

Richard Shorman

Chess

LERA TOURNAMENT RESULTS

Nearly 200 players competed in the fourth annual LERA Memorial Class Championships in Sunnyvale, May 24-26. Ted and Ruby Yudacufski directed the six-round, USCF-rated, Swiss system event, which awarded over \$3,000 in prizes. Complete results:

OPEN DIVISION: 1st, Dennis Fritzinger, Berkeley, 5½-½, \$300; 2nd, C. Bill Jones, Palo Alto, 4½-1½, \$150; 3rd-5th, Roy Ervin, Los Molinas, Nicholas Maffeo, San Francisco, and Erik Osbun, Santa Rosa, 4-2, \$50 each.

CLASS A: 1st, Bill Chesney, San Jose, 5½-½, \$250; 2nd-3rd, Gency Anima, Union City, and Peter Prochaska, San Francisco, 4½-1½, \$100 each; 4th-5th, James Black, San Jose, and Robert Henry, San Jose, 4-2, \$25 each.

CLASS B: 1st, Greg Payne, Palo Alto, 6-0, \$350; 2nd-3rd, Eric Burris, San Rafael, and David Abramson, San Jose, 5-1, \$135 each; 4th Wayne McClintock, Oakland, 4½-1½, \$60.

CLASS C: 1st, Daniel Helman, Saratoga, 5½-½, \$325; 2nd-4th, Michael Ruchlis, Berkeley, Nick Hill, San Francisco, and Patrick Jackson, Fremont, 5-1, \$110 each.

CLASS D-E: 1st, Greg Boyd, Moraga, 5½-½, \$250; 2nd-3rd, Thomas Schmidt, Kentfield, and Greg Bowman, San Jose, 5-1, \$100 each; 4th-6th, James Johnson, Daly City, Barry Curto, Los Gatos, and Jose Fernandez, Mt. View, 4½-1½, \$17 each.

UNRATED DIVISION: 1st, Michael Marrigan, San Francisco, 5½-½, \$60; 2nd-3rd, Walter Anderson, San Francisco, and Peter Andrews, San Francisco, 4-2, \$20 each.

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Here are some of the more entertaining games from the tournament, recorded in streamlined coordinate chess notation (files lettered "a" to "h", ranks numbered "1" to "8", always counting from White's lower left corner regardless of whose turn to move; pawn captures designated by file letters only).

White: Bill Chesney (1942). **Black:** Peter Prochaska (1888). Sunnyvale, May 25, 1975. Sicilian Defense 1 e4 c5 2 c3 Nc6 3 d4 cd 4 cd d6 5 Nc3 Nf6 6 d5 Ne5 7 f4 Ng6 8 Nf3 Bg4 9 Bb5 Nd7 10 0-0 e5 11 de fe 12 f5 ef 13 ef Ne5 14 Ne5 Qb6 15 Khl Bdl 16 Bd7 Kd8 17 Bg5 Be7 18 Be7 Ke7 19 Nd5 Kd8 20 Nb6 Be2 21 Na8 Bf1 22 Nf7 Resigns.

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White: Steve Bell (1661). **Black:** Mike Donald (1734). Sunnyvale, May 24, 1975. Irregular Defense 1 d4 e6 2 c4 b6 3 e4 Bb7 4 Nc3 Bb4 5 Bd3 f5 6 ef Bg2 7 Qh5 Kf8 8 Nf3 Bh1 9 Ne5 Bc3 10 bc Qe8 11 Ng6 hg 12 Qh8 gf 13 Bf4 d6 14 0-0-0 Bc6 15 Rgl Qf7 16 Bh6 gh 17 Be2 e5 18 Bh5 Qc4 19 Qg7mate.

