

SACRAMENTO CHESS NEWS

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL CALIFORNIA CHESS LEAGUE

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Central California Chess League

And all was dark in Mudville - for San Jose took home the cup.

In what amounted to a story-book finish, a strong San Jose team defeated Sacramento to win the 1953-54 Championship and regain the cup, this time permanently. It was by the narrowest of margins as both teams had two legs on the trophy, and San Jose's win threw the two teams into a tie on the basis of matches won. However, San Jose scored 69.6% in games won and lost, as against 67.5 for Sacramento. This was the first time in the League's six year history that the tie-breaking procedure had been necessary.

Although the issue of the match was never in doubt after San Jose scored its first point, Sacramento made it close. Coming from behind to tie the score at 3½-3½, Sacramento needed a draw in the Meyer-Kalnins game to tie the match, win the title, and take the trophy for keeps. However, Kalnins had a material advantage, and Meyer was faced with a hopeless task. With so much at stake, it was decided to play the game out. In the wee small hours of Monday morning, Milt turned up his King. The game went approximately 11½ hours, and about 140 moves. This was played in one session with no rest periods, and certainly constitutes a record in league play. Both deserve great credit for this titanic struggle.

The final standings:

1. San Jose	5 - 1	35½ - 15½	69.6%	51
2. Sacramento	5 - 1	40½ - 19½	67.5%	60
3. Fresno	4 - 2	75 - 24		59
4. Modesto	3 - 3	104 25½ - 30½		57
5. Stockton	2 - 4	24½ - 28½		53
6. Pittsburg	2 - 4	23½ - 27½		51
7. Oakdale	0 - 6	12½ - 50½	51½	63
		197	197	394 ✓

Tom Fries of Fresno won the individual prize with a score of 5½-½. Ojars Cella of Sacramento also attained that score, but with a slightly higher board average.

San Jose came back strongly after an initial setback at the hands of Fresno. A veteran team, they survived the loss of last year's top board, Kirby, in fine fashion.

Sacramento needs no excuses. They lost by a margin of 1½ points in 60 games. Surprisingly enough, the margin of victory over Oakdale was the deciding factor. San Jose scored 10½-½, while Sacramento could only score 9-3.

Fresno failed to bring their best team to play Pittsburg, and thus missed making it a three way tie in match points. They were fully as strong as the two leaders, and scored the only win over the Champions.

Modesto, playing without Monty Jackson, made a surprisingly strong showing. They were exactly in the middle, losing to the top three, and winning from the lower three.

Stockton was expected to do better this year, but the loss of Woolfe, before the season started, and together with the later loss of Reid was too much.

Pittsburg also did not live up to preseason dope. Blessed with three top boards that were hard to beat in Burger, Loera, and Tremberth, they never got them all out at once, and seldom got any two out together.

Oakdale was outgunned again. Some of their players showed excellent promise, and would probably show well if playing at a higher board.

Sacramento's score by boards was as follows:

1. Russell (3), Meyer (3)	2½ - 3½
2. Meyer (2), Russell (2) Gee	3 - 3
3. Gee (5), Russell	5 - 1
4. Janushkowsky (4), O. Celle, Jackson	5½ - 1½
5. O. Celle (5), Janushkowsky	5½ - 3½
6. Austin (4), Zimmerman, Clawson	2½ - 3½
7. J. Celle (2), Bender, Zimmerman, Jackson, Clawson	4½ - 1½
8. J. Celle (2), Bender (2), Zimmerman, Jackson	2 - 4
9. J. Celle (2), Zimmerman (2), Clawson	5 - 0
10. Austin, Clawson, Hartley	3 - 0
11. Hartley, Keith	1 - 1
12. Keith, Bishop	1 - 1

The record is characterized by a slight but understandable weakness at the top two boards, great strength at 3rd, 4th, and 5th where Gee, Janushkowsky, and O. Celle allowed but one loss and two draws. There was a definite weakness at 6th, where the team captain had his worst season in years. Five players made an excellent record at 7th board, but 8th was unaccountably weak for one of the strong teams. The remaining boards did not play the full schedule, but compiled the excellent record of 10-2.

Ojars Celle was top scorer with 5½, and has now compiled the enviable mark of 14 wins and 3 draws in 17 games in the league. This is the league record for games without a loss.

Austin and Meyer lead in games played with 32, one less than Oakdale's Jeff Smith, who has played in every League game.

Austin still leads in games won with 20, followed by Gee with 19. San Jose's Bert Mueller is the League leader with 23.

