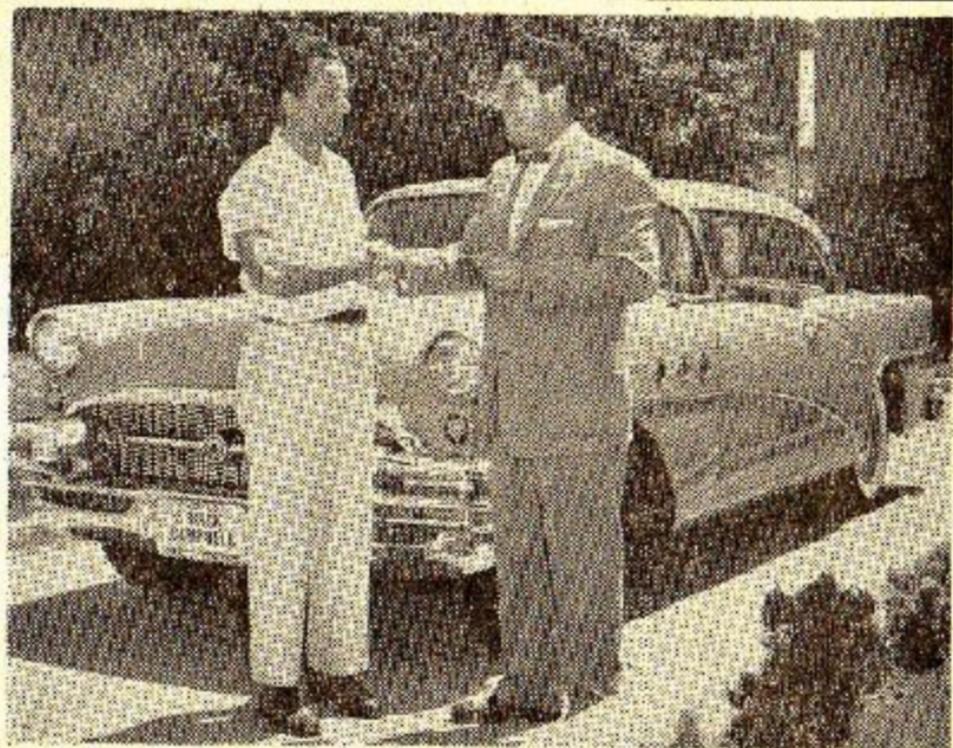
In second place with equal score of 10-2 by half a Median point came Grandmaster Samuel Reshevsky who also lost no games but conceded draws Peter Lapiken (somewhat a giant-killer in this tournament), Donald Byrne, Rossolimo, and Larry Evans. Among those who succumbed to his skill were Anthony Saily, James T. Sherwin, and Karl Burger.

Third place went to 1953 Open Champion Donald Byrne with 9½-2½ score. Byrne lost one game to Larry Evans and drew with Rossolimo, Reshevsky, and Sherwin. Fourth and fifth on Median points with equal 9-3 scores were 1954 Open Champion Larry Evans and A. A. Turner. Evans lost one game to Rossolimo and drew with Albert Sandrin, Allen Kaufman, Herbert Seidman, and Reshevsky. Turner, whose showing in this event gives basis to the claims of his followers that he has been greatly under-

rated in popular regard, lost games to Ivan Romanenko and Anthony Saily, while drawing with Louis Levy and Arthur W. Dake.

The tournament in all respects lived up to its advance notices, and aside from the Buick car as first prize, \$5100.15 were distributed to thirty-five other prize-winners, including the special \$50.00 prize awarded to Mrs. Sonja Graf-Stevenson as U.S. Women's Open Champion with a score of 6-6, out-ranking all other women players in the

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U. S. OPEN CHAMPION AND PRIZE

Nicolas Rossolimo (left) receives the congratulations of the representatives of the Campbell Buick Co., 1881 American Avenue, Long Beach, Calif. on his victory. The Buick, first prize in the U. S. Open Championship, was donated by the Campbell Buick Co.

Photo: Dick Tolbert

ROSSOLIMO WINS U.S. OPEN

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event. A special feature in hospitality was the free coffee served to all contestants and spectators each day by the sponsoring Lincoln Park Chess & Checker Club of Long Beach. Arrangements for the tournament were ably handled by a committee headed by John P. Looney, president of the Lincoln Park club, while the tournament was efficiently directed by Orlo M. Rolo, who last year directed the U.S. Junior Championship, assisted very ably by Imre Konig.