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White: Kemp Woods (1538). Black: Jeff Olson (1505).
Sunnyvale, May 25, 1975. Pirc Defense 1 e4 d6 2 d4 Nf6 3
Nc3 g6 4 Bc4 Bg7 5 Nf3 0-0 6 h4 c5 7 dc Qa5 8 Qd3 Ne4 9
Qe4 Bc3 10 Ke2 Bf6 11 h5 Qc5 12 hg hg 13 Qg6 Resigns.

AN EPISODE IN THE CAREER OF PAUL MORPHY By PHILIP SERGEANT

The first of the letters belongs to the period when Morphy was still in Europe, but before his brilliant defeat of Anderssen, winner of the first International Masters' Tournament in London in 1851. It was written by Paulsen to Harrisse, who was interested in chess and acted as Paulsen's representative when he was giving blindfold exhibitions in Chicago in 1858-60. Dated Dubuque, November, 1858, it contains an interesting criticism of Morphy's match with Harrwitz:

"Having in view to see Morphy on his return at N. York, I am studying Chess with such zeal that I don't like to lose five minutes of time.

"I have seen in the London News Morphy's likeness and my own. Morphy has grown much stouter in Europe. The Morphy and Harrwitz match has not generated games of such interest as has been anticipated. This, however, is solely owing to Harrwitz's pertinacity in removing all the beauty from Chess. Being fully aware of Morphy's brilliancy and strength in combinations, he constantly tried to exchange all the pieces on the board early in the game. Morphy, feeling a dislike to such play, declined in the second game the exchange of Queens, by which he lost several moves and was finally beaten. But in the succeeding games, seeing that Harrwitz did not change his tactics, he no more declined the exchange of pieces and proved in a masterly style that even in Pawn play he is much superior to Harrwitz. Although believing that Morphy will beat Anderssen more speedily, yet I trust their match will create games of the highest interest, and be still more brilliant than the games between MacDonnell and de la Bourdonnais."

The last-mentioned games, it may be noted, were considered by Morphy himself the finest recorded examples of chess; and when on his return to America he was commissioned by Robert Bonner to write a chess-column for The New York Ledger he started to publish them with his own notes.

In the following April, shortly before Morphy's return, Paulsen wrote again to Harrisse, speaking of his intention of visiting Morphy in New Orleans in December, "provided he agree to play me a match on even terms." Seeing that the sensational defeat of Anderssen had now occurred, one cannot but wonder that Paulsen should hope Morphy would lower his terms to him. Paulsen was not lacking in confidence, however, for he continues: "If I should beat Morphy I will write a complete work on openings."

Morphy reached New York on May 11, 1859, and received such a welcome as no chess player has had in the history of the game. He gave many exhibitions of his powers. Leading New York players accepted the odds of a Knight from him and succumbed. But Paulsen held out for an encounter on different terms, and had supporters of his claim, impressed by his remarkable skill at blindfold chess. On June 11th he wrote to Harrisse:

"I don't think it necessary myself to endeavour to have a tourney with Morphy soon, as other folk are trying very hard to bring it about. Whether they will succeed or not is a question which time will determine. My intention has been always not to encounter Paul Morphy too soon. The club at St. Louis has already invited me three weeks ago to visit their City for the purpose of meeting Paul Morphy and offered to pay all my expenses arising from such a trip. The time when Morphy is expected and how long he will stay at St. Louis is not yet fixed. You must not suppose that it is only my intention to make a good show against the Champion, but to beat him in a long and fair trial of skill. . . . Morphy will probably not accept Kennicott's invitation. . . .

"P.S. —How delighted Morphy would be by taking a ride to Kennicott's farm on a milk wagon."

In August Paulsen had modified his views with regard to the date of a meeting with Morphy, for on the 11th he wrote:

"I hope to be ready for a Chess-match with Paul Morphy next month, and in consequence of this I shall probably go to N. York after four or five weeks from now, provided Morphy does not leave New York. . . . I read to-day that Morphy beat Lichtenhein at the odds of QKt six games to four, which, however, in my opinion, rather proves Lichtenhein's weakness than Morphy's strength."