These figures are due to the courtesy of Milton O. Meyer, the unofficial League statistician.

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All League players were deeply shocked to learn of the tragic death of H. P. (Herb) Betker on February 20th. Herb was one of the organizers of the League and served as its first President. He was one of Modesto's top boards, and helped bring them the Championship in 1949-50. During his six seasons of play he compiled a record of 13 wins, 3 draws, and 14 losses, at an average board of 4.66.

R * * I * * P

(N.T. Austin)

Results of League Matches

(1-31-54)

<u>Modesto</u>		<u>Oakdale</u>		<u>Sacramento - Pittsburg</u> (1-24-54)	
1 L E Davis	1. Ed Sai	0.	1 H O Meyer	½.	R E Burgor ½.
2 E L Jeffers	0. C J Smith	1.	2 J B Gee	1.	R Tremberth 0.
3 L Krogness	1. F Kimball	0.	3 R E Russell	0.	J Smith 0.
4 Lee Kerfoot	½. H Mortensen	½.	4 F B Jackson	1.	R C Guzman 0.
5 Herb Betker	½. W Maxey	½.	5 O A Celle	1.	G Garcia 0.
6 H E Paul	1. H Tusoosian	0.	6 N T Austin	0.	F Olvera 1.
7 C J Cook	1. Mrs C J Smith	0.	7 F Clawson	1.	F Weinberg 0.
8 E Hawksworth	1. S Sampson	0.	8 N Zimmerman	1.	R Gilfillan 0.
9 Herman Wente	1. A Buerer	0.	9 J A Celle	1.	W Whisler 0.
10 W Kessler	0. J Quayle	1.		7½	1½
	<u>7</u>	<u>3</u>			

<u>San Jose</u>		<u>Stockton</u>	
1 J Kalnins	1. David Malig,	0.	2 W. Adams 0.
3 M Gasse	1. P T Hubbard	0.	4 B. Mueller 1.
5 L Daugherty	0. M Sanders	1.	6 F. Crofut 1.
			7 O'Shaughnessy 1.
			<u>5</u>
			R. Leigh 1.
			R. Juhre 0.
			S. Hubbard 0.
			Neustadt 0.
			<u>2</u>

<u>Pittsburg</u>		<u>Fresno</u>		<u>San Jose</u>		<u>Sacramento</u>		
1 A Loera	1/2	Phil Smith	1/2	1 J Kalmans	1/2	1 M O Meyer	0	
2 J Smith	0	M Hailparn	1	2 W T Adams	1/2	R E Russell	1/2	
3 R Guzman	1/2	T. Fries	1/2	3 B Mueller	0	J B Gee	1	
4 G Garcia	1	R. Womack	0	4 M Gazse	0	A Janushkowsky	1	
5 F Olvera	1	O Maschke	0	5 L Daugherty	1/2	O A Celle	1/2	
6 F Weinberg	1	Leo Legler	0	6 F Crofut	1	N T Austin	0	
7 W Whisler	1	J Hastings	0	7 D Havill	1/2	J A Celle	1/2	
8 H Lansing	1/2	W Shirey	1/2	8 G Barber	1	F B Jackson	0	
	5 1/2		2 1/2		4 1/2		3 1/2	
<u>Oakdale</u>		<u>Stockton</u>			6 V Smith	1/2	M Sanders	1/2
1 Ed Sai	0	D Malig	1	7 A Bucrer	0	E Neustadt	1	
2 J Smith	0	R Leigh	1	8 R Corcoran	0	A C Saxon	1	
3 F Kimball	1	P Hubbard	0	9 D Elial	0	P K Hubbard	1	
4 S Sampson	0	R Juhre	1	10 J Sai	0	J Coudere	1	
5 H Mortensen	0	J Saxon	1		1 1/2		8 1/2	

Sacramento Club Championship 1954

Dr. Alex Janushkowsky repeated his performance in the preliminary rounds to go thru the final seven-round Swiss event without defeat. He allowed two draws, with Gee and Russell, defeated Meyer, O. Celle, J. Celle, Clawson and Zimmerman to take first place with a fine score of 6-1. Congratulations to the new Club Champ.

O. Celle gained second place by defeating Gee in the final round, with a score of 5 1/2-1 1/2. His only loss was to Doc, drew with Clawson, and won over Hartley, Austin, Iverson and Keith.

Gee placed 3rd with 4 1/2-2 1/2, losing to O. Celle, drawing with Doc, Russell, Meyer, and winning over J. Celle, Hartley and Jackson.

