

A RECORD IN REVIEW



By
George Koltanowski

Our Man Can Lick A Computer Any Day

GEORGE KOLTANOWSKI, a most remarkable member of The Chronicle family, consolidated his eminent position among chess-players of the world on Sunday; he played 56 consecutive "blindfold" games, many of them against accomplished opponents, without a loss, thereby breaking his own world record.

His feat, never before approached in the 1400-year history of the game, plainly astounded those who play it; it overwhelms us, not so much as a display of technical virtuosity, but as a demonstration of a brain with the power to follow, sight unseen, all the various moves of a complex game by keeping the entire board and all its shifting pieces clearly in mind.

We had the idea that Koltanowski performed his chess wizardry through what is in other fields called a "camera eye"—that he kept a mental picture of the board in view. He says not so; that in playing blindfold he does not "see" the board but has what he calls an "immediate auditive" response. In other words, he "knows" where each piece is on the board at any given time because he has been told.

JUST HOW HE KNOWS IT is something of a mystery to him, as it is to psychologists, neurologists and other brain specialists who have studied the matter. We suggested that perhaps he was a human version of an electronic computer, with ability to store data and feed back on demand. He looked hurt and said severely: "Electronic computers don't know a damn thing about chess. I've played 'em and beat 'em."

What he was saying was that chess, with its possibly infinite variations, needs a flexibility and resourcefulness of mind that have not yet been built into machines. This Koltanowski indubitably has. ("If so," he comments, "it is good only in chess.") He exhibited it on Sunday, and then followed it up with the tour de force of sheer memory known as "The Knight's Tour." We are proud of his performance and congratulate him on the new, world-wide repute it brings him.



Notes and Comments

By George Koltanowski

Here are all 56 games of my blindfold exhibition at the Fairmont Hotel, December 4, 1960. Usually, bad games are not printed, only the good and passable ones. But this was a world event, and whether the opponent played a good game or a bad one, it must be remembered that the blindfold player had not only to remember all the moves, but beat back any attempt at his King, even if the attempt was a furtive one. Thus, from the collector's point of view, this collection of all the games makes this pamphlet a unique one.

Actually, the chess player will often find that there is more to learn from a bad game than from a good one, and considering this, each game becomes, to some degree, a brief lesson in chess. Here, then, for better or worse, are 56 lessons. You may learn something from any or all of them.

(George Koltanowski played white in all games)

GAME No. 1—Georges Rey, San Francisco:

Was quite nervous when I started this first game around noontime. Georges Rey is a young lad who is coming up fast in the chess world and I knew that he had studied specially for this event. How would I fare in my first game?

1. P-K4	P-K4	4. O-O	N-B3	7. B-KB4	O-O	10. Q-Q2	Q-K2
2. N-KB3	N-QB3	5. P-Q4	PxP	8. P-KR3	N-KR3	11. QxRP	NxP
3. B-B4	B-B4	6. P-K5	N-KN5	9. BxN	PxB	12. N-N5	Resigns

GAME No. 2—Kerry Richardson, Mill Valley:

Kerry Richardson had been one of my opponents at the Mill Valley Chess Club exhibition a few months earlier, so I was not expecting too much trouble here from this 10-year-old opponent, but it was only my second game of the day, and was not too sure of my ground yet. Having felt that with 1.P-K4 I got fast action as a whole, I continued with it most of the day.

1. P-K4	P-K4	4. O-O	NxP	7. BxN	PxB	10. Q-B7ch	K-Q3
2. N-KB3	N-QB3	5. P-Q4	P-Q4	8. NxP	P-B3	11. B-B4	P-N4
3. B-B4	N-B3	6. B-QN5	B-Q2	9. Q-R5ch	K-K2	12. N-B4	d.ch Mate

GAME No. 3—Kenneth C. Cable, Novato:

Still not too sure of myself, I felt that by trying to play sharp I would get a great number of games over with before any tired feelings would overtake me. Cable was known to me, and that kind of helped.

1. P-K4	P-K4	3. P-Q4	P-KN3	5. QxQch	KxQ	7. NxPch	K-K1
2. N-KB3	P-Q3	4. PxP	PxP	6. NxP	B-N2	8. NxR	Resigns

GAME No. 10—Major E. B. Edmondson, Randolph AFB, Texas:

With Major Edmondson following on the heels of my draw with Sam Bettencourt, I felt that now was the deciding moment. Would I be able to avoid defeat here, then I felt my score as a whole would be a good one. I debated with myself before starting this game, if I should try something solid for a change, but decided to continue with 1.P-K4.

1. P-K4	P-QB4	9. O-O	O-O	17. N-R5ch	K-R3	25. K-B2	R-QB1
2. N-KB3	N-QB3	10. N4-N5	P-B4	18. BxB	KxN	26. P-B4	R-Q1
3. P-Q4	PxP	11. QxP	QxQ	19. B-K4	KR-Q1	27. K-K3	R-K1
4. NxP	N-KB3	12. NxQ	BxN	20. KR-Q1	N-R4	28. K-Q2	P-B4
5. N-QB3	P-Q3	13. PxB	PxP	21. R-Q3	P-N3	29. B-Q5	P-QN4
6. B-KN5	P-KN3	14. NxKP	B-B4	22. QR-Q1	RxR	30. R-K1	R-Q1
7. BxN	PxB	15. B-Q3	QR-N1	23. PxR	K-N2	31. K-B3	PxP
8. B-K2	B-N2	16. N-B6ch	K-N2	24. P-B3	P-QR3	32. PxP	K-B1
						33. K-N4	Resigns

GAME No. 11—Jeannine Trasvina, San Francisco:

With my King acting as a wild animal trainer, I felt that having beaten the expert from Texas, that I would be hard put if I blundered some of my next games. Shudder at the thought. Come on George, the schoolgirl champ of the San Francisco Playgrounds is awaiting you now!