Early Rounds A Tussle

Even the first round heralded the possibility of startling upsets with William Lombardy losing to Boris Garfinkel, Jeremiah Donovan losing to John Rinaldo, Karl Burger drawing with Mrs. Kathryn Slater, and Mrs. Sonja Graf-Stevenson drawing with Ben Kakimi.

The second round saw Larry Evans drawing with Albert Sandrin who in this event seemed to have recovered the form that made him U.S. Open Champion at Omaha. Herman Steiner lost an upset to Dr. Bela Rozsa and Abe Turner to Ivan Romanenko whose final showing declared him also a player much underrated in popular opinion.

By the fifth round Paul Brandts held the undisputed lead with 5-0 with victories over Saily, Seidman, and Sherwin. On his heels with 4½-½ each were Reshevsky (a draw with Lapiken), Byrne (a draw with Rossolimo), Rossolimo, Carl Pilnick (a draw with Robert Steinmeyer).

Round six saw the lead go to Reshevsky and Byrne with 5½-½ as Reshevsky defeated Brandts and Byrne bested Pilnick. Tied with 5-1 were Larry Evans, Rossolimo, Seidman, Sherwin, Saily, Peter Lapiken, Charles Henin, and Brandts.

Round Seven and the lead broadened as Reshevsky drew with Byrne while Rossolimo bested Allen Kaufman and Sherwin defeated Saily, while Brandts won from Henin. Leaders at 6-1 were Reshevsky, Byrne, Rossolimo, Sherwin, and Brandts. Doggedly following with 5½-1½ each were Larry Evans, Herbert Seidman, Arthur Dake, Louis Levy, Peter Lapiken.

The Seesaw Begins

Round eight and the lead narrows with Byrne beating Brandts, Sherwin besting Lapiken, Evans downing Dake, while Reshevsky drew with Rossolimo and Seidman

with Louis Levy. Leaders are now Byrne and Sherwin with 7-1. Reshevsky, Evans, and Rossolimo have 6½-1½, while Brandts, Seidman and Levy share a 6-2 score with new potential threats in William Addison, Albert Sandrin, Charles Henin, Zoltan Kovacs, Anthony Saily, Abe Turner, Robert Cross and Raymond Martin.

Round nine—Byrne and Sherwin draw and still share the lead with 7½-1½, because Reshevsky drew with Evans and Rossolimo drew with Saily. Tallying 7-2 are Reshevsky, Evans, Rossolimo, Sandrin (with a victory over Brandts), Seidman (winning from Henin), and Cross (defeating Kovacs). Hanging on or creeping up with 6½-2½ each are Hans Berliner, Saily, Dake, Turner, Levy, Addison, Rivise, J. G. Sullivan, Ivan Romanenko and Raymond Martin.

Round ten and 1953 Open Champion Donald Byrne takes undisputed lead with 8½-1½, defeating Seidman while Sherwin loses to Rossolimo. In second with 8-2 now are Rossolimo, Reshevsky (defeating Sandrin), and Evans (besting Cross). On their heels with 7½-2½ are Sherwin, Saily (a win over Berliner), Addison (a win over Levy), Rivise (a win over Sullivan), and Romanenko (a win over Martin).

The Lead Totters

Round eleven sees the leader topple. Byrne succumbs to Evans, while Rossolimo defeats Rivise, Reshevsky bests Saily. Now leading with 9-2 are Rossolimo, Reshevsky and Evans. Byrne and Romanenko (with a win over Cross) and Sherwin (with a win over Addison) have 8½-2½. Still in hopeful competition with 8-3 are Turner and Sandrin.

Round twelve is tense and decisive. Rossolimo bests Evans while Reshevsky is defeating Sherwin. Byrne lowns Romanenko and Turner wins from Sandrin. As the smoke of battle clears Rossolimo and Reshevsky share 10-2; Byrne has 9½-2½; Evans and Turner have 9-3 each. Just behind are Saily (a victory over Pilnick), Romanenko, Sherwin, Rivise (a win over Lombardy), and Seidman (a decision over Addison).

A stirring and exciting struggle to the very last round.