Meyer placed 4th, winning from Iverson, Hartley and Zimmerman, drawing with Gee and Russell, and losing to Doc and J. Celle. 4-3

J. Celle placed 5th with 4-3, losing to Doc, Gee and Russell, and won from Austin, Zimmerman, Talcott and Meyer.

Austin placed 6th with a like score of 4-3, winning from Iverson, Hartley, Jackson and Keith, and lost to O. Celle, J. Celle, and Jackson.

Fred Clawson placed 7th with 3-4, won from Zimmerman and Talcott, drew O. Celle & Iverson, lost to Doc & Russell, & Hartley

Hartley placed 8th with 3-4, winning from Clawson, Jackson & Talcott, losing to Gee, Meyer, O Celle and Austin.

The remaining places were: 9 Iverson; 10 Zimmerman; 11 Keith; 12 Jackson; 13 Talcott. Roy Russell, former Club Champion, withdrew after five rounds of play as he moved to a new job at Atascadero. Sacramento is sorry to lose Russell, but life goes on and chessplayers move to and fro.

I have long been burned up by these Mental Masters from Mars who give a Rook for a Pawn, and the opponent resigns; or perhaps White moves a Knight to some remote area, and Black gives up. Why? If I can take a Pawn free I always do, but you don't catch ME giving up a Rook for one. And I wouldn't resign just because there's a Knight wandering around. It's time these super colossal brain-trusters were told off by one who plays just one rank below the dubs. Take that Pittsburg-Sacramento game between my friends Olvera (white) and Austin Jan. 24th. This is a worm's eye view of it. (Austin: My good friend Bert Lansing was kind enough to show me his notes. I will attempt to reply where necessary. Black walked into a prepared variation.) 1 P K4 P QB4 2 N KB3 N KB3 riding the wrong horse. (A) Oh come, Bert! It's playable. 3 N B3 Both out of the book now, so how can I tell what's right and what aint. (A. It really is in the book) 3....P Q3 4 P Q4 PxP 5 NxP P KN3 6 P B3 B N2 7 B K3 O O 8 B QB4 (A. Better than it looks) 8....N B3 9 P QR3 As I said at first, he moves the Pawn to protect and attack a whole lot of nothing. So Black should resign. (A. But it does preserve the Bishop!) 9....Q B2 10 B R2 P QR3 11 Q Q2 N: N 12 BxN P QN4 How about P K4 anticipating White's P-KB4

(A. Could be!) 13 P KN4 The die is cast. White now must O O O and push K-side Pawns.
 (A. He meant to anyway) 13...B N2 14 P KR4 KR Q (A. ?? You missed the loser, Bert.
 P-KR4 is better) 15 P R5 P K4 Ah! at last! 16 B B2 The long way 'round to the battle
 front. Better B K3. (A. Right) 18...P Q4 White has four pieces on this, black 3
 defending. White wins a Pawn, gets to 5th rank, and it is isolated. 17. PXP P K5
 What! Another one! White must be in very bad shape when Black can give Pawns away.
 So now White could resign. (a. Find a better!) 18 PXP RPXP 19 P N5 (black missed
 this-A) 19...N R4?? (A. Where else) 20 PXP N N6 21 R R4 Q K4 22 O O O! P R4
 23 B Q4 QxB A waterfront picket-line melee helps White. 24 QxQ BxQ 25 RxB B R3
 My book says "The chief object in the Sicilian is control of the centre". Aw! Lay
 that pistol down, Neal! I was only foolin'. But your poor nag is stuck again.
 (A. Isn't 2 pawns enof, Bert?) 26 R Q3 N R4 27 R B3 P N5 28 N N R R2 29 N Q2
 R K2 30 P B4 PXP ep 31 RXP Also taking with the Pawn is powerful. 31...K N2
 32 B B4 BxB 33 NxB P B3 34 P Q6 R K3 35 PXPch LXP 36 P K5 N Q4 37 R/3 R3 The
 tragic black knight's freedom lasted one move. He now can move to any of 8 squares
 and be taken by White. White could have played R Q3 and the Knight would have
 fallen. (A. Look again, Bert) 37...P N4 38 R R7ch K N3 39 R/3 R6ch K B4
 40 R B7ch R B3 41 PXR resigns. By H. S. Lansing