1. P-K4	P-K4	4. P-Q4	B-N5ch	7. Q-R5	P-Q3	10. N-K5ch	Resigns
2. N-KB3	B-B4	5. P-B3	B-R4	8. BxN	PxB		
3. NxP	N-KR3	6. B-QB4	O-O	9. NxBP	Q-Q2		

GAME No. 12—Jack Powell, Hayward:

Another tough one coming up—and the gain of a pawn helped me in this one.

1. P-K4	P-QB3	7. B-Q3	N-B3	13. NxB	NxN	19. Q-N3	R-K2
2. P-Q4	P-Q4	8. O-O	O-O	14. B-K4	R-K1	20. KR-Q1	R-Q1
3. PxP	PxP	9. B-N5	K-R1	15. N-K5	K-N1	21. Q-KB3	P-QB4
4. P-QB4	P-K3	10. PxP	PxP	16. P-QR3	N-B3	22. PxP	QxN
5. N-QB3	B-N5	11. BxN	QxB	17. BxN	PxB	23. RxRch	R-K1
6. N-B3	N-QB3	12. NxP	Q-Q3	18. R-B1	B-N2	24. RxRch	QxR
						25. QxB	Resigns

GAME No. 13—Dr. Jamts Burns, Hollister:

Next in line was unknown to me. After four moves, I knew how to handle him.

1. P-K4	P-K4	3. B-B4	N-B3	5. N-N5	B-K2	7. NxR	Resigns
2. N-KB3	N-QB3	4. O-O	P-Q3	6. NxBP	Q-Q2		

GAME No. 14—Bobby L. Jones, Woodland:

Another newcomer to me. By now I was steady and had good control over the board and pieces.

1. P-K4	P-K4	6. R-K1	B-KN5	11. BxQ	NxP	16. RxBP	R-K1
2. N-KB3	N-QB3	7. P-Q4	BxN	12. N-R3	NxR	17. RxQNP	R-QB1
3. B-B4	N-B3	8. QxB	NxP	13. B-Q2	P-QB3	18. B-R5ch	K-B1
4. O-O	P-Q4	9. RxPch	B-K2	14. B-N4	PxB	19. R-N8ch	Resigns
5. PxP	NxP	10. QxN	QxQ	15. RxBch	K-Q1		

GAME No. 15—Mrs. Willie Mae Bettencourt, San Francisco:

Mrs. Willie Mae Bettencourt was my next opponent, and I knew she would play the French Defense. So I thought let's play it safe and sound, but she soon started gunning for me, and I was happy to get the draw. It also meant that the Bettencourts would have a harmonious life together, and would make them the first couple to draw against Koltanowski!

1. P-K4	P-K3	5. PxP	BxP	9. N-N5	O-O	13. B-K3	BxB
2. P-Q4	P-Q4	6. N-KB3	N-QB3	10. RxB	PxR	14. PxB	Q-K4
3. PxP	PxP	7. O-O	N-B3	11. NxKP	Q-Q3	15. N-B3	QxPch
4. B-Q3	P-QB4	8. R-K1ch	B-K3	12. NxR	RxN	16. K-R1	N-K4
						Drawn	

GAME No. 16—Miss Helen Wallace, San Francisco:

My next opponent went wrong in the opening.

1. P-K4	P-K3	4. P-K5	N-K5	7. P-B3	B-K2	10. PxN	Resigns
2. P-Q4	N-QB3	5. B-Q3	P-Q4	8. BxN	O-O		
3. N-KB3	N-B3	6. Q-K2	B-N5ch	9. B-B2	NxQP		

GAME No. 17—Michael O'Neill, El Sobrante:

The reader might wonder why some of the players made moves like the ninth move of Black in Game No. 16. They just didn't realize that the "blindfold" player did "see" the threats they had up their sleeves. Black hoped that White would not see that his Queen was attacked, and thus if things went right (or wrong) they would take the Queen on the next move. That was one of the reasons why it was dangerous to play some of the players who were in B and C class. One could not predict their moves at all!

1. P-K4	P-K4	6. NxP	NxN	11. PxP	NxP	16. P-QN3	B-B3
2. N-KB3	N-QB3	7. QxN	O-O	12. NxN	QxN	17. R-N1	P-Q5
3. B-B4	N-B3	8. N-B3	P-QB3	13. QxQ	PxQ	18. B-KB4	Draw
4. O-O	B-K2	9. P-KR3	P-QN4	14. BxP	B-K3		
5. P-Q4	PxP	10. B-K2	P-Q4	15. B-Q3	QR-N1		

GAME No. 18—Eddy Feldman, Los Angeles:

Three draws so far! Now for a few more wins, and we might set a new record yet! The next few opponents got flustered early in the game and that helped.

1. P-K4	P-K4	4. O-O	N-B3	7. QxQch	KxQ	10. NxP	Resigns
2. N-KB3	N-QB3	5. P-Q4	P-Q3	8. BxP	P-QN3		
3. B-B4	B-B4	6. PxB	PxP	9. B-Q5	B-N2		

GAME No. 19—Tim Furst, Palo Alto:

Tim was my youngest opponent. 8 years old!

