

Chess Games Stir Interest

OXNARD — There is an exciting chess tournament going on at E. O. Green School, but it will probably be three or four weeks before anyone emerges victorious.

John Begosh, a sixth-grade teacher, really started something, "by gosh," when he began drumming up interest in a chess club this year.

Begosh, a first-year teacher in the Hueneme School District, is a 20-year veteran chess player. He likes the game because it makes you think. "As intelligent as our youngsters are today, they need to do more things to make them think," he said.

When Begosh started the whole thing, he had no idea that chess would become so popular at Green. There are more than 70 sixth-grade girls and boys trying to outplay each other in the tournament. One girl and one boy will eventually be named winners.

Students play chess before and after school, and during part of their lunch period. Chess is a game of skill played by two people. There are 16 chessmen and the object is to checkmate an opponent's king on the 64-square board.

To teach students the game,

Begosh made a large magnetic chess board and hung it on the wall. Smaller table chess games are available to the students.

The chess enthusiast said he hopes to arouse interest in chess at other schools, and possibly have play-offs at a later date. "I'd be more than happy to help with the construction of a wall chess board if other teachers will contact me," he said.

Linda Bogdanowicz and Benny Ferrell, sixth graders, were particularly interested in playing chess at their school, and were instrumental in helping Begosh get a club started.

Bill Seiler and Raymond O'Connell, who sat in stoney silence for several minutes studying their next move before realizing an outsider was watching them, said they think chess is a "great" game. "It sure makes you think if you play it right," they said.

One sixth grader said she has learned to concentrate so well in playing chess, that she is able to concentrate better while studying.

Begosh said, "You never can tell. We may produce the world's greatest chess player here." Look out, Russia!



CHESS PLAYERS IN TOURNAMENT

Linda Bogdanowicz and Benny Ferrell make their moves.