

CHESS

By E. J. CLARKE

The California State Chess Association tournament will be held at the Mechanics' Institute Chess Club the week of September 23 to 30. Entries have been received from Harry Borochoy and S. Rubinstein of Los Angeles and from Dr. W. R. Lovegrove, A. J. Fink and Henry Gross, U. of C. champion. It is possible that E. W. Gruer of Oakland, present title holder, may be prevailed upon to take part, in spite of his announced intention to the contrary.

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Concerning the Marshall variation in the Center Counter Opening, we have received the following from Mr. Marshall:

Mill Valley, September 5, 1928.

Chess Editor, The Chronicle, San Francisco—You will remember that in my former letter, in which I called your attention to the "Henry Marshall variation" of the Center Counter (so-called temporarily for identification purposes), I was reluctant to claim for it originality. Since then I have received so many letters from players all over the country hailing it as "new" and listing chess publications, compendiums, etc., wherein they had failed to find it, that my hopes rose. Now comes, to dash them, the statement in your column of last Sunday that it is found in SOME of Franklin K. Young's works. Can you give me a citation? I am an admirer of Young and a student, in a modest way, of his books. But there will persist a faint hope that he omitted this variation.

I quite understand that I am in the precise position of the negro accused of stealing chickens. Two witnesses testified that they saw the theft. He offered to produce fifty who would testify that they DIDN'T see him do the stealing, but to no avail. Very respectfully,

HENRY F. MARSHALL.

Perhaps, after all, Mr. Marshall is father to the gambit infant and not stepfather. However, on page 168 of "Field Book of Chess Generalship," Franklin K. Young's most recent contribution to chess literature will be found a game: 1 P-K4, P-Q4; 2 PXP, P-K4; 3 PxPe.p., BxP, etc. The position is identical, the difference being that Young (black) played 2 . . . P-K4, instead of 2 . . . P-K3 after Mr. Marshall.

GAME NO. 122

In spite of the fact that Capablanca is hardly the invincible chess master of a few years back, there are many players of international fame who have yet to win their first game from the Cuban wizard. Among these is A. Nimzowitsch, the Russo-Dane. However, it does seem that he allowed Capablanca to get away from him in the recent Bad Kissingen tourney. With the exchange ahead, Nimzowitsch lost time in grabbing a pawn, while his opponent shoved his queen pawn to its seventh. Following is the game:

IRREGULAR DEFENSE

Capablanca White	Nimzowitsch Black	Capablanca White	Nimzowitsch Black
1 P-Q4	S-KB3	20 P-S4	S-B3
2 P-QB4	P-K3	21 PxBP	BxP
3 S-QB3	B-S5	22 Q-B4	Q-Q2
4 Q-P2	P-Q4	23 BxP	SxS
5 B-S5	PxP	24 SxS	R-S3ch
6 S-B3	P-S4(a)	25 S-S3(g)	BxR
7 P-QR4	P-B3	26 RxB	P-KB4
8 BxS	PxB(b)	27 P-B3	Q-KS2
9 P-KS3	P-QR3	28 K-B2	Q-B3
10 B-S2	R-R2	29 PxP	BPxP(h)
11 Castles	R-Q2(c)	30 R-Q	K-S
12 Q-B	Castles	31 P-Q5	QxP(i)
13 Q-R6	BxS	32 P-Q6	Q-B3
14 PxP	K-R	33 P-Q7	P-B6
15 S-Q2(d)	P-KB4	34 SxP	P-B7
16 KR-QS(e)	P-K4	35 R-Q5	Q-Q
17 S-B3	R-Q3	36 Q-K5	RxS
18 Q-K3(f)	P-K5	37 Drawn(j)	
19 S-Q2	S-Q2		

NOTES

(a) Very bold—against Capablanca! But Nimzowitsch holds the gambit pawn.

(b) Necessary, for if 8 . . . QxB, then 9 PxP, PxP, 10 Q-K4.

(c) Black has paid in position for the pawn plus.

(d) A wandering knight! Undecided where to park—at B3 or Q2!

(e) Threatening SxP.

(f) At first glance, 18 Q-R5 seems a better post for the queen, threatening S-S5 winning the exchange. Black's reply probably would be 18 . . . PxP; 19 S-S5, P-R3; 20 SxPch, RxS; QxR, PxP, etc.

(g) White must lose the exchange, or a valuable pawn later.

(h) Surely 29 . . . RPxP was to be preferred.

(i) Undoubtedly, a strong bid for a win was 31 . . . Q-Q3.

(j) By 37 Q-K8ch, R-B; 38 RxRch, etc.

PROBLEMS

A. J. F.

No. 141—Dr. H. Bincer



W6-B4—Mate in Three

No. 142—J. Halumbirek



W6-B8—Mate in Three

Solutions and solvers' list held over.