1. P-K4	P-K4	3. B-B4	N-B3	5. P-Q4	B-QN5	7. Q-Q5	P-Q3
2. N-KB3	N-QB3	4. O-O	B-B4	6. PxP	NxPK5	8. QxP mate	

GAME No. 20—Clark Hutchason, San Francisco:

1. P-K4	P-K4	5. P-Q4	PxP	9. N-N5	Q-Q4	13. PxP	R-KN1
2. N-KB3	N-QB3	6. P-K5	P-Q4	10. N-QB3	Q-B4	14. N-N5	O-O-O
3. B-B4	B-B4	7. PxN	PxB	11. N3-K4	Q-K4	15. RxQ	Resigns
4. O-O	N-B3	8. R-K1ch	B-K3	12. NxBK6	PxN		

In the above game my opponent played it according to Hoyle up to the 10th move, and then forgot the book, lost an important move, and never got a second chance. This is also the case in the next game.

GAME No. 21—Robert Johnson, San Francisco:

1. P-K4	P-K4	7. R-K1	O-O	13. QxN	P-Q4	19. B-Q4	BxN
2. N-KB3	N-QB3	8. P-KR3	N-R3	14. B-Q3	BxB	20. BxB	R-QB2
3. B-B4	N-B3	9. BxN	P-Q3	15. QxB	P-QN3	21. QxQPch	QxQ
4. O-O	B-K2	10. B-KB4	B-B4	16. N-B3	B-N5	22. RxQ	Resigns
5. P-Q4	PxP	11. PxP	PxP	17. QR-Q1	R-B1		
6. P-K5	N-KN5	12. NxP	NxN	18. B-K5	P-B3		

GAME No. 22—Dave Folkner, Delhi:

The next opponent was new to me. The game is a good one, when one considers that each move was made under the ten-second rule!

1. P-K4	P-K3	5. B-Q3	N-KB3	9. B-KR6	R-K1	13. BxPch	K-R1
2. P-Q4	P-Q4	6. N-KB3	O-O	10. PxP	BxP	14. B-K4	N-Q2
3. N-QB3	PxP	7. NxNch	PxN	11. NxB	PxN	15. B-N5ch	Resigns
4. NxP	B-Q3	8. O-O	P-K4	12. Q-R5	Q-B3		

GAME No. 23—John Almond, Orinda:

In the game that follows, I would have been happy to accept the draw. Had it in mind to offer same to my opponent on about the 16th move when, to my astonishment, he offered me a draw, making a bad move at the same time. I had no choice but to continue.

1. P-K4	P-QB4	7. P-B3	B-N2	13. KxQ	PxN	19. B-Q3	R-Q1
2. N-KB3	N-QB3	8. Q-Q2	P-Q4	14. K-B2	O-O	20. B-K4	QR-B1
3. P-Q4	PxP	9. PxP	NxP	15. R-Q1	P-QB4	21. B-K7	RxR
4. NxP	N-B3	10. NxNQ5	QxN	16. BxP	R-K1	22. RxR	R-B2
5. N-QB3	P-K3	11. P-QB4	Q-QR4	17. P-QN3	B-QR3	23. R-Q8ch	Resigns
6. B-K3	P-KN3	12. NxN	QxQch	18. B-Q6	KR-QB1		

GAME No. 24—Daniel L. Csejak, San Francisco:

Never heard of my opponent and for a while he gave me a run for my money.

1. P-K4	N-KB3	4. P-B5	N-Q4	7. B-QB4	N-B3	10. NxN	PxN
2. P-K5	N-Q4	5. N-QB3	NxN	8. BPxP	BPxP	11. BxPch	Resigns
3. P-QB4	N-N3	6. QPxN	P-Q3	9. O-O	NxP		

GAME No. 25—Marshall S. McLennan, San Francisco:

My next opponent told me some time ago that he had a new move against the Max Lange, but was holding it to himself until he played me, in case I would adopt that attack. This was the time to find out what it was all about. I did, and so did my opponent! We might apply the slogan here: "The trapper trapped!"

1. P-K4	P-K4	5. P-Q4	PxP	9. N-N5	Q-Q4	13. PxP	R-KN1
2. N-KB3	N-QB3	6. P-K5	P-Q4	10. N-QB3	Q-B4	14. N-B6ch	Resigns
3. B-B4	B-B4	7. PxN	PxN	11. N3-K4	P-KR3		
4. O-O	N-B3	8. R-K1ch	B-K3	12. P-KN4	Q-Q4		

GAME No. 26—Rip McClary, San Francisco:

The next game turned out to be a good one.

1. P-K4	P-QB4	7. P-B4	P-KR3	13. NxKPch	K-R1	19. NxQ	N-B3
2. N-KB3	N-KB3	8. B-R4	Q-R4	14. N-B5	NxP	20. B-B3	N-N5ch
3. N-QB3	P-Q3	9. B-Q3	P-KN4	15. BxN	BxNch	21. BxN	RxB
4. P-Q4	PxP	10. N-B3	B-N2	16. PxB	QxPch	22. P-N3	B-Q2
5. NxP	P-QR3	11. N-B5	PxP	17. K-B2	R-KN1	23. KR-K1	Resigns
6. B-KN5	QN-Q2	12. BxBP	O-O	18. Q-Q4ch	QxQ		

GAME No. 27—Thomas H. Morrin, Palo Alto:

And here follows the longest game of the whole show!

