S. F. Man

L. A. Player Ends With Top Score

By Dr. H. J. Ralston

Herman Steiner, of Los Angeles, former U. S. champion, won the California State Championship with a score of 7½-1½, in a ten-man round robin tournament played in Los Angeles over the Labor Day holiday. Henry Gross, of San Francisco, was second with 6½-2½, and William Addison, of San Francisco, third with 6-3.

Fourth to seventh places were shared by Sven Almgren, Hyman Gordon and Irving Revise, all of Los Angeles, and Robert Currie, of San Francisco, with scores of 4½-4½. Dmitry Poliakoff, of San Francisco, was eighth with 4-5, Robert Burger, of Lafayette, ninth with 2-7, and Jerome Wolfe, of Los Angeles, tenth with 1-8.

The tournament was conducted under auspices of the California State Chess Federation and was directed by C. E. Kodil, of Los Angeles.

Wins Open Play

At the same time, Eugene Levin, of Los Angeles, was winning the California State Open Championship in a record-breaking turnout of 66 players at the Hotel Sainte Claire in San Jose. Scoring 6 points, with 25½ tie-breaking points, Levin led Dr. Peter Lapiken, of Los Angeles, who scored 6 points with 23 tie-breaking points.

Third place went to Walter Pafnutieff, of San Francisco, followed by M. Gordon, of Los Angeles; John Alexander, of San Diego; Charles Bagby, of San Francisco, and M. Gazse, of San Jose.

This was the most successful open championship in history. It was conducted under auspices of the California State Chess Federation, and directed by Guthrie McClain, of San Fran-
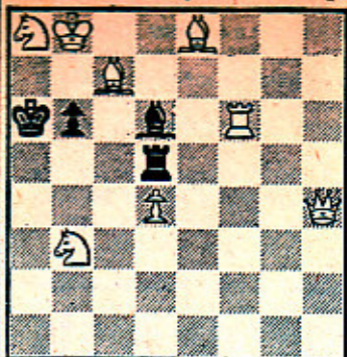
White Mates in Two Moves
(Value 3 points)
Answer to Task No. 10: K-B6

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cisco. The San Jose Chess Club and the San Jose Chamber of Commerce must be credited with playing a large role in the success of the largest tournament so far held.

International Tourney

After four rounds of play, Vassily Smyslov, of the Soviet Union, was leading the Candidates' Tournament, being played at Neuhausen, Switzerland, with a score of 3-1. Tied for second to fifth place with 2½-1½ were Samuel Reshevsky, of the U. S.; former World Champion Dr. Max Euwe, of Holland, and Yuri Auerbach and David Bronstein, of Russia.

Paul Keres of Russia and Gideon Stahlberg of Sweden shared seventh and eighth places with 2-2. Fifteen of the top players of the world are participating in this tournament, the winner of which will play a match with present World

Champion Mikhail Botvinnik of Russia in 1954.

One of the unexpected, but pleasant surprises of the tournament is the strong showing being made by Euwe. In the World Championship of 1948, Euwe disappointed his many admirers throughout the world by finishing a poor last. It is to be hoped that Euwe will continue his winning play, for he is one of the most admirable characters in the chess world.

Kotov Does Badly

Another surprise is the poor showing of Alexander Kotov, of Russia, who at the moment is in last place with a score of 0-3. Kotov ran away with the interzonal qualifying tournament in Saltsjobaden, Sweden, last Fall.

Of the 15 players in the tournament, nine are Russians. This will make it very difficult for a non-iron curtain player to win the tournament, since the Russians have shown a strong tendency for "teamwork" in recent international play. In the Saltsjobaden tournament, all the Russians played easy draws with each other, while fighting like Rocky Marciano against the representatives of Western countries.

Americans, of course, are pin-

ning their hopes on Reshevsky. A match for the World Championship between Reshevsky and Botvinnik would be of the highest interest, both to chess players and the world at large.

Harder 'Tasks' Due

Beginning very soon, now, we shall start giving somewhat more difficult "tasks" in order to break the tie at the top of our solvers' ladder.

We should like to repeat the rules governing the awarding of points. If a solver finds a "cook" to a problem, he receives the specified number of points. If he finds the intended solution as well as a cook, he receives a bonus of one point for a cook to a two-mover, and two points for a cook to a three-mover or any problem of more than two moves.)

If a solver makes a claim of "no solution," or any other claim, he loses one point per claim if his claim is unjustified. If his claim of "no solution" is justified, he receives the number of points specified. For any other justified claim, he receives a bonus of one point, if the claim is of real importance.

Not Intentional

We should add that a prob-

lem without a solution is never intentionally given, but sometimes such a problem creeps in, in spite of every effort to prevent such occurrence.

Up until now, we have not deducted points for unjustified claims. But now we must begin to do so, because it will aid us in breaking the tie at the top, and also will serve to scatter out the ladder in general.

It is probable that the first winner will receive at least $15. We expect that it will require several weeks to determine the winner. We have about 20 expert solvers on the top rung, and it will not be easy to fool many of them.

Leonard De Martini, Daly City —The book by Marache which you mention is not, we believe, of any special value. We are not familiar with the work, but we have seen it listed in chess catalogues on a number of occasions.