

By Dr. H. J. Ralston

As forecast in this column two weeks ago, the Golden Gate Chess Club of San Francisco has won the Class A club championship of the San Francisco Bay Area Chess League.

The Golden Gaters experienced little difficulty last Saturday evening in polishing off Oakland by the score of 4½-2½.

The Golden Gate team, headed by International Master Imre Konig and United States Master Henry Gross, just had too much oomph for the rest of the clubs.

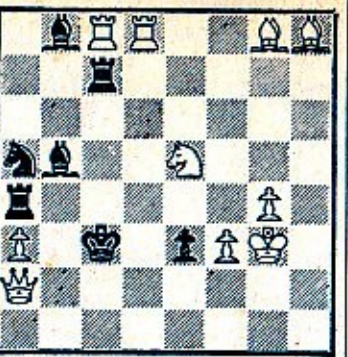
The \$64 question now is: What club in California could hold its own against Golden Gate? That question may be answered when northern California meets southern California in the traditional team match next Memorial Day, at San Luis Obispo.

**Detailed Scores**

The Castle Chess Club of Berkeley did very well by finishing only ½ point behind Golden Gate. Mechanics' Institute was a rather weak third. The final standings:

Golden Gate 4½-½; Castle 4-1; Mechanics' Institute 3-2; Russians 2½-2½; University of Cali-

**TASK No. 37—By F. Gamage**



**White Mates in Two Moves  
(Value 5 points)**

Answer to Task No. 36: B-K5

fornia 1-4; Oakland 0-5. The detailed scores of the fifth and last round were:

Golden Gate 4½, Oakland 2½; Konig 1, Trenberth 0; Gross 1, Sedlack 0; Pafnutieff 1, C. Stamer 0; Capps ½, Freeman ½; Currie 0, Wilson 1; Dr. Colby 0, Cuneo 1, Myers 1, Yaeger 0.

Castle 4½, Russians 2½; Falconer 1, Poliakoff 0; McClain ½,

Preo Sr. ½; Dr. Eudey 0, Rudinsky 1; Hendricks 1, Popoff 0; Professor Hultgren 1, Svalberg 0; Willson ½, Palmin ½; Dr. Shimkin ½, Preo Jr. ½.

Mechanics' Institute 5, University of California 2; Addison 0, Zemitis 1; Bagby 1, Burger 0; Pruner 1, Smook 0; Schmitt 1, Sosnick 0; Petersen 0, N. Hultgren 1; A. Stamer 1, Sprague 0; H. S. King 1, Fredgren 0.

**One Disappointment**

The rather poor showing of the UC team was a disappointment to all. A very large number of the players in the San Francisco Bay Area Chess League are Cal alumni, and they were hoping for a strong showing by the Bears. Maybe the collapse of the basketball team unnerved the chess players.

The Class B division of the San Francisco Bay Area Chess League still has two rounds to go. It is probable that the winner will not be determined until April 3, when Palo Alto tangles with Golden Gate. That should be a really red-hot match!

The main line in the 3-mover by Anton Konig, published in this column two weeks ago, is:

1. B-Q6, BxB; 2. Q-Q8, P-B4; 3. Q-QR8 mate.

It evidently was a pretty difficult problem, for only eight solvers were completely successful, and two solvers partially correct.

**Honor Roll Named**

The honor roll is: John Beck, Paul Bercovici, Henry Gross, Mission High School Chess Club, Dr. Horace C. Pitkin, J. V. Powell, all of San Francisco; Harry Hokensen, Santa Rosa; R. H. Rogers, Redwood City.

R. L. Snyder, Oakland, and C. Y. Verbar, San Francisco, found the correct key-move, but slipped up on the main variation.

Five solvers didn't believe that the problem had a solution.

The following short but sweet game appears in the current issue of the California Chess Reporter, official organ of the California State Chess Federation.

Neil Falconer, well-known San Francisco attorney, who annotates the game, states that the fundamental error made by White was at his eleventh move, when P-QB4 should have been played, giving White a good game.

**FOUR KNIGHTS GAME**

White—A. Stamer  
Black—R. Willson

- 1.—P-K4
- 2.—Kt-KB3
- 3.—Kt-B3
- 4.—B-B4
- 5.—KtxKt
- 6.—B-Q3
- 7.—B-Kt5
- 8.—KtxP
- 9.—BxKtch
- 10.—P-Q4
- 11.—Q-R5ch?
- 12.—Q-Kt5
- 13.—B-Q2
- 14.—Q-K3
- 15.—B-B3
- 16.—Kt-B6
- 17.—P-Q5
- 18.—BxR
- 19.—Q-QB3
- 20.—P-B3

Resigns.

The ending is very neat. The game was played Jan. 30, in the match between Mechanics' and Castle. Bob Willson is the man who stands at the top of our problem ladder.

A. Vinogradov, chairman of chess activities in the Soviet of Culture and Sports, has just informed the U. S. Chess Feder-

- P-K4
- Kt-KB3
- Kt-B3
- KtxP
- P-Q4
- P-B4
- QPxKt
- Q-B3
- PxB
- B-R3
- P-Kt3
- Q-K3
- B-K2
- P-B4
- R-Q1
- QxKt
- QxP
- P-KB5
- P-K6
- QxP!

ation that a Russian team of 16 persons will arrive in New York about June 5, to meet a picked American team.

Mikhail Botvinnik, world chess champion, defeated challenger Vassily Smyslov in the first game of their match being played in Moscow. Playing the black pieces, the champion won in 59 moves.

*March*  
*1954*