1. P-K4	P-K4	12. P-KR3	B-R4	23. BxR	RxB	34. K-B2	K-K2
2. N-KB3	N-QB3	13. P-KN4	B-N3	24. PxP	QxBP	35. K-K2	N-KB3
3. B-B4	B-B4	14. Q-K1	R-K1	25. P-B4	Q-N2	36. N-K1	P-KR3
4. O-O	P-Q3	15. N-R4	N-K2	26. Q-Q2	R-N1	37. N-B2	K-Q2
5. P-B3	B-N3	16. N-B5	BxN	27. KR-N1	K-B1	38. R-R4	P-N4
6. P-QN4	N-B3	17. NPxE	Q-Q2	28. P-N5	PxP	39. N-N4	N-K2
7. P-Q3	O-O	18. N-Q2	QR-B1	29. RxP	Q-B1	40. R-R7ch	K-K1
8. P-QR4	P-QR3	19. N-B3	Q-B3	30. RxR	QxR	41. R-R8ch	K-Q2
9. P-R5	B-R2	20. B-N3	QR-Q1	31. Q-R5	N-B3	42. R-KB8	N3-N1
10. B-K3	BxB	21. B-R4	P-QN4	32. Q-R8	QxQ	43. RxP	P-R4
11. PxB	B-N5	22. PxP e.p.	Q-N2	33. RxQch	N-K1	44. P-B6	Resigns

GAME No. 28—David Levine, Daly City:

The next three games were easy for me, and that gave me kind of a breather after the exacting No. 27 game.

1. P-K4	P-K4	5. N-Q5	Q-Q3	9. O-O	N-B3	13. PxP	R-KN1
2. N-KB3	Q-B3	6. P-QB3	P-QR3	10. P-K5	NxKP	14. R-K1ch	K-Q1
3. N-B3	N-B3	7. P-Q4	PxP	11. PxN	Q-B4	15. B-N5ch	P-B3
4. B-B4	B-B4	8. PxP	B-N3	12. PxN	QxB	16. BxP mate	

GAME No. 29—Darlene Martinez, San Francisco:

1. P-K4	P-K4	3. B-B4	B-K2	5. P-Q4	NxKP	7. R-K1	N-Q5
2. N-KB3	N-QB3	4. O-O	N-B3	6. PxP	O-O	8. QxN	P-QB3
						9. QxN	Resigns

GAME No. 30—Victor Amerio, San Francisco:

1. P-K4	P-K4	5. O-O	B-B4	9. PxB	NxPB4	13. N-Q4	R-N1
2. N-KB3	N-QB3	6. P-B3	O-O	10. B-QN5	P-K5	14. NxP	R-N3
3. B-B4	P-QN4	7. P-Q4	B-R3	11. BxN	PxB	15. N-Q4	Resigns
4. BxNP	N-B3	8. BxB	NxKP	12. QxQ	QRxQ		

Here I looked at my watch and saw that I had played 3½ hours! I felt fine. Should I continue at this pace or should I take a rest hoping that on my restart I would not find that I was too fatigued to continue the battle? One thing was sure, in the time limit left me, I knew I would beat my own record of 50 games played in San Francisco in 1951, by how many games, I didn't know. I decided for a 20-minute break.

GAME No. 31—Terry Allen, Mill Valley:

On with the battle. It was 4 o'clock now.

1. P-K4	P-K4	2. N-KB3	P-QB4	3. NxP	P-Q4	4. B-N5ch	N-Q2
						5. PxP	lost on time

GAME No. 32—Karl Diller, Pittsburgh, Pa.:

The next game is a dilly . . . Karl had signed up months ago and arrived via plane at noon the day of the exhibition. He must have been tired or he would hardly have made his third move, which should have lost a pawn, but he did not want to lose a pawn, so he lost the Queen instead!

1. P-K4	P-K4	2. N-KB3	N-KB3	3. NxP	NxP	4. Q-K2	N-Q3
						5. N-B6ch	Resigns

GAME No. 33—Stephen Hom, San Francisco:

We were still going strong!

1. P-K4	P-K4	6. QxB	P-KB3	11. BxN	PxB	16. BxKP	P-B3
2. N-KB3	N-KR3	7. B-B4	N-B3	12. QxP	P-Q4	17. Q-N7	B-B1
3. NxP	P-Q3	8. P-B3	B-K2	13. BxP	N-R4	18. QxR	Resigns
4. N-KB3	B-N5	9. P-Q4	Q-Q2	14. O-O	P-KB4		
5. P-KR3	BxN	10. Q-R5ch	K-Q1	15. N-Q2	PxP		

GAME No. 34—Frank Lynch, San Francisco:

At this stage I felt 50 years older. The interval I had made was beginning to take its toll. Slower methods were now needed to bolster my morale and I intended to hold on until I got my second wind (I hoped!).