CCOL INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIP

This event is to be held in Modesto on Saturday and Sunday, March 27-28th, with Lee Kerfoot as Tournament Director. It was first thought that round #1 would start at 9 am Sat., but with 16 or less entrants, a four-round Swiss can be held and started at 1 pm Sat. Unless otherwise notified, entrants can now use the 1 pm starting time. So far we have 12 entrants: Jeffers, Phil Smith, David-Malig, R. Leigh, Paul Hubbard, Guzman, Olvera, Tom Fries, Mike Hailparn, Bob Burger, M. O. Meyer and Gee. Entry fee is \$5

SACRAMENTO CITY CHAMPIONSHIP

This will be held at the Turn Verein on a weekend, April 24th-25th. It is expected to be a 4-round Swiss and entry fee will be \$2.50 (same as last year). This event is sponsored by the Capital City Chess Club, and is open to entry by any chessplayer living in or near Sacramento. This tournament was started in 1953, won by Roy E. Russell and had only six entrants. It is hoped that at least double that number will participate this year. If you wish to enter, contact the "News" or N. T. Austin, 1608 42nd St. April 24th is only a bit more than a month away, so make your plans now and set the weekend aside for chess.

KOLTANOWSKI EXHIBITION

Information has reached us that George Koltanowski will give a simultaneous at the Creek Side School, Kent Drive near Fulton & El Camino, on Friday evening April 2, at 7:30. This is sponsored by the School Chess Club, and they hope to have 40 boards at \$1 per board. Visitors fee two bits. This would be a nice shindig to take in, if for no other reason than to satisfy one's own curiosity!

1954 INTERNATIONAL OPEN TOURNAMENT

This event is sponsored by the Hollywood Chess Group and will be held at the Hollywood Athletic Club, 6525 Sunset Blvd., from July 10th to July 24th inclusive. Open to all chess players. Entrants will be classed in six groups (mostly according to USCF ratings) and a 14 or 15 round Swiss will be held in each group. Entry fee is \$15, with a total of \$3700 in prizes in the Master Division, with \$1000 as first prize. For further information write Lollywood Chess Group, 108 North Formosa Ave., Los Angeles 36.

Next issue of News will be devoted largely to game scores, as we have lots on hand. This issue seems to be mostly taken up already.

PERPETUAL RATING SYSTEM

At the conclusion of the present Club Championship, the club proposes to install a perpetual rating system similar to those in use in many other clubs and correspondence leagues. The underlying theory of such a system is that players are given a numerical rating, and give or receive point odds depending on whether they are playing a lower or higher rated player.

For example, if A's rating is such that he should beat B two games to one, and B should beat C by the same score, then it is assumed that A should beat C by four games to one. When A loses to B, he loses twice as many points as he gains by winning from B. Similarly, with C he receives one-fourth as many. Thus, if the ratings correctly reflect their abilities, there will be no point change over a reasonable length of time. If the lower ranked player is underrated, he will rapidly gain on his opponents until his rating is approximately correct.

The installation of this system has two main advantages. It improves the quality of off-hand play, and it gives a basis for selection of teams. However, it must be used to be successful, and players must not forget to turn in their scores after an evenings' play. It is preferable that the average game be played for points, but both players should so agree.

The point schedule is based on a mathematically derived curve, but has been simplified in that even points are shown for various ranges.

Difference	High Man Loses		Low Man Loses		Draw	
	Low Man Wins		High Man Wins		High Loses	Low Wins
0 - 25	5	5	5	5	0	0
26 - 75	6	4	4	4	1	1
76 - 135	7	3	3	3	2	2
136 - 210	8	2	2	2	3	3
211 - 350	9	1	1	1	4	4
351 up	10	1/2*	1/2*	1/2*	5	5

*Must win 2 games to score

The ratings will be determined from the current Club Tournament. It is considered to bunch all the players closely at the beginning, allowing them to spread, than to arbitrarily assign ratings according to their supposed ability.

Ratings assigned are: A. Janushkowsky 540; Ojars Colle 535; J. B. Gee 525; M. O. Meyer 520; J. Celle 520, N. T. Austin 520, Fred Clawson 510; W. Hartley 510; Frank Jackson 510; C. Iverson 505; Harold Keith 500; Neal Zimmerman 500; Norman Talcott 490.

A rating committee will be appointed to rate new members after a months play.

Slips will be available to score your games. These will be turned in each week, and the rating Committee will calculate new ratings each month. It is hoped that periodic prizes will be given for the highest point gain.

On bottom of page 1 of last issue of Chess News is information for chess-players concerning two Reshevsky exhibitions that were scheduled for Feb. 1 in Corcoran and Feb. 2 in Stockton. At either of these exhibitions, did anyone draw with Reshevsky? Possibly beat him?? WOT LOP-TH'D!!