1. P-K4	P-K4	10. P-KR3	BxN	19. P-B4	Q-R2	28. Q-B6	Q-B2
2. N-KB3	N-QB3	11. QxB	O-O	20. R-R1	Q-K2	29. K-B2	Q-B4
3. B-B4	B-B4	12. B-K3	BxB	21. BxN	RxB	30. K-K2	Q-N5
4. O-O	P-Q3	13. PxB	Q-K2	22. P-N5	KR-K1	31. P-R4	Q-B6
5. P-B3	N-B3	14. N-Q2	QR-Q1	23. P-Q5	P-N3	32. R-KB1	Q-N5
6. P-QN4	B-N3	15. QR-K1	N-R2	24. QxN	Q-Q2	33. P-R5	Q-B4
7. P-QR4	P-QR3	16. P-Q4	P-QN4	25. Q-R4	R-R1	34. P-R6	Resigns
8. P-R5	B-R2	17. PxP e.p.	PxNP	26. Q-B2	RxR		
9. P-Q3	B-N5	18. BxP	N-B1	27. RxR	R-KB1		

GAME No. 35—Paul E. Vayssie, San Francisco:

The next game was by far the most exciting game of the show! Paul surprised me with his 19th move and I barely hung on by the skin of my teeth! My excitement must have carried over to my opponent as he missed a couple of strong continuations later on, and once I managed to exchange Queens, I sighed a long breath of relief. The effect of this game carried over to the next one, so I was really very lucky to escape defeat in two games!

1. P-K4	P-K4	10. N-QB3	Q-B4	19. R-K2	B-B4	28. NxQ	P-N4
2. N-KB3	N-QB3	11. N3-K4	O-O	20. NxR	RxN	29. R-K1	K-Q1
3. B-B4	B-B4	12. P-KN4	Q-K4	21. B-B4	BxNP	30. N-K4	K-B1
4. O-O	N-B3	13. N-KB3	Q-Q4	22. NxB	QxB	31. NxBch	PxN
5. P-Q4	PxP	14. PxP	KR-N1	23. RxQP	B-Q3	32. RxQP	K-B2
6. P-K5	P-Q4	15. N-B6	Q-Q3	24. R-Q4	Q-N4	33. R6-K6	K-Q2
7. PxN	PxB	16. B-R6	P-Q6	25. K-R1	RxP	34. RxNch	RxR
8. R-K1ch	B-K3	17. P-B3	N-K2	26. Q-B3	P-KB3	35. RxRch	KxR
9. N-N5	Q-Q4	18. N-K5	P-Q7	27. QxP	QxQ	36. K-N2	Resigns

GAME No. 36—Fred Brown, San Francisco:

1. P-K4	P-K3	9. B-KB4	B-Q3	17. NxN	QxN	25. QxO	RxQ
2. P-Q4	P-Q4	10. BxB	QxB	18. PxP	P-QN4	26. R-B8ch	K-R2
3. PxP	PxP	11. QN-Q2	N-B3	19. R-QB1	Q-Q3	27. R-QN8	N-K5
4. B-Q3	B-K2	12. R-K1	B-N2	20. P-KN3	R-B3	28. N-B3	NxNP
5. N-KB3	N-KB3	13. N-K5	P-QR4	21. RxR	QxR	29. K-B2	P-KB3
6. O-O	O-O	14. P-QR3	B-R3	22. Q-B1	Q-Q3	30. KxN	Resigns
7. P-KR3	P-B4	15. BxB	RxB	23. Q-B5	R-Q1		
8. P-B3	P-QN3	16. P-KB4	PxP	24. R-QB1	P-KR4		

GAME No. 37—Ernest O. Anders, San Francisco:

It was getting tougher all the time. Would I be able to keep it up? Here was Ernst Anders who was one of the two players who had beaten me in the 1951 exhibition. Just take a deep breath, George, and take the bull by the horns and do your best . . .

Continued

1. P-K4	P-Q4	9. B-Q3	BxB	17. NxR	KxN	25. Q-Q2	R-R1
2. PxP	QxP	10. QxB	N-B3	18. QR-Q1	N-R3	26. Q-B4	Q-Q1
3. N-QB3	Q-K4ch	11. N-K5	B-Q3	19. B-R4	N3-B2	27. P-KR4	Q-Q2
4. B-K2	B-B4	12. B-B4	Q-B2	20. O-R7	N-B3	28. P-N3	R-KN1
5. N-B3	Q-R4	13. B-N3	O-O	21. BxN	PxB	29. K-N2	P-KB4
6. P-Q4	P-QB3	14. N-K4	N-K1	22. QxRPch	K-K2	30. P-R5	Q-K1
7. O-O	P-K3	15. NxB	QxN	23. P-QB4	P-QN4	31. QxNch	Resigns
8. R-K1	P-KR3	16. N-N6	Q-Q2	24. P-QN3	P-QR3		

GAME No. 38—John R. LaRue, Nevada City:

Only twice during the whole show did I change into playing something else than 1.P-K4. Here is the first of these changes. Why I did it? It's hard to tell. Maybe I wanted to play it safe . . . as if there's anything safe at 10 seconds a move.

1. P-Q4	P-Q4	7. O-O	O-O	13. B-B2	B-Q2	19. KR-K1	K-R1
2. N-KB3	N-KB3	8. PxP	BxP	14. N-N5	P-KR3	20. N-Q6	B-K3
3. P-K3	P-K3	9. P-K4	PxP	15. N-K4	B-N3	21. BxBK6	RxB
4. B-Q3	B-B4	10. NxP	NxN	16. B-K3	P-K4	22. BxB	QxB
5. P-B3	N-B3	11. BxN	Q-B2	17. QR-Q1	QR-Q1	23. NxPch	K-N1
6. QN-Q2	B-K2	12. Q-K2	R-K1	18. B-N3	R-K2	24. NxR	Resigns

GAME No. 39—Ben Wong, San Francisco:

The game that follows, shows the finesse of handling a won end-game. Black helped with the exchange of pieces, not realizing that he would be completely helpless in the ending. A fine game for rapid-transit chess.

1. P-K4	P-QB4	9. O-O	O-O	17. RxRch	RxR	25. KxP	P-KR4
2. N-KB3	P-Q3	10. N4-N5	B-K3	18. R-Q1	RxRch	26. P-QB4	B-B1
3. P-Q4	PxP	11. QxP	QxQ	19. NxR	P-B3	27. N-B5	P-N3
4. NxP	N-QB3	12. NxQ	QR-N1	20. K-B1	K-B2	28. P-KR4	P-N5
5. N-QB3	N-B3	13. B-B4	BxB	21. K-K2	P-B4	29. PxP	PxP
6. B-KN5	P-KN3	14. NxB	KR-Q1	22. P-B3	K-K3	30. N-K3	P-N6
7. BxN	PxB	15. KR-Q1	N-K4	23. K-Q3	P-KN4	31. N-B5	Resigns
8. B-K2	B-N2	16. NxN	PxN	24. N-K3	PxPch		

GAME No. 40—Richard Ricketts, San Francisco:

Right about here someone suggested that I take a break for dinner—and then I realized that I was real hungry . . . and tired . . . but felt I should go on for a little while, at least. I did want to break my previous record before I would be forced to quit.

1. P-K4	P-K3	6. B-KB4	B-KN5	11. BxB	QxB	16. Q-Q2	RxR
2. P-Q4	P-Q4	7. P-KB3	B-R4	12. N-KN3	B-N3	17. RxR	R-K1
3. PxP	PxP	8. O-O	N-B3	13. BxB	RPxB	18. RxRch	NxR
4. B-Q3	B-Q3	9. N-Q2	O-O	14. R-K1	QN-Q2	Drawn	
5. N-K2	P-QB3	10. P-B3	Q-B2	15. N2-B1	KR-K1		

GAME No. 41—Jeffrey Blankfort, Sausalito:

The next game illustrates how fast the "blindfold" player profited by a "slight" error.

1. P-K4	P-K3	6. N-B3	P-QB4	11. QxB	O-O	16. QxPch	K-R1
2. P-Q4	P-Q4	7. O-O	BxN	12. B-R3	Q-R4	17. N-B7ch	K-N1
3. N-QB3	B-N5	8. PxB	P-B5	13. BxN	R-K1	18. N-K6ch	K-R1
4. PxP	PxP	9. B-K2	B-N5	14. B-N4	Q-B2	19. NxR	Resigns
5. B-Q3	N-K2	10. N-K5	BxB	15. Q-B3	P-B3		

GAME No. 42—Paul C. Rogers, San Francisco:

1. P-K4	P-K4	3. P-Q4	PxP	5. NxB	PxN	7. BxP	P-KN3
2. N-KB3	P-Q3	4. NxP	B-K3	6. B-QB4	N-K2	8. Q-B3	Resigns

And here I blundered. I took a dinner pause. I should have eaten and played at the same time. This interval really sapped my energy and after eating I felt more tired than ever. It meant that upon restarting I would have to really muster all my reserve strength. And I did want to break my previous record of playing 100 opponents. There was no question any more, I would be happy if I ever reached 51.

GAME No. 43—Leifur Magnusson, San Francisco:

1. P-K4	P-KN3	4. N-B3	B-N2	7. P-QR3	B-K3	10. N4-N5	N-K4
2. P-Q4	N-KB3	5. B-QB4	O-O	8. P-Q5	NxKP	11. NxB	NxNch
3. N-QB3	P-Q3	6. O-O	N-B3	9. NxN	P-B4	12. QxN	Resigns

GAME No. 44—E. Hawksworth, Turlock:

Eight more to go . . .

1. P-K4	P-K4	7. B-K2	P-N3	13. NxPch	BxN	19. QR-K1	P-Q4
2. N-KB3	N-KB3	8. O-O	B-KN2	14. PxB	QxP	20. RxN	RxR
3. NxP	Q-K2	9. P-QB4	N-N3	15. B-B3	QR-K1	21. BxR	R-K1
4. P-Q4	N-B3	10. N-B3	B-QR3	16. B-K3	N-B1	22. B-B5	Resigns
5. NxN	NPxN	11. P-QN3	O-O	17. Q-Q2	N-K2		
6. P-K5	N-Q4	12. N-K4	P-B3	18. B-N5	Q-B4		

GAME No. 45—Frank Hawley, Redding:

Seven more to go . . .

1. P-K4	P-K4	7. R-K1	P-Q3	13. N-R3	Q-K2	19. K-B1	BxN
2. N-KB3	N-QB3	8. PxP	O-O	14. Q-Q2	BxNB6	20. PxB	K-R1
3. B-B4	N-B3	9. RxN	R-K1	15. PxB	Q-R5	21. R-K1	R-QB1
4. O-O	B-B4	10. RxRch	QxR	16. B-KN3	Q-B3	22. BxP	R-B1
5. P-Q4	PxP	11. PxP	B-KN5	17. Q-B4	QxQ	23. R-K8	RxR
6. P-K5	N-K5	12. B-KB4	R-B1	18. BxQ	R-K1	24. BxR	Resigns

GAME No. 46—Harley Leete, Jr., Belvedere:

Six more to go . . . Watch this one. I did not make the best 13th move and got into trouble. The fast tempo helped me gain a few pawns.

1. P-K4	P-K4	7. NxBP	KxN	13. N-B3	B-KR6	19. P-B3	P-KB4
2. N-KB3	N-QB3	8. Q-B3ch	Q-B3	14. P-KN3	BxR	20. RxP	RxR
3. B-B4	N-B3	9. BxNch	B-K3	15. KxB	B-N5	21. BxR	R-K1
4. O-O	P-Q3	10. QxQch	PxQ	16. B-Q2	BxN	22. P-KB4	P-KR4
5. N-N5	P-Q4	11. BxN	PxB	17. BxB	QR-K1	23. BxP	R-KR1
6. PxP	NxP	12. P-Q3	R-KN1	18. R-K1	R-K2	24. B-K5	P-R5
						25. BxR	Resigns

GAME No. 47—Harley Leete, Sr., Belvedere:

Five more to go . . . Let's hope I don't have to creep through a needle's eye in the next five games, so that I not only play more games but set a good scoring record, too.

1. P-K4	P-K4	7. B-K3	P-Q3	13. Q-Q1	Q-K2	19. PxQ	R-KB1
2. N-KB3	N-QB3	8. NxBP	RxN	14. R-K1	R-Q1	20. K-N2	P-KR3
3. B-B4	B-B4	9. BxRch	KxB	15. N-Q5	NxN	21. QR-K1	K-R2
4. O-O	N-B3	10. BxN	BxB	16. PxN	K-N1	22. RxQP	Resigns
5. P-Q4	NxQP	11. QxB	B-K3	17. RxB	Q-KB2		
6. NxP	O-O	12. N-B3	P-B4	18. Q-B3	QxQ		

GAME No. 48—James Gault, San Francisco:

Four more to go . . .

1. P-K4	P-K4	4. O-O	B-B4	7. QxQch	KxQ	10. BxN4	Resigns
2. N-KB3	N-QB3	5. P-Q4	P-Q3	8. BxP	NxP		
3. B-B4	N-B3	6. PxB	PxP	9. B-Q5	K-Q2		

GAME No. 49—Captain John Christal, San Francisco:

Three more to go . . .

1. P-K4	P-KN3	10. B-K3	B-N5	19. N-Q5	R-KB1	28. RxR	N-N4
2. P-Q4	B-N2	11. N-KN5	R-B3	20. NxN	KxN	29. R-R5	NxBP
3. N-KB3	P-Q3	12. NxP	R-Q3	21. B-N5ch	B-B3	30. P-N7	K-B2
4. B-QB4	P-K4	13. P-B3	B-K3	22. BxBch	RxB	31. R-B5ch	KxP
5. PxP	PxP	14. BxB	RxB	23. P-KR4	R-B1	32. RxN	K-B3
6. QxQch	KxQ	15. N-KN5	R-Q3	24. P-QB3	R-QR1	33. K-Q2	K-N4
7. BxP	N-K2	16. N-B7ch	K-Q2	25. P-KN4	N-Q1	34. K-Q3	KxP
8. N-B3	R-B1	17. NxR	PxN	26. P-R5	N-B2	35. R-B6	Resigns
9. B-N3	N1-B3	18. O-O-O	P-N3	27. PxP	RxR		

GAME No. 50—David Anger, San Francisco:

Two more to go . . .

1. P-K4	P-K3	3. PxP	PxP	5. N-KB3	N-KB3	7. B-KN5	QN-Q2
2. P-Q4	P-Q4	4. B-Q3	P-QN3	6. O-O	B-N2	8. B-B5	Q-K2
						9. R-K1	Resigns

GAME No. 51—Samuel J. Ashbury, Palo Alto:

One more to go . . . In this one I played for a quick draw. At least I had made up my mind to get an offer of a draw across as soon as I could, so as to know that I had established a new record . . .

1. P-K4	P-K3	3. PxP	PxP	5. N-K2	B-K2	7. P-KR3	N-B3
2. P-Q4	P-Q4	4. B-Q3	N-KB3	6. O-O	O-O	8. P-QB3	B-Q2
						9. B-KB4	Draw

That did it! Now I was too excited to continue. Forty-five wins and five draws . . . Now I really needed a break . . . It was getting close to 9 p. m. when we continued. How long could this go on? We had until 12 midnight, but I knew that I could not play many more games, and still feel that I had not overstrained myself . . . health is an expensive thing, and one must guard it by all means. But the battle continued.

GAME No. 52—George LaBrash, San Francisco:

I offered my opponent a draw on the 14th move. He refused and blundered right after that . . .

1. P-K4	P-K3	7. NxB	O-O	13. R-K1	B-Q2	19. BxB	PxB
2. P-Q4	P-Q4	8. O-O	QN-B3	14. Q-Q2	Q-B2	20. RxRP	Q-B3
3. PxP	PxP	9. P-QB3	N-N3	15. RxN	Q-Q3	21. R-R6	Q-R5
4. B-Q3	B-Q3	10. NxN	RPxN	16. QR-K1	B-K3	22. RxP	Resigns
5. N-K2	N-K2	11. N-Q2	N-K2	17. RxNP	QR-K1		
6. B-KB4	BxB	12. N-B3	P-QB3	18. N-K5	B-B4		

GAME No. 53—SP. 4 T. M. M. Yudacufski, Philadelphia:

Here's a good game . . .

1. P-K4	P-QB4	11. O-O-O	P-QN4	21. B-Q1	B-B3	31. R-Q3	R-B2
2. N-KB3	N-QB3	12. P-QR3	R-N1	22. R-K1	R-KB1	32. NxKP	N-Q2
3. P-Q4	PxP	13. P-B3	P-B4	23. N-K4	N-Q4	33. N-N5	R-B5
4. NxP	P-K3	14. PxP	NxP	24. N-B5	N-K2	34. N-R3	R-B1
5. N-QB3	B-N5	15. B-B5	R-Q1	25. P-QN4	N-N3	35. P-KB4	N2-N3
6. N-N5	P-QR3	16. P-KN4	KN-K2	26. R-K3	N-R5	36. P-B5	N-B5
7. N-Q6ch	BxN	17. B-Q6	B-N2	27. P-R3	N-N7	37. B-B3	N-B3
8. QxB	Q-K2	18. BxR	NxB	28. R-B3	N-B5	Drawn	
9. QxQch	N1xQ	19. B-K2	N-N3	29. P-KR4	N-Q4		
10. B-K3	O-O	20. R-Q6	N-B5	30. RxB	PxR		

GAME No. 54—Richard Thompson, Burlingame:

1. P-K4	P-K4	3. NxP	B-B4	5. N-QB3	N-R3	7. NxBP	Resigns
2. N-KB3	N-KB3	4. P-Q4	B-Q3	6. B-QB4	N-QN5		

GAME No. 55—Bernard N. Weinstein, Sausalito:

1. P-Q4	P-Q4	8. QxBP	R-B1	15. B-Q2	PxP	22. K-R1	P-N3
2. N-KB3	N-KB3	9. Q-R4	PxP	16. PxP	R-N1	23. R-KN1	Q-Q2
3. P-K3	P-B3	10. BxP	P-K3	17. P-N3	B-N5	24. P-B5	N-R4
4. P-B4	B-N5	11. N-B3	B-K2	18. O-O	B-Q3	25. BxN	Resigns
5. Q-N3	BxN	12. B-K2	O-O	19. P-B4	N-R4		
6. PxB	P-QR3	13. QxRP	R-R1	20. BxN	N-B3		
7. QxP	QN-Q2	14. Q-Q3	P-K4	21. B-B3	R-N3		

Lightning hit twice on the same spot in the above game!

GAME No. 56—David Carter, Corte Madera:

1. P-K4	P-K4	5. B-N3	B-B4	9. R-B1	P-Q4	13. P-Q6	QxP
2. N-KB3	Q-B3	6. P-Q3	N-KR3	10. PxP	NxP	14. NxBP	Resigns
3. N-B3	P-B3	7. O-O	BxPch	11. KxN	P-KR4		
4. B-B4	P-QN4	8. RxB	N-N5	12. N-KN5	Q-K2		

This is when I decided to stop. A new page had been added to blindfold history. I might have gone on and played maybe another 10 or 15 games, but after all I was beating my own record. I feel sure that the thousands of spectators (over 3000 saw the show) must have witnessed a history-making event and enjoyed it. For the 600 left at 10 p. m. I finished off with my famous KNIGHT'S TOUR . . . another memory stunt!

Before closing I want to thank all my opponents who played with me, and those who were waiting to play with me, had I gone on. Without their co-operation and willingness to play, no record would have been possible. All those who helped out in this endeavor, and how can any event be organized without those assisting in the background?

A DOUBLE THANKS! Especially to William S. Stevens, Chief Judge, and his many helpers; Mrs. Florence Stevens, co-ordinator, the whole Promotion Department of the San Francisco Chronicle.

About George Koltanowski

The memory feats of George Koltanowski have confounded experts ever since he became undisputed World Blindfold champion by playing 34 of Scotland's finest chess players simultaneously. In that exhibition, which took place at Edinburgh in 1937, he won 24, drew 10 and lost none. When the reader considers that Koltanowski had to remember the exact location of 1088 pieces on the 2100 squares of 34 boards, he will not wonder that even the experts regard him with awe.

Since joining the staff of the San Francisco Chronicle in 1947, Koltanowski has probably done more to popularize the game of chess than any other man in America. Response to his column has built up through the years and reached its highest point yet when nearly 3000 Chronicle readers wrote in for tickets to his Fairmont Hotel exhibition.

Koltanowski is not only one of the world's great chess masters, but also one of the game's most indefatigable promoters. Since his column was syndicated, he has had requests from all over the United States to play blindfold exhibitions and he fulfills them, one and all. He is willing to ride all night on a bus if he can spread the gospel of chess into one more hamlet of the United States. He is convinced that America is becoming "sold" on the game of kings, and after the response to this recent blindfold exhibition in San Francisco, who can dispute him.



GAME No. 1



GAME No. 2



GAME No. 3



GAME No. 7



GAME NO. 8



GAME No. 9



GAME No. 10



GAME No. 12



GAME No. 14



GAME No. 15



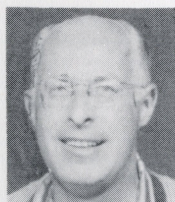
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GAME No. 17



GAME No. 18



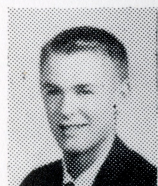
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GAME No. 21



GAME No. 23



GAME No. 27



GAME No. 32



GAME No. 34



GAME No